



# City of Corning

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## THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

**TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**FROM: CITY MANAGER JOHN L. BREWER, AICP**  
**DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

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### FURLOUGH DAYS:

<b>November:</b>	<b>December:</b>
Friday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>
Friday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, December 28 <sup>th</sup>
	Friday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>

### HOLIDAYS:

**November 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday) – Veterans Day**  
**November 22 & 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday & Friday) - Thanksgiving Day and post-Thanksgiving Day**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> (Monday & Tuesday) –Christmas Eve & Christmas Day**  
**January 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) – New Year's Day**

### City Manager's Notes:

#### **Proposed Increase to Refuse Disposal Rates:**

We received a letter from Mr. Matt Fryer of Waste Management/Corning Disposal, seeking a 1.96% increase in the refuse collection rates. That includes the annual Consumer Price Index increase for the 12 month period ending on September 30<sup>th</sup> (1.47%) and the fuel index increase (0.49%) for the same period. The proposed increases would mean an additional 41 cents a month for typical residential customers and 21 cents a month for seniors. We'll get the required notices out and the matter scheduled for Council consideration-probably after the first of the year.

#### **Public Works Director Position:**

Patrick Walker has provided a letter accepting the position of Public Works Director beginning on January 6, 2013. At that point I will no longer serve as both City Manager and P/W Director. We included that segregation of jobs and the additional costs in our 2012-2013 Budget.

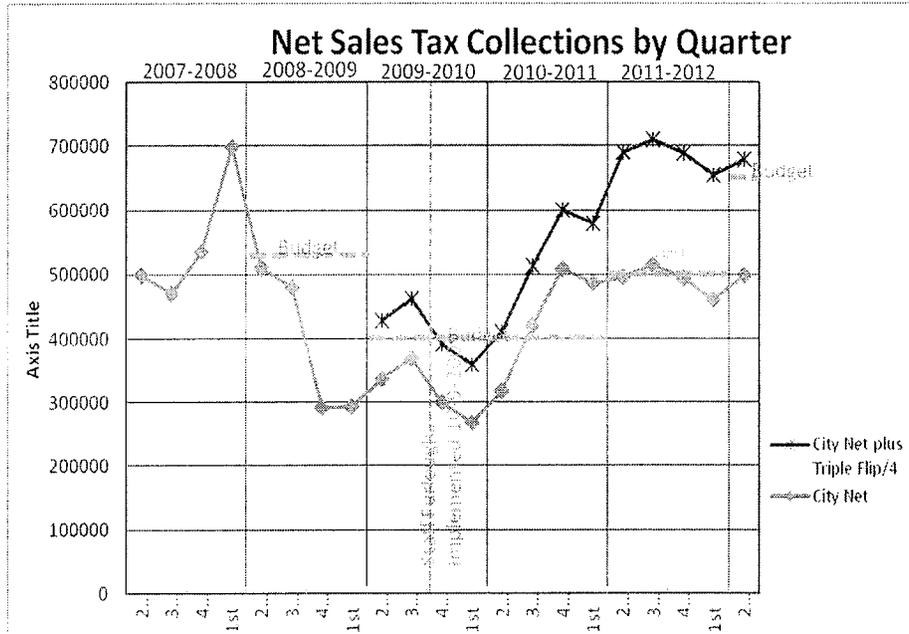
Now, we need to get his current Assistant P/W Director position filled. We've contacted the three previous qualified candidates. At least one of those candidates is still interested in the position. We've also opened the position up to current employees.

Our plan is to conduct interviews and complete any testing in mid November and make a selection by the end of November so that we can have the position filled by mid December. That will provide some time for "on-the-job training" with Patrick prior to the change on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Sales Tax Revenues:**

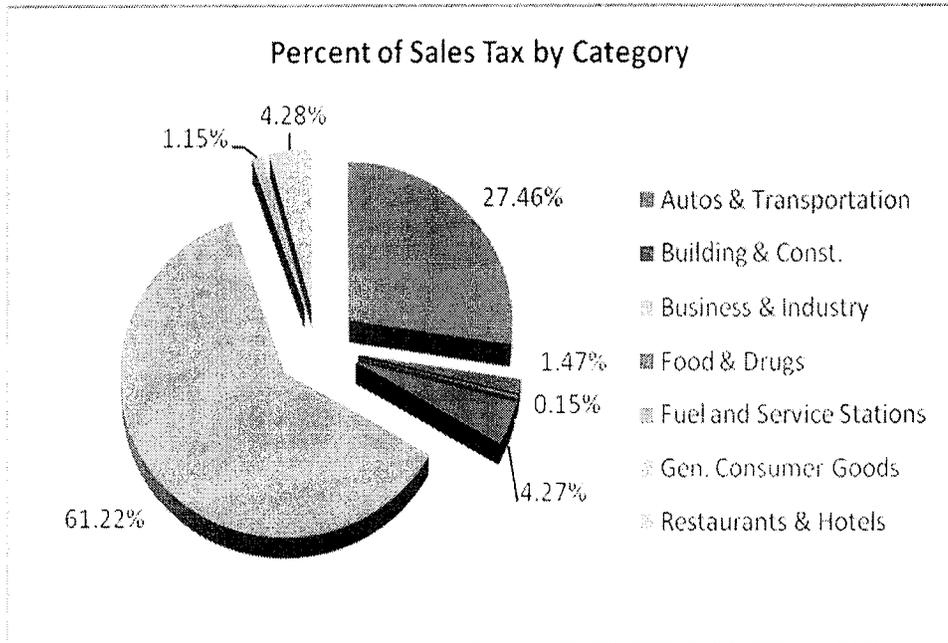
I'm scheduled to meet with a representative from HdL next Tuesday to discuss the details of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Sales Tax revenue data. See the chart below.

Sales Tax was up over the previous quarter, (though down slightly relative to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter last year). The uptrend reverses the downward trend of the previous two quarters. Overall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter data indicates improving conditions that, if continued, will meet our \$2.6 million sales tax (and triple flip) revenue projection. However, that could be in jeopardy- see "Fuel Sales & Dispenser Projects"-below.



**Fuel Sales & Dispenser Projects:**

We keep a close eye on sales tax revenues. Here in Corning, the category of "Fuel and Service Stations" currently accounts for about 61% of our total sales tax revenue. The sales tax from the three "travel centers" (truckstops), at the South Avenue interchange makes up the lion's share of that category. So, any disruption to fuel sales at those retailers can substantially affect us.



Both Petro and TA Travel Plazas are completing fuel line and dispenser replacement projects at this time. Some of the work is related to an additive (DEF; Diesel Exhaust Fluid-) that the State of California is now requiring for diesel engines, and some is just to replace fuel dispensers and pipes. The two Truck Stops are under a single ownership. Many of the fuel aisles at both TA and Petro are temporarily closed during the construction.

I spoke with Larry Olsen of the Tehama County Environmental Health Dept. Larry administers the undergrounding fuel storage and dispensing programs for the County and the permits for their modifications. He said a single contractor is completing the work at TA and Petro and didn't have a good idea about the duration of the jobs. His best guess was that TA would be two or three more weeks before completion. Petro, which was started later, will be longer. He also said that another contractor was seeking permits to do similar improvements at Love's.

We didn't anticipate these temporary fuel aisle closures. We're happy that at least some of the fuel aisles are being kept open through the construction period. But the limited number of available fuel aisles can slow or redirect refueling truckers to another location, thereby reducing our revenues. Of course, some of that loss may be mitigated by the higher fuel costs that we're all experiencing; it's difficult to know at this point. Sales tax revenues collected in October won't be summed and reported until January. But, we should anticipate a reduction in our sales tax revenue for the current quarter as a result.

#### **Animal Shelter Operations:**

In June of this year, I met with Police Chief Don Atkins, Police Administrative Services Manager Tom Watson, retired Police Chief Tony Cardenas and Debbie Eaglebarger of Second Chance Pet Rescue to discuss funding and continued operations of the Corning Animal Shelter on Rawson Road. Ms. Eaglebarger occupies the property and performs care for the grounds and animals via a Caretaker Agreement with the City. After that meeting I asked former Police Chief Tony Cardenas to prepare a summary detailing the City's relationship with SCPR, the current animal control related fees collected by the City, and the fees other Cities were charging for animal control services. The purpose was to compile data that would ultimately be useful to staff and the City Council to support the continuance or modification of the current operational agreement and fee structure.

The report is now in. Staff will discuss the findings and then present the information for Council consideration and action at a subsequent City Council meeting.

#### **Recovery of Mis-Allocated Sales Tax Revenues:**

We've still not received the mis-allocated sales tax revenue that we've been seeking since 2010. The Board of Equalization has written a letter to the City and County that stands to lose the funds. The letter provides that jurisdiction a 30-day window to appeal the decision to redirect the funds. We should expect the decision will be appealed and thus delay the delivery of the \$210,000 to the City of Corning. Remember, that \$210,000 was included in our 2012-2013 Budget.

#### **Veteran's Day Parade:**

The Veteran's Day Parade will be held on Solano Street Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and will run from Third Street to Houghton Avenue.

#### **Hometown Christmas:**

We received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce advising that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual "Hometown Christmas" will occur on Saturday December 1, 2012. Scheduled events include free train rides, kid's activities, craft / food booths and entertainment as well as the Parade of Lights.

I have forwarded notice of the event to the Police and Fire Departments and to Assistant P/W Director Patrick Walker so they may take the necessary preparatory actions.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

##### **El Verano Avenue Water Main:**

There was a water main burst in El Verano Avenue overnight Monday/Tuesday. The burst was a priority fix for our crew. The pipe was repaired on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Marguerite Avenue Utility Trenches:**

We'd scheduled to continue the repaving of the Marguerite Avenue utility trenches on Tuesday, but the pipe burst at El Verano Avenue forced us to re-direct the crew. With the rain and lower temperatures at the later part of the week, we've scheduled to resume the work on Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Palm Tree Trimming:**

George Salinas Tree Trimmers have completed the Palm Tree trimming for the City. They pruned 518 palm trees on City property in just three days.

**NPDES Permit Studies:**

In July of 2010, as part of our NPDES (Waste Discharge) permit renewal, the Regional Water Quality Control Board required the City to provide two comprehensive studies on the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluent and source water contributing to the effluent. The two required studies included "dichlorobromomethane", a chlorine by-product, and "salinity". The requirements for the studies included submittal of a "Work Plan and Time Schedule", followed by one year of sampling and data compilation, and then submittal of a summary report.

Our initial thought was to contact an engineering firm to perform the studies, since the State would require the findings to be stamped by an Engineer. The proposals received were in excess of \$30,000 per study. At that time Kathy Stone suggested Southwest Water Co. (SWWC) Staff could do the majority of the work studies and save the City a substantial amount of money. So, with the cooperation of WWTP Staff, Manager Kathy Stone and City Engineer Ed Anderson, the studies have been completed, submitted and now have been accepted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Because SWWC completed this work "in-house", the City saved over \$60,000. This is another example of the terrific services that Kathy, Mitch and the rest of the Southwest Water Co. folks provide to the City of Corning. Thanks also to City Engineer Ed Anderson who reviewed and endorsed the two studies.

**CORNING POLICE DEPARTMENT:****Patrol:**

In addition to responding to 214 calls for service, a total of 39 officer reports were taken and there were 59 officer-initiated incidents. Officers made 12 misdemeanor and 3 felony arrests, 22 traffic stops and issued 11 citations of which 10 were misdemeanors and 1 animal-related during the period of October 24 - October 31, 2012.

**Personnel:**

The Department will be conducting oral interviews for the open Dispatcher/Clerk position on Friday, November 9, 2012.