



MEMO


Date: August 8, 2013 CITY MANAGER  
 To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers  
 CC: Executive Team  
 From: Steven Jepsen, City Manager  
 Re: City Manager’s Report – August 8, 2013

City Calendar

**Events this weekend:**




- Thursday August 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. Concert in the Park – “Villa Re’al” Acoustic Rock 🎵

**Next Week:**

August							
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
8:00				First Day of School Drive Careful!			
9:00			9:00 Japanese Students Tour of City Hall			Farmer's Market	
10:00						Town Center	
11:00							
12:00							
1:00							
2:00			1:30 Sutter Butte Flood Control Board Meeting				
3:00							
4:00			4:00 Gilsizer Drainage District Board Meeting				
5:00							
6:00		6:00 Special China Trade Workshop		7:00 Concert in the Park "Kymmi & the Diamond Backs" Country 🎵			

Save the Dates!

- Sat August 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk
- Tues August 20, 10:00 a.m. Sutter County Courthouse Groundbreaking

- Wed August 21, 6:00 p.m. Animal Services Volunteer Program Orientation
- Thur August 22, Noon City Salsa Cook-Off Contest 
- Thur August 22, 7:00 p.m. Concert in the Park – “Jimmy and the Jets” Classic Rock 
- Fri August 23, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Free Child Safety Seat Check-up Event 
- Sat August 24, 7:00 p.m. Twin Cities Twilight 5k -10k Run/Walk to Benefit the Trauma Intervention Program (T.I.P.)

**Current Job Openings / Recruitments / Promotions**

**Code Enforcement Officer – Open Recruitment**

The City of Yuba City has an open recruitment for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. The final file date for this recruitment is **August 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.** or upon receipt of the first 50 qualified applications, whichever occurs first. The application and job flyer is available at the Human Resources Department or on the City’s website. <https://www.calopps.org/ViewAgencyJob.cfm?ID=14988>

**Congratulations!**

Please join me in congratulating the following City employees on their recent promotions:



**Ken Reische**  
Fleet Maintenance  
Supervisor



**Phillip Marler**  
Public Works Maintenance  
Worker III



**Amber Darrach**  
Administrative Analyst I  
Human Resources



**Katrina Woods**  
Administrative Analyst I  
Community Development

**Yuba City News**

**Pacific Gas & Electric to Survey Pipeline**

PG&E is currently surveying their 6,750-mile natural gas transmission pipeline system using high-precision Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping technology. Having a more precise pipeline map means better service and enhanced safety for the public, their customers and employees.

PG&E is sending out letters notifying residents that they will be surveying the underground pipelines on their property (sometimes called a right-of way” or “easement”. The easement allows PG&E to maintain, inspect and safely operate their underground pipeline. PG&E’s contractors will be using survey equipment and parking their trucks in neighborhoods during the day. Everyone on PG&E’s survey team is required to carry photo I.D. and should be happy to show it to you upon request.

Right of Way areas to be surveyed:

- Pease Road/Live Oak Blvd
- Live Oak Blvd/Private Rd
- Levee Rd
- Lynn Way
- Market St/HWY 20/Colusa Ave/ Sutter St
- Teagarden Ave/Sutter St
- Fairman St/ 2<sup>nd</sup> St
- Burns Dr / Private Rd
- Lincoln Rd / Garden Hwy
- Lincoln Rd / Railroad Ave

## Groundbreaking Ceremony – Feather River West Levee Project

The Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) is a joint powers agency formed in 2007 by the Counties of Butte and Sutter, the Cities of Biggs, Gridley, Live Oak and Yuba City, and Levee Districts 1 & 9. The Agency's Boundaries encompass 34,200 properties in Butte and Sutter Counties.

The Feather River West Levee project is a part of SBFCA's larger \$312 million program to repair 44 miles of levee from Thermalito Afterbay south to the Sutter Bypass. The cost to repair the 15 miles of levee is approximately \$88 million. The bulk of that cost, \$57 million, is to be paid by the California Department of Water Resources with Prop 1E bond funds. The remaining cost is funded through local assessments that were overwhelmingly approved by property owners in 2010. Assessment revenues are also funding design and pre-construction activities for another 20 miles of levee repairs that will begin in 2014, along with plans to improve the remaining segments of levee.



(L -R) Councilmember Craig Starkey, Congressman John Garamendi, Councilmember Tej Maan, Mayor John Buckland, Councilmember John Dukes, Vice Mayor Kash Gill

## National Night Out – Message from Officer Jason Parker

Thanks to all who helped with National Night Out. We had a great turnout of representatives from the Police Department, Yuba City Council, and City Staff and the appreciation was expressed at each of the neighborhood parties. Yuba City had 13 neighborhoods that participated this year. It was encouraging to see how many residents of Yuba City truly care about their neighborhoods and community. We are receiving several requests to form new Neighborhood Watch groups. I believe this is largely in part to citizens seeing our efforts to work on the needs of their neighborhoods. Good stuff.

Special thanks to the VIPS on this one. Barbara Linsenmayer, Carol Boyer, and Vickie Owens did the majority of the work and were awesome.

## Free Child Safety Seat Check-up Event



“Kids Travel Safe Program” is a funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety and administered by the Yuba City Police Department Traffic Education and Enforcement Unit. As of January 2012, California law requires that all children under the age of 8 must be properly buckled into a car seat or booster chair in the back seat.

For more information, contact Jas at (530) 751-3819

**Date:** August 23, 2013

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Round Table Parking Lot  
828 Gray Avenue

## China Trade Workshop – August 13, 2013



On May 12<sup>th</sup>, twenty-four members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trade Mission to China, led by the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce and co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Bay Area Council, the California Chamber of Commerce, the Northern California World Trade Center, and the UC Davis, California Institute of Food and Agricultural Research (CIFAR), set off for an 11-day trip to China.

Yuba-Sutter was represented on this trip by Mayor John Buckland, Economic Development Manager Darin Gale, Yuba Sutter Farm Bureau representative Matt Conant, and former Sutter County Supervisor Dan Silva. The purpose of the trip was to seek new opportunities for Yuba-Sutter businesses to increase exports of its goods, products and services. This group is also working to improve trade relations between Yuba Sutter and partners in the Jiangsu Province, China (with whom the state of California has a sister-state relationship backed by the Governor and Bi-partisan Leadership in the California State Legislature).

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, a special public workshop with the City Council and the Yuba City Economic Development Commission has been scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers to discuss the results of the trade mission and possible next steps. Gordon Hinkle, Director of Public Policy and Communications of the CalAsian Chamber of Commerce will be presenting along with some other invited guests.

## Pink October Race for Awareness – Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>



Get your jogging shoes on and start your training program! The Pink October Race for Awareness is Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pink October Race for Awareness is the City's October Wellness Event. For more event information or to look at all the fun the participants had last year, you can visit: [http://www.pink-october.org/yuba/Race\\_For\\_Awareness.php](http://www.pink-october.org/yuba/Race_For_Awareness.php)

We would like you to participate in the City of Yuba City Team! To sign up – please send us your shirt size (only adult sizes), date of birth (so you can be entered in your age bracket and therefore you can win your age bracket which will lead to everyone yelling their heads off in support of your win at the pancake breakfast—the age thing is a requirement to register; oh and did I mention the pancake breakfast after the race?) by Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> to Candis at [cvillal@yubacity.net](mailto:cvillal@yubacity.net).

## [News Article Highlight](#)

**CALPensions** August 5, 2013

### **Can San Jose cut pensions of current workers?**

After a five-day trial last month, a judge is looking at 13 issues in suits filed by unions and retirees against a San Jose pension reform. The big one is whether pensions earned by current workers can be cut.

Measure B, approved by 70 percent of San Jose voters last year, challenges the widely held view that a series of court rulings mean pensions promised state and local government workers on the date of hire become a “vested right” that cannot be cut.

Most attempts to reduce pension costs, including a statewide reform pushed through the Legislature by Gov. Brown last year, spare current workers but give new hires a lower pension, delaying savings for years or decades.

Critics who think under-funded and overly generous public pensions are a runaway train say there is a quicker way to brake growing costs: Give current workers lower pensions for the work they do in the future.

In San Jose, as the city struggled with budget deficits totaling \$670 million during the last decade, retirement costs ballooned from \$73 million to \$245 million, the court was told. The number of sworn police dropped 21 percent, firefighters 11 percent.

Retirement costs now eat up about 20 percent of the city general fund, diverting money from other programs. Actuaries for the city’s two independent retirement systems are continuing to project big cost increases.

“These costs will exceed 25 percent of the general fund by 2017-18,” Mayor Chuck Reed said in his June budget message, “unless we implement the additional employee contributions and lower-cost pension option for our current employees, and get all new employees into the Tier II plan, as approved in Measure B.”

This year the city contributes 57.7 percent of pay for police and fire pensions and retiree health care, while the employees contribute 11.16 percent of pay, the court was told. Next year the city is projected to contribute 70.55 percent, employees 11.67 percent.

(In comparison, the state contributes 35.9 percent of pay for Highway Patrol pensions this fiscal year

and employees 11.5 percent under rates set by the California Public Employees Retirement System.)

Pension critics think San Jose, located in wealthy Silicon Valley, is where the future arrived first unless the rigid California retirement systems are given some flexibility to control costs.

The watchdog Little Hoover Commission’s top recommendation in 2011 after a study of public pensions: “The Legislature should give state and local governments the authority to alter the future, unaccrued retirement benefits for current public employees.”

Private-sector pension funds in the United States can give current workers lower pensions for future service. In the Netherlands, retiree pensions were cut this year to help meet an unusual requirement that pension funding levels remain safely high, 105 percent.

A pension reform approved by 66 percent of San Diego voters last year sought immediate savings by directing the city to freeze pay used to calculate pensions for five years.

The city negotiated a five-year freeze on pensionable pay that was expected to cut city pension costs by more than \$108 million. But the board of the city’s independent pension funds failed to recalculate the first-year bill, eliminating \$20 million in savings.

“This is an important turning point for the city,” Mayor Bob Filner, now battling sexual harassment allegations, said in a news release in June when the city council approved the labor contracts.

The San Diego pension reform, Proposition B, also gives all new city hires, except police, a 401(k)-style individual investment plan instead of a pension, following the private-sector trend that switches risk from the employer to the employee.

The San Jose pension reform is expected to save about \$20 million this year, mainly from eliminating a bonus “13th check” to retirees when investment earnings exceed projections and a switch to a lower cost retiree health plan.

Bigger savings would come from giving current workers an option: choose to earn a lower pension for future service, or contribute up to an additional 16 percent of pay to continue earning the previous pension amount.

Would court approval of the option have any impact on the “vested rights” of current workers in other retirement systems? The city’s main argument is

based on an unusual, if not unique, voter-approved amendment to the San Jose charter in 1961.

A key city charter phrase highlighted in an opening-day presentation to the court: “The Council in its discretion may at any time, or from time to time by ordinance, amend or otherwise change the retirement plan established by said Section 78a.”

If the courts deny the option, the measure authorizes the city to make a 16 percent reduction in pay, a San Diego-style pension cut that goes well beyond a freeze in the pay used to calculate pensions.

As the five-day trial concluded on July 26, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Patricia Lucas set dates for follow-up action: Sept. 10 and Oct. 10. Her decisions on the Measure B issues are likely to be appealed.

The San Jose and San Diego pension reforms also are being contested by the state Public Employment Relations Board. Unions contend that state bargaining laws were bypassed before the public vote.

Another hurdle for the San Jose option is the need for approval from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. Under a ruling in 2006, the IRS could deny tax-deferred status if an individual chooses a retirement plan with a lower benefit.

Mayor Reed said the option issue has been placed on the IRS “work schedule” for decisions. Orange County has been unsuccessfully seeking IRS approval of an option plan for current workers negotiated with employees in 2009.

U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Santa Ana, introduced legislation two years ago to give tax-deferred status to optional retirement plans with lower benefits. Her bill expired at the end of the last session without a hearing.

At a legislative hearing last year, former Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell said a quarter of the county’s new hires had chosen the option with a lower pension and lower employee contributions, reducing the bite from their paychecks.

The Little Hoover report in 2011 said state workers were given the option of a lower pension with no employee contribution three decades ago. CalPERS found that 47 percent of new hires from 1984 to 1988 chose the lower pension.

Last June, Reed and Santa Ana Mayor Miguel Pulido said in a U-T San Diego opinion article that the state constitution should be amended to give state and local governments clear authority to cut pensions current workers earn for future service.

“Such an amendment would not take away benefits that employees have earned for prior years of service,” the mayors wrote. “However, it would allow government agencies to prospectively adjust benefit formulas, employee contributions, retirement ages and cost-of-living increases — either through collective bargaining process or by voter approval.”

Reed has talked to legislators about placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot, regarded as unlikely due to union opposition, and to other leaders about placing an amendment on the ballot through an initiative, the San Jose Mercury-News reported last month.



# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Availability of Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f)\6(f) Evaluation

Intent to Adopt the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration Announcement of Public Meeting

### 5th Street Bridge Replacement Project

#### WHERE AND WHEN?

Date: Thursday, August 22nd, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: Yuba City, City Hall—Council Chambers  
1201 Civic Center Boulevard  
Yuba City, CA 95993

#### WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The City of Yuba City (City), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), City of Marysville, and Counties of Sutter and Yuba, proposes to replace the existing 5th Street Bridge over the Feather River with a new four-lane structure located in the Cities of Yuba City and Marysville. The project would enhance safety, provide a transportation facility consistent with local, regional, and state standards, and would improve traffic operations and transportation capacity by adding two additional through lanes across the Feather River. Additional details regarding the proposed project are available at the City's website at: [www.yubacity.net](http://www.yubacity.net).



#### WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

The City and Caltrans have studied the effects this project may have on the environment. These studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment and a summary of these findings are included in an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation (Draft Environmental Document). This notice is to tell you of the preparation of this Draft Environmental Document and of its availability for you to read.

A public information meeting will be held on August 22, 2013, to give you an opportunity to discuss the project with City staff and to provide written comments which will be included in the Final Environmental Document. This public meeting will be conducted in an "Open House" format; no formal presentation will be made. It is not necessary to attend this meeting if you wish to submit written comments. Please come in at your convenience between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

#### WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Draft Environmental Document and supporting technical studies are available online using the following link:  
[www.yubacity.net/public-works/5th-street-bridge-replacement/](http://www.yubacity.net/public-works/5th-street-bridge-replacement/)

Hard copies of these documents are available for your review along with other project information at the Yuba City Public Works Office located at 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City, CA 95993 during normal business hours (please note that the office will be closed on August 9th and 23rd for furloughs). The Draft Environmental Document is also available to be reviewed at the Sutter County Library located at 750 Forbes Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991, and at the Marysville City Hall located at 526 C Street, Marysville, CA 95901.

#### WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment? Do you have any comments on the proposed project? Please submit your comments in writing no later than August 31, 2013, to Yuba City, Attention: Kevin Bradford, 1201 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City Public Works, CA 95993. You can also submit your comments via email to [kbradfor@yubacity.net](mailto:kbradfor@yubacity.net) or submit on a comment card at the public meeting. Yuba City will begin accepting comments on August 2, 2013. If no major concerns are raised, the City will proceed with the project's design.

#### CONTACT

For more information about this project please contact Kevin Bradford, Project Manager at (530) 822-4626 or [kbradfor@yubacity.net](mailto:kbradfor@yubacity.net).



**LET THE *SALSA* COOK OFF  
CONTEST BEGIN!!!!**

*Bring your favorite salsa dish to  
City Hall dining area*

*by 10:00 AM on*

*Thursday, August 22, 2013*

*to register in the contest!*

*All employees please stop by on your  
lunch break and vote for the best tasting  
salsa dish!! We will provide tortilla chips  
and drinks.*

*Winner will win a \$40.00 gift certificate  
from La Unica Restaurant!!!*

