

# TWENTYNINE PALMS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITORS BUREAU

## MONTHLY RECAP REPORT: January 2008

State of the County Address will be presented by First District County Supervisor Brand Mitzelfelt on February 27, 2008, 12PM, at Little Church of the Desert. The Twentynine Palms Rotary and Chamber of Commerce have partnered to present County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt during the Rotary luncheon. Lunch is \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP at 760-367-3445.

Twentynine Palms will debut in conjunction with the California Desert Visitor's Association in attending the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles Times Travel and Adventure Show. The show will be at the Long Beach Convention Center on February 9 and 10, 2008, the chamber will promote the events and attractions of Twentynine Palms and the Morongo Basin. The show is produced by the Los Angeles Times and Adventures in Travel Expo and is the largest annual travel event for consumers and trade professionals.

Past show statistics indicate that:

- 56% of consumers are between the ages for 25 and 54;
- 60% have an average house hold income of \$75,000+;
- 39% earn \$100,000+;
- 74% found their next vacation at the show AND 59% plan to book that vacation within 6 months;
- 73% of the attendees will spend at least \$2,500 on travel annually;
- 70% will take at least 3 vacations annually;
- 41% attendees are repeat visitors to the show.

### VISITOR SERVICES

New information/publications available in the Visitor Center include:

- February 2008 Chamber Newsletter
- Climate Change and the California Deserts Conference brochure;
- Free Luncheon for Spouses Marines and Sailors brochure;
- Special Edition Newsletter of the Mojave Desert Land Trust;
- Copper Mountain College Spring 2008 Schedule of Classes;
- Winter 2008 Basin Wide Spirit;
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- BLM Special Edition Maps: Amboy, San Bernardino, Victorville, Sheep Hole Mountains, Eagle Mountains, Palm Springs, Big Bear Lake, Santa Ana, Newberry Springs.

### Gift Shop -

- Sales in Gift Shop for January 2008: \$ 332.66

### January New Members: 7

Total Chamber Members: 245

Contact Statistics: January 2008:

Phone Calls: 947

Visitors: 155

Information Packets: 11

### 29chamber.com

**Successful requests: 2,930,136**

**Average successful requests per day: 4,022**

**Successful requests for pages: 637,724**

### Visit29.org:

**Successful requests: 2,479,224**

**Average successful requests per day: 1,635**

**Successful requests for pages: 385,398**

### MARKETING

- Met with Jack Auchterlonie Memorial Equine Sanctuary (JAMES) to discuss ecotourism possibilities, January 10, 2008;
- Submitted rock climbing, Furnace Creek 508 and Hilltopper's Grand Prix articles to the new web page "California Adventure Travel" on the visitcalifornia.com website;
- Submitted Parade of Homes, Port Royal Grand Buccaneers Ball, and the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual JTNP Art Festival to CultureCalifornia.com for upload to website;
- Preparing for informational submission of articles regarding the Winter and Spring events to newspapers, magazines, and websites;

### Tours, Conferences & Meetings

- Marstel\*Day programming conference class was held in the chamber conference room January 21, 2008;
- Adrien Jaulmes staff writer of the La Figaro, a Paris France newspaper,

requested interviews with Twentynine Palms community members January 17 and 18, 2007. He was very impressed with Twentynine Palms assets, and plans to follow up with a story upon his return to France. He stated in his last email, "I wanted to thank you for your very kind welcome and your unvaluable (sic) help. All the people I met were very interesting. I'll forward you the article as soon as it will be published."

### **Other Marketing**

Chamber will capitalize event information regarding the following:

- Climate Change and the California Deserts Conference on February 8, 2008, Joshua Tree Park & Recreation Center, 6171 Sunburst Ave, 10AM-3PM;
- Magical Moonshine Theater, February 9 & 10;
- Phoenix Project West's "Port Royal Grand Buccaneers Ball," February 16, 2008;
- Reach Out Morongo Basin "Parade of Homes," February 17, 2008;
- Chamber Mixer at the Bowladam, February 21, 2008;
- Polar Bear Run for Reach Out Morongo Basin, February 23;
- Chamber/Rotary partnership presents Brad Mitzelfelt "State of the County" address, February 27, 2008

The following articles highlighted Twentynine Palms area and events:

- TripAdvisor, "Adobe Home on the Desert," 29 Palms Inn, December 27, 2007;
- The Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia, Pa, "Marine Bands Knows Success is Instrumental," December 28, 2007;
- ScoopZone, "Trip to the SoCal high desert," December 29, 2007;
- Ronkapon.typepad.com, "Paradise in the Desert," December 30, 2007;
- TripAdvisor, "Wonderful Stay!! Highly recommended," Sunnyvale Garden Suites Hotel, December 30, 2007;
- San Francisco Museum of Art, "An-my Le: Small Wars," January 2008 Edition;
- Desert Guide, "Biking and Off Road Rentals," January 2008 Edition;

- Outside Magazine, "There's Something in the Rocks," January 2008 Edition;
- BBC Radio Scotland, "Gram Parsons-California Cotton Fields," January 2008;
- Weather Channel, "Top 10 Winter Family Getaways," January 2008;
- ScoopZone, "Joshua Tree City," January 1, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "Quaint hidden gem," Sunnyvale Garden Suites Hotel, January 1, 2008;
- LIVE.LOVE.LAUGH, "29 REASONS TO VISIT 29 PALMS," January 2, 2008,
- Military News, "DOD Announces Venue for Wearable Power Competition," January 3, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "A Joy," Roughley Manor, January 4, 2008;
- Theconservativevoice.com, "DOD Announces Venue for Wearable Power Competition," January 3, 2008;
- StreetFire Media Network, "29 Palms Marine Base Memorial," January 5, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "Great Girlfriend Getaway!," Holiday Inn Express, January 6, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "Great Place," Roughley Manor, January 6, 2008;
- Reuters, "Stater Bros. Markets Completes \$1.3 Million Major Remodel of East Yucca Valley Supermarket," January 8, 2008;
- Fox Business News, "Stater Bros. Markets Completes \$1.3 Million Major Remodel of East Yucca Valley Supermarket," January 8, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "Totally Satisfied," Sunnyvale Garden Suites Hotel, January 9, 2008;
- Outdoor Industry Association, "YOGA ROCKS! At Joshua Tree," January 10, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, "The Harmony Motel: A Cool Place to Stay," January 10, 2008
- Trip Advisor, "Great Experience," Roughley Manor, January, 10, 2008;
- The Press Enterprise, "Out and about," January 11, 2008;
- Trip Advisor, "Sammy and Sarah," Roughley Manor, January 11, 2008;
- The Seattle Times, "California's Golden 15 destinations," January 13, 2008;

- Government Computers News, “DOD battery contest venue chosen,” January 14, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “Desert Paradise,” Roughley Manor, January 14, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “my second time staying here,” Harmony Hotel, January 14, 2008;
- Grand Island Independent, Nebraska, “Musical Marine,” January 15, 2008;
- Photo.net, “Joshua Tree National Park,” January 16, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “The only place I would stay in 29 Palms,” January 18, 2008;
- Desert USA, “Wildflower 2008 Reports Updated,” January 21, 2008;
- The Journal Times Online, Wisconsin, “Rock-Solid relationship,” January 19, 2008;
- The Mercury News, San Jose, “Joshua Tree Rocks,” January 20, 2008;
- Contra Costa Times, “A bold ascent at Joshua Tree,” January 20, 2008;
- Ralph Nordstrom Photography.com, “2008 Joshua Tree Gathering,” January 22, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “We loved our stay at Roughley (sic) Manor,” January 25, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “A Gem in the Desert,” January 26, 2008;
- Modern Hiker, “Video Trial,” January 22, 2008;
- DefenseLink, “Contracts,” January 23, 2008;
- Art of War, “Photo of the Day,” January 24, 2008;
- Everywhere Magazine, “Story: Palm Springs—Paradise in the Desert,” January 25, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “The place to stay in Twentynine Palms,” Roughley Manor, January, 25, 2008;
- Citizens First National Bank, “A Bold Ascent at Joshua Tree,” January 26, 2008;
- TripAdvisor, “Harmony Motel Review,” January 27, 2008;
- Modern Hiker, “Hiking Barker Dam Loop,” January 29, 2008;
- Individual.com, “A bold ascent at Joshua Tree,” January 30, 2008.

### NETWORKING

- Chamber staff attended CMC’s Health Sciences/Nursing Skills Lab Open House, January 11, 2008;
- Chamber staff attended the dedication of the Bucky Bucklin Memorial, January 12, 2008;
- City Council Connections, January 16, 2008;

### BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Liberty Tax Service Grand Opening, January 12, 2008, 10AM to 2PM, 71747 29 Palms Hwy, Twentynine Palms;
- Morongo Basin Economic Consortium, January 16, 2008;
- Working with S.B. County to upload MCAGCC high ranking job positions to the SBC website;
- Chamber staff will attend the LA Times Travel Show, Long Beach, February 9-10th;

### LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

- City Council Connections, January 16, 2008, Councilmen Spears and Harris in attendance;
- Council Connections, date to be announced, 6PM, Chamber Conference Room.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS

- At request of MCAGCC, chamber participated in the Marstel \*Day Survey of base encroachment and the community, January 15, 2008;
- MCAGCC lunch with Jim Ricker regarding Chamber Membership, January 22, 2008;
- Attended the Robert Burns Supper aboard base, January 25, 2008;
- M.A.C. Assistance Fund The Chamber has continued to maintain a small fund of donated monies which has been set aside to assist military personnel and their families with urgent needs. Military personnel are eligible to apply for assistance upon referral from the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

## EVENTS

- Council Connections, **date to be announced**, 6PM, Chamber Conference Room;
- Climate Change and the California Deserts Conference on February 8, 2008, Joshua Tree Park & Recreation Center, 6171 Sunburst Ave, 10AM-3PM;
- Magical Moonshine Theater, February 9 & 10;
- Phoenix Project West's "*Port Royal Grand Buccaneers Ball*," February 16, 2008, Yucca Valley Community Center, RSVP 760-367-6410;
- Reach Out Morongo Basin "Parade of Homes," February 17, 2008;
- Chamber Board of Directors meeting, February 21, 2008, 12PM, chamber conference room;
- Chamber Mixer will be sponsored by the Bowladium, February 21, 2008, 5PM-7PM;
- Polar Bear Run for Reach Out Morongo Basin, February 23;
- Chamber/Twenty-nine Palms Rotary partnership presents Brad Mitzelfelt "State of the County" address, February 27, 2008, 12PM, Little Church of the Desert. Lunch is \$10.00 per person. RSVP 760-367-3445

**Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce  
Contact Statistic Report January 2008**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Phone Calls</b>	<b>Walk-Ins</b>
Action Council	12	
Art Galleries	5	
Calendars	5	
Casino	129	8
Chamber Business	208	37
Demographics	3	
Developers	15	
Directions	18	7
Employment	5	
Gift Shop	10	
Information 411	76	20
Internet Access	10	
Joshua Tree N.P.	80	
Lodging	18	12
Maps	5	8
Marine Base	10	3
Marketing	45	
Miscellaneous	160	27
Mixers	7	4
Murals	3	
Packet Requests (Relocation/Visitor)	24	4
Phone Books	14	14
Realtors	8	4
Reporters	1	
Resturants	21	2
Road Conditions	16	
RV Park	9	2
Street Fair & Car Show	3	
Sunrunner	21	1
Transportation	6	
Voting		2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>155</b>

**PACKETS**

11

Packet Requests January 2008

<b>Name</b>	<b>Visitor</b>	<b>Relocation</b>	<b>Other</b>
Vicki Oats		1	
Lori Frohlynger	1		
Dean E. Wooldridge, Jr.	1		
Jaimie Van Dusen		1	
Rolana Yakub		1	
Lori & Allyn Webert	1		
Ronald E. Goedken	1		
Dorothy Will	1		
Gina Weatherly			1
Marisa Owen		1	
Walk In Gentleman		1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	5	5	1

City of Twentynine Palms  
Treasurer's Report  
December 31, 2007

Depository	Term	Matures	Interest Rate	Amount	Market Value	Percent of Total
Petty Cash	On Hand		N/A	\$800	\$800	0.00%
PFF Bank & Trust Checking account	Demand		0.90%	\$374,322	\$374,322	2.11%
Pacific Western Payroll Account	Demand		0.60%	\$94,219	\$94,219	0.53%
Local Agency Investment Fund Total City Funds	Demand		5.23%	<u>\$16,610,103</u>	<u>\$16,610,103</u>	<u>93.58%</u>
				<u>\$17,079,444</u>	<u>\$17,079,444</u>	<u>96.22%</u>
Funds Held in Trust:						
Employee deferred compensation	N/A		N/A	<u>\$670,430</u>	<u>\$670,430</u>	<u>3.78%</u>
Total Funds in the Treasurer's Custody				\$17,749,874	\$17,749,874	100.00%

NOTES:

- 1) All the above investments are in compliance with the City's Investment Policy, except for the deferred compensation, for which the employees choose their own investment vehicles.
- 2) The City has sufficient funds to meet its expenditure requirements for the next six months.



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Code Enforcement Officer via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT: PC 08-05** City Council confirmation of the costs of abating public nuisances at 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue (APN 0617-123-13), and adoption of Resolution No. 08-02 directing the recordation of a Special Assessment against the properties to recover the City's costs of abatement.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Conduct the Public Hearing, consider public comment, and confirm costs of abatement of 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue in the amount of \$2,941.00 and adopt Resolution No. 08-02 directing the recordation of a Special Assessment in the amount of \$2,941.00 against the property to recover the City's costs of abatement.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE:

Request Staff Report (Alex Meyerhoff Presenting)  
Council Questions of Staff  
Request Public Comment  
Council Discussion  
Motion/Second  
Discussion of Motion  
Call the Question (voice vote)

### Attachments

- Locator Map
- August 22, 2007 Notice to Abate
- Pre-Abatement Photos
- Post Abatement Photos
- Record of costs
- Resolution

**BACKGROUND:** This property has had a number of code violations. On July 31, 2007, the City received a complaint of septic waste on top of the ground. A letter was sent to the owner of the property, Dorothea Erbacher, concerning this violation. During a re-inspection on August 21, 2007, septic waste was not on the ground, however, junk and rubbish had accumulated at the site again. Two apartments had broken doors and windows, were full of rubbish, and were uninhabitable. On August 22, 2007 a Notice to Abate was sent to the owner of the property (by certified mail, return receipt requested), directing her to remove the junk and rubbish, repair or secure the open apartments, and repair any electrical violations.

The property was not brought into compliance, and on October 25, 2007 an Abatement Warrant was obtained from the California Superior Court. The Warrant directed the City to remove and dispose of the junk and rubbish, secure and board up the vacant apartments, repair any unsafe wiring, and cap off a gray water drain. Abatement of the property took place between October 25, and November 4, 2007, where the junk and rubbish was removed, the two west apartments and a shed was boarded up, open electrical wiring was made safe, and a gray water drain at the back of the front apartment was capped off.

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Review of Staff Report: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager

City Attorney

City Engineer

Department Head

**ALTERNATIVES:** The City Council may take the following actions: (a) Approve the total abatement cost of \$2,941.00 for the abatement of 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue and adopt Resolution No. 08-02 directing the recordation of a Special Assessment against the property for the cost of abatement; or (b) Make an adjustment in the cost of abatement and adopt Resolution No. 08-02 directing the recordation of a Special Assessment against 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue for the adjusted cost of abatement; or (c) Take no action on 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Expenditure of \$1,824.00 for the abatement of 6648, 6650, and 6652 Smoketree Avenue. The total abatement cost of \$2,941.00, which includes Staff time, a recording fee, and a warrant fee, or the adjusted costs of abatement, will be recovered when the annual taxes on the property are paid.



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Community Services Director via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Selection of a Committee to Develop a Priority List of Community Development Block Grant Fund Proposals (CDBG)

**RECOMMENDATION:** The City Council select a task force to prioritize the submission of eligible Community Development Block Grant Projects (CDBG) for allocation of funds for 2008-2009.

## Attachments

Eligible Proposals  
Applicant Letter  
Project Proposal Book

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE:

Request Staff Report (Randy Council Presenting)  
Request Public Comment  
Council Questions of Staff  
Council Discussion  
Motion/Second  
Discussion of Motion  
Call the Question (roll call vote)

## BACKGROUND:

Annually, the County of San Bernardino requests applications for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds within the City of Twentynine Palms. Various community or governmental organizations throughout the City submit applications for CDBG funds. The deadline for submittal of applications for 2008-2009 was December 14, 2007.

All projects are sent to the Economic Community Development and Housing Department (ECDH) and are reviewed for validity, and meeting the application guidelines. Once reviewed, all projects that are deemed acceptable by ECDH are sent back to the City for funding prioritization. The City will be receiving \$141,022 this year in which to allocate toward projects in Twentynine Palms, of which only \$21,153 can be allocated toward public service programs. The ultimate funding decision for use of the CDBG funds given to the City, rest with the full City Council.

A workshop will be held prior to the February 12, 2008, City Council meeting, to allow the entire Council to hear all the project proposals. Each entity will be given three minutes per

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Review of Staff Report:

\_\_\_\_\_ City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_ City Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_ Department Head

project to present their proposals. Staff is recommending the Council appoint a task force of two Councilmembers to meet with staff to prioritize the list and make a recommendation for funding to the City Council for the February 26, 2008 meeting.

Once the City Council prioritizes the CDBG projects for funding, the projects are sent to the County Board of Supervisors for their approval and allocation of funds in March. The City has received twenty-five proposals, eleven are construction, and fourteen which are public services. The requests total \$4,306,638, of which \$3,971,629 are for construction, and \$335,009 are for public service.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The first option is to appoint a task force to recommend allocation toward projects, the second option is to not appoint a task force for recommending projects, with the funds being allocated by the County. The first option allows the City to award the funds and complete the projects that they select.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

If the City chooses to utilize the CDBG funds for funding projects within the City, it allows the City to complete projects without using the City's General Funds, or at best using less.

Therefore, Staff's recommendation is to appoint two Councilmembers to work with staff to recommend projects for allocation at its February 26, 2008 meeting.

January 31, 2008

Dear Community Development Block Grant Applicant:

The City of Twentynine Palms recently received the list of eligible Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects for 2008-2009. Your project along with twenty-five other projects has been deemed eligible by the Economic and Community Development Department (ECD), and therefore is eligible for CDBG funds from the City. The City of Twentynine Palms is anticipating approximately \$141,022 to be allocated in CDBG funds for 2008-2009, of which the City can allocate a maximum of \$21,153 toward public service projects. The City of Twentynine Palms has received eleven construction projects for \$3,971,629 and fourteen community services projects for \$335,009, for a total of twenty-five projects requesting \$4,306,638 in CDBG funding.

The City of Twentynine Palms is holding a workshop for all applicants to present their projects before the City Council, Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, at 6136 Adobe Road. **ONLY THOSE APPLICANTS REQUESTING** to make a presentation to the City Council will get (3) three minutes to present their request for funding. If your organization wishes to make a presentation, please contact the City of Twentynine Palms Community Services Department at 367-7562. If your organization is unable to attend the workshop, the City will still review your application along with all the eligible applicants before the City Council makes allocation of funds. The City has scheduled the approval and allocation of CDBG funds for the City Council meeting scheduled for February 26, 2008, at its regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the Community Services Department at 760-367-7562.

Respectfully,

Randolph Councill  
Community Services Director

*“We Create Community Through People, Parks, and Programs”*



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Community Development Director via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Update on Open Space working group.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In November of 2006, the Town Manager of Yucca Valley called a meeting and invited the Superintendent of the National Park to attend, along with Mojave Desert Land Trust, and other key community representatives. The Town Manager was interested in exploring creating a one mile buffer around the Town. MCAGCC had similar concerns about encroachment.

After determining that a common interest existing in discussing open space preservation, wildlife corridors and other environmental issues at the regional level, the Open Space Group was formed to collectively identify common interests in open space, conservation, preservation and stewardship, and opportunities to collaborate as partners acting in support of basin-wide open space goals of agencies, organizations and individuals.

The Open Space group is comprised of communities (Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, the unincorporated community of Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County, Twentynine Palms, and Wonder Valley) and federal land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Marine Corps and National Park Service), conservation organizations (Wildlands Conservancy, Mojave Desert Land Trust, Tortoise Rescue) and the Building Industry.

Meetings have focused on: 1) the creation of buffer areas, both between the National Park and Marine base and the adjacent communities, as well as between the communities to allow them to preserve their unique character and identity; and 2) the protection of wildlife corridors.

The group recently conducted a workshop with the Sonoran Institute with the intent of formulating an action plan to address these issues at the regional level. An anonymous donor has provided funding to staff a regional planner through the Sonoran Institute for a period of three years, to assist in regional open space planning. The group intends to conduct public outreach later this year. The action plan will likely include the creation of community buffers, preservation of wildlife corridors and planning for a regional trail network for walkers, hikers, cyclists and equestrians, which link all of the communities in the basin. The group will continue to meet four to six times per year.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.

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Review of Staff Report: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager      City Attorney      City Engineer      Department Head



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Community Development Director via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Update on Region-Wide Lighting Ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file.

## BACKGROUND:

In fall of 2007, the City Council directed staff to work with the County and Town of Yucca Valley to determine if there is interest in creating a uniform region wide Night Sky Preservation and Light Ordinance.

Staff conducted research and found a model Lighting Ordinances prepared by the International Dark Sky Association. The model ordinances have been adapted for local conditions and implemented in a number of communities including Tucson and Flagstaff.

Staff has reviewed these ordinances and provided copies to the Town and County. A tentative schedule has been set for collaboration with the Town and County on this project:

- February – Meet to review, and discuss draft ordinances
- March – Draft a region-wide lighting ordinance
- April – Finalize draft ordinance
- May - Planning Commission study session and public hearing
- June – City Council public hearing to introduce ordinance
- July – City Council conducts second reading of ordinance

## FISCAL IMPACT:

None. However, the City Council may want to consider establishing a funding mechanism during the next budget cycle to facilitate retrofitting of existing privately owned light fixtures to meet the future code requirements.

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Review of Staff Report:

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City Manager

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City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_   
City Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_   
Department Head



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Community Development Director via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Update on Low Flow Toilets.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive, file and provide direction to staff.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City Council recently requested that staff conduct preliminary research on the conversion of toilets to low flow toilets. In 1991, state law was changed to mandate the use of low flow (1.6 liter) toilets. Residences constructed since that time have low flow toilets. The prevalence of these toilets is dependent upon the age of the housing stock. Additionally, some property owners may have already installed low flow toilets on their own. The City has approximately 4,460 dwelling units constructed prior to 1991. Theoretically, there may be 4,460 units with one or more non-low flow toilets.

The Twentynine Palms Water District and the City do not have presently have incentive programs related to purchase and installation of low flow toilets. If the City Council seeks to implement a low-flow toilet retro-fit program, there are a few options:

- 1) Voluntary program where City and development community subsidize first 100 toilets to determine market demand; or
- 2) Mandatory program implemented by ordinance, where upon transfer of a residence, where title companies inform buyers and sellers, and the seller would be legally required to convert all toilets to low flow toilets; or
- 3) Hybrid of the voluntary and mandatory program elements.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The approximate cost of replacing and installing 100 toilets is approximately \$20,000 (\$200 per toilet). The City could seek volunteer partnerships with hardware stores and builders currently operating in the City to assist in writing down the overall cost of the program. The cost to replace one toilet at each of the 4,460 residences constructed prior to 1991 is \$892,000. Assuming an average of 1.5 toilets per household, the overall cost to retro fit all toilets in units constructed prior to 1991 is estimated at \$1,338,000.

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Review of Staff Report:

\_\_\_\_\_   
City Manager

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City Attorney

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City Engineer

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Department Head



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Community Development Director via City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Update on Builders Roundtable.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive and file.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Builders Roundtable was established in 2007 to provide a mechanism for regular and direct communication between the City of Twentynine Palms and the building industry. The City Council included the Builders Roundtable in the Management Action Plan. On January 24, 2008, the City of Twentynine Palms hosted a meeting of the Builders Roundtable.

The objectives of the meeting, included providing a clear and equitable development review and building permit process; a review of what's working and what requires improvement; strategies for improving city processes and procedures; and suggestions for streamlining project review.

The meeting was hosted by the City Manager and Community Development Director and was well attended, with nine members of the building industry present. Two of the attendees had interacted with the Development Review Committee. They felt the process was useful and allowed them to learn about critical issues at the earliest possible opportunity.

The builders share the belief that, on single family residences, they should be able to begin site work, including clearing, grading, trenching, ground plumbing and setting of forms for the foundation, prior to building permit issuance. One suggestion was to provide "courtesy inspections" prior to issuance of permits. Attendees stated they could bring units to market in less time with this change. Another suggestion was to bring the Building and Safety Division in house. Another suggestion was to change the starting hours in the summer, from 7 am to 6 am.

One concern was the timing and completeness of the Engineering plan check and review process. While Engineering Services has committed to a three week turn around for the first plan check, some applicants experienced greater times. Despite this concern, the attendees were supportive of the City Engineer. Staff will work with the Engineering Division to rectify this situation.

The group is meeting quarterly.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

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Review of Staff Report:

\_\_\_\_\_   
City Manager

\_\_\_\_\_   
City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_   
City Engineer

\_\_\_\_\_   
Department Head



# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** City Manager  
**DATE:** February 12, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Review of Public Safety Programs

**RECOMMENDATION:** The recommendation is that the City Council receive the staff report and provide direction as appropriate.

**ORDER OF PROCEDURE:**

Request Staff Report (Donnie Miller Presenting)  
Council Questions of Staff  
Public Comment  
Council Discussion & Direction

**BACKGROUND:** A goal of the City Council this year is to improve public safety. To this end the Council has as a strategy to review several programs:

- Choices
- Crime Free Multi-Housing
- Neighbourhood Watch

In addition to the abovementioned programs, the City Council also has as a strategy the consideration of a Community Service Officer who would oversee said programs. Police Chief Donnie Miller is in the process of beginning the evaluation and is requesting that two City Council members serve on a temporary task force.

**ALTERNATIVES:** N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

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Review of Staff Report: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager      City Attorney      City Engineer      Department Head