

Livermore Moving Forward With City Council Priorities

The City of Livermore has made progress on all six of the city council's priorities.

City Manager Linda Barton reported that there has been excellent success in the top goal, to become more business friendly and generate jobs. The main success has been establishing i-GATE. On May 1 the incubator will open with three confirmed tenants and four in negotiations.

The annexation of the national laboratories was approved by the council, including the 110 acre Livermore Valley Open Campus. The annexation will go to LAFCO in May. The land is eligible for development for a variety of corporations who may want to move near the Lab.

Other accomplishments reported by Barton are approval of the regional theater and Paragon outlets. Groundbreaking on Paragon is anticipated in June of this year.

The second goal was to complete and improve local and regional transportation. Under this topic, an extension route for BART was selected, with Measure B extension the most likely source of funding. The extension of Jack London Boulevard to El Charro is expected to begin in June.

The third goal was infrastructure rehabilitation. Barton said that federal stimulus funds have helped to address long term needs.

Open space preservation is the fourth priority. "The most significant accomplishment is the purchase of 513 acres in Doolan Canyon," said Barton. The city contributed \$2 million towards the \$6.4 million purchase price paid by the East Bay Regional Park District. The \$2 million comes from the Altamont settlement fund.

A fifth goal is to establish a sustainability budget. Barton reported that the current budget is stable. "We have made significant progress towards sustainability." There is some decline in property taxes, a small increase in sales tax revenues, and an increase in development activity. The city will be negotiating with all of the unions in 2011-12. The outcome of those negotiations, Barton said, will be a piece of the sustainability package.

The final goal was state reform. The approval of Prop. 22, which prevents the state from taking local money, was the main accomplishment.

"I think we have gotten a lot done. By the end of the two year cycle, we will have a positive report on the six goals," Barton declared.