



council notes

DATE: January 16, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Ken Hampian

New State Legislation Makes Building Permits a Little More Complex and Costly: Several legislative acts that were approved in 2008 took effect January 1, 2009. The new laws will have direct impact on the building permit process. The timing of these new requirements is bad, given that many construction businesses are struggling to stay afloat; however the City is mandated to see that this legislation is implemented. Key among the new laws are:

SB 1473: The Green Building Fund

Among other things, SB 1473 provides for the creation of the Green Building Fund, which is established in the State Treasury. Moneys deposited in this fund will come from a surcharge on both residential and nonresidential building permits. The bill requires that each city and county collect a fee from an applicant for a building permit, assessed at the rate of four dollars (\$4) per one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in valuation, to go into a new Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund.

Moneys deposited in this fund will be available to the California Building Standards Commission, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal for expenditure in carrying out the provisions of the State Building Standards Law and provisions of State Housing Law that relate to building standards. Emphasis is to be placed on the development, adoption, publication, updating, and educational efforts associated with green building standards.

AB 2335: Owner/Builder Acknowledgment and Verification of Information

This bill expands the acknowledgments property owners are required to make when submitting as an owner/builder of a construction project. The changes in the law are meant to better inform property owners of their rights and responsibilities, as they relate to use of licensed contractors, workers compensation,

SB 1608: Construction Related Accessibility Standards Compliant Act

SB 1608 requires architects and building inspectors complete specified hours of continuing education coursework in disability access-specific requirements. It also requires that every local building department have a Certified Access Specialist (CAsp) review and approve a business' plan for a building permit in order to minimize the inadvertent approval of a non-access compliant project. Finally it creates a 19-member California Commission on Disability Access.

Staff has worked hard to update computer programming, forms and weblinks in order to make this a smooth transition. Many kudos to the Building Division staff for stepping up to the plate.

For more information regarding these new regulations please call Tim Girvin, Chief Building Official at 781-7159.

New Transit Buses in Service: Just before Christmas six (6) new low floor style transit buses (two-30 ft and four-40 ft) manufactured by Gillig in Hayward, California, were delivered to our transit facility at 29 Prado Road. They have undergone final mechanical inspections and will be placed into service this week. The buses were funded through multiple State and Federal grants with the match coming from State Transportation and COSTCO Mitigation funds. No San Luis Obispo City General Funds were used to purchase these vehicles.



These new vehicles incorporate into their design the latest state-of-the-art safety features such as eight (8) video/audio (6 interior-2 exterior with one interior forward facing towards oncoming traffic) cameras along with an automatic stop announcement system that uses Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) to determine vehicle location along its route. Other options include new flat style windows that present a modern sleek look as well as the new paint scheme. These six new additions, along with the two recently added 30 ft. buses and three other existing “Public Art” buses, will continue to add a unique flavor and character to our City transit fleet. A media ribbon cutting event will be held on Thursday, January 22nd at 3:00 pm at the Down Town Transit Center at 990 Palm Street and the public is cordially invited to attend and some refreshments will be provided.

For additional information or questions concerning SLO Transit or the new buses please contact John Webster at 781-7121 or jwebster@slocity.org



next slo city council meeting

Tuesday, January 20th

Special Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber

Saturday, January 31st

Goal Setting Workshop
Special Meeting, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
City/County Library Community Room

Other Important Dates to Note**State of the City Presentations**

Wednesday, January 21st, 3:00 p.m. – Council Chamber

Thursday, January 22nd, 1:00 p.m. – Corp Yard

Thursday, January 22nd

New Transit Bus Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

SLO Transit Center (990 Palm Street)

990 Palm Street