City Urges Community Members to Follow the State’s New Face Covering Guidance and Limited Stay at Home Order

With the State of California’s announcement last week of new mask covering guidance and a limited Stay at Home Order, the City of San Luis Obispo is urging all community members to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. To protect the health and safety of the community, the City of San Luis Obispo will continue to educate community members and businesses regarding the mask overing guidance and limited Stay at Home Order through targeted outreach and take necessary enforcement action as appropriate.

Community Input on Top Priorities for the Next Two Years

The City of San Luis Obispo is seeking community feedback, through an online survey, to help establish community-based goals that will be incorporated into the City's 2021-23 Financial Plan. This input will enable the City Council to better prioritize City projects, programs, services and initiatives so that resources and budget can be assigned to those items that are most important to the community.
City Council Approves Grant Funding for High-Impact Programs to Advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts

Strong communities are built on a foundation that creates a true sense of belonging for everyone. That’s why the City of San Luis Obispo is supporting local projects and initiatives that promote a welcoming, inclusive, equitable and safe environment in the pursuit of systemic change. The Council approved $109,800 of grant funding allocations to be awarded to non-profit organizations recommended by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force (DE&I).

Downtown Sidewalks Get Additional Cleaning

As part of a comprehensive set of programs to provide a clean and safe Downtown for the community to enjoy, the City will sweep, scrub and pressure wash Downtown sidewalks daily (M-F). Although the City began development of the new program before COVID-19 began, the added level of sanitation is even more important now. As more community members and businesses are using outdoor areas to shop and dine, “we want to create a safe and welcoming environment for community members to support local businesses,” said Interim Maintenance Operations Manager Greg Cruce.
Supporting Our Local Economy

The City of San Luis Obispo is providing grant funding in the amount of $30,000 for Downtown SLO to partner with CAPSLO’s professional homeless outreach workers to provide 20 hours of weekly service in the Downtown area. The professional outreach worker will take a person-centric approach, seeking to understand and address people’s individual needs and connect them to the right resources. This kind of outreach is intended to bridge the gap between those experiencing homelessness and their support system and can often lead to permanent housing and family reunification. This funding will also support a new Social Enterprise program to be launched in early 2021 to provide job training through supplemental Downtown cleaning activities performed by individuals currently or recently experiencing homelessness.

Local Economic Recovery and Resiliency Strengthened by Investment in Infrastructure

On Tuesday, October 6th, San Luis Obispo City Council received a progress update on the 2020-21 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP was approved as part of the City’s 2020-21 Budget Supplement, which focuses on one single goal (Meta Goal) of San Luis Obispo’s Economic Recovery and Resiliency. (Continued on Page 4)
The CIP budget has required increased funding and scope adjustments for multiple reasons including dramatic cost of construction escalation, the economic impacts related to COVID-19, prioritization of funds to respond to the Fiscal Health Contingency Plan and reduction in expenditures to address the City’s reduced revenues associated with the impacts of COVID-19. Despite these challenges, the CIP continues to advance 243 projects with an estimated value of $207.8M.
City of San Luis Obispo Appoints Interim Police Chief Jeff Smith

City Manager, Derek Johnson announced the appointment of Captain Jeff Smith as the City’s Interim Police Chief while a national recruitment for Police Chief is undertaken. Interim Police Chief Smith has been in policing since 2001 and joined the City of San Luis Obispo in 2003. Smith was promoted to Police Captain in 2016 and has overseen Police Operations and Administration. As Captain, Smith has been part of many special assignments and worked closely with community partners including leading a Homeless Task Force.

SLO City Utilities Department Recognized as ‘Utility of The Future Today’

National Recognition received for Community Partnering and Engagement

The City of San Luis Obispo’s Utilities Department is one of 65 water utilities being recognized for transformational work in community engagement, watershed stewardship, and recovery of resources such as water, energy, and nutrients by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), Water Environment Federation (WEF), Water Research Foundation (WRF) and WateReuse Association.

City of San Luis Obispo Utilities Department
San Luis Obispo, California
Area of Performance
Partnering & Engagement

The Utilities Department was recognized in the area of Community Partnering and Engagement. The Department’s work in this area has resulted in its recognition as one of the most responsive, respectful, and professional water agencies within the region. City staff engages and involves stakeholders through community workshops, water forums, and informal meetings to answer questions about the Department’s operations and projects.