



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

## AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OF  
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AT 4:00 PM  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1111 BAILEY AVENUE, NEEDLES

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**THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING TELEPHONICALLY**

**BY CALLING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER:**

**1-866-576-7975 - Participant access: 853544**

**AND MAY SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS IN WRITING PRIOR TO 12:00 NOON THE DAY  
OF THE MEETING BY EMAILING [csallis@cityofneedles.com](mailto:csallis@cityofneedles.com)**

### CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(ACT)

### CORRESPONDENCE

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE:** Persons wishing to address the Board on subjects other than those scheduled are requested to do so at this time. When called by the Chairman, please come to the podium and 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 California Government Code Sec. 54950 prohibits the Board from taking action on a specific item until it appears on the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:** All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. The Chairman or any Member of the Board may pull an item from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Prior to Board action, a member of the public may address the Board on matters scheduled on the Consent Calendar. A three-minute time limit per person applies. **Recommended Action:** Approve Items through on the Consent Calendar by affirmative vote. **NONE**

**REGULAR ITEMS** (A three minute time limit per person has been established per Municipal Code Section 2-18)

1. Minutes of adjourned regular meeting held January 16, 2024 (ACT)
2. Minutes of regular meeting held February 6, 2024 (ACT)
3. Approve the proposed revised budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 for Needles Public Utility Authority, Water, Wastewater, Electric and All American Canal (ACT)

### REPORTS

(INF)

### PENDING MATTERS (not for discussion at this time)

Arc Flash Study System Improvements Cost Estimate and Timeline Report (per Board action on April 4, 2023)

### MANAGER'S REPORT

4. Manager's Report for 2-2-24

**BOARD REQUESTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Posted: February 15, 2024**

**INTERNET ACCESS TO BOARD AGENDA AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE  
PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT: [HTTP://WWW.CITYOFNEEDLES.COM](http://www.cityofneedles.com)**

*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 the meeting is available for public inspection at the Administrative Office, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363.*

*In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Cheryl Sallis, Secretary to the Board, at (760) 326-2113 ext 115. 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).*

## BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

January 16, 2024

The adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 16th day of January, 2024, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, BROWN AND SCHNEIDER

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL

APPROVAL COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER  
AGENDA LeJEUNE, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER, to approve consent calendar items 1 through 4

1. Minutes of adjourned regular meeting held December 5, 2023
2. Authorize a change order for the purchase of a Terex TC55 Optima 2023 Freightliner bucket truck not to exceed \$23,400 utilizing the electric vehicle replacement funds
3. Power Purchase Cost Adjustment (PCA) for months of October and November 2023 and continue the over-hydro rate of \$0.1538 with an additional \$.01 power cost adjustment as effective December 1, 2023
4. Authorize Reliable Pump Inc. to complete two Hydromatic pump repairs not to exceed \$15,531.74 to be funded by the Wastewater Asset Replacement Fund

Agenda item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE  
AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONER BROWN

Agenda items 2 through 4 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL

REG ITEMS: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER  
BROWN, to reappoint CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL as Chairman for the ensuing  
year of 2024. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

CHAIR &  
V CHAIR

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL

COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER  
LeJEUNE, to reappoint COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER as Vice Chairman for  
the ensuing year of 2024. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND SCHNEIDER  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND McNEIL

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following reports: 1) EUSI, LLC  
operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and  
collection system November 2023; 2) Present Perfected Rights Report –  
November 2023; 3) Monthly Activity Report August and September 2023

MGR'S RPT: Utility Manager Torrance acknowledged the weekly manager's reports for  
12-15-23, 12-22-23, 12-29-23, 1-5-24 and reported: 1) midyear budget revisions  
will be on the next agenda; 2) Lily Hill booster will be completed by the end of  
January; 3) bid out for water services in conjunction with asphalt paving project.  
Have a new map which she can share.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER spoke on keeping the power cost adjustment  
(PCA) in place, the cost of power for the winter months being about double last  
year, and the cost of wholesale electric is driving the price up.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL asked the plan for the water storage tank previously  
purchased as it was to relieve some of the pressures on the water system. Utility  
Manager Torrance responded it will be on the next agenda as staff found out the

January 16, 2024

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condition of the tank is not what was thought which changed the course of the tank as well as the study.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the adjourned regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 16th day of January, 2024, adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Secretary

## BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

February 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 6th day of February, 2024, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, MOFFITT AND McNEIL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER McNEIL, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND SCHNEIDER. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
MOFFITT AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND SCHNEIDER

APPROVAL COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER  
AGENDA MOFFITT, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
MOFFITT AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND SCHNEIDER

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER McNEIL, to TABLE agenda item 1, minutes of adjourned regular meeting held January 16, 2024, and approve consent calendar items 2 through 4

2. Resolution 2-6-24 BPU authorizing an increase in the purchase/set-up fee for electrical onsite materials from \$50,000 to \$90,000
3. Approval of New Exhibit to 2007 Lower Colorado Basin Intentionally Created Surplus ("ICS") Forbearance Agreement adding Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation & Drainage District
4. Resolution No. 2-6-24-1 BPU certifying the Sewer System Management Plan dated January 2024

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
MOFFITT AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND SCHNEIDER

REG ITEMS: Utility Manager Torrance explained the agreement dated August 10, 2020 with 3Degrees Group Inc., effective through March 15, 2032, for the purchase of renewable energy certificates (RECs). This relates to the California Energy Commission's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) and compliance period true-up but the regulations changed and now have to have a long term contract. Staff reached out to several vendors but Needles was not appealing to them so now locking in a long term agreement with 3Degrees Group who has presented a ten year contract with 50,000 allowances per year. She spoke on purchase of RECs, how it's done, and cost which will be included in future budgets. Discussion followed on the agreement with 3Degrees and understanding its purpose.

3DEGREES  
GROUP INC  
RE PURCH  
OF RECS

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL spoke on the cannabis grow operations possibly qualifying for RECs and has asked Utility Manager Torrance to explore that. He also felt the rate study/policy needs to explore RECS and consider a cost analysis of RECs compared to the utility starting its own solar thus creating its own RECs.

Utility Manager Torrance noted that some of the delivery dates in the agreement may change when it goes to the city council but the overall terms will not.

COMMISSIONER MOFFITT MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LeJEUNE, to authorize the city manager to execute the agreement dated August 10, 2020 with 3Degrees Group, Inc. through March 15, 2032 for the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates "RECs". Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
MOFFITT AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS BROWN AND SCHNEIDER

REPORTS: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following reports: 1) Present Perfected Rights Report December 2023; 2) Monthly Activity Report October 2023; 3) Alternative Energy Ad Hoc Committee Update; 4) EUSI, LLC operational support services relating to the wastewater treatment facility and collection system for December 2023; 5) Upper Zone Reservoir Siting Study Update.

MGR'S RPT: Utility Manager Torrance acknowledged the weekly manager's report for 1-26-24 and reported: 1) an underground vault elbow caught fire and burned the rack which caused a power outage in specific areas - a photo of the damage was provided at the meeting; 2) wastewater personnel found a blockage on Front Street after receiving a resident complaint on 'L' Street. Sy Foley, wastewater employee, described the huge grease ball pulled out that covered the entire 10" line inside the manhole at Front and 'K' Street - a photo was provided. His best

February 6, 2024

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guess is that the grease ball came from the west end of town. Utility Manager Torrance commented that staff will restart the campaign to not put grease down the sewer.

BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT noted there are three cannabis growers in arrears and inquired as to if it is for back taxes or utilities. Utility Manager Torrance responded there are no arrears that involve the Needles Public Utility Authority, only the city side.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL is impressed with the city crews and how quickly they are to respond during an incident and with this Board and how they promote the city. The solar evaluation/feasibility study is terrific and he looks forward to seeing the responses.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 6th day of February, 2024, adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



## City of Needles, California Request for Board Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL      ☐ NPUA      ☒ BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
☒ Regular      ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** February 20, 2024

**Title:** FY 2023-24 Mid-year Budget Revisions

**Background:** The City Manager and Finance staff have reviewed the approved 2023-24 NPUA budget against actual revenue and expenditures through December 31, 2023 (6 months). The Proposed Revised Budgets were reviewed by the Council Budget Committee on February 5, 2024. Attached is the Revised NPUA Budget Summary for Fiscal Year 2023-24 that shows the few changes that are being proposed.

Due to the ongoing Rio Buena Vista litigation, legal budget for Water needs to be increased by \$130,000. Staff has also requested adding \$22,504 for Wastewater Plant Maint/Repairs and \$32,368 for Electric Purchased Inventory. In Water, the budget for Salaries, Well Maint, and Professional Services is being reduced by a total of \$114,951.

Interest revenue is expected to increase by \$85,000 over what was budgeted due to higher interest rates. Bank Charges are also increasing by \$21,000 due to the higher activity in online payments of utility bills.

**Fiscal Impact:** See attached budget report.

**Recommended Action:** Approve Proposed Revised Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

**Submitted By:** Barbara DiLeo, Finance Department

**City Management Review:**

*[Signature]*

**Date:**

2/15/24

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item:

Item 3.

NEEDLES PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY						
Operating Budget						
FY 2024						
				FY 2024		
				Proposed		
	2022	2023	FY 2024	Revised		
Revenues	Actuals	Actuals	Original	Budget		
Interest	\$ 11,940	\$ 66,860	\$ 13,000	\$ 98,000	653.8%	Increase due to higher interest rates
Land Sales	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	
Expenditures						
Arbitrage Computations	\$ 8,400	\$ 2,950	\$ 5,450	\$ 5,450	0.0%	
Bank Charges	\$ 25,086	\$ 41,356	\$ 44,000	\$ 65,000	47.7%	Increased PayPal activity
Bond Payments	\$ 1,443,000	\$ 1,442,385	\$ 1,442,385	\$ 1,442,385	0.0%	
Trustee fees	\$ 5,375	\$ 6,130	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700	0.0%	
Purchase Payment	\$ 685,300	\$ 666,436	\$ 666,432	\$ 666,432	0.0%	
Utility Users Tax	\$ 319,322	\$ 343,007	\$ 474,884	\$ 474,884	0.0%	
Total NPUA Expenditures	\$ 2,486,483	\$ 2,502,264	\$ 2,639,851	\$ 2,660,851		
			Actual		Projected	
			Operating		Operating Cash	
			Cash	NET	06/30/23	
			06/30/23	CHANGE		
				\$ (2,562,851)	NPUA	
				\$ 618,675	Water	
				\$ 795,967	Wastewater	
				\$ 1,334,666	Electric	
				\$ -	All Amer. Canal	
			\$ 2,049,411		\$ 2,235,868	
	Rate Stabilization Fund		\$ 699,972		\$ 699,972	
	PCA Balancing Fund		700,000		\$ 700,000	
Projected ending balances 06/30/24						
Water Asset Replacement Fund	\$ -	NPUA	\$ 1,016,400	City side		
Wastewater Asset Replacement Fund	\$ -	NPUA	\$ 266,901	City side		
Electric Asset Replacement Fund	\$ 2,874,006	NPUA	\$ 269,913	City side	3,143,919	
					Electric ↑ ARF total	

Base Level Comparison	<i>DRAFT</i>	FY 2024
	Revenues	Operating Expenses
<b><u>WATER</u></b>		
Base level from revised budget FY 24	3,056,300	2,163,271
<i><u>Increases</u></i>		
Increase in legal fees		130,000
<i><u>Decreases</u></i>		
Decrease in Salaries		(70,951)
Decrease in Well Maint		(30,000)
Decrease in Engineering/Other Professional Services		(14,000)
FY 24 mid-year budget revisions	3,056,300	2,178,320
Increase / (decrease)	-	15,049
<b><u>WASTEWATER</u></b>		
Base level from revised budget FY 24	2,168,342	1,314,194
<i><u>Increases</u></i>		
Increase in Plant Maint/Repairs		22,504
<i><u>Decreases</u></i>		
FY 24 mid-year budget revisions	2,168,342	1,336,698
Increase / (decrease)	-	22,504
<b><u>ELECTRIC</u></b>		
Base level from revised budget FY 24	14,468,000	12,745,883
<i><u>Increases</u></i>		
Increase in Purchased inventory		32,368
<i><u>Decreases</u></i>		
FY 24 mid-year budget revisions	14,468,000	12,778,251
Increase / (decrease)	-	32,368

*Item 3.*



	<b>ELECTRIC</b>				
	<b>Operating Budget</b>				
	<b>FY 2024</b>				
			<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Requested</b>	
<b>Utility Revenues</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	
Electric Revenues	\$ 11,749,901	\$ 11,139,098	\$ 14,468,000	\$ 14,468,000	0.0%
Total Electric Revenues	\$ 11,749,901	\$ 11,139,098	\$ 14,468,000	<b>\$ 14,468,000</b>	
<b>Utility Expenditures</b>					
Operating Expenses	\$ 10,050,119	\$ 10,758,375	\$ 12,745,883	\$ 12,778,251	0.3%
Transfer to Electric Asset Repl. Fund	\$ 499,140	\$ 508,116	\$ 355,083	\$ 355,083	0.0%
Total Electric Expenditures	\$ 10,549,259	\$ 11,266,491	\$ 13,100,966	<b>\$ 13,133,334</b>	
	\$ 1,200,642	\$ (127,393)	\$ 1,367,034	<b>\$ 1,334,666</b>	<b>NET CHANGE</b>
			<u>% of total utility revenue budget:</u>		
Utility User Tax		\$ 348,892	73.5%		
			<u>Bond ratio:</u>		
Bank & Trustee Charges		\$ 36,261	47%		
Bond Payments 2016		\$ 682,351	47%		
Purchase Payment		\$ 313,223	47%		
Interest Income		\$ (46,060)	47%		
	Allocable costs	<b>\$ 1,334,666</b>			
				\$ (0)	





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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2024

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1. On Tuesday January 30, 2024, the City Council the City Council took decisive action by formally adopting Resolution No. 2024-7, thereby officially declaring a Local Emergency in response to the closure of the sole California pharmacy in Needles. This resolution empowers the City Manager to actively pursue essential goods, services, and mutual aid from neighboring local agencies, as well as the County of San Bernardino and the State of California. This strategic initiative is designed to ensure the swift acquisition of ample resources to address the immediate emergency, facilitating the procurement of aid and services. This guarantees that residents of Needles maintain uninterrupted access to critical medications and essential goods and services. Refer to attached emergency declaration.
2. Today, City Staff issued a press release regarding the Rite Aid Pharmacy Closure Update #1. In response to the Rite Aid Pharmacy closure, effective February 5, 2024, all prescriptions will be seamlessly transferred to CVS Fort Mohave, located at 4744 S. Highway 95, AZ 86426. Contact CVS Fort Mohave directly at (928) 763-6822 for inquiries. Alternative pharmacies include CVS 24-hour in Bullhead City, Safeway, and Riverside Pharmacy. Ensure availability and operating hours by calling ahead. As of 2/2/2024, Medi-Cal enrollment is confirmed for Safeway, CVS, and Riverside Pharmacy. Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Medical Transport and DAR Shopper Shuttle are available with reservation and prepayment for transportation options from Needles to Arizona pharmacies. Details and reservations can be made by calling the Senior Center at (760) 326-4789—additional resources, including Medi-Cal Rx, IEHP Dual Choice, and IEHP Covered, are outlined in the press release. For further updates, download the Needles Connect app or visit [www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com). Please refer to the attached document for more details.

3. The City of Needles is delighted to introduce Chanler Hartwick as the newest Recreation Coordinator within our Parks & Recreation Services Department. In her capacity, Ms. Hartwick will collaborate with the city's Recreation Services Manager to expertly plan, facilitate, instruct, and oversee a diverse range of recreation activities, including arts and crafts, games, team sports, and informal gatherings at various locations, such as parks, playgrounds, and the recreation center.
4. Today, City Staff participated in the severe weather briefing at the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Anticipating a second storm front from Monday to Friday, with peak intensity on Tuesday and Wednesday, City Staff urged OES to oversee flood monitoring, especially along Needles Highway. Rigorous preparations for potential flooding are underway, and our electric crew is primed to address any storm-induced power outages. On Monday, City Staff will compile a roster of standby employees ready to respond in an emergency. The San Bernardino County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is on standby, poised for activation in the event of damages. The City's proactive measures ensure a swift and coordinated response to any challenges the impending storm poses.
5. On January 20, 2024, City Staff actively engaged in the Colorado River Medical Center (CRMC) Community Health Needs Assessment, contributing to improving community health. Through this involvement, City Staff gained valuable insights into the community's health challenges, empowering CRMC to align services and resources more effectively to cater to the needs of the Needles population. Additionally, City Staff played a pivotal role in identifying and addressing these crucial health needs during the assessment process.

# 1. EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Item 1.

## EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2024-7

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY THREATENING PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE WITHIN THE NEEDLES COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager described in great detail a local emergency that occurred due to the imminent closure of the only California pharmacy within the City of Needles, which the Needles' community relies upon to purchase and obtain critical and sometimes life sustaining medications, goods and services. The closure of the sole existing pharmacy within the City will result in local residents lacking access to a California pharmacy within the City to provide needed and sometimes life sustaining medication, goods and services; and

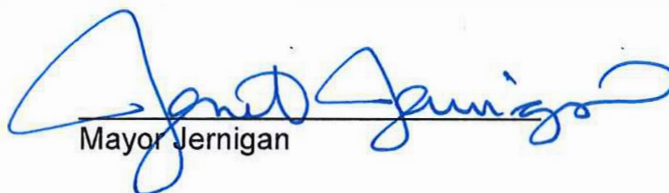
**WHEREAS**, in light of the emergency situation, there is an immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare of residents of the City of Needles.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED AND DECLARED** that a local emergency now exists throughout the City of Needles pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code, § 8558, et. seq.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND DECLARED** that the City Manager is authorized to take all actions to protect the interests of the city and protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents as a result of the closure of the sole pharmacy within the City. During the existence of said local emergency, the City Manager is directed and authorized to seek any needed goods, services and mutual aid from surrounding local agencies, as well as the County of San Bernardino and State of California to ensure that the City has access to adequate resources to address the immediate emergency and to procure aid and services to ensure that residents of Needles have access to critical medications and related goods and services.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Needles, California, held on the 30th day of January 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Campbell, Merritt, Pogue and Belt  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Council Members Longbrake and McCorkle  
ABSTAIN: None

  
Mayor Vernigan

(Seal)

Attest:

  
City Clerk

# CITY OF NEEDLES

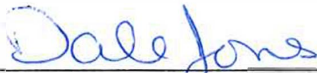
817 Third Street • Needles, California 92363  
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765

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Mayor Jan Jernigan  
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt  
Councilmember Tona Belt  
Councilmember Ellen Campbell  
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle  
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue  
Councilmember Henry Longbrake  
City Manager Patrick Martinez

## CERTIFICATION

I, Dale Jones, City Clerk of the City of Needles, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2024-7



Dale Jones, CMC  
City Clerk

(SEAL)

Date: January 31, 2024



## 2. PRESS RELEASE

*City of Needles*

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363  
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765  
[www.cityofneedles.com](http://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 Martinez

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 2, 2024

Contact: Rainie Torrance  
Emergency Response Coordinator  
(760) 326-5700 Ext. 140  
[torrance@cityofneedles.com](mailto:torrance@cityofneedles.com)

### Rite Aid Pharmacy Closure Update #1

Needles Community – Last October, Rite Aid faced financial challenges and sought Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, allowing for a structured evaluation of its operations. This process aimed to streamline its footprint by closing underperforming stores while addressing litigation claims fairly. Unfortunately, the City of Needles has received disheartening news regarding its only pharmacy, Rite Aid, which will cease operations on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, as part of the ongoing bankruptcy and restructuring efforts.

At the close of business on Monday, February 5, 2024, **ALL** Rite Aid pharmacy prescriptions will seamlessly transfer to CVS Fort Mohave, situated at 4744 S. Highway 95, AZ 86426. For any inquiries, please contact CVS Fort Mohave directly at (928) 763-6822. We understand the impact this may have on the community, and we appreciate your understanding during this transition period.

#### Where can I fill my prescriptions?

##### **CVS**

4744 S Highway 95  
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426  
(928) 763-6822

##### **Medi-Cal Enrolled**

##### **Safeway**

4823 S Highway 95  
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426  
(928) 704-4433

##### **Medi-Cal Enrolled**

##### **CVS 24-hour**

2350 Miracle Mile  
Bullhead City, AZ 86442  
(928) 758-2212

##### **Medi-Cal Enrolled**

##### **Riverside Pharmacy**

2410 Highway 95  
Bullhead City, AZ 86442  
(928) 219-4700

##### **Medi-Cal Enrolled**

Be sure to call the pharmacy before going to pick up your prescriptions. The pharmacy will verify over the phone that they have your medication in stock, and your refills are available to be picked up. For residents with specific insurance requirements, Safeway, CVS, and Riverside Pharmacy are confirmed to be enrolled with Medi-Cal. Be sure to verify their operating hours and explore any additional services they may provide.

**As more pharmacies get approved, we will furnish you with additional information to further assist you. Thank you for your understanding during this transitional period, and we are committed to keeping you informed about available healthcare options in the community.**

#### What resources are available for transportation from Needles to a pharmacy in Arizona?

##### **Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Medical Transport:**

Fare: \$6.00 (round-trip) from Needles Senior Center up to Safeway/CVS/Smiths, Fort Mohave, AZ or \$12.00 (round-trip) up to Laughlin Bridge in Bullhead City, AZ

Days: Tuesday/Thursday

Reservation and prepayment are required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.

There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.

#### **DAR Shopper Shuttle:**

Fare: \$9.00 (round-trip) from El Garces (leaves the parking lot at 8:15am) to Walmart, CVS, Smiths, and Safeway in Fort Mohave, AZ

Day: Wednesday

Reservation and prepayment is required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.

There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.

Call the Senior Center at (760) 326-4789 to schedule your reservation for the Medical Transport or Shopper Shuttle.

Additional information can be found on the City of Needles website [www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com).

#### **What resources are available?**

Please call Medi-Cal Rx at 1 (800) 977-2273 (TTY 1-800-977-2273) for questions about your Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit. A Medi-Cal Pharmacy can be located on the [Medi-Cal Rx website](#).

- IEHP DualChoice (Medicare/Medi-Cal)
  - 1 (877) 273-IEHP (4347)
  - TTY: 1-800-718-IEHP (4347)
- IEHP Covered (Covered California)
  - 1 (877) 433-IEHP (4347)
  - TTY: 711

Mail order pharmacy services are also available for IEHP Dual Choice and IEHP Covered members. SortPak pharmacy is an IEHP network mail order pharmacy. Starting February 6, 2024, prescriptions can be transferred by contacting SortPak Pharmacy at (877) 570-7787 and ask them to contact the CVS Pharmacy in Fort Mohave at (928) 763-6822.

#### **Department of Behavioral Health – [www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/](http://www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/)**

- Access Unit (Behavioral Health Helpline) - (888) 743-1478 (24 hours/365 days)
- Screening Assessment and Referral Center (Substance Use Disorder Helpline) - (800) 968-2636 (24 hours/365 days)
- Crisis Contact Center - Community Crisis Response Teams - (800) 398-0018 or text (909) 420-0560 (24 hours/365 days)
- Needles Behavioral Health Clinic – (760) 326-9313

#### **Department of Aging and Adult Services-Public Guardian – [hss.sbcounty.gov/daas/](http://hss.sbcounty.gov/daas/)**

- Senior Information and Assistance - (800) 510-2020  
(Non-emergency response, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Adult Protective Services - (877) 565-2020 (24-hour Hotline)
- Needles DAAS-PG Office - (760) 326-9328 (Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

For press release information from the City of Needles, download the citizen engagement mobile app named Needles Connect in the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or visit [www.cityofneedles.com](http://www.cityofneedles.com)