

# TOWN OF LOOMIS



**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Council Members  
**FROM:** Sean Rabé, Town Manager  
**DATE:** March 9, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Town Manager Report for March 2021 Council Meeting

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Mayor and Council Members,

The following report provides an update on some of the major activities Town Staff has been working on in the past month.

## **COVID-19 Update:**

As you know, Placer County was moved out of the regional stay at home order on January 12, 2021. The State also dropped ALL regional stay at home orders throughout the State as well.

While two of the three indicators used to determine what tier counties will be in are below thresholds for the purple tier, Placer County's case rate per 100,000 residents crept up the past week or so. As such, the County remains in the purple tier at this point. The State may modify the tiering system in a way that would benefit Placer County, however. That could happen within the next week or so.

Because Placer County is still in the purple tier, there are several restrictions on how businesses are to operate. You can find that information on the State's COVID-19 website at <https://covid19.ca.gov>.

The State and County continue to provide vaccinations as quickly as possible. Vaccine supply has increased, and more people are eligible for vaccines. Loomis residents looking for vaccine information can look to the County's COVID-19 site at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/coronavirus> or to the State site above.

Town operations have moved back to Town Hall. The public counter at Town Hall is remains open from 9 am to noon, Monday through Thursday.

The Town Staff has had its first positive COVID case, requiring all Public Works employees to quarantine for 14 days. We do have one employee working at a time, for continuity of government. I have reached out to the County to see if they could help with Public Works if an emergency arises – they have agreed to do so.

The Library is preparing to reopen to the public on a minimal basis as soon as the County moves into the red tier.

Please remember to wear a face covering in public, social distance, and wash your hands.

## **Costco**

As you know, Council approved the Costco project back in September. The Town is currently facing three lawsuits regarding the project. Those suits continue to work themselves through the process, and the Town and Costco continue to look forward to vigorously defending the Town's approval of the project.

### **Upcoming PG&E Gas Line Project**

PG&E has an existing, high-pressure gas pipeline that ranges from 6-8" running north-south through the Town on Taylor Road. This is a regional pipeline that goes from Roseville to Auburn. As part of PG&E's safety program they need to perform periodic inspections by running what are called "smart tools" through the line. The inspection tools, also known as pigs (the smart tool sounds like a pig when passing through the pipeline), can gather information about the pipeline without disrupting the flow of gas, minimizing impacts to customers. It can measure pipe wall thickness and detect gouges and dents with the end goal of identifying what parts of the pipeline need to be repaired to maintain a safe and reliable system.

Prior to being able to use the pig, portions of the pipeline will need to be retrofitted. The pig can be up to 17-feet long and can only navigate through smooth upgraded pipelines. Too many elbows in close proximity, pressure control fittings and plug valves can all be problematic for the pig to travel through. PG&E plans to excavate these problematic areas down to the pipeline and then perform upgrades. This will involve bell holes at six locations along Taylor Road – at Circle Drive, Webb Street, King Road, Rippey Road, Del Oro High School, and just north of the High School at a parcel near the rock yard that PG&E has acquired to install a permanent valve lot for inserting and receiving the pig.

PG&E's gas line serves customers from Roseville to Auburn and will require 35 temporary compressed natural gas taps to continue providing service once the pipeline goes off-line for retrofitting. To minimize the down-time, PG&E crews will be excavating down to their pipe during the months of May, June and July. This will be fairly time consuming as they will be hand-digging and using a hydro-vacuum to minimize the chance of damaging the pipeline. Once the pipe is exposed, they will cover the excavation with temporary steel trench plates. Then they will wait to do the retrofit work concurrently with other locations, at the time of the regional shutdown, currently planned for August. Trench plates will be depressed and made flush with the roadway given the extended duration that they will be in place. This will eliminate the lip that otherwise occurs when set on top of the pavement.

The work is currently planned as day-time work. For most of it, PG&E will be able to provide traffic control with at least one lane open in each direction. Where the road narrows and this is not possible, a reversible, flagger-controlled lane will be used, and work will be limited to off-peak hours.

The Town typically imposes a 5-year trench cut moratorium on newly paved streets such as Taylor Road, however, waiting 5-years would not be in the Town's or PG&E's best interest, given the sensitivity of gas line distribution safety. As mitigation, the Town will require that their trench backfill be completed with a low strength, concrete sand-slurry mix so that it won't settle over time. And the final pavement restoration will be scrutinized for rideability and will be tack coated with oil upon completion.

### **Town Manager Tuesdays**

The Town Manager Tuesday event continues to be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 am, through Zoom for the time being. I will post the meeting information to the Town website and to the Town Facebook Page on the Friday prior to the event.

**QUESTIONS?** Call me at the number below or email me at [srabe@loomis.ca.gov](mailto:srabe@loomis.ca.gov).