



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF
THE HOUSING COMMISSION
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026 AT 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1111 BAILEY AVE, 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: 510 644 426#
OR listen in and participate by calling Teams: 1-323-488-2227 - Meeting ID: 510 644 426#
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.

REGULAR ITEMS

- [1.](#) Housing Authority City of Needles Update
- [2.](#) Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Assessments Results and Determinations
- [3.](#) Approve the Minutes of July 22, 2026

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

[City](#) Manager's Report for the weeks of August 7 and 14, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

**INTERNET ACCESS TO HOUSING COMMISSION AGENDAS AND STAFF REPORT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE
PRIOR TO HOUSING COMMISSION MEETINGS AT: <http://www.cityofneedles.com>**

Posted: August 21, 2026

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 Angelica Deerner, Housing Manager, at (760) 326-3222. 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)

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 21st day of August 2026

/s/ Candace Clark, CPMC, CMC, City Clerk



**HOUSING COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT
CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA**

Meeting Date: August 26, 2026

Title: Housing Authority City of Needles Update

Background:

Public Housing Vacancies and Transfers:

- Current Vacancies: 3 out of 52 units.
- Families Awaiting Transfers: 2
- Families Selected for Consideration from Waiting List: 1

Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV):

- Open and Pending Eligibility: 0 out of 23 allocated vouchers.
- Leased Up: 25
- Issued: 0
- Open:0

Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers:

- Open and Pending Eligibility: 10 out of 30 allocated vouchers.
- Referrals Received from VA Loma Linda: 1
- Leased Up: 15
- Issued: 3

Public Housing Waiting List:

- Applicants on the waiting list: 68
- 3 and 4 bedroom open for applications. 1 and 2 bedroom **CLOSED** June 10, 2026
- Public to submit applications for future selection and consideration.

Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Waiting List:

- Applicants on the waiting list: 39
- Opened July 1, 2024 – **CLOSED** July 31, 2024
- Public submitted applications for future selection and consideration.

Attached Exhibits:

Exhibit A: July 2026 Voucher Statistics

Recommendation: Information Only

Submitted By: Angelica Deermar, HACN Housing Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez **Date:** 8/20/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ **Date:** _____

HACN PUBLIC HOUSING / VOUCHER STATISTICS

AUGUST 2026

Public Housing = 52 units, 3 current vacancies	
<u>104- Vacated 6/10/2024* requested and extension</u>	<u>Current PH family awaiting transfer</u>
<u>212- Vacated 3/14/2025*</u>	<u>Waitlist admission</u>
<u>916 Sycamore Drive*</u>	<u>Current PH family awaiting transfer</u>
*Units are under modification due to extensive repair/renovation	

PH Unit Turn Over Total = 26

Units to be transferred

905 →104
112→916

HUD allocated HACN HCV Vouchers = 23

HCV Vouchers leased up = 26*

HCV Vouchers issued = 0

HCV Vouchers open = 0

Port in Vouchers Issued = 0

*Port in Vouchers Leased=3

**Port out Vouchers=3

HUD Allocated VASH Vouchers =30

VASH Vouchers leased up = 15*

*VASH Port out Vouchers=1

VASH Vouchers issued = 3

VASH vouchers open = 10

VASH Referrals = 1

Current Waitlist Applicants

Public Housing: 68	HCV: 39	Item 1.
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HOUSING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

Meeting Date: August 26, 2026

Title: HUD Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Remote Assessment Results and Determinations

Background: On March 30, 2026, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designated the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (HACN) as **Troubled / Capital Fund Troubled** under the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS) based on the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. HACN received an overall PHAS score of **53 out of 100**, consisting of a Financial Assessment score of 25/25, Physical Assessment score of 22/40, Management Assessment score of 6/25, and Capital Fund score of 0/10.

Following the designation, HACN developed and submitted a PHAS Recovery Plan to HUD outlining corrective actions to address the identified deficiencies. Since the assessment period, HACN has implemented significant corrective measures, including correction of identified NSPIRE deficiencies, preventive maintenance and recurring inspection programs, appointment of a dedicated Housing Manager, updated Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP) and Administrative Plan, enhanced vacancy and occupancy monitoring, improved waiting list administration, Capital Fund obligation tracking, increased coordination among Housing, Finance, and executive management, enhanced procurement oversight, and expanded staff training.

As part of HUD's recovery process, HUD conducted a **Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Remote Assessment** of HACN from July 20 through July 22, 2026. HUD reviewed financial records, Board minutes, and other relevant documents and conducted interviews with the Board Chair, program leadership, and staff.

On August 17, 2026, HUD issued its PHARS Assessment Results and Determinations. HUD determined that HACN has made **substantial progress toward organizational recovery since the City of Needles assumed operational responsibility in February 2023**. HUD identified significant improvements in governance, financial management and internal controls, Capital Fund administration, physical condition and modernization, program administration, and management coordination.

HUD also identified areas requiring continued corrective action and management attention, including governance oversight and training, financial staffing and reporting, VMS/PIC reconciliation, vacancy reduction and modernization, completion of Standard Operating Procedures, HOTMA implementation, and continued staff training. HUD determined that continued corrective action and monitoring are warranted to ensure the improvements achieved by HACN are sustained and institutionalized.

The PHARS assessment results will serve as the basis for development of a **Recovery Agreement and Action Plan** between HUD and HACN. The Recovery Agreement will establish specific corrective actions, responsible parties, completion timeframes, documentation requirements, and monitoring provisions. HUD will also assist HACN with development of a Sustainability Plan to support continued long-term performance.

Staff will continue working collaboratively with HUD and utilizing available HUD Technical Assistance to address the remaining corrective actions, strengthen internal procedures and controls, and sustain the progress recognized through the PHARS assessment.

Attached Exhibits:

Exhibit A: HUD Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Assessment Results and Determinations Letter dated August 17, 2026

Recommendation: Receive and file the HUD Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Assessment Results and Determinations and recommend that the Housing Authority of the City of Needles receive and file the report.

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, HACN Executive Director

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez Date: 8/20/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____ Date: _____



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

300 North Los Angeles Street, Suite 4054
Los Angeles, CA 90012

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HOUSING

August 17, 2026

Board of Commissioners
c/o Ms. Janet Jernigan, Board Chairperson
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Subject: Public Housing Agency Recovery & Sustainability (PHARS) Assessments Results and Determinations

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to convey the results and determinations of a PHARS assessment of the Housing Authority of the City of Needles (CA022) conducted by HUD on July 20, 2026, through July 22, 2026, and advises the Housing Authority of the next steps to be taken by HUD. The Housing Authority of the City of Needles received an assessment of its financial condition and governance because of a designation of Troubled by HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center ("REAC") for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

HUD's team reviewed the agency's financial records, Board minutes, and other relevant documents. The review also included interviews with the Housing Authority's Board Chair, program leadership, and staff. HUD appreciates the assistance and cooperation provided by the agency throughout the process.

The results and determinations from the assessment are outlined in the enclosed summary. These results will inform the development of a Recovery Agreement and Action Plan, as required by applicable federal statutes and requirements, which will establish specific performance standards and timelines, and identify the corrective actions and remedies to achieve and sustain agreed-upon levels of performance. As soon as feasible, HUD will negotiate and execute the Recovery Agreement and Action Plan with the Housing Authority and assist the agency in initiating the development of a Sustainability Plan.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with the Housing Authority of the City of Needles to support its continued recovery and achievement of sustainable performance. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mayfelisa Miso at mayfelisa.miso@hud.gov, Mr. Twan Quach at twan.quach@hud.gov and Mr. Jameel Hill at jameel.e.hill@hud.gov

Thank you for your continued assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MEENA
BAVAN



Digitally signed by MEENA
BAVAN
DN: cn=MEENA BAVAN
c=US,
ou=Government of U.S.,
ou=Department of Housing and
Urban Development, Policy
Development and Research
Center, 2025.05.17 09:24:43
+07'00'

Meena S. Bavan
Director
Office of Public Housing

Enclosure: Results and Determinations

cc:

Janet Jernigan, Board Chairperson
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Kirsten Merritt, Board Vice Chairperson
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Tona Belt, Board Member
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Ellen Campbell, Board Member
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Henry Longbrake, Board Member
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
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Jamie McCorkle, Board Member
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Jo Anne Pogue, Board Member
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive

Needles, CA 92363
Dale Jones, Board Secretary
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Patrick Martinez, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363
Angelica Deermer, Housing Manager
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Mark DeMay, Finance Director
Housing Authority of the City of Needles
908 Sycamore Drive
Needles, CA 92363

Housing Authority of the City of Needles – CA022
Public Housing Agency Recovery and Sustainability Assessment (PHARS)
Results and Determinations
August 11, 2026

Results

1. Governance and Oversight

- The assessment found that the Housing Authority's governance and oversight practices were previously weakened by longstanding management deficiencies. Since the City of Needles assumed operational responsibility in February 2023, management has taken significant steps to strengthen Board oversight, executive management, communication, and accountability.
- Although the Board of Commissioners meets monthly and reviews budgets, procurement activities, policies, major expenditures, and operational updates, continued Board governance training is needed to ensure that Commissioners have a clear understanding of their oversight responsibilities and the financial and operational condition of the Housing Authority.
- The assessment found that executive management has established regular coordination meetings involving City leadership, Finance, and Housing management. These meetings have improved communication and accountability; however, continued formalization of management procedures is needed to ensure that responsibilities, reporting expectations, and follow-up activities are consistently documented.
- The Housing Authority has updated major policies, including the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP), Administrative Plan, Annual Plan, and other operating policies. However, the Housing Authority has not completed development and implementation of all necessary Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- The assessment found that routine financial information provided to the Board should be further strengthened to ensure the Board receives sufficient information to effectively monitor the Housing Authority's financial condition, program performance, and emerging operational risks.
- These conditions indicate a need for continued strengthening of governance practices, Board training, management procedures, and formal reporting mechanisms to ensure sustained oversight and accountability.

2. Financial Management and Internal Controls

- The assessment found that the Housing Authority's financial management practices have improved substantially since the City assumed operational responsibility; however, continued improvements are necessary to ensure the sustainability of the Housing Authority's financial management and reporting processes.
- The new Finance Director has implemented enhanced financial controls, including invoice review prior to payment, segregation of duties, financial monitoring using trial balances and accounting reports, and increased coordination between Finance and Housing personnel.
- Current Capital Fund applications have been approved, and monthly LOCCS reporting is current. These conditions demonstrate measurable improvement in Capital Fund administration and financial oversight.
- Despite these improvements, staffing limitations within the Finance Department continue to present an operational risk to the timely performance of financial management and reporting responsibilities.
- The assessment identified a continuing need for VMS reconciliation and improved coordination between Finance and Housing staff to ensure the accuracy and completeness of financial and program data.
- Previous audit and administrative deficiencies occurred before current staff assumed responsibility. Although management has implemented corrective measures, continued monitoring is necessary to ensure that improved internal controls are consistently applied and sustained.
- Continued Capital Fund training and HUD Technical Assistance are necessary to strengthen staff knowledge and reduce the risk of future reporting and administrative deficiencies.
- These conditions indicate a need for continued strengthening of financial staffing, internal controls, financial reporting, reconciliation procedures, and Capital Fund administration.

3. Physical Condition, Maintenance, and Vacancy Management

- The assessment found that the Housing Authority has made measurable progress in addressing previous physical condition and NSPIRE-related deficiencies.
- Management reported completion of corrective actions involving smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and other life-safety deficiencies.

- The Housing Authority has implemented maintenance tracking logs and preventive maintenance practices intended to improve inspection readiness and strengthen accountability for identifying and correcting deficiencies.
- The Housing Authority has retained a third-party consultant to conduct pre-NSPIRE inspections and assist with inspection preparation and appeals.
- The Housing Authority has rehabilitated approximately twenty-six (26) units since 2023 through modernization activities and continues to utilize Capital Funds to improve vacant units.
- Despite this progress, four (4) units remained vacant at the time of the assessment while modernization, repairs, and occupancy-related activities were being completed.
- The assessment found that continued vacancy reduction and unit modernization are necessary to improve occupancy performance and ensure that available housing resources are returned to service as efficiently as possible.
- The Housing Authority's aging housing inventory also presents continuing long-term capital fund needs that require sustained planning, investment, and prioritization.
- These conditions indicate a need for continued preventive maintenance, NSPIRE preparation, vacancy reduction, modernization, and long-term capital fund planning through the Five-Year Action Plan.

4. Program Administration, Data Integrity, and Staffing

- The assessment found that Housing Authority staff continue to administer multiple HUD programs despite staffing limitations and increased operational responsibilities.
- Staff are responsible for Public Housing administration, Housing Choice Voucher administration, VMS reporting, waiting list management, annual and interim reexaminations, VASH coordination, tenant services, financial coordination, and HUD reporting.
- Management acknowledged historical reporting discrepancies involving VMS and PIC and reported that reconciliation efforts remain ongoing in coordination with the Finance Department.
- The assessment found that continued reconciliation of VMS and PIC information is necessary to improve data accuracy, reporting reliability, and management's ability to monitor program performance.
- The Housing Authority has updated policies to incorporate HOTMA requirements; however, continued implementation, staff training, and monitoring are necessary to ensure full compliance with applicable requirements.

- The Housing Authority continues to work toward completion of the development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures.
- Staffing limitations continue to place additional responsibilities on existing personnel and create a need for continued workforce development, cross-training, and management oversight.
- The assessment found that staff demonstrate commitment to program administration and compliance; however, continued training and technical assistance are necessary to ensure that staff have the knowledge and resources necessary to perform their assigned responsibilities effectively.
- These conditions indicate a need for continued strengthening of program administration, data integrity, staffing capacity, staff training, HOTMA implementation, and written operating procedures.

Determination

- The assessment determined that the Housing Authority of the City of Needles has made substantial progress toward organizational recovery since the City assumed operational responsibility in February 2023.
- The assessment identified significant improvements in governance, financial management and internal controls, Capital Fund administration, physical condition, modernization, program administration, and management coordination.
- The assessment also identified areas requiring continued corrective action and management attention, including governance oversight and training, financial staffing and reporting, VMS/PIC reconciliation, vacancy reduction, modernization, Standard Operating Procedures, HOTMA implementation, and staff training.
- Based on the totality of the assessment results, HUD determined that continued corrective action and monitoring are warranted to ensure that the improvements achieved by the Housing Authority are sustained and institutionalized.
- The findings identified through this assessment will serve as the basis for a Recovery Agreement establishing specific corrective actions, responsible parties, completion timeframes, documentation requirements, and monitoring provisions.
- HUD recognizes the substantial progress made by the Housing Authority and City leadership since February 2023 and encourages continued collaboration with the HUD Field Office and utilization of HUD Technical Assistance to sustain and build upon the improvements achieved.



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOUSING COMMISSION CITY OF NEEDLES, CALIFORNIA

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026, AT 4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1111 BAILEY AVE, NEEDLES**

OATHS OF OFFICE – John Valter and Shivam Bhakta prior to the start of the meeting

CALL TO ORDER – Vice Chair Tucker called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

ROLL CALL – Vice Chair Tucker called for approval to excuse the absence of Tamera Kissell. Commissioner Bhakta made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Valter, and carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners McCaffrey, Tucker, Bhakta, Valter
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Kissell
Abstain: None

PRESENT

Commissioner Patrick McCaffrey
Commissioner Deana Tucker
Commissioner Shivram Bhakta
Commissioner John Valter

ABSENT

Commissioner Kissell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Led by Vice Chair Tucker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner McCaffrey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Valter, to approve the agenda.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners McCaffrey, Tucker, Bhakta, Valter
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Kissell
Abstain: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST - None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

INTRODUCTIONS – Council Member Ford, Mayor Jernigan, and Finance Director Mark DeMay were present

APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

City Manager Martinez gave staff report

Commissioner Tucker asked to be Vice Chair, Commissioner Valter asked to be Chair

Commissioner Tucker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bhakta, to appoint Commissioner Valter as Chair, and Commissioner Tucker as Vice Chair.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners McCaffrey, Tucker, Bhakta, Valter
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Kissell
Abstain: None

PUBLIC APPEARANCE – None

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Housing Authority of the City of Needles Update

City Manager Martinez gave update

Commissioners asked questions and discussion ensued

No Public Comments
Informational item only, no action taken

2. HACN budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 for the City Council Approval

City Manager Martinez and Finance Director DeMay gave update
Commissioners asked questions and discussion ensued
No Public Comments
Informational item only, no action taken

3. 3. Approve the Minutes of March 25, 2026

Commissioner Tucker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bhakta, to approve the agenda.
Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioners McCaffrey, Tucker, Bhakta, Valter
Noes: None
Absent: Commissioner Kissell
Abstain: None

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS

Commissioner Valter suggested streamlining unit inspection procedures by combining visits for routine checks and repairs with basic ongoing maintenance (checking furnace/ac filters, under sinks for leaks, smoke detectors, etc.)

No Other Commissioner Requests

CITY MANAGER REPORT – given by City Manager Martinez for the weeks of July 3 and 10, 2026

ADJOURNMENT - Chair Valter adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm

Chair John Valter

City Clerk Candace Clark



City of Needles

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

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

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: August 7, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Public Safety & Community Services

- Continued **week three of storm recovery**, with crews transitioning cleanup efforts from priority arterial streets to collector streets and residential neighborhoods.
- Partnered with the **Needles Unified School District on back-to-school safety** and beautification efforts, including welcome banners at Needles High School and reminders to motorists to drive safely near school campuses.

Economic Development & Legislative Affairs

- Advanced the City's **Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination** during the State's public comment period, with continued outreach encouraging community and regional support ahead of the **August 28 deadline**.
- Continued advocacy for AB 1756, which has advanced to the **Senate Consent** Calendar and is awaiting a final Senate vote to extend the City's OHMV Pilot Program through **January 1, 2033**.
- Expanded implementation of the **OHMV Pilot Program**, with California Nonresident OHV Use Permits now available for purchase locally in Needles and updated information provided to Arizona riders.

Parks, Recreation & Community Engagement

- Continued **back-to-school programming and outreach**, including free NAT rides for students, after-school programming, and fall youth sports registration.
- Celebrated a **sold-out Night Golf Tournament at Rivers Edge** Golf Course while promoting the upcoming August 29 Summer Scramble.
- Recognized **HMBL ZAY for completing his 3,000-mile**, 124-day cross-country walk from Philadelphia to Needles, raising more than \$200,000 for charity and concluding his journey in the Gateway to California.

1. **Storm Recovery Update – Week Three:** The City is entering its third week of cleanup and recovery efforts following the July 17 monsoonal storm. This week, City crews focused cleanup efforts along K Street and Bailey Avenue while continuing to address remaining storm-related debris and roadway impacts throughout the community. With priority work along arterial streets substantially completed, crews are transitioning cleanup efforts to collector streets and residential neighborhoods. **The City appreciates residents' continued patience and understanding as crews work systematically through the remaining affected areas.** Staff will continue to prioritize cleanup based on conditions and available resources until recovery efforts are completed. Residents are encouraged to report any remaining storm-related concerns by calling **760-326-5700** or by submitting a request through the **Needles Connect** app, available on the [City of Needles website](#). These reporting tools assist staff in identifying, prioritizing, and responding to any remaining issues as recovery efforts continue.
2. **Opportunity Zone 2.0 Public Comment Period:** The State's public comment period for California's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nominations is officially open through **August 28, 2026**. Although Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's census tract was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. This public comment period provides residents, property owners, business owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners an important opportunity to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Opportunity Zone designation would help attract long-term private investment, support new housing and business development, create quality jobs, and strengthen the City's economic competitiveness. Comments may be submitted through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**. To assist participants, the [California Department of Finance](#) has prepared a step-by-step instructional video explaining how to submit comments, and additional information about the Opportunity Zone 2.0 program is available on the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones webpage](#). **Letters of support may also be emailed to City Manager Patrick J. Martinez at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.** Every comment and letter of support helps demonstrate the broad community and regional backing for Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination, and the City encourages everyone to participate.
3. **AB 1756 – OHMV Pilot Program Extension Update:** This week, Assembly Bill 1756, authored by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, has advanced through the California State Senate following consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill has been read for a second time and placed on the Senate Consent Calendar, where it now awaits a final vote by the full Senate. If approved, the bill will be enrolled and presented to Governor Gavin Newsom for

consideration. Staff will continue to monitor the legislation and provide updates as it advances toward final passage.

4. **California Nonresident OHV Permits Now Available Locally:** Staff continues to promote the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program through public education and visitor outreach. This week, the City announced through Needles Connect that NAPA Auto Parts, located at **949 W. Broadway Street**, is now the only authorized California Nonresident OHV Use Permit vendor in Needles. The addition of a local permit vendor provides eligible out-of-state riders with a convenient option to purchase required permits before accessing the City's designated OHMV route network, enhancing the visitor experience while supporting responsible recreation and tourism. Staff also published an updated Arizona Resident Information Sheet to assist visitors in understanding California permit requirements and local operating rules. Copies of the outreach materials are attached for the Council's reference.
5. **Back-to-School Campus Safety and Beautification Update:** As students prepare to return to school next week, the City's Electric Department assisted the Needles Unified School District with the installation of **welcome banners at Needles High School** to help kick off the new school year. During the summer, the District also completed several campus enhancement projects, including a new perimeter safety fence at Needles High School and new murals at District campuses celebrating school pride. These improvements create a safer, more welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors. As classes resume, the City reminds motorists to exercise caution in school zones, obey posted speed limits, and remain alert for students, school buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians around all Needles Unified School District campuses.
6. **Students Ride Free Program – Back-to-School Reminder:** As the new school year begins, the City is reminding families that K-12 and Palo Verde College students ride Needles Area Transit (NAT) deviated fixed-route services free of charge year-round, with a valid student ID or class schedule. The program provides students with a safe, reliable, air-conditioned transportation option while helping reduce transportation costs for students and their families. Staff will continue outreach efforts with local schools and the community to increase awareness and utilization of this transportation benefit. A copy of the updated outreach flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
7. **Needles Cactus Commuter Outreach:** Staff continues to promote the Needles Cactus Commuter, a mileage reimbursement program administered by the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) that assists eligible low-income Needles area residents traveling to the Victor Valley for qualifying medical and court appointments. Eligible participants may receive reimbursement for up to 1,100 miles per month. Staff will continue outreach efforts to increase community awareness and encourage greater utilization of this transportation resource. For additional information, residents may contact VVTA at 760-995-3561 or visit [VVTA Needles Cactus Commuter Program](#).
8. **After-School Program Enrollment Open:** As the new school year begins, the City of Needles Recreation Center, in partnership with the Needles Unified

School District, is accepting enrollment for its After-School Program serving students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The program provides a safe, supervised environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, positive role models, and daily snacks for participating students. A program flyer is attached for the Council's reference. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (760) 326-2814 or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.

9. **HMBL ZAY Completes 3,000-Mile Cross-Country Walk in Needles:** Last week, **HMBL ZAY** completed an extraordinary **3,000-mile, 124-day journey** from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to **Needles, California**. HMBL ZAY livestreamed himself walking each day throughout the journey and raised **over \$200,000 for charity**, while sharing a message of faith, perseverance, and opportunity with thousands of followers. The City congratulates HMBL ZAY on this remarkable accomplishment and is proud that **Needles, the Gateway to California, served as the finish of his cross-country journey**, providing a fitting conclusion to an inspiring demonstration of perseverance and purpose.
10. **Rivers Edge Golf Course – Summer Tournament Update:** This past week, **Rivers Edge Golf Course hosted a sold-out Night Golf Tournament**, demonstrating strong interest in the course's summer recreational events. Building on that momentum, Rivers Edge will host its **Summer Scramble on Saturday, August 29**, featuring a three-person scramble with a **7:00 a.m. shotgun start**, on-course prizes, and awards following play. Registration is **\$55 per player or \$165 per team**. Residents and visitors are encouraged to register early and enjoy another opportunity to experience Rivers Edge Golf Course. For additional information or registration, contact Rivers Edge at **(760) 326-3931**. A copy of the Summer Scramble flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
11. **Fall Youth Sports Registration Now Open:** Registration is now open for the City of Needles Parks and Recreation Department's 2026 Fall Youth Sports season and will continue through **September 14, 2026**. Boys and girls from throughout the Tri-State area are invited to participate in **Peewee Soccer, Flag Football, and Volleyball**, with the season running from **October through November**. The City's youth sports programs provide opportunities for children to stay active, build teamwork and sportsmanship, and enjoy a positive recreational experience. Sibling discounts are available, and scholarships may be available for qualifying families. A registration flyer is attached for the Council's reference. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at **(760) 326-2814** or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.
12. **Community Achievement Awards Nominations Open:** The Laughlin Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for the **29th Annual Community Achievement Awards**, recognizing individuals, businesses, organizations, educators, students, volunteers, and young leaders whose leadership, service, and commitment have made a meaningful impact throughout the Colorado River Region. Last year, **George DeLeon** of Needles received the **Veteran Special Recognition Award** for his outstanding service to the community. The City encourages residents to help recognize the many

individuals and organizations making a difference in Needles by submitting nominations before the **August 24, 2026** deadline. Eligible nominees must work, reside, do business, and/or provide services within the Colorado River Region. Submit your nomination by [clicking here](#).

13. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a centralized location for community events, public meetings, and civic programs. Local organizations are invited to submit events or update existing listings through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe to and sync the calendar with their mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Beat the Heat Night Pool Party:** The City extends its sincere appreciation to **Dr. Folmsbee, Grace Hetch, Tri-State Community Healthcare, Route 66 Pharmacy**, and dedicated community volunteers **John** and **Connie** for their leadership and support in hosting this year's **Beat the Heat Night Pool Party** at the Needles Municipal Aquatics Center. During a period of extreme summer temperatures, the event brought families together for an evening of free swimming, inflatable water slides, music, hot dogs, and refreshments, providing a safe and enjoyable way to celebrate the close of summer and the beginning of the new school year. The City is grateful for the continued commitment of our community partners and volunteers whose generosity and service help strengthen the quality of life in Needles.

1. STORM RECOVERY UPDATE – WEEK THREE



2. OPPORTUNITY ZONE PUBLIC COMMENT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Invites Public to Support Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Residents, Businesses, Property Owners, and Community Organizations Encouraged to Submit Comments by August 28

NEEDLES, CA — The City of Needles is encouraging residents, business owners, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to participate in California's **Opportunity Zone 2.0** public comment process by submitting comments and letters of support for the City's nomination before the **August 28, 2026** deadline.

Although the City of Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's nominated census tract (**Census Tract 06071010700**) was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. The California Department of Finance is currently accepting public comments before California submits its final Opportunity Zone nominations to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Opportunity Zone Program is a federal economic development initiative established to encourage the reinvestment of private capital into economically distressed communities through long-term investment. Opportunity Zone 2.0 expands opportunities to support housing, infrastructure, business development, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, tourism, workforce development, and other job-creating investments.

The Needles nomination represents one of only **four eligible rural census tracts in San Bernardino County** and builds upon more than **\$28 million in recent public infrastructure investments**. As California's eastern gateway, Needles is strategically located along Interstate 40, Historic Route 66, the BNSF Southern Transcon rail corridor, and Needles Municipal Airport. Combined with municipally owned electric, water, and wastewater utilities and development-ready sites, the community is well positioned to leverage Opportunity Zone designation to attract long-term private investment, expand housing opportunities, create quality jobs, strengthen regional supply chains, and support sustainable economic development.

On **July 28, 2026**, the Needles City Council unanimously adopted **Resolution No. 2026-33**, supporting and ratifying the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination. In adopting the resolution, the City Council found that continued Opportunity Zone designation will strengthen the City's ability to leverage public investment and enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives to attract private capital, expand housing opportunities, support business growth, create quality jobs, revitalize underutilized properties, diversify the local economy, and advance the City's long-term economic

development strategy. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports sustainable economic growth, implementation of the California Jobs First Regional Plan, and continued revitalization of the City of Needles.

The public comment period provides an important opportunity for residents, businesses, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Every public comment and letter of support helps reinforce the community's commitment to attracting long-term investment and expanding economic opportunity in eastern San Bernardino County.

How to Support Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Community members are encouraged to support the City's nomination by:

- **Submitting comments** through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**.
- [Watching the California Department of Finance's step-by-step instructional video](#) explaining how to submit comments.
- **Learning more** about Opportunity Zone 2.0 by visiting the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones 2.0 webpage](#).
- **Submitting a letter of support** by emailing **City Manager Patrick J. Martinez** at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com. Organizations are encouraged to customize the City's sample letter of support template for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.

The public comment period closes **August 28, 2026**.

For additional information or assistance with submitting comments or letters of support, please contact the Office of the City Manager.

Community participation is critical to demonstrating the broad local and regional support behind Needles' nomination. The City encourages everyone to submit comments before the August 28, 2026 deadline.

Media Contact

Office of the City Manager

Patrick J. Martinez

City Manager, City of Needles

817 Third Street

Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760) 326-2115

Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com

CONSENT CALENDAR—SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY—Continued

288

A.B. No. 1756—Jeff Gonzalez.

An act relating to vehicles.

Vote required: 21

2026

May 21—Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 73. Noes 0. Page 5195.)

May 21—In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Jun. 3—Referred to Coms. on TRANS. and N.R. & W.

Jun. 24—From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on N.R. & W. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 13. Noes 0.) (June 23). Re-referred to Com. on N.R. & W.

Jul. 1—From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. (Ayes 7. Noes 0.) (July 1). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Aug. 3—From committee: Be ordered to second reading file pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8 and ordered to Consent Calendar.

Aug. 4—Read second time. Ordered to consent calendar.

4. NAPA AUTOPARTS NONRESIDENT PERMITS



4. NAPA AUTOPARTS NONRESIDENT PERMITS



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

Mayor Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford
City Manager Patrick Martinez

Arizona Resident Information Sheet

Disclaimer: This information is provided as a public service and is not legal advice. Riders are responsible for complying with all applicable California laws, including the California Vehicle Code, California Code of Regulations, California State Parks requirements, and DMV requirements. Permit requirements may change without notice. Riders should verify current requirements before operating an OHV in California.

California Nonresident OHV Permit Requirements

Planning to ride your ATV, UTV, Side-by-Side, or Dirt Bike in Needles, California?

Arizona residents should be aware that California law may require a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit before operating an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) on public lands or designated OHMV routes within the City of Needles. Riders using the City's OHMV Pilot Program must comply with all applicable California registration, insurance, and licensing requirements.

Why Is a California Permit Required?

Effective January 1, 2022, California no longer recognizes another state's OHV registration program unless that state provides reciprocal recognition to California OHVs.

Because Arizona requires certain nonresident OHVs operating in Arizona to purchase an Arizona OHV decal, Arizona residents operating OHVs in California are generally required to obtain a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit. Riders should verify current California State Parks requirements before operating in California.

Important:

- An Arizona OHV Decal alone does not satisfy California's permit requirements.
- An Arizona "RV" plate is considered title identification and is not equivalent to California OHV registration.
- Even street-legal Arizona OHVs may need a California Nonresident OHV Use Permit when used for off-highway recreation in California.

What Do Arizona Riders Need in Needles?

Before operating on designated Needles OHMV routes or connecting to surrounding trail systems, riders should have:

- ✓ Valid Driver's License
- ✓ Proof of Insurance / Financial Responsibility
- ✓ Proper Vehicle Registration
- ✓ California Nonresident OHV Use Permit (when required under California law)
- ✓ Operational Brake Light
- ✓ Rubber Tires
- ✓ Helmet and Required Safety Equipment

The City of Needles OHMV Pilot Program also prohibits operation during hours of darkness and requires riders to stay on designated routes.

Where Can Arizona Residents Purchase a California Nonresident OHV Permit?

Online

Arizona residents can purchase permits directly through the California State Parks OHV Program:

California State Parks OHV Program

<https://ohv.parks.ca.gov>

Select "Nonresident OHV Use Permit" for permit information and purchasing options.

Local Permit Vendors Near Needles (Authorized California State Parks Permit Vendors)

For convenience, permits may also be available through authorized vendors near Needles:

Vendor	Location	Phone
NAPA Auto Parts (Needles' Local Permit Vendor)	949 W Broadway St. Needles, CA 92363	(760) 326-2668
Action Sports	1651 N McCulloch Blvd. Lake Havasu City, AZ	(928) 854-7463
All American Fuel Station	1041 Acoma Blvd S Lake Havasu City, AZ	(928) 453-2277

Hours subject to change. Riders are encouraged to call ahead to confirm permit availability.

Needles OHMV Pilot Program Rules

When riding within the City of Needles:

You May:

- ✓ Use designated OHMV routes
- ✓ Travel between lodging, services, and trail access points
- ✓ Access surrounding federal trail systems through approved connections

You May Not:

- ✗ Ride on non-designated city streets
- ✗ Exceed 35 MPH on OHMV routes (or lower posted speed limits)
- ✗ Ride during hours of darkness
- ✗ Operate without required registration, insurance, or licensing
- ✗ Operate recklessly or create excessive noise
- ✗ Stage or unload OHVs in residential neighborhoods

The Needles OHMV route network consists of approximately **9.2 miles of designated routes** connecting the community to surrounding public lands and recreation opportunities.

Before You Ride

Ride Legal. Ride Safe. Ride Respectfully.

The success of the Needles OHMV Pilot Program depends on responsible riding and respect for local neighborhoods, businesses, and visitors. Riders are encouraged to review all program rules before operating within the City of Needles.

For route maps, program updates, and local regulations, visit the City of Needles OHMV webpage at <https://cityofneedles.com> or contact City Hall.

City of Needles

817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363
(760) 326-2115

5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



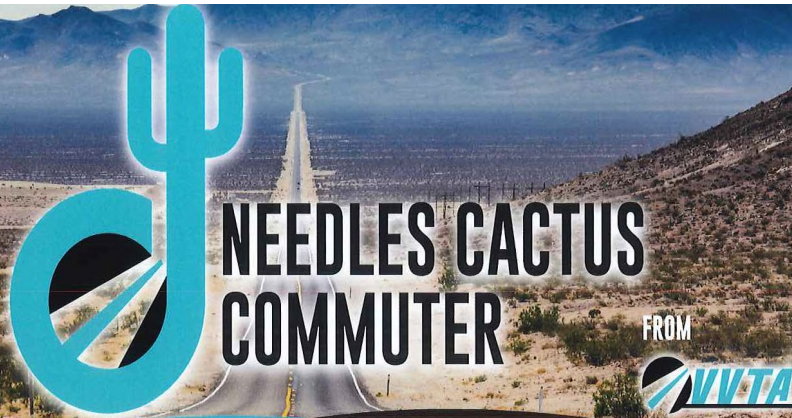
5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



5. BACK-TO-SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION



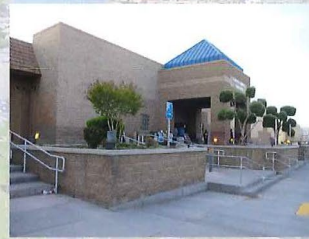
6. & 7. TRANSIT ACCESS TO RESIDENTS



DO YOU NEED TO DRIVE OR NEED A RIDE TO THE
VICTOR VALLEY AREA FOR MEDICAL OR COURT APPEARANCES?

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

- Open to Low Income Needles Area Residents
- Mileage Reimbursement Program
- Up to 1,100 Miles Monthly
- Trips only to Medical Appointments or Court Appearances in the Victor Valley Area



SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

NCC@VVTA.ORG • 760-995-3561
vvta.org/ncc

You're now free to GO.



STUDENTS (K-12) RIDE FREE
every day, on every bus system
in San Bernardino County.



Visit NAT's website to find out how to ride free.

Only students 6 or older may ride unaccompanied.



cityofneedles.com/transit

powered by



San Bernardino County
Transportation Authority

Plan your trip
with Google Maps



Just
click
the
transit
icon!

8. NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER



CITY OF NEEDLES
& N.U.S.D.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

KINDER ~ 8TH GRADE

Looking for
quality care
after school?

Give your child a safe,
fun, and enriching
place to grow after
school!

Our After-School
Program provides:

Homework assistance

Enriching activities

Safe, supervised care

Positive role models

Mon~Fri
2:30pm to 6:00pm
All minimum days
begin at 12:30pm

**Free for ALL who attend!!
There are 2 snacks/milk
provided daily**

Call: 760~326~2814 or email us at
parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com



9. 3,000- MILE CROSS-COUNTRY WALK

HMBL UNIVERSITY

Empowering Underserved Teens with Hands-On Skills for a Brighter Future!

Walking from
PHILADELPHIA to
CALIFORNIA
to Build a Trade School
for Teens!

Learn • Build • Thrive

PLUMBING ELECTRICAL
ACCOUNTING FINANCIAL LITERACY

3,000 MILES • 100 DAYS • 1 MISSION

Trips to Africa for Our Students

GOAL: RAISE \$200,000 TO BUILD HMBL UNIVERSITY!
Invest in Their Future!

DONATE NOW AT
GoFundMe

REVOLT

**STREAMER HMBLZAYY
COMPLETED HIS WALK
FROM PHILLY TO CALI
AFTER 124 DAYS**

HE WALKED 3,000 MILES AND RAISED
NEARLY \$200,000 FOR CHARITY

10. SUMMER TOURNAMENT UPDATE



SUMMER SCRAMBLE 2026

TOURNAMENT

ENJOY THE
LAST GOLF
TOURNAMENT
OF THE
SUMMER
MONTHS



RIVERS EDGE
GOLF COURSE

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29th**

AWARDS & PRIZES
AFTER GOLF

SHOTGUN STARTS
AT 7:00AM

REGISTRATION
OPEN AT 6:00AM

ON COURSE PRIZES:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONG DRIVE

TOURNAMENT FEE:
\$55 PER PLAYER
\$165 PER TEAM

3-PERSON SCRAMBLE

CALL RIVERS EDGE AT (760) 326-3931

CONTACT US (760) 326-3931

OR JJDELEON@GOLFNEEDLES.COM

11. NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER

OPEN REGISTRATION

City of Needles Recreation Fall Sports

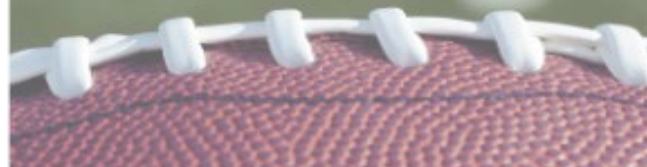
PEEWEE SOCCER



AGES: JR PEE WEE 3YR~5YR OLDS
PEE WEE 6YR~7YR OLDS
GAMES: SATURDAYS

FLAG FOOT BALL

GRADES: 2ND ~ 5TH
GAMES: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS



GRADES: 3RD ~ 6TH
GAMES: MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS



VOLLEY BALL

REGISTRATION DATES:
AUG. 3RD ~ SEPT. 14TH
SEASON: OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER
COSTS: RESIDENTS \$45 NON \$50
PEE SPORTS RESIDENTS \$35 NON \$40

SIBLING DISCOUNTS GIVEN SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE AVAILABLE

*All Recreation Sports are open to
Boys & Girls in the Tri~State area*

Questions call 760~326~2814 or email
parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com

12. LAUGHLIN CHAMBER AWARDS



COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Judicial Philosophy

The Community Achievement Awards are not competitions - they are celebrations. Each nominee represents the heart of the Colorado River Region: individuals, businesses, and organizations who move our communities forward through leadership, compassion, and service.

Each year, a diverse panel of judges review dozens of nominations with care, considering not only accomplishments but also each nominee's alignment with our community's values, mission, and impact. This includes service, integrity, and the ability to inspire others. Finalist selections are made by majority vote following interviews, and the decisions are final.

To ensure this legacy is upheld, our judging process centers on more than achievement. It is grounded in character, impact, and alignment with our shared community values. Judges evaluate not only what a nominee has accomplished, but how they've done it - with humility, respect, and an unwavering commitment to community.

Judges review nomination packets, conduct in-depth interviews, and cast their final votes by secret ballot. The process is confidential, impartial, and rooted in fairness - intended to reflect the dignity of this regional honor.

Chamber staff administer the nomination process and provide procedural guidance to the judging panel but do not participate in deliberations, vote on finalists, or influence the outcome of the awards.

Final award selections are tabulated and verified by independent third-party observers to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voting process.

The result? Finalists and awardees who inspire trust, unity, and admiration - the very people we are proud to uplift.

COMMUNITY EVENTS I



COMMUNITY EVENTS I





City of Needles

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

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

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: August 14, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Public Safety & Community Services

- Advanced storm recovery and regional coordination, with City crews continuing neighborhood cleanup and San Bernardino County Flood Operations scheduled to begin work on identified drainage and maintenance areas next week.
- Implemented the City's Oversized Vehicle Ordinance, with required signage installed and citation enforcement now underway to protect neighborhoods, roadway infrastructure, and public safety.
- Strengthened the City's regional public safety presence through a San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force operation that conducted several dozen vessel, vehicle, and trailer inspections throughout the Needles and Colorado River area.

Economic Development & Legislative Affairs

- Advanced AB 1756 to the Governor, following passage by the California Legislature, as the City continues advocating for extension of the Needles OHMV Pilot Program through January 1, 2033.
- Continued the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 advocacy, building community and regional support for Needles' nomination ahead of the State's August 28 public comment deadline.
- Continued implementation of the OHMV Pilot Program, expanding access for Arizona and out-of-state riders through the local availability of California Nonresident OHV Use Permits.

Community Investment & Quality of Life

- Took delivery of a new \$181,000 Dial-a-Ride vehicle, fully funded through State Transit Assistance capital funds with no General Fund impact, while the Students Ride Free Program carried 30 students on the first day of school.
- Continued back-to-school and youth programming, including after-school enrollment and fall youth sports registration.
- Celebrated community momentum through a sold-out Night Golf Tournament at Rivers Edge and recognition of HMBL ZAY's 3,000-mile cross-country charitable walk, which concluded in Needles after raising more than \$200,000 for charity.

1. **AB 1756 – OHMV Pilot Program Advances to Governor:** Assembly Bill 1756, authored by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, has passed the California Legislature and is advancing to Governor Gavin Newsom for consideration and signature. The legislation would extend the City of Needles' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Pilot Program through January 1, 2033, providing additional time to operate and evaluate the City's combined-use route network. The City appreciates Assemblymember Gonzalez and the Legislature for their continued support of this important program and will continue advocating for the Governor's signature.
2. **Storm Damage Response and County Coordination:** The City continues to proactively work with regional agencies to address storm-related damage and maintenance needs throughout Needles. This week, City staff met with San Bernardino County Public Works Director Noel Castillo, Deputy Director Sameh Basta, and members of the County Public Works team to review impacted areas and coordinate next steps. County Flood Operations crews are scheduled to be in the Needles area from August 17 through September 3 to address several identified locations, including the Lillyhill culverts, Smith Road, S Street Channel, D Street, graffiti, and other maintenance needs within County Flood Control right-of-way. The City appreciates the County's responsiveness and continued partnership and will remain engaged with County Public Works as this work moves forward. Residents are also encouraged to help identify areas needing attention by submitting service requests through [Needles Connect](#), which allows the City to document, track, and route community concerns to the appropriate department or agency for follow-up.
3. **Oversized Vehicle Ordinance Enforcement:** The City has successfully implemented Ordinance No. 680-AC and has begun issuing citations for oversized commercial vehicles traveling or parking on restricted City streets. The ordinance is intended to improve traffic and neighborhood safety, protect City streets from unnecessary heavy-vehicle impacts, reduce roadway maintenance costs, and direct commercial traffic to appropriate routes. Required signage has been installed at key locations throughout the community, allowing enforcement to commence. Staff will continue monitoring compliance and enforcement activity.
4. **Caltrans I-40 Pavement Rehabilitation Project:** Caltrans has begun a **\$7.4 million pavement rehabilitation project along Interstate 40 near Needles**, extending from approximately 3.2 miles east of the US-95 junction to just east of the East Broadway Street Undercrossing. Work includes pavement removal and resurfacing with rubberized hot-mix asphalt. Construction is scheduled primarily at night between **8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.**, with alternating lane closures and message signs in place to notify motorists. The project is anticipated to be completed by **early Fall 2026**, weather permitting. Motorists are encouraged to use caution, slow down through the work zone, and plan for potential delays.

5. **San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force Enforcement Operation:**
Last weekend, the San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force (SANCATT), in coordination with the Needles/Colorado River Sheriff's Station, conducted several dozen vessel, vehicle, and trailer inspections throughout the Needles area, including local waterways, highways, and recreational areas. The operation focused on identifying stolen boats, trailers, and vehicles while providing a visible law enforcement presence during a busy summer weekend. No significant violations or stolen property were discovered. The operation demonstrates the continued commitment of regional law enforcement partners to proactive enforcement and sends a clear message that vehicle and vessel theft will not be tolerated in the Needles and Colorado River area.
6. **Needles Area Transit – New Dial-a-Ride Vehicle and Student Ridership:**
This week, the City took delivery of its new Dial-a-Ride vehicle, which will be used for specialized Dial-a-Ride transportation and the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle. The vehicle replaces an aging transit unit and was fully funded through **\$181,000 in State Transit Assistance capital funds provided through SBCTA, with no impact to the General Fund.** The new vehicle features the Dial-a-Ride branding previously approved by the City Council and is expected to enter service next week following installation of its communications equipment. Needles Area Transit also reported strong participation in the **Students Ride Free Program**, with 30 students utilizing the service on the first day of school and filling the bus to capacity. These investments and programs continue to expand safe, reliable, and accessible transportation options for the Needles community.
7. **Time Zone Petition – Next Steps:** On August 11, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-35 authorizing staff to prepare and submit a petition to the U.S. Department of Transportation requesting a change to the federal time-zone boundary affecting the City of Needles. Staff will now begin assembling the supporting record, including information regarding the City's economic and commercial ties to Arizona, transportation and commuting patterns, healthcare and regional services, tourism, media markets, and community support. Staff will also begin outreach to regional partners and businesses for supporting information and letters. The Council's action does not change the City's current time zone; any boundary change requires federal review and approval by USDOT.
8. **Kratom Ordinance – First Reading:** On August 11, 2026, the City Council introduced Ordinance No. 686-AC, which would add Section 14-21 to the Needles Municipal Code prohibiting the commercial sale and distribution of kratom products within the City. The ordinance is intended to address public health and safety concerns associated with unregulated kratom products while maintaining exemptions for personal possession and authorized medical, academic, and scientific research. The ordinance will return to the City Council for consideration of final adoption.
9. **Utility Efficiency & Conservation Programs:** The **Needles Public Utility Authority** offers several programs designed to help residents lower utility costs, improve the efficiency of their homes, and conserve energy and water. The

Energy Efficiency Rebate Program provides rebates for qualifying improvements such as high-efficiency air-conditioning systems and mini-splits, electric water heaters, and residential solar screens. The City also offers the **AB 2021 Low-Income/Senior Energy Efficiency Program**, which provides qualifying income-eligible households with assistance for energy-efficiency improvements, with homeowners responsible for 25% of eligible equipment or repair costs. For water conservation, the **Toilet Replacement Pilot Program** provides rebates for the purchase of WaterSense-approved toilets, while the **Turf Removal Pilot Program** provides NPUA water customers \$2 per square foot, up to \$2,000, to replace existing turf with qualifying low-water-use landscaping and permeable materials. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of these programs and contact the Utility Department before beginning a project to confirm eligibility and current program requirements. Additional information, program guidelines, and applications can be found on the [City of Needles Utilities website](#).

10. **Needles Sunday Market – Vendor Applications Open:** The **Needles Sunday Market is returning for the fall season**, beginning **Sunday, September 13, at Santa Fe Park**, and vendor applications are now open. The market will be held Sundays from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. PST** and will feature handmade goods, food, art, produce, and more. As part of the City's efforts to support local entrepreneurship and small businesses, qualifying vendors participating in approved community events with annual gross receipts of **\$15,000 or less may be eligible for a waiver of the City's administrative business-license processing fee**. Vendors remain responsible for all other applicable licensing, permitting, and regulatory requirements. Interested vendors are encouraged to [submit the Needles Sunday Market vendor signup form](#) and participate in the upcoming season. Additional information regarding the City's recently adopted small-business license waiver is available in [Ordinance No. 682-AC – Small Business License Waiver](#).

11. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a centralized location for community events, public meetings, and civic programs. Local organizations are invited to submit events or update existing listings through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe to and sync the calendar with their mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Opportunity Zone 2.0 Public Comment Period:** The State's public comment period for Opportunity Zone 2.0 nominations remains open through **August 28, 2026**. Needles remains eligible for designation, and the City continues to encourage residents, businesses, property owners, community organizations, and regional partners to submit comments supporting **Census Tract 06071010700**. Opportunity Zone designation could help attract long-term private investment, housing and business development, and job creation in Needles. Comments may be submitted through the California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal. Additional information and submission instructions are available through the City.

- II. **Community Achievement Awards – Nominations Due August 24:** The Laughlin Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the **29th Annual Community Achievement Awards**, recognizing outstanding individuals, businesses, organizations, educators, students, volunteers, and young leaders throughout the Colorado River Region. The City encourages residents to help ensure **Needles is well represented** by nominating deserving individuals and organizations from our community. **Nominations are due August 24, 2026.** Eligible nominees must work, reside, do business, and/or provide services within the Colorado River Region. Residents are encouraged to submit their nominations before the deadline by [clicking here](#).
- III. **River Communities Coalition Rummage Sale:** The River Communities Coalition's Community Rummage Sale has been rescheduled for **August 21 and 22 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at ABC Collision in Needles.** Proceeds will support RCC community programs, and donations are still being accepted. To donate or arrange pickup, contact Roxanne at (928) 706-8323, Nancy at (562) 900-4808, or Wayne at (760) 801-4076. The City encourages the community to support this local event.
- IV. **Rivers Edge Golf Course – Summer Scramble:** Rivers Edge Golf Course will host its **Summer Scramble on Saturday, August 29**, featuring a three-person scramble with a **7:00 a.m. shotgun start**, on-course prizes, and awards following play. Registration is **\$55 per player or \$165 per team.** Residents and visitors are encouraged to register and enjoy a summer morning at Rivers Edge Golf Course. For additional information or registration, contact Rivers Edge at **(760) 326-3931**. A copy of the Summer Scramble flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
- V. **Parks & Recreation Programs:** Registration remains open through **September 14, 2026**, for the City of Needles Fall Youth Sports season, including **Peewee Soccer, Flag Football, and Volleyball**, with the season running October through November. Sibling discounts are available, and scholarships may be available for qualifying families. The City's **After-School Program** is also accepting enrollment for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, providing a safe, supervised environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, positive role models, and daily snacks. For additional information or registration for either program, contact Parks and Recreation at **(760) 326-2814** or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.

1. AB 1756 – ADVANCING TO THE GOVERNOR



City of Needles

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

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

AB 1756 does not expand the scope of the Needles pilot program. Rather, it extends the program through **January 1, 2033**, providing sufficient time for the City and the State to evaluate long-term safety performance, environmental impacts, recreational use, traffic conditions, and economic benefits to our rural community.

This extension is particularly important because the pilot represents more than a recreational opportunity. A structured and enforceable OHMV network provides riders with a legal connection between federal recreational lands and local services while supporting public safety, reducing unauthorized travel and trespass onto private lands, and directing recreational activity onto designated routes.

For Needles, this is also an economic development opportunity. Visitors who can legally access lodging, restaurants, fuel stations, stores, and other businesses from surrounding recreational areas can generate meaningful economic activity in one of California's most geographically isolated communities. This effort also complements the City's broader economic development strategy, including its pursuit of designation under California's Opportunity Zone 2.0 process, by strengthening the infrastructure and recreational amenities that can help attract private investment, create jobs, and support local businesses. At the same time, the pilot gives the State an opportunity to evaluate whether a carefully planned combined-use system can serve as a successful model for rural recreation access.

The City appreciates the Legislature's continued recognition of the unique circumstances facing Needles and the leadership of Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez in carrying AB 1756. We are committed to operating the program responsibly, coordinating with our state and federal partners, and fulfilling the reporting and evaluation requirements established by law.

For these reasons, the City of Needles respectfully requests that you **sign AB 1756 into law** and allow this important rural pilot program to continue.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of California's rural and disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,


Mayor Janet Jernigan
City of Needles

Cc: Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez
Senator Stephen Padilla
San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn
Rowe Patrick Martinez, City Manager, City of
Needles

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1756 (Gonzalez) – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Pilot Program – City of
Needles – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Needles, I respectfully request your signature on **AB 1756 (Gonzalez)**, which extends the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program and provides the time necessary to fully evaluate its safety, environmental, recreational, and economic benefits.

The City of Needles is a remote, rural, and disadvantaged community of approximately 5,200 residents located along the Colorado River and adjacent to Arizona. Our community is geographically isolated from much of San Bernardino County and is surrounded by federal public lands heavily used for off-highway vehicle recreation, hiking, and backcountry access. Tourism and outdoor recreation are important components of our local economy.

In 2022, the Legislature enacted AB 2152 to authorize a pilot program allowing the City of Needles to establish designated combined-use highway segments connecting existing federal trail systems and recreational areas with lodging, fuel, restaurants, and other essential services. Since receiving that authority, the City has worked diligently to implement the program responsibly and safely.

The City has completed the extensive planning and implementation necessary for the pilot, including engineering and safety analysis, stakeholder and agency coordination, public outreach, and adoption by the City Council of a **9.20-mile OHMV route network**. The California Highway Patrol reviewed and approved the City's OHMV Master Plan and designated routes, and the City's combined-use route network is now operational.

Much of the original pilot period, however, was necessarily devoted to planning, engineering, safety review, agency coordination, and implementation. As a result, the City needs additional operating time to collect meaningful real-world data and properly evaluate the program.

2. STORM RECOVERY & COUNTY COORDINATION

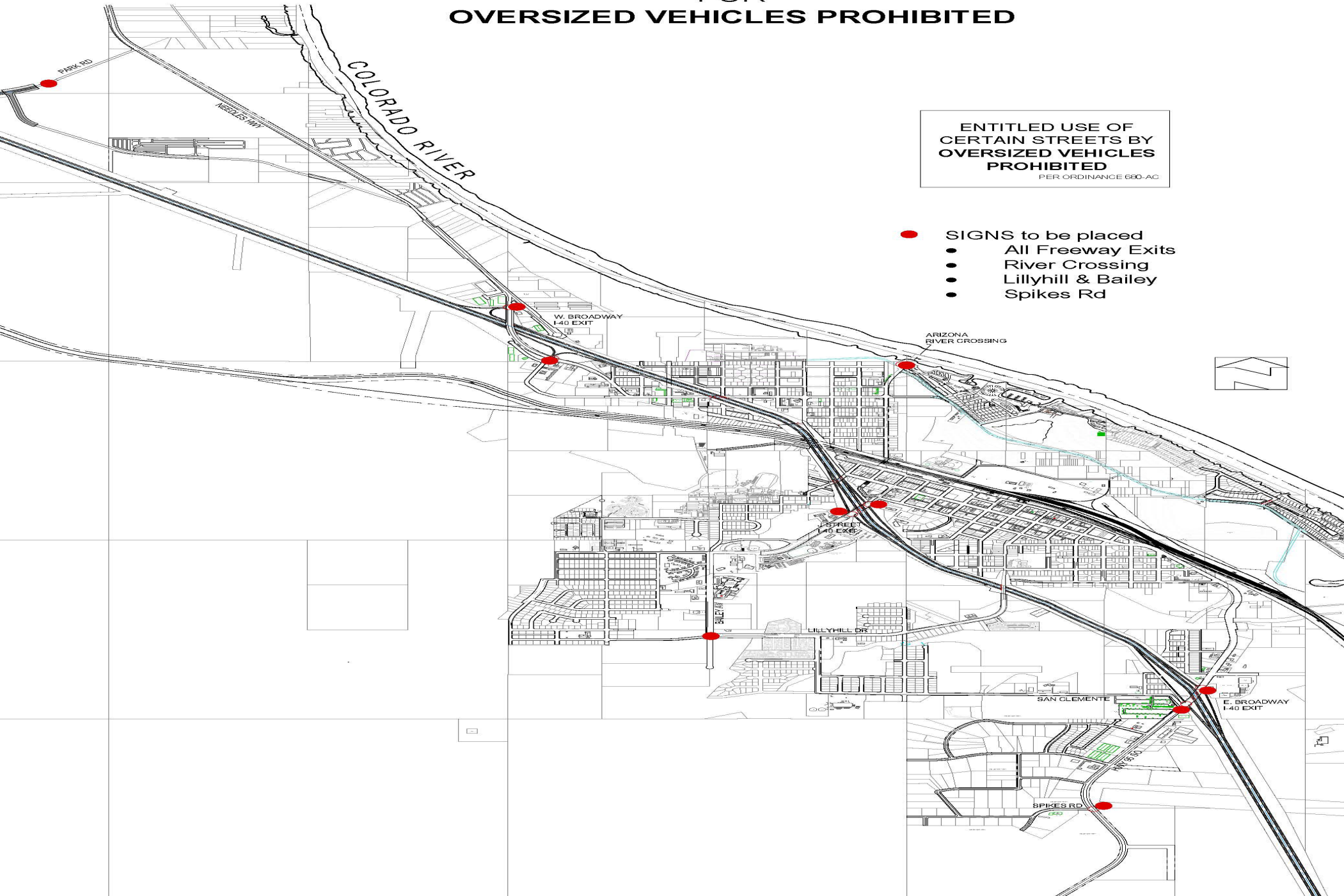


3. OVERSIZED VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT UNDERWAY

SIGN LOCATIONS FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLES PROHIBITED

ENTITLED USE OF
CERTAIN STREETS BY
OVERSIZED VEHICLES
PROHIBITED
PER ORDINANCE 680-AC

- SIGNS to be placed
- All Freeway Exits
- River Crossing
- Lillyhill & Bailey
- Spikes Rd



4. \$7.4M I-40 PAVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

State of California • Department of Transportation

Commuter Alert



Date: August 10, 2026

Alert: 26-819

District: 8 Riverside/San Bernardino

Project ID: 08-1N8104

Contact: [Jas Hampal](#)

Phone: (909) 553-6837

For Immediate Release

INTERSTATE 40 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION AUGUST 2026

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces the start of a new \$7.4 million pavement project on Interstate 40 (I-40). The scope of work includes cold plane asphalt concrete (AC) pavement and resurfacing with rubberized hot mix asphalt open grade (RHMA-O) along I-40 near Needles, from 3.2 miles east of W. Junction US-95 to 0.1 mile east of East Broadway Street Undercrossing. *Weather permitting.*

Nightwork is scheduled between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Alternating lane closures will be implemented, with COZEEP personnel present to oversee and monitor the closure areas. Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) will be activated to inform traffic of upcoming work and closures.

Work is anticipated to be completed by early Fall 2026.



Be sure to slow down when driving within or near the work zone.

Know before you go! To stay on top of roadwork in the Inland Empire follow us for the latest information on [Facebook](#) and [X](#). To assist in planning your commute, view live traffic conditions using [QuickMap](#).

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, sign

language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Caltrans Public Affairs at 909-383-4631 or TTY 711.

###

5. REGIONAL AUTO THEFT ENFORCEMENT OPERATION



6. NEW DIAL-A-RIDE VEHICLE



8. KRATOM ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

CITY OF NEEDLES SALE OF KRATOM PROHIBITED

ORDINANCE NO. 686-AC

AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE I, OF THE
NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING
SECTION 14-21, "SALE OF KRATOM PROHIBITED."

AUGUST 11, 2026



9. UTILITY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



City of Needles

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM

Customer Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Account No: _____ Email: _____

Check all that apply

Option A Air Conditioner Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option B Water Heater Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option C Solar Screen Installation
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option D Commercial Buildings
Air Conditioner Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Signature

Date

Documentation is required showing the efficiency rating before pre- approval of rebate credit will be issued on utility bill after confirmation and inspection.

Customer must be in good payment standing to qualify for rebate.



City of Needles

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Councilmember Larry Ford

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

RE: AB 2021 Low Income/Senior Energy Efficiency Program Application

Dear Customer,

Thank you for requesting information regarding the City's AB 2021 Energy Efficiency Program. Enclosed, please find the following:

1. **Energy Efficiency Program Highlights**

- o This is an overview of the program including services and annual budgets.

2. **AB 2021 Energy Efficiency Program Application (1 page)**

- o It is important to note the number of individuals within the home and their ages.
- o Proof of income must be returned with the completed application.

3. **Poverty Guidelines**

- o To qualify for the program the monthly net income must not exceed the poverty guidelines.

For additional Weatherization services please contact the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC).

1. Clients inquiring about Weatherization or Utility Assistance who have **not** previously been served should call **(909) 723-1500** or visit **www.capsbc.org** and select the **Energy Education and Environmental Services** tab to request Weatherization Assistance.
2. Clients who have already been served may inquire about their application or services by emailing:
 - o weatherizationservices@capsbc.org
 - o utilityassistance@capsbc.org
 - o or by calling **(909) 723-1608**.

Please note that the Weatherization Program generally takes approximately **six (6) months** from start to finish. The services can help decrease monthly utility bills and increase the efficiency of your home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Rainie Torrance

Rainie Torrance
City of Needles
(760) 326-2115 Ext. 140

9. UTILITY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



City of Needles Water Department
City Utility Services Office
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363
Phone: 760-326-5700



Turf Removal Pilot Program 2022

In an effort to increase the City's resilience regarding drought and climate change, reduce the demand for municipal water use. The Needles Public Utility Authority (NPUA) demonstrates its duty to saving water and money by introducing a Turf Removal Program.

The Turf Removal Program rebate program requires the removal of existing turf and replacement with permeable hardscapes, a minimum number of California friendly plants, wood mulch covering, installation of high-efficiency sprinkler heads and/or drip irrigation.

\$2.00 per square foot to replace eligible lawn areas up to 1,000 square feet with low-water-use, climate-appropriate plants and permeable hardscape (pavers or other materials that allow water to pass-through to the soil). Examples include pavers, crushed granite, decorative stones, mulch, metal landscaping art and more. Leak-free, drip irrigation if used in the converted area, must be low volume drip, micro-spray or bubbler and be free of malfunctions. Once installed, the irrigation system must not create runoff, overspray, or misting. The following per site maximum/minimum rebate amounts apply:

If you have already removed your turf, your project is not eligible for this program. Additionally, projects must not be started prior to the receipt and acknowledgement of this Program's Letter to Proceed.

Maximum:

\$2,000 for Single-Family Multi-Family (equivalent to 1,000 square feet of lawn removed). Customers may remove turf area than is covered by the rebate program, but the per site maximum/minimum \$ still applies.

Program Eligibility:

- Rebates are available for residents that receive their water from the NPUA.
- New construction does not qualify as the Turf Removal Program is aimed at encouraging retrofitting of existing landscapes
- Projects must be completed within 120 days of pre-approval. Extensions can be provided on a case-by-case basis, if requested. However, funds are limited, and an extension does not reserve or guarantee funds will be available when your project is completed.
- Non-qualifying materials include, but are not limited to the following: seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, high water use plants, lawn ornaments,

Coupon for \$100 Toilet Rebate

Present this coupon to City of Needles Customer Service Staff to receive a rebate of up to \$100 when you purchase a new WaterSense approved toilet. Residential accounts can apply for up to two rebates, and commercial accounts can receive up to four rebates. To qualify, your proof of purchase must also be submitted.



10. NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET RETURNS



NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET

Season Two

RETURNS!

STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH!

 **EVERY SUNDAY**
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM PST

 **SANTA FE PARK**
NEEDLES, CA

Good Vibes. Local Finds. Community Strong. ♥

**SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT LOCAL
LOVE LOCAL** ♥

**HANDMADE
GOODS
& MORE!**



NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET

VENDOR APPLICATIONS

are Open!

JOIN US THIS SEASON!


**SEASON BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 13**


**SUNDAYS
10 AM – 2 PM PST**


**SANTA FE PARK
NEEDLES, CA**

HANDMADE • FOOD • ART • PRODUCE • AND MORE!

READY TO JOIN US?
APPLY TODAY!



tumbleweedmarkets.mymarket.org/forms/signup



I. OPPORTUNITY ZONE 2.0 – SUPPORT NEEDLES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Invites Public to Support Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Residents, Businesses, Property Owners, and Community Organizations Encouraged to Submit Comments by August 28

NEEDLES, CA — The City of Needles is encouraging residents, business owners, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to participate in California's **Opportunity Zone 2.0** public comment process by submitting comments and letters of support for the City's nomination before the **August 28, 2026** deadline.

Although the City of Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's nominated census tract (**Census Tract 06071010700**) was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. The California Department of Finance is currently accepting public comments before California submits its final Opportunity Zone nominations to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Opportunity Zone Program is a federal economic development initiative established to encourage the reinvestment of private capital into economically distressed communities through long-term investment. Opportunity Zone 2.0 expands opportunities to support housing, infrastructure, business development, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, tourism, workforce development, and other job-creating investments.

The Needles nomination represents one of only **four eligible rural census tracts in San Bernardino County** and builds upon more than **\$28 million in recent public infrastructure investments**. As California's eastern gateway, Needles is strategically located along Interstate 40, Historic Route 66, the BNSF Southern Transcon rail corridor, and Needles Municipal Airport. Combined with municipally owned electric, water, and wastewater utilities and development-ready sites, the community is well positioned to leverage Opportunity Zone designation to attract long-term private investment, expand housing opportunities, create quality jobs, strengthen regional supply chains, and support sustainable economic development.

On **July 28, 2026**, the Needles City Council unanimously adopted **Resolution No. 2026-33**, supporting and ratifying the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination. In adopting the resolution, the City Council found that continued Opportunity Zone designation will strengthen the City's ability to leverage public investment and enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives to attract private capital, expand housing opportunities, support business growth, create quality jobs, revitalize underutilized properties, diversify the local economy, and advance the City's long-term economic

development strategy. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports sustainable economic growth, implementation of the California Jobs First Regional Plan, and continued revitalization of the City of Needles.

The public comment period provides an important opportunity for residents, businesses, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Every public comment and letter of support helps reinforce the community's commitment to attracting long-term investment and expanding economic opportunity in eastern San Bernardino County.

How to Support Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Community members are encouraged to support the City's nomination by:

- **Submitting comments** through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**.
- [Watching the California Department of Finance's step-by-step instructional video](#) explaining how to submit comments.
- **Learning more** about Opportunity Zone 2.0 by visiting the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones 2.0 webpage](#).
- **Submitting a letter of support** by emailing **City Manager Patrick J. Martinez** at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com. Organizations are encouraged to customize the City's sample letter of support template for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.

The public comment period closes **August 28, 2026**.

For additional information or assistance with submitting comments or letters of support, please contact the Office of the City Manager.

Community participation is critical to demonstrating the broad local and regional support behind Needles' nomination. The City encourages everyone to submit comments before the August 28, 2026 deadline.

Media Contact

Office of the City Manager

Patrick J. Martinez

City Manager, City of Needles

817 Third Street

Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760) 326-2115

Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com

II. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS



COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Judicial Philosophy

The Community Achievement Awards are not competitions - they are celebrations. Each nominee represents the heart of the Colorado River Region: individuals, businesses, and organizations who move our communities forward through leadership, compassion, and service.

Each year, a diverse panel of judges review dozens of nominations with care, considering not only accomplishments but also each nominee's alignment with our community's values, mission, and impact. This includes service, integrity, and the ability to inspire others. Finalist selections are made by majority vote following interviews, and the decisions are final.

To ensure this legacy is upheld, our judging process centers on more than achievement. It is grounded in character, impact, and alignment with our shared community values. Judges evaluate not only what a nominee has accomplished, but how they've done it - with humility, respect, and an unwavering commitment to community.

Judges review nomination packets, conduct in-depth interviews, and cast their final votes by secret ballot. The process is confidential, impartial, and rooted in fairness - intended to reflect the dignity of this regional honor.

Chamber staff administer the nomination process and provide procedural guidance to the judging panel but do not participate in deliberations, vote on finalists, or influence the outcome of the awards.

Final award selections are tabulated and verified by independent third-party observers to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voting process.

The result? Finalists and awardees who inspire trust, unity, and admiration - the very people we are proud to uplift.

III. RCC COMMUNITY RUMMAGE SALE



RCC
RUMMAGE
Sale!

DON'T MISS IT!

NEW DATES!

**AMAZING FINDS!
GREAT PRICES!
BIG IMPACT!**

SHOP. SAVE. SUPPORT.

All proceeds benefit
RCC and our
community programs!



NEW LOCATION!
ABC COLLISION
NEEDLES, CA

*Plenty of room,
great deals, and
even better finds!*

NEW DATES!

AUGUST
21 & 22

7 AM – 3 PM

BOTH DAYS!

**SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE!**

**TREASURES
WAITING FOR
YOU!**

**TOOLS,
FURNITURE,
HOME GOODS,
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
& SO MUCH
MORE!**

WE'RE STILL COLLECTING DONATIONS!

HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE?

We accept clean, gently used items, tools, furniture,
household goods, medical equipment & more!

**YOUR
DONATIONS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

**HELP US
HELP OTHERS!**

CALL OR TEXT TO ARRANGE
PICKUP OR DROP-OFF: →

ROXANNE
928-706-8323 (RUMMAGE SALE PROJECT LEAD)

NANCY
562-900-4808

WAYNE
760-801-4076

THANK YOU
for supporting
RCC and our
community!

GREAT FINDS. GREAT PRICES. GREATER PURPOSE. ★ SEE YOU THERE!

IV. RIVERS EDGE SUMMER SCRAMBLE



SUMMER SCRAMBLE 2026

TOURNAMENT

● ENJOY THE
LAST GOLF
TOURNAMENT
OF THE
SUMMER
MONTHS
●



**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29th**

AWARDS & PRIZES
AFTER GOLF

SHOTGUN STARTS
AT 7:00AM

REGISTRATION
OPEN AT 6:00AM

ON COURSE PRIZES:
CLOSEST TO PIN
LONG DRIVE

TOURNAMENT FEE:
\$55 PER PLAYER
\$165 PER TEAM

3-PERSON SCRAMBLE

CALL RIVERS EDGE AT (760) 326-3931

CONTACT US (760) 326-3931

OR JJDELEON@GOLFNEEDLES.COM