

City of Sebastopol
Information

July 14, 2011

To: Interested Persons
From: Kenyon Webster, Planning Director
Subject: Suspension of Community Development Agency Projects

Due to action by the State of California, work on three major Sebastopol Community Development Agency (redevelopment agency) projects is being suspended. This includes the Skatergarten Expansion project; the Downtown Core Streetscape project; and the Ives Park Renovation Master Plan project.

A planned August 11 workshop on the Streetscape Plan has been canceled; and the Planning Commission will not discuss the Ives Park Renovation Master Plan at its August 9 meeting as previously planned.

Funding of other CDA ongoing programs such as the Façade Grant program and the Technology Grant program have also been suspended.

This is occurring due to recent actions by the State of California. The State intends to appropriate local monies to help its budget situation. The State recently adopted major new legislation affecting local redevelopment agencies, which may affect ongoing expenditures and funding in general for these projects, not to mention determine whether agencies continue to exist or not.

Redevelopment agencies throughout the State, including Sebastopol's, are in the process of evaluating the legal and financial implications of the State legislation. Agencies have until October 1 to allow dissolution or to continue existence under significantly altered financial and legal conditions. The legality of the State legislation will be challenged, but the timing and outcome of litigation is unknown.

We expect to know if the projects and programs are able to continue, or if the projects need to be terminated, within 90 days or less.