



(ACT) ACTION NEEDED
(INF) INFORMATION ONLY
(DIS) DISCRETIONARY

AGENDA

ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024 AT 4:00 PM
EL GARCES, 950 FRONT STREET, NEEDLES

**THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA TEAMS OR IN PERSON
AND MAY SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO NOON ON THE DAY OF THE
MEETING BY EMAILING cclark@cityofneedles.com**

**TO JOIN THE LIVE TEAMS MEETING: log into the City of Needles website at
www.cityofneedles.com to access the agenda and [click here to join the meeting](#)**

***If asked, enter the following: Meeting ID: 339 323 321#
OR listen in and participate by calling Teams: 1-323-488-2227 - Meeting ID: 339 323 321#
The meetings are being recorded.***

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
APPROVAL OF AGENDA
CONFLICT OF INTEREST
CORRESPONDENCE
INTRODUCTIONS

**AS A COURTESY TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE, WE WOULD ASK THAT CELL PHONES BE
TURNED OFF OR SET IN THEIR SILENT MODE. THANK YOU**

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - Persons wishing to address the Commissioners on subjects other than those scheduled are requested to do so at this time. When called by the Chair, please announce your name and address for the record. In order to conduct a timely meeting, a three-minute time limit per person has been established by Municipal Code Section 2-18. Amendments to the California Government Code Section 54950 prohibits the Commissioners from taking action on a specific item until it appears on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1.** Public Hearing Noticed to consider all evidence and testimony for or against approval of Resolution 07-10-2024-PC, finding that the abandonment of the 8' wide sewer easement located along the south property line of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798, is in compliance with the General Plan.
 - Staff Report
 - Commission questions of staff
 - Chair to open the public hearing
 - Public Comment
 - Chair to close the public hearing
 - Commission Discussion / Deliberation
 - Approve Resolution 07-10-2024-PC, finding that the abandonment of the 8' wide sewer easement located in the general vicinity of 2701 Columbus Drive, along the south property line of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798, is in compliance with the General Plan.

(ACT)

REGULAR ITEMS

2. Approve the Minutes of May 8, 2024

(ACT)

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Manager's Reports for the weeks of June 28, and June 21, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

**INTERNET ACCESS TO PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDAS AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS
AVAILABLE PRIOR TO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS AT:
[HTTP://WWW.CITYOFNEEDLES.COM](http://www.cityofneedles.com)**

Posted: July 3, 2024

SB 343 - DOCUMENTS RELATED TO OPEN SESSION AGENDAS - Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to a meeting is available for public inspection at the Needles Administrative Office, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Candace Clark, Assistant City Clerk, at (760) 326-2113 ext 133. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28 CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II)

If a decision is made at this hearing and you later disagree with the decision, only issues raised at the public hearing or in written form at or before the public hearing can be considered.

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing Agenda was posted at the front entrance of City Hall not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Dated this 3rd day of July 2024

/s/ Candace Clark, Assistant City Clerk



City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PLANNING COMMISSION

☒ Regular ☐ Special

Meeting Date: July 10, 2024

Title: Planning Commission Resolution No. 07-10-2024-PC. A Resolution of the Planning Commission of the City of Needles, California. Finding that Abandonment of an 8' wide Sewer Easement Located along the South Property Line of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798 is in Compliance with the General Plan.

Background: An 8' wide, 162.59 linear feet, sewer easement shown on Parcel Map 14798 was dedicated to the City of Needles for the construction and maintenance of a sewer lateral to serve the property at 2701 Columbus Drive.

The property owner now desires to purchase the said easement and assume responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the sewer line within the existing sewer easement.

Before the City Council may abandon the sewer easement, pursuant to Section 65402 of the Government Code, the Planning Commission must first consider and determine whether the vacation of the easement conforms to the General Plan and forward that determination to the City Council.

Public Notification: A public hearing notice was published in the Needles Desert Star newspaper on June 26, 2024, sent to each property owner within three hundred feet (300') of the easement being considered for abandonment, and posted in two conspicuous locations within the City.

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Environmental Impact: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the City's local CEQA Guidelines, City Staff determined that the project is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. City Staff found that there is no possible significant effect directly related to the Project, therefore no further action is required under CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15061(b)(3)), and independently, the Project is categorically exempt (class 5) pursuant to Section 15305 of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR § 15305).

Recommended Action: Approve Resolution 07-10-2024-PC, finding that the abandonment of the 8' wide sewer easement located along the south property line of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798, is in compliance with the General Plan.

Submitted By: Kathy Raasch, Interim Development Services Director

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 7/3/2024

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: _____

PC RESOLUTION NO. 07-10-2024-PC

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA, FINDING THAT AN ABANDONMENT
OF AN 8' WIDE SEWER EASEMENT LOCATED IN THE GENERAL
VICINITY OF 2701 COLUMBUS DRIVE, ALONG THE SOUTH
PROPERTY LINE OF PARCEL A OF PARCEL MAP 14798, IS IN
COMPLIANCE WITH THE GENERAL PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City wishes to assist property owners in their efforts to build in the City in a reasonable manner that does not create a hazard to health, safety and welfare or incompatibility with surrounding uses; and

WHEREAS, An 8' wide, 162.59 linear feet, sewer easement shown on Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798 was dedicated to the City of Needles for the construction and maintenance of a sewer lateral to serve the property at 2701 Columbus Drive; and

WHEREAS, the City of Needles desires to sell said sewer easement to property owner of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798; and

WHEREAS, Property Owner of Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798 shall be responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the sewer line within the former Utility and Sewer Easement

WHEREAS, a notice of a public hearing was published in the Needles Desert Star Newspaper on June 26, 2024, sent to each property owner within three hundred feet (300') of the easement being considered for abandonment, and posted within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Needles City Code, a public hearing was held by the Planning Commission on July 10, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission of the City of Needles, California, hereby finds that abandonment of the 8' wide sewer easement located on Parcel A of Parcel Map 14798 is in compliance with the City of Needles General Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Needles, California, held on the 10th day of July, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Bob Rath, Chairperson
Needles Planning Commission

Kathy Raasch
Interim Development Services Director

PARCEL MAP 14798

BEING A PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 8, SECTION
19, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 23 EAST, SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dean F. Anderson
RCE 23718
PLS 3924

April 1995

OWNERS' STATEMENTS

We hereby state we are all and the only parties having any record title interest in the land subdivided as shown on the annexed map and we consent to the preparation and recordation of this parcel map. We hereby irrevocably offer to dedicate to any of the several public utility companies which are authorized to serve in said subdivision, and to the City of Needles, an easement for ingress, egress, sewer, and public utility purposes in, under, over, through, and across the 10 foot strip of land and the 8 foot strip of land as shown on the annexed map.

Wallace K Farmer
Wallace K. Farmer

Byron E Farmer
Byron E. Farmer

ENGINEER'S STATEMENT

This map was prepared by me or under my direction and is based upon a field survey in conformance with the requirements of the Subdivision Map Act and local ordinances at the request of Wallace Farmer in April 1995, and all monuments shown hereon are of the character and occupy the positions indicated, or will be set in such positions on or before 3/1/96, in compliance with sections 66495 and 66496 of the Subdivision Map Act. I hereby state that this Parcel Map substantially conforms to the approved or conditionally approved tentative map, if any.

Date 2-16-1996Signature Dean F. AndersonRCE No: 23718Expiration Date 12/31/97NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

On the 26th day of Feb, 1996, before me Alfred W. Stoll, personally appeared Wallace K. Farmer and Byron E. Farmer, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their authorized capacities, and that by their signatures on the instrument the persons, or the entity upon behalf of which the persons acted, executed the instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Signature Alfred W. StollPrinted ALFRED W. STOLLMy Commission expires Oct 2, 1998My Principal Place of Business Los Angeles CountyCITY CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the City Council of the City of Needles, by a motion seconded and passed, approved this Parcel Map on the 20th day of FEB, 1996 and found this map to be consistent with the applicable general or specific plans of the City of Needles, and accepted on behalf of the public all parcels of land offered for dedication as shown on the annexed map.

Date 2/21/96

Leanna Keltner
Leanna Keltner

City Clerk for the City of
Needles

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that according to the records of this office as of this date, there are no liens against the real property shown upon the annexed map for unpaid State, County, Municipal, or Local taxes or Special Assessments collected as taxes EXCEPT TAXES AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ESTIMATED TO BE

Date 2-26-96

Errol J. Mackzum, County Auditor

County of San Bernardino

BY John R. [Signature] DeputyCITY ENGINEER'S STATEMENT

I hereby certify that I have examined the annexed map and that the subdivision shown thereon is substantially the same as it appeared upon the tentative map, if required, and any approved alterations thereof, and that all the provisions of the Subdivision Map Act and local ordinances applicable at time of approval of the tentative, if required, have been complied with and I am satisfied that this map is technically correct.

Date 2-16-96

Gordon O. Olson
Gordon O. Olson

Acting City Engineer-Land Surveyor
RCE 50377

Exp 6/30/97
PLS 7107

Exp 12/31/98

SIGNATURE OMISSIONS STATEMENTS

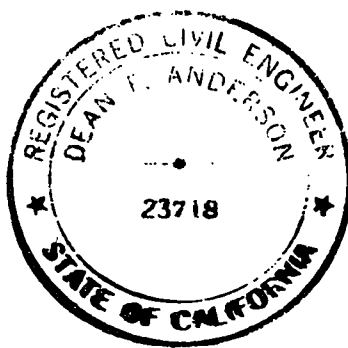
1. The signatures of California Pacific Utilities Company and its successors or assign, the owner(s) of an easement for construction, maintenance, and operation of electric transmission service lines as disclosed by document recorded II-4-40 in Book 1430, Page 482 of Official Records of San Bernardino County have been omitted under the provisions of Section 66436(a) 3A(I-VIII) of the Subdivision Map Act. Its interest cannot ripen into a fee. Said easement can not be located of record.
2. The signatures of California Pacific Utilities Company and its successors or assign, the owner(s) of an easement for telephone lines and cables as disclosed by document recorded 3-2-39 in Book 1335, Page 109 of Official Records of San Bernardino County have been omitted under the provisions of Section 66436(a) 3A(I-VIII) of the Subdivision Map Act. Its interest cannot ripen into a fee. Said easement can not be located of record.
3. The signatures of the United States of America or the State of California and/or their successors in interests, owners of such rights or interests reserved in patent recorded 2-16-29 in Book 465, Page 288 of Official Records of San Bernardino County have been omitted under the provisions of Section 66436(a) 4 of the Subdivision Map Act.

19960065224	
FILED REQUEST OF	
Investors Title	
ON Feb. 26, 1996	
AT 1:37 A.M.	IN
BOOK 180	PAGE 7/8
OF Parcel Maps	
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY RECORDER	
FEE \$10.00	

BEING A PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 8, SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 23 EAST, SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

DEAN F. ANDERSON
RCE 23718
PLS 3924

APRIL 1995

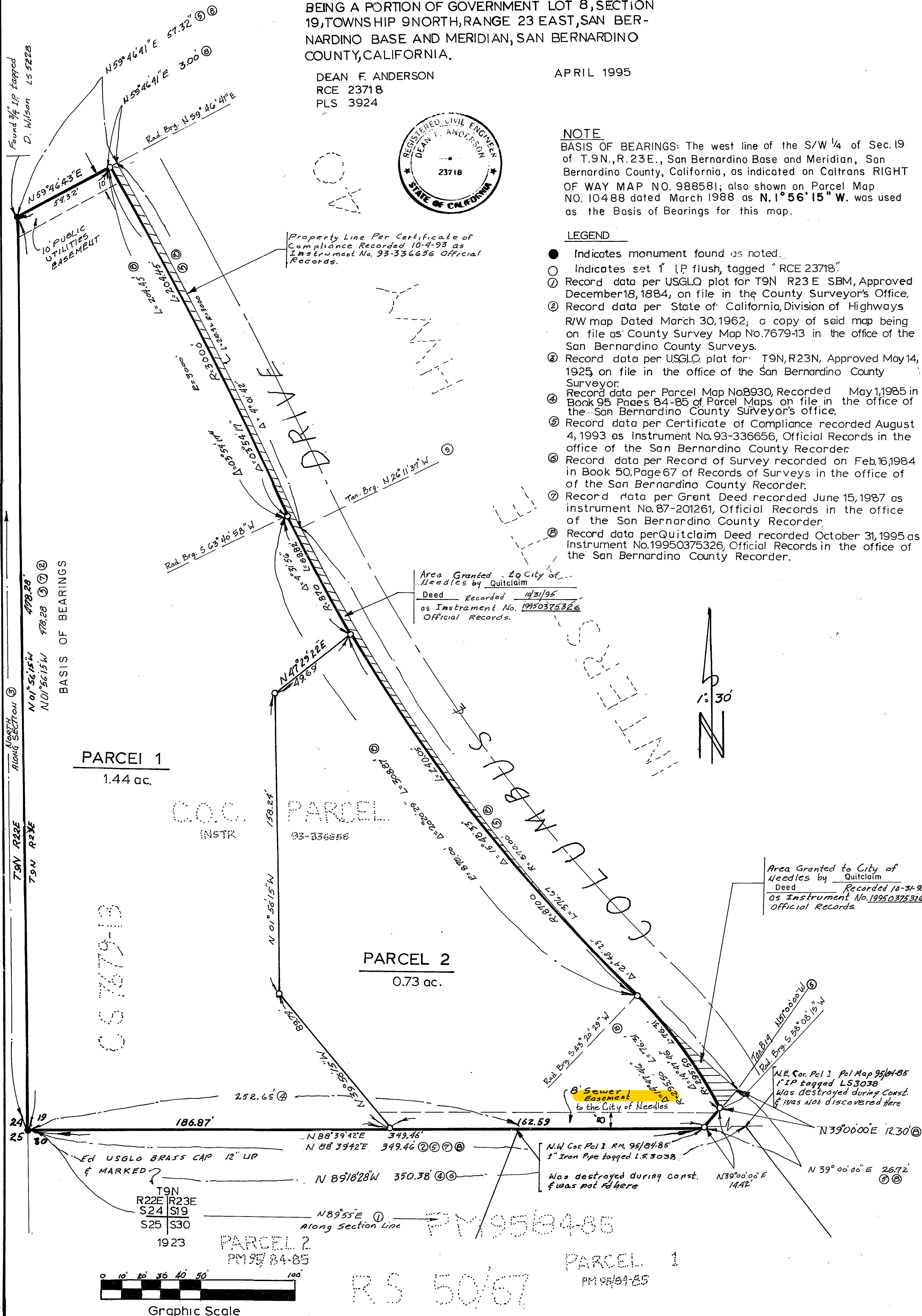


NOTE

NOTE: BASIS OF BEARINGS: The west line of the S/W 1/4 of Sec. 19 of T.9N., R.23E., San Bernardino Base and Meridian, San Bernardino County, California, as indicated on Caltrans RIGHT OF WAY MAP NO. 988581; also shown on Parcel Map NO. 10488 dated March 1988 as **N.1°56'15" W.** was used as the Basis of Bearings for this map.

LEGEND

- Indicates monument found as noted.
- Indicates set 1' LP flush, tagged "RCE 23718."
- ⑦ Record data per USGLO plot for T9N R23 E SBM, Approved December 18, 1884, on file in the County Surveyor's Office.
- ② Record data per State of California, Division of Highways R/W map Dated March 30, 1962; a copy of said map being on file as County Survey Map No. 7679-13 in the office of the San Bernardino County Surveys.
- ② Record data per USGLO plot for T9N, R23N, Approved May 14, 1925 on file in the office of the San Bernardino County Surveyor.
- ④ Record data per Parcel Map No. 8930, Recorded May 1, 1985 in Book 95 Pages 84-85 of Parcel Maps on file in the office of the San Bernardino County Surveyor's office.
- ⑤ Record data per Certificate of Compliance recorded August 4, 1993 as Instrument No. 93-336656, Official Records in the office of the San Bernardino County Recorder.
- ⑥ Record data per Record of Survey recorded on Feb. 16, 1984 in Book 50, Page 67 of Records of Surveys in the office of the San Bernardino County Recorder.
- ⑦ Record data per Grant Deed recorded June 15, 1987 as instrument No. 87-201261, Official Records in the office of the San Bernardino County Recorder.
- ② Record data per Quitclaim Deed recorded October 31, 1995 as Instrument No. 19950375326, Official Records in the office of the San Bernardino County Recorder.



8' Wide Sewer Easement Abandonment

2701 COLUMBUS DRIVE



Agenda Item 1.

MINUTES

**ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 08, 2024 AT 4:00 PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1111 BAILEY AVENUE, NEEDLES**

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Rath called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

ROLL CALL - Chair Rath asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Commissioner Beard.

Commissioner Ostby moved, second by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Beard

Abstain: None

PRESENT

Michael Wright

Bob Rath

Kevin Ostby

Charles Dressler

Will Bosboom

ABSENT

Barbara Beard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Chair Rath

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wright moved, second by Commissioner Ostby to approve the agenda. Motion called by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom

Noes: None

Absent: Commissioner Beard

Abstain: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

INTRODUCTIONS - Chair Rath acknowledged former Council Members Billy Bradshaw and Tim Terral in attendance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE - None

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Approve Resolution 05-08-2024-PC, finding that the abandonment of the road right-of-way consisting of an unused portion of right-of-way along "O" Street, South of Market Street, adjacent to Assessor's Parcel Numbers 0185-046-13 and 0185-085-29, is in compliance with the General Plan.

Staff Report given by City Manager Martinez

Commissioners asked questions of staff and discussion ensued.

No public comment

Commissioner Wright moved, second by Commissioner Bosboom to approve Resolution 05-08-2024-PC, finding that the abandonment of the road right-of-way consisting of an unused portion of right-of-way along "O" Street, South of Market Street, adjacent to Assessor's Parcel Numbers 0185-046-13 and 0185-085-29, is in compliance with the General Plan. Motion carried by the following vote:

Agenda Item 2.

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Beard
Abstain: None

REGULAR ITEMS

2. Approve the Minutes of January 3, 2024

Commissioner Ostby moved, second by Commissioner Dressler to approve the minutes of January 3, 2024. Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Beard
Abstain: None

3. Recommend the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 for City Council Approval

Commissioner Ostby moved, second by Chair Rath to recommend the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025 for City Council Approval Motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Beard
Abstain: None

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

Commissioner Wright - asked about the status of 209 I Street and about housing vouchers.

Commissioner Ostby - applauded City for filling vacant positions and inquired about the possibility of hiring a City Engineer.

Commissioner Dressler - Asked about the status of the water manifold project and the wells at the golf course and the new reservoir; asked about the status of the old Denny's building; and about the status of the blank signs that were ordered to be cleaned.

Commissioner Bosboom - Reported sand debris draining into and clogging water lines from the Rodeo grounds; commented on the success of the Rodeo and inquired about the possibility of using the Rodeo grounds for other events; asked about the status of the OHV ordinance.

Chair Rath - Reported a light at the corner of Terrace and Riverview Terrace needs to be fixed.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Given by City Manager Martinez

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rath called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm. Commissioner Ostby moved, second by Commissioner Dressler and approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wright, Chair Rath, Commissioners Ostby, Dressler, and Bosboom
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Beard
Abstain: None

Bob Rath
Chair

Candace Clark, CPMC
Assistant City Clerk



City of Needles
817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

*Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
City Manager Patrick J. Martinez*

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 2024

1. City crews promptly responded to reports of a fire on the 900 block of Bush Street around 1:15 p.m. on **Saturday, June 22, 2024**. Upon arrival, they found a residential structure engulfed in flames. The fire then spread northwards along the Colorado River. The San Bernardino County Fire Department and several other fire departments from the region, including Mohave Valley Fire and Bullhead City Fire Departments, responded to offer assistance. The fire extended north to Needles Highway and led to mandatory evacuations at Fenders Resort.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department requested additional resources for support. Over 20 San Bernardino County Fire Department units, including San Bernardino County Sheriff Air Rescue, were deployed. Fire units from the Mohave Valley Fire Department and Bullhead City Fire Department also offered assistance. The fire crossed the Colorado River into Arizona, burning a total of more than 200 acres.

The efforts of the various agencies involved, including the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, Cal OES, Department of Public Health, National Weather Services, Red Cross, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Needles Public Works, Electric, and Water Departments, are commendable for their dedication and hard work in providing emergency response. As per the [Cal Fire Incident Update](#), the incident has been concluded as of June 26, 2024. Seventy acres were burned in Needles, and the Needles fire has been completely contained.

Multiple organizations are actively supporting the resident who was displaced by the fire, providing a range of donations including clothing, tools, and hygiene products. All donations can be dropped off at the front desk at Budget Inn 2104 Needles Hwy Needles, CA 92363, demonstrating the community's solidarity in times of crisis.

2. On **Monday, June 24, 2024**, the City's Animal Shelter implemented the Trap, Neuter, and Release Program. The initial focus was on Bazoobuth, resulting in the neutering of 12 cats. The program will now extend its focus to the surrounding areas, including B Street, La Mesa Way, and D Street for the next month. The goal of this initiative is to improve our community by managing the population of roaming cats, reducing diseases, and increasing adoption rates, ultimately aiming to eliminate euthanasia at our shelter. Residents can report roaming cats to the Needles Animal Shelter by calling 760-326-4952 or using the Needles Connect app, available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
3. The Housing Authority of the City of Needles will be accepting applications! For a limited time, starting **July 1, 2024, until July 31, 2024**, the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program will be accepting placement applications, and the Public Housing waitlist is open year-round. Applications can be obtained and submitted to the Needles Housing Authority at 908 Sycamore Drive. For more information please call (760)326-3222 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
4. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
 - **Set Free Church in collaboration with TNT Fireworks**, will be selling safe and sane fireworks from noon on **June 28, 2024, through July 6, 2024**, at 1164 Needles Highway (formerly Miranda's Car Wash). For more information, call 760-326-2941.
 - **Needles Elks Lodge** is hosting the **Annual 4th of July Pool Party** from 12pm to 4pm at the City of Needles Aquatics Center. Free open swim for everyone.
 - **Palo Verde College** is hosting "Pirate Tuesday" on **July 26, 2024**, from 10am to 2pm at the Palo Verde Needles Education Center located at 725 W. Broadway (formerly Claypool's). This community outreach event will feature free food, snacks, and drinks. All are welcome to join! For more information, call 760-326-5033.



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Councilmember Tona Belt
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Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2024

1. **Today**, the City of Needles community gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Bob Belt Beach Park, formerly First Beach. The revitalized park is now open just in time for the summer season. Thanks to a \$2,179,702 grant from the State of California's Clean California Grant Program, we have transformed this space into a functional and engaging environment, aligning with our Council Goals. City Staff cleared the first and second beaches for fire abatement earlier in the week. This enhancement aims to attract more families and engage both residents and visitors. Please see the attached images of today's celebration.
2. On **Monday, June 17, 2024**, the Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for U.S. Cannabis Laboratories, which recently opened its doors. As the first cannabis testing laboratory in Needles and San Bernardino County and one of only 29 in the entire state, U.S. Cannabis Laboratories plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and quality of cannabis products. City officials, Chamber members, and community residents gathered to celebrate this addition to our local economy. This effort aligns with the City Council's goal of creating a thriving, pro-business environment that attracts diverse sectors. Please see the attached image from the event.
3. **Earlier this week**, ICMA announced that the City of Needles has been selected to join [ICMA's 2024 Economic Mobility and Opportunity Cohort](#), supported by the [Gates Foundation's Economic Mobility and Opportunity \(EMO\) initiative](#). This prestigious program includes 15 diverse local governments, each receiving a \$20,000 grant for initiatives to enhance residents' upward mobility. Needles will focus on a comprehensive housing study to identify community housing needs.

Over the coming months, the cohort will engage in service gap assessments, community needs assessments, action planning, and pilot programming to address challenges in housing affordability, workforce development, and financial security. We are proud to be recognized by ICMA, the world's leading association of

professional city and county managers, underscoring our commitment to fostering economic mobility and opportunity for all residents. Refer to the attached release for more information.

4. On **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) Hydrogen Passenger Train stopped at the BNSF Railyard for a crew change. This new train is vital to SBCTA's efforts to advance its hydrogen infrastructure project ahead of California's Zero-Emission Multiple Unit (ZEMU) train service. As North America's first hydrogen passenger train, this pilot program aims to set a global precedent for successful hydrogen-powered rail transportation. Refer to the attached images for a visual description.
5. The City's Fleet Maintenance Public Works staff has taken over the maintenance of the City Contracted Sheriff's Vehicles. The City of Needles is fortunate to have Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified staff, which helps reduce labor costs for vehicle maintenance. This effort aligns with the City Council's goal of maintaining budgets. Refer to the attached images for more insights.
6. On **Monday, June 24, 2024**, the City's Animal Shelter will implement the Trap, Neuter, and Release Program. Last November, the shelter received a \$112,000 grant, which enabled it to acquire a new vehicle, hire a part-time staff member, and procure essential supplies. This initiative aims to enhance our community by managing roaming cats, curbing diseases, and boosting adoption rates, ultimately eliminating euthanasia at our shelter. Please see the attached images for a visual update. Residents can report roaming cats to the Needles Animal Shelter by calling 760-326-4952 or using the Needles Connect app, available on the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
7. **IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:**
 - **The Eagles** are hosting a free open swim for children aged 16 and under tomorrow, **June 22, 2024**, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the City of Needles Aquatics Center, located at 1101 Civic Center Dr. Don't miss out on this exciting event! For more information, call (760) 326-2599.
 - **Set Free Church in collaboration with TNT Fireworks**, will be selling safe and sane fireworks from noon on **June 28, 2024, through July 6, 2024**, at 1164 Needles Highway (formerly Miranda's Car Wash). For more information, call 760-326-2941.
 - **Needles Elks Lodge** is hosting the **Annual 4th of July Pool Party** from 12pm to 4pm at the City of Needles Aquatics Center. Free open swim for everyone.
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1. BOB BELT BEACH PARK RIBBON CUTTING



Image Source: Needles Desert Star

2. U.S. CANNABIS LABS RIBBON CUTTING



3. ICMA 2024 EMOC



Local governments selected for ICMA's 2024 Economic Mobility and Opportunity Cohort

Fifteen cities, towns, and counties representing diverse populations, geographies, operating budgets, and other local conditions have been selected for ICMA's 2024 Economic Mobility and Opportunity Peer Learning Cohort and Grant Program. In addition to professional development and networking opportunities for their team leaders, the selected local governments will each receive a \$20,000 grant to advance a local assessment, planning process, or program aimed at boosting upward mobility of residents. This program from ICMA is made possible by support from the [Gates Foundation's Economic Mobility and Opportunity \(EMO\) program](#).

Economic mobility refers to the ability of individuals and generations to move up the economic ladder over time, a concept often explained colloquially as “doing better than your parents.” While economic mobility is frequently associated with income, several factors can influence an individual's economic mobility outcome, and local governments are uniquely positioned to influence conditions that make it possible for all residents and households to access opportunities and get ahead. The following local governments were selected through an application process that gauged understanding of local needs and readiness to implement EMO strategies through the cohort program and beyond:

- Prescott Valley, AZ
- Needles, CA
- Redwood City, CA
- Miami Gardens, FL
- Newton, KS
- Gaithersburg, MD
- Lisbon, ME
- Tunica County, MS
- Thomasville, NC
- Washington County, OR
- La Marque, TX

New, Reduced Membership Dues

A new, reduced dues rate is available for CAOs/ACAOs, along with additional discounts for those in smaller communities, has been implemented. Learn more and be sure to join or renew today!

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4. SBCTA HYDROGEN PASSENGER TRAIN



5. FLEET MAINTENANCE SBCSO



6. ANIMAL SHELTER PROGRAM

