

City Manager Weekly Update

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
City Commissioners

FROM: Benjamin Siegel, City Manager

DATE: November 18, 2021

SUBJECT: **Weekly Update**

Transfer of City's Water Utility Complete: This week, the multi-year process to transition the City's water and sewer utility to Santa Margarita Water District was finalized and a celebration was held to commemorate the achievement. Importantly, management of the City's water utility services by a specialized water agency will help to ensure the long-term reliability of water service to the City's customers. Additionally, Santa Margarita Water District plans to invest \$25 million into overall system improvements and optimization of the Ground Water Recovery Plant, located at City Hall. Many thanks to all who have had a hand in achieving this milestone accomplishment.



Northwest Open Space Community Park Grand Opening: Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of the City's long-awaited Northwest Open Space Community Park ("Putuidem Village") on Friday, December 3 at 3:30 p.m. Please see the attached flyer for a preview of this beautiful and unique new City park. The event program includes a ceremonial commencement by members of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians. Light refreshments will be provided.

Skatepark Environmental Document Public Review: Today, the City released the draft initial study and mitigated negative declaration for the City's skatepark and trail project, located at the southwest corner of the Kinoshita Farm property (near the Sports Park). The project will include a 20,000 square foot all-wheel skatepark, playground structure, restroom building, shaded seating areas and landscaping. In addition, the proposed project includes a new multi-use public trail along Via Positiva and the western edge of the Kinoshita Farm property that would connect The Farm residential development, currently under construction adjacent to the project site, to the new skatepark and Camino Del Avion. The environmental document public review and comment period will extend through Friday, December 17. To view the document, please visit the City's [website](#). Following the public review period, the proposed project is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission and then the City Council for final approval in early 2022.

Tree Lighting Celebration: The City will kick-off the holiday season with the return of the annual Tree Lighting Celebration on Saturday, December 4, at Historic Town Center Park located at 31852 El Camino Real. Festivities begin at 4:00 p.m. with pre-show entertainment, followed by a musical holiday production. The actual tree lighting takes place at 5:45 p.m. After the tree lighting, enjoy holiday activities throughout the downtown such as photos with Santa, a train ride through Los Rios Park, story time with Mrs. Claus, live reindeer petting pen, and more. Many downtown merchants will be offering extended shopping hours. Parking is limited, so visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the special event trolley services offered. The City's trolley services will stop along the normal summer route with two additional stops at Heritage BBQ and Yorba Street. For additional event information, please see the attached flyer or contact the Community Services Department at (949) 493-5911.

City Receives Award in Financial Reporting: The City's annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The City's report was judged by an impartial panel who found the report demonstrated exceptional transparency and effectively communicated the financial story of the City to the public.

Coffee with a Cop: Join our local Orange County Sheriff's Department deputies for the "Coffee with a Cop" event on Tuesday, November 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Starbucks located at 27211 Ortega Highway. The event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the programs and services offered by the Sheriff's Department in our community.

UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS (*Tentative and Subject to Change*)

December 7, 2021

- 2021 Mayor's Community Awards
- Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem
- Selection of Riding Park Operator to Begin Lease Negotiations
- Specific Plan Amendment Request for the Los Rios Specific Plan (expanded alcohol service)

