



# COUNCIL NOTES

DATE: March 19, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Katie Lichtig

**City Named A Tree City USA:** For the 27<sup>th</sup> year, the City of San Luis Obispo has been named by Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA for its commitment to urban forestry. The City met the four requirements, namely having a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. “We commend San Luis Obispo’s elected officials, volunteers and citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest,” said John Rosenow, Chief Executive and founder of Arbor Day Foundation. The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, environmental and educational organization with over one million members, which sponsors the Tree City USA program in association with The National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service. More information can be found at [www.arborday.org/treecityusa](http://www.arborday.org/treecityusa).



**Marsh Street Parking Structure**

**What do Bicyclists and Parking Structures have in common?:**

Well, in this case, it’s office space. Parking Services were having difficulty renting office space in the Marsh Street parking structure at the corner of Morro and Pacific Streets, and the San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition (SLOCBC) was looking for a larger office space with an affordable rent. The two were brought together when the City was able to accept a portion of the rent as in-kind services provided by the Bicycle Coalition. Services will include identifying abandoned bicycles and collecting data on downtown parking. According to Dan Rivoire, Executive Director of the Coalition, “The central location, visibility, and the fact that it is right on the Morro St. Bicycle Blvd. make it ideal.”

A side benefit of having the SLOCBC as a tenant in the Marsh Street parking structure is that their staff and membership generally travel by bike (they even moved their office by bike) thus lowering the parking demand in the area. For more information, contact Robert Horch at 781-7234.



**Coalition members moving to the new office space by bike.**

**City Opposition to Possible Sales Tax Allocation Change:** The State Board of Equalization (SBOE) is hearing a “mass appeal” regarding the possible re-allocation of sales

tax revenues from the County-wide pool. This complex issue deals with arcane apportionment rules and goes back to over 1,200 petitions filed in 1995.

***The Short Story:*** We will be happy to provide the Council with more information on the details and the analytical basis for the appeals upon request – but here’s the short story: any re-allocation from the pool is a “zero-sum” game. Preliminary analysis by our sales tax advisor, Hinderliter de Llamas (HdL), shows that very few agencies will be “winners” and the vast majority “losers”: 47 cities and 1 county are potential “winners” and 422 cities and 57 counties will probably be “losers” if the petition goes forward. (So, if this is such a bad deal for so many agencies, why is the SBOE considering it? Because the few potential winners, via the 1,200 petitions filed by others on their behalf, have asked it to and the SBOE is obligated to do so.)

If these petitions are granted, the affected pool revenues from 1995 forward will be retroactively redistributed. Due to the staggering number of petitions, taxpayers and timeframe involved, SBOE staff has yet to determine the potential impact for each individual agency. But for perspective, HdL’s preliminary shows that for just 1995, the City’s loss would be about \$57,000. This means that if all years since then are comparable, the City’s loss could approach \$1 million. Accordingly, for a very modest fee of \$250, we have engaged HdL to represent the City at the SBOE’s hearing on May 26, 2010 in opposing the petition. We will keep the Council updated as this issue moves forward. Please contact Debbie Malicoat, Finance Manager, if you have any questions.

**Live Time Bus Stops:** The Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) Passenger Access System is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2008-09 Federal Transit Administration Program of Projects. Key components of this new system are electronic signs at the Downtown Transit Center (DTC) and Kennedy Library at Cal Poly that provide bus information in live time using GPS technology.



**New AVL Bus Signs at DTC**

This project replaced the existing Efficient Deployment of Advanced Public Transportation Systems (EDAPTS) pilot project as the SLO Transit bus information locator system. The electronic sign installation was recently completed through the efforts of City staff including Tim Bochum, Barbara Lynch, Matt Horn, Mike McGuire, Doug Nelms, Andrew Collins and Dee Lawson. This project milestone brings the entire system one step closer to completion which is anticipated within the next two months. For additional information or questions concerning SLO Transit please contact John Webster at 781-7121.



**New AVL Bus Sign at Kennedy Library-Cal Poly**



## Next City Council Meeting

### **Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Special Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

### **OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

#### **Thursay, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Good Morning SLO, 7:30 a.m.

Grace Church

Business Visitation, 10:30 a.m.

PHAT Energy & REC Solar

Advisory Body Recognition Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Ludwick Center