



City of Twentynine Palms
6136 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-6799 – FAX 760-367-4890
www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE – MAY 20, 2009

CITY NEEDS RIGHTS OF WAY TO BEGIN ADOBE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

In 2007, with assistance from Congressman Jerry Lewis, the City of Twentynine Palms received \$4 million from the Department of the Navy for a road rehabilitation and improvement project on Adobe Road, between Amboy Road and the Main Gate to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

The project includes road reconstruction, installation of curb, gutter, and sidewalk, and the construction of a public bike path, consistent with the General Plan of the City. In the process of developing the project, the City has had to secure rights of way from private property owners along Adobe Road.

While the majority of property owners have granted this dedication to the City, there are still a few dedications that have yet to be secured. Five property owners of the remaining dedications have been notified, as is required by law, but have not responded or have yet to finalize their agreements.

The City Council, at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26, will consider passing Resolutions of Necessity, which will begin the process of eminent domain in the event that it is needed to secure these dedications. The resolutions identify four findings that must be made in order to begin the eminent domain process.

1. That the public interest and necessity require the project for which the property is proposed to be acquired;
2. That the project is planned in a manner that will create the greatest public good and the least private injury;
3. That the property proposed to be acquired is necessary for the project; and
4. That the offer required by Government Code 7267.2 has been made to the owner of record.

The Adobe Road Improvement project has been in the planning, development, and rights of way acquisition phases since 2007. Once these final rights of way are secured, the City can begin the bid and pre-construction activities, which are

the next steps to move the project forward. If the City needs to use eminent domain to secure the rights of way, it could delay the project for an additional six months or longer.

The City Council meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, at Twentynine Palms City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

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