



## Staff Report November 14, 2023

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Town Council  
**FROM:** Merrill Buck, Town Engineer  
**RE:** Engineering Division Status Update (Information only)

Update on noteworthy items in the Engineering Division.

### **COMPLETED EFFORTS:**

- ***Rule 20A Undergrounding – Sierra College Boulevard (Granite Drive to Brace Road)*** – PG&E has completed all the Rule 20A underground work including removal of the poles. AT&T, which decided not to be part of the Rule 20A project, has also more recently, completed the undergrounding of their facilities.
- ***Hunter Oaks Rockery Wall Improvement Project – The Rockery Wall at the end of Hunter Oaks Lane*** has been completed. Landscaping around the rockery wall, as a separate project, will wrap up this month.
- ***CalRecycle SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant (Non-Competitive)*** – CalRecycle has offered municipalities another round of support in administering SB 1383 regulations. The Town was eligible for \$75,000 in assistance. An application was submitted for that amount.

### **PROJECTS IN CONSTRUCTION:**

#### ***Sierra College Boulevard / Taylor Road Intersection Improvements Project***

This project involves the widening of Sierra College Boulevard from Brace Road to Taylor Road from four lanes to six. A conflict with existing water and sewer utilities has prevented a drainage culvert from being extended on the west side of the project. And with Department of Fish and Wildlife permit requirements prohibiting work in the creek channel past October 31<sup>st</sup>, road widening on this side of the project will now have to wait until next spring. Work on the east side is progressing with the culvert extension completed, along with grading of the creek bank and placement of rip rap. Sidewalk, curb and gutter work is under construction now, with median island turn pocket extensions along Sierra College Boulevard and Taylor Road scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

As a rather significant project setback, the Town has been unable to secure a permit from the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) for work within the railroad right-of-way. The CPUC deems the proposed improvements insufficient to allow the additional lanes being built to be utilized and wants additional railroad improvements constructed that would take a separate project to design and build. And they have so far been unwilling to allow the Town to build the proposed improvements as an initial phase. Negotiations continue with the CPUC and the Union Pacific Railroad. As part of the November Council meeting's agenda, approval is being sought for the Mayor to send a letter of commitment to the CPUC, to show that the Town is sincere in its intent to build the additional improvements.

### ***Hunter Oaks Landscaping Improvements Project***

This project involves the installation of replacement landscaping within the common areas of the Hunter Oaks subdivision. All of the work is essentially done, with the Contractor working on punch list items. The project should be ready for acceptance at the December Council meeting.

### ***Welcome Sign at Taylor Road and Sierra College Boulevard***

This project involves building a sign structure within the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) right of way at Taylor Road and Sierra College Boulevard. The project will be completed under two contracts, one for the sign structure and another to install the interior lettering and lighting. The railroad has approved the project design, however, prior to starting work, a right of entry permit is required, which takes a special type of insurance that the Contractor is working on obtaining. The prime contractor that is building the sign structure has agreed to take on the lettering and lighting contractor as a subcontractor, under the same railroad permit, which has helped to expedite the project. It is anticipated that work should start by December and be completed early January.

### ***Sunrise Loomis Playground Replacement Project***

This project will replace both play structures in Sunrise Loomis Park. Play equipment was purchased directly by the Town and is being stored at the Corp Yard. The Contractor has started grading the site and should have it prepped and ready for play equipment installation by the end of the month. Unfortunately, the certified play equipment installers are booked out until the end of December, so the play equipment installation will have to wait until then, with all work wrapping up in January.

### ***2023 Rubberized Cape Seal Project***

Both the rubberized chip seal and slurry seal portions of the resurfacing work have been completed, with replacement striping remaining as outstanding work scope. Following the slurry seal, the Town received did receive a few inquiries about loose sand on the roads. This was to be expected, and is part of the slurry seal's curing process. As the water in the slurry seal dries and traffic uses the roadway, the top layer of sand breaks free. After about 5 days, enough water has evaporated to where the streets can be swept to pick up all the loose sand.

## **PROJECTS IN DESIGN:**

### ***Storm Drain Roadway Culvert Crossing Replacements at Various Locations***

Town staff has identified approximately two dozen locations around town where 12-inch to 24-inch diameter corrugated metal pipes are at various stages of failure as they cross under the roadway. Many of the pipes have rusted-out bottoms, which over time, if not fixed, will create sink holes in the roadway, become blocked with debris, and restrict the flow of water. This project will remove and replace these pipes with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pipe, so as to be resistant to future corrosion. Staff has confirmed that all but three locations can proceed without Department of Fish and Wildlife permitting. It is anticipated that the project will be advertised for bids this month.

### ***Sierra De Montserrat – Decomposed Granite Shoulder Rehabilitation***

Staff is working on a project that will regrade portions of the eroded pathway beyond the edge of pavement along Rutherford Canyon Road. This project should be ready to advertise for bids this month.

### ***Library Parking Lot ADA Improvements Project***

Work involves re-grading the handicap parking stalls in the library parking lot and rebuilding the concrete pathway leading to the library's entrance so that the slopes are ADA compliant. Workload pressures have delayed the completion of this project, but the design is nearing completion and should be ready to advertise for bids by the end of the year.

### ***Downtown Baskets and Banners***

Fall banners were displayed, spotlighting the Eggplant Festival. Christmas banners should be going up soon. The Town has identified a supplier for both the flower baskets, and the hangers. And we have coordinated with a contractor that will install the hangers with irrigation drip lines over the winter. The Town has also contracted with a grower that will plant and hang the flower baskets in the spring.

### ***Humphrey Road Sidewalks / School Route Improvements***

This project will construct curb, gutter and sidewalk to close a sidewalk gap of approximately 250 feet along the east side of Humphrey Road near King Road, along with constructing curb ramps and a rapid rectangular flashing beacon at a crosswalk near H. Clarke Powers Elementary School. The scope of work on this project was included in an unsuccessful Active Transportation Program (ATP), Safe Routes to School grant application, and since it wasn't funded, it is now being pursued with Town funding. Due to workload capacity issues and unsuitability for construction during winter, this project has been delayed and is now targeting spring construction.

### ***On-Call Thermoplastic Striping Contract***

This project will address some of the faded striping locations in Town that maintenance crews historically have gone out to repaint annually. Replacing these markings with melted thermoplastic material will make the new markings much more durable, thereby avoiding the need to repaint the lines for another 7-10 years. As part of this project, a three-year on-call contract will also be established that will allow the Town to paint other locations in Town, on an as-needed basis, under individual task orders. Due to workload capacity issues and unsuitability for construction during winter, this project has been delayed and is now targeting spring construction.

### ***2024 Paving Project***

Targeting an early 2024 construction, the Town has several street segments that are being programmed for an asphalt overlay. Most notable are Sierra College Boulevard at King Road and Brace Road immediately adjacent to Costco.

### ***STBG Paving Project (Brace Road and King Road Resurfacing)***

The Town received \$318,000 in federal grant funding to resurface Brace Road from Sierra College Boulevard to the I-80 overpass, and King Road from Taylor Road to the I-80 overpass. The design for this work has started and should be ready to advertise next spring.

### ***Adopt an Oak Tree Program***

Utilizing funding from the Town's Tree Fund, collected as mitigation due to oak tree loss, a program is being developed that will allow Loomis residents to "adopt" an oak tree for planting on their property. Staff is also looking into the possibility of including a private-property oak tree pruning grant program with a 50/50 match, that would allow Loomis residents to get assistance on the cost of professional oak tree pruning, as another way of using the tree funds for oak tree preservation. The hope is to bring this program forward to Council for discussion in December.

### ***Depot Shade Structures Project***

Design concepts are being developed to implement shade structures at the Depot and Blue Anchor Park. The hope is to bring this forward to Council for discussion in December.

### ***2023 Tree Pruning Contract***

The Town has completed two rounds of tree pruning contracts, for vehicle clearance along its major arterial and collector streets. One last round remains to be completed with an estimated \$150,000 worth of work. Due to workload capacity issues, this project has had a lower priority, and will probably not be advertised until early next year.