



CITY OF ANGELS

City Council Monthly Update

December
2025
Issue

Mayor Michael Chimente
Vice Mayor Caroline Schirato
Councilmember Scott Behiel, Councilmember Alvin Broglio, Councilmember Kara Scott

Significant Ongoing Projects

Current CIP Project:

Vallecito Sewer Line Upgrade – Phase 1
Estimated Completion: Q2 2026
Project Manager: Dave Richards - Dewberry

Next CIP Project:

East Angels Sewer Line Upgrade
Estimated Completion: 2027
Project Manager: Dave Richards - Dewberry

Major Projects:

Eureka Oaks (Habitat) – In Construction
Estimated Completion ~2027
Project Manager: Dave Richard (Unico) - Dewberry

Twelve (12) Month Noteworthy Activity:

December – Police Chief Scott Ellis Retired
December – PLHA Grant Awarded to Habitat
December – Power Washed Downtown Sidewalks
December – Vallecito Sewer Project Began

November – SR49 Restored to Regular Traffic Flow
November – Brent Huse PW Foreman
November – Frog Bucks Campaign

October – Purdy Rd Water/Sewer Project Complete
October – CSG As Needed Services Agreement
October – Exploration for Secondary Water Sources Began

September – Five Year Pavement Management Plan
September – Mark Twain Water Project Complete
September – Interim City Administrator Steve Williams
September – New Police Sergeant – Steve Poortinga
September – Lightening Complex Fire Strike Teams

August – Speed Feedback Signs at Copello and Utica Park
August – Foundary Lane Decertified by CalTrans
August – Purdy Rd Sewer Project Began

July – New Police Officer – Justin Hart (Academy)
July – Utility Billing and Payroll Migration to Accufund

June – New Police Officer – Andrew Nuss (Academy)
June – New Water Rates Effective
June – FY25/26 Budget Adopted

May – Utica Park Grand Opening
May – Firewise Application Approved
May – Gardner Way Chip Seal and Speed Tables

April - Announced Utica Park Soft & Grand Opening
April – Mark Twain Water Project Began

March – State of The City Address
March – Began Pressure Reducing Valve (PVR) Project

February – Three-Person Staffing in Fire Department
February – City Administrator Pam Caronongan

January – Cut/Exposed/Explored Birds Way
January – Fire Station 3rd Bedroom
January – New City Council Seated

Administration

Interim City Administrator Steve Williams

Current Vacancies/Recruitments:

- City Administrator
- Chief of Police
- Administrative Services Officer
- Police Officer
- Distribution Collections Officer in Training
- Relief Firefighter

New Hires/Promotions this month:

- Daniel Whitford Hired as Plant Operator III

Projects:

- City Administrator Recruitment
- Chief of Police Recruitment
- Vallecito Parking Lot
- LLD Board
- Old City Hall Property
- Vacant Building Ordinance
- Downtown Enhancements
- Highway 4 Corridor Water Managers

Finance Department

The Finance Department continued to maintain progress in December, focusing on sustained utility billing operations, staffing transitions, and ongoing efforts to strengthen customer service and system efficiency.

1. Utility Billing

The City transitioned to using a third-party printer and mailing service for utility billing this month. This change will help maintain consistency and reduce internal workload; however, customers may experience slightly longer delivery times due to the printer being located on the East Coast.

- Utility bills are being mailed by the third-party printer beginning this month.
- Customers can still log in online and view their bill as soon as it is generated, even before the paper copy is received.

The department will continue monitoring bill delivery timelines closely to ensure reliable service for residents.

2. Staff Highlights

Taylor's last day was December 18, 2025. We sincerely thank her for her time, professionalism, and the valuable support she provided during the utility billing transition and system conversion.

The department is currently recruiting to fill her position with another temporary employee to assist with customer service, billing support, and ongoing cleanup efforts related to the system transition.

3. Financial System / Administrative Updates

The Finance Department continues to expand the use of AccuFund to improve efficiency and accuracy across City operations.

In January, the department is rolling out electronic timesheets for the Fire Department and Water/Wastewater employees. To date, approximately 25% of City employees have successfully transitioned to electronic timesheets. With the addition of these departments, 50% of employees will be using the electronic timesheet system.

This phased approach allows staff to provide targeted support, address issues promptly, and ensure a smooth transition before expanding system use citywide.

Code Enforcement and Building

Building – Completed this month

- **Number of Permits Issued** **13**
 - Burn Permit 4
 - Re-Roofs 3
 - Plumbing 2
 - Footings Commercial 1
 - HVAC 1
 - Generator 1
 - Solar 1

- **Number of Inspections**
41

Code Enforcement – Completed this month

- Active cases on first day of the month** **7**
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|--------|
| | Open | | Closed |
| Violation Type | | | |
| Public Nuisance | 1 | | 3 |
| Housing | 0 | | 2 |
| Building/Construction | 0 | | 1 |
- New Cases this month 0
- Cases Closed this month 1
- Active cases on last day of the month** **6**

Water / Wastewater / Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Chris Oflinn

Public Works – Completed this month

- Removed flags throughout the city.
- Installed radar feedback signs on Murphy's Grade Rd. and Vallecito Rd.
- Set up and took down road closure and detour signs for the Christmas parade.
- Power washed downtown sidewalks for the Christmas parade.
- Set up Christmas decorations downtown.
- Tree trimming and brush removal at Vallecito Rd. parking lot.
- Repaired potholes on Booster Way.
- Installed bench plaques at Utica Park.
- Cleaned drainage ditch line on Rasberry Ln.
- Kept drain inlets clear during the Christmas storms.
- Cleaned up and cleared a fallen tree on Angels Oaks Dr.

Water – Completed this month

- Completed annual filter inspections.
- Completed annual filter media evaluations.
- Completed annual meter calibrations.
- Completed biannual tank inspection.
- Repaired 2 water service leaks.
- Repaired damaged water sample station on West St.
- Hot taped a water main and installed an air relief valve for the Habitat for Humanity project.
- Attended the pre bid meeting for the AMR project.

Wastewater – Completed this month

- Replaced waste activated sludge pump on SBR # 2.
- Ordered rebuild kit for old waste activated sludge pump.
- Cleaned out effluent wet well.
- Completed annual flow meter calibrations at the wastewater plant and spray fields.
- Completed annual filter inspections.
- Tree clean up and fence repair in the spray fields
- SCADA computer repairs/replacement.
- Replaced pump #2 at Altaville Lift Station.
- Sewer line repair on Moose Trail.
- Sewer plug at 1071 South Main St.
- Preconstruction meeting for the Vallecito Rd. sewer project

Planning Department

Amy Augustine – Contract City Planner

- **Ongoing Projects**

Utica Park – The search for a vendor will be accelerated in January to install the two drinking fountain/hydration stations. Staff will submit a request to allow testing polyurethane on at least one of the benches as a preservative in the spring/as soon as the benches dry out. Boyer prepared a cost estimate for repairs which was forwarded for the city to submit to its insurance carrier. It is anticipated that an agenda item to discuss cameras and/or a security system at the park will come before Council in the near future.

Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program The City Council officially awarded Eureka Oaks/Habitat for Humanity the PLHA allocation in December. Staff will be amending the PLHA Plan to include a single activity in order to allow the release of funds.

Foundry Lane – Staff anticipates finalizing work with landowners to pursue acquisition of the final piece of Foundry Lane in January/February. In 2026, Staff anticipates preparing a Specific Plan for the area

Traffic Impact Mitigation Fees Update. The City Council approved hiring Willdan on August 19, 2025, to update the fee. The city attorney's signature on the contract is pending. Staff have coordinated with Willdan for a kick-off meeting in January. COG is pursuing an updated traffic demand model to be completed in 2026. Staff coordinated with Willdan to delay beginning work on the TIMF until January to allow for coordination with COG's traffic demand model. The City Administrator has indicated this approach may change and the City may pursue having COG undertake this task. The item will go before the City Council in January 2026.

GIS – An updated hard copy/electronic zoning map has been produced. Staff expect a final map for uploading by 12/31/25

- **Pending Current Planning Projects:**

Cabinets and More Expansion An administrative site plan review was drafted and is awaiting a signature from the landowner for formal issuance

Second story living space conversion 1225 South Main - An administrative site plan review was issued in December to convert upstairs storage space above Avelino's to living space.

Shopping Center – Staff met with the landowners to assist with completing an application for a Caltrans encroachment permit for the "Swendemens" Shopping Center

Building Code Update – Staff prepared an ordinance to update the Building Codes from 2022 to 2025. A second reading for approval will be heard by the Council 1/6/26

T-Stan IRWMA – Staff will be assisting in providing City data for the update of the plan in January

Climate Action Plan (CAP) – Staff has a meeting scheduled with CSG to kick off the contract to prepare the environmental document for the plan in January 2026.

Raspberry Lane/Wilson/Slate Circle Parking – Staff completed preparing legal descriptions and surveys. The landowner completed an appraisal. City acceptance of land offered by Mr. Wilson is pending on the January 6, 2026, city council agenda..

Habitat for Humanity – Staff anticipates brought the reimbursement agreement for the off-site waterline to Council December 16, 2025, along with additional authorizations. In January, Staff will begin drafting an amendment to sewer capital improvement fees for workforce housing in January. Staff have been coordinating with Habitat for Humanity to bring a final subdivision map to the City Council (as necessary to begin housing construction). That item is anticipated on 1/16/25.

Takahashi Property. Staff assisted in preparing the legal description and lot line adjustment required for this transaction.

Planning Commission. Staff have released a notice of vacancy for Daniel Whitford's position on the commission. Applications are due 1/13/26. Staff anticipate placing the item on the 1/16 or 2/3/26 City Council agenda to appoint a new planning commissioner. Staff have provided some downtown merchants with applications.

City Hall. Staff are coordinating with the California Department of Housing and Community Development to have that agency certify as proper, the process followed in 2021 declaring the former City Hall as surplus property.

EV Charging station. Staff attended the CSEDC EV Charging webinar. That agency will be sending a representative of the company evaluating sites for installation to Angels Camp in the coming weeks.

National Register of Historic Places – Downtown district representatives have asked the City Council to consider pursuing designation of the downtown historic district as a National Register district. This is consistent with the general plan. Staff will coordinate with the City Administrator to bring this to the Council for consideration in early 2026, along with consideration for pursuing a Main Street USA designation. These designations can assist in securing funding for economic development.

- **Grants:**

Community Development Block Grant Staff attended pre-application meetings in December and will attend the final meeting in January. It was determined that additional staff is no longer required to assist Planning in preparing the application because the state has eliminated the "first come first serve" deadlines imposed during the last grant cycle. The City Council has approved staff and APA to prepare a second Microenterprise Community Development Grant due in April 2026. Staff anticipate meeting with downtown merchants in January 2026 to discuss the grant. Staff sat in on a meeting with the City Administrator and some downtown merchants to discuss ideas for economic development.

Active Transportation Grants – Round 8 input will begin soon. Deadlines for applications are anticipated in June 2026. 90% of these grants go to disadvantaged communities. The City may wish to monitor this funding source for funding for the Angels Creek Trail.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) Update – the joint City/County/Murphys Sanitary District MJHMP expires in 2026. Funding is available through the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES). A notice of interest is required with a deadline of 12/19. Staff prepared and submitted a notice of interest. The state has contacted the City to inform them that the County already has submitted a notice of interest to pursue those funds.

Engineering Department

Engineering – Completed this month and Looking Ahead

Transportation General Engineering Services (TO 1)

- Correspondence with UNICO and Dewberry regarding Final Invoices for Murphys Grade Road and Sign Replacement Project
- 12/18 Management meeting

Water General Engineering Services (TO 2)

- Review correspondence from FEMA
- Discussion/initiation of backwash estimate update needed for Funding

Wastewater General Engineering Services (TO 3)

- Sewer System GIS map update for Regional Water Quality Control Board

Foundry Lane Assistance (TO 4)

- Aerial Mapping
- Prepare topographic deliverables

Building and Planning Engineering Services (TO 5)

- H4H – Q&A regarding maintenance of common driveway
- H4H – RFI regarding slurry application to Copello Drive
- H4H – Correspondence regarding change in geotechnical engineer
- H4H – Submittal Review Street Signs
- Permit 250045- Correspondence regarding disposal of contaminated stormwater.
- Residential Fire Sprinklers – Correspondence regarding

Environmental Support (TO 6)

- No work this period

25/26 Citywide Pavement Repair Project (TO 7)

- Front end contract documents

Pavement Management (TO 8)

- No work this period.

Groundwater Exploration Services For A Secondary Water Source (TO9)

- Prepare map of investigation area w APN's
- Field Recon coordination

Responses this month		Notable Calls this month:
Total	78	Fire Alarm at Mark Twain School, No Fire Vehicle Accident Smith Flat. High Speed Vehicle Accident Parrots Ferry High Speed Vehicle Accident 49/Near Tuttle town
Emergency Medical	42	Additional Info this month: (1) Meeting with Firewise group. Programmed 34 donated mobile radios Attended Site Safety Mtg. Mark Twain School. Participated in grant discussions with Cal.Co. OES LHMP Initial meeting with grant writer about multiple grants Applied for OTS vehicle extrication equipment regional grant Christmas Parade with our Ladder Truck. Looking into Cost for advanced EMT program Requested costs from (2) vendors for Water Tender purchase.
Canceled Prior to Arrival	13	
Lift Assist	13	
Public Service	12	
Other Investigative	8	
Vehicle Accident	6	
Structure Fire	4	
Fire Alarm	3	
CPR	1	
False Call	1	
Helicopter Landing Zone	1	
Looking Ahead:		
Preparing for Mid Yr Budget review. Investigate complaints re: ALA med 24 Continue Research on Advanced EMT and Water Tender Put in place new report on conditions and update policy Confirm new State required reporting is going well w 3 rd party vendor		

Police Department

Chief Scott Ellis

No Report this month.

Chief Ellis retired December 27, 2025

Sergeant Steve Poortinga Appointed Interim Chief of Police