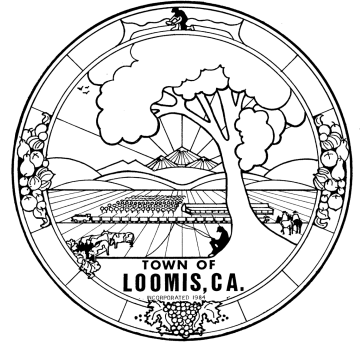


TOWN OF LOOMIS



TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Sean Rabé, Town Manager
DATE: May 11, 2021
SUBJECT: Town Manager Report for May 2021 Council Meeting

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:

Governor Gavin Newsom in April announced that California would fully reopen our economy on June 15, assuming that vaccine supply remains sufficient, and hospitalizations are stable and low. That means that all business sectors will be able to reopen, with masking and social distancing still required.

At this point, Placer County has moved to the Orange Tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. More on what this means can be found here: <https://covid19.ca.gov>.

The State and County continue to provide vaccinations as quickly as possible. Vaccine supply has increased, and all people aged 16 or older 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 Hall is now open Monday through Thursday, from 8 am to 5 pm. All Town Hall employees who want to be vaccinated have been.

The Library has reopened to the public on a minimal basis. Current hours are Wednesdays from 1 pm to 5 pm; Friday from 1pm to 5 pm; and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Council and Planning Commission meetings will be held at the Blue Goose Event Center for the time being, schedule permitting.

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

Drought and Fire Season

We had two small – but scary – fires within three days, a week ago. Part of the property next to Library caught fire, apparently the result of a small homeless encampment. Two days later, the Costco property caught fire when it was being mowed. Huge kudos to the South Placer Fire District and the Placer County Sheriff's Office for their quick work extinguishing the fires.

Gov. Newsom declared a drought emergency for most of the State last month. The State still hasn't declared any mandatory drought conservation orders yet, however.

Coupled with the drought, the State is once again under extreme fire danger. As of today, more than 17,000 acres have burned in the State – which is about 700 percent higher than this time last year, according to Cal Fire. The dry year so far certainly exacerbates the potential for significant fires.

PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS WHEN CLEARING WEEDS AND OTHER BRUSH!

Costco

As you know, Council approved the Costco project back in September. The Town recently settled one of the lawsuits (with Brace Taylor, LLC). The Town is preparing to defend the other two lawsuits (with the City of Rocklin and Citizens for Responsible Growth or the Rocklin Arco gas station owner) in court.

The administrative record for the lawsuits has been certified, as of the end of March. A hearing on the merits of the lawsuits has been scheduled for August 27th. As I have noted in the past, the Town looks forward to vigorously defending the project in court, if necessary.

Hidden Grove Project

As you know, the Town received a pre-application for the Hidden Grove project, for the property located behind Raley's (former Village at Loomis site). That pre-application is for a housing project, to be processed under a new California housing law called SB-330. You can find that pre-application here: <https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/hidden-grove-full-pre-application-submittal-package/>. Staff has reviewed the pre-application and sent it back to the potential developer for additional refinement. We have received additional information from the developer since then, and Staff continues to review it.

Relatively new legislation (effective last year) significantly alters the process for reviewing residential and mixed-use development projects that are consistent with a community's objective development standards. This new law – SB 330 – may be triggered for the first time in Loomis by the Hidden Grove project. To help the Council, Planning Commission, and the community understand what this means, the Town Attorney has prepared a memo that we hope provides a comprehensive review of SB 330 and how it impacts the planning process. That memo can be found here:

<https://loomis.ca.gov/documents/town-of-loomis-sb-330-overview/>

Green Business Park

BEM Inc. has submitted a development application for the proposed "Green Business Park;" a proposed specific plan for an area on Sierra College Boulevard between Delmar Avenue and Bankhead Road. The proposed project would be a Specific Plan for a 900,000 square-foot business park, with 126 multifamily residences. This project requires a General Plan amendment and a rezone in order to be approved. Staff is just now beginning to review the project application for completeness. Once that is done and a determination about the application's completeness has been issued, the Town will need to hire several consultants – to be paid for by the applicant – and start the formal project processing.

More on the project can be found here: <https://loomis.ca.gov/green-business-park-loomis-application-package/>

Staffing Updates

Interim Town Engineer Merrill Buck will start work as a fulltime staff member on June 25. Town Clerk Crickett Strock has pushed her retirement date off to the end of the year.

Town Manager Tuesdays

The Town Manager Tuesday event continues to be held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 am. This month's meeting will be held at the Train Depot.

QUESTIONS? Call me at the number below or email me at srabe@loomis.ca.gov.