

City Administrator's Report



To: Mayor Alexander & City Council
CC: Staff
From: R. Scott Dixon, City Administrator
Date: December 12, 2025
Re: City Administrator's Report

Mayor and Council,

As always, there are many irons in the fire and lots happening in our wonderful Castroville! The items listed below are in no particular order and only cover some of the issues that have been inquired about or that council has requested to be kept up to date on. If you have any questions about any of these items or there are other things that you would like me to report on, please let me know.

Drainage Projects

All grading and access road improvements for the project have been completed. We are currently working on establishing vegetation within the channel, which is a prerequisite for the Fleximat installation. The access road has been constructed up to the floodplain point, providing access to the back property entrance; however, it does not extend all the way to the river. We have cleared an additional area that, while lacking a base, is drivable under dry conditions.

Geotechnical verification of compaction is scheduled before the end of the year, weather permitting, as rain is currently in the forecast. Fleximat has been ordered and is expected to arrive early **January 2026**, with installation planned for early in the new year. The final remaining item is the concrete inlet from Geneva to the drainage system, which will be completed last.

Assuming favorable weather conditions, the project is on track for completion by **March 2026**.

Hwy 90 TxDOT Construction Project

Staff met with the TxDOT consultant as planned in November. However, they have not yet completed the 30% plans. Respec is reviewing a 'conflicts report' which will outline potential areas where our utility services may need to be relocated based upon preliminary project scoping data.

BMA Trail Access

Unfortunately, the city's item related to the BMA canal was NOT included in the BMA board agenda or packet. However, Jonah Chang spoke during citizen comments at their December 9th meeting.

Streets Improvement Plan

Following council's approval of the pavement assessment program at the October 14th council meeting, staff has coordinated with Good Roads to share the prior data that was collected. The pavement assessment was completed this past weekend. The data will be analyzed and a report of the findings will be shared with council at the December 16th meeting.

CPSE Dispute

Since last month's report, our outside counsel (Clark Hill) has filed a motion for the City of Castroville to intervene in the PUC's 2026 "net payment matrix" proceeding in order to protect the City's interests in ERCOT wholesale transmission charges. As part of that case, Mr. Anson has asked that we and Senergy verify the City's Four Coincident Peak (4CP) load values against our meter and wholesale supplier data so that any corrections can be raised with ERCOT before formal objections are due. In the separate CPS Energy rate case, PUC Staff has now issued a supplemental recommendation asserting that CPS's application is deficient unless it provides additional test year data needed to review its wholesale transmission service at distribution voltage (WTS-DV) tariff, notwithstanding the Commission's recent order denying Staff's appeal and declining to pull WTS-DV into the current case. We will continue to monitor both proceedings closely and may need to participate more actively if Staff is ultimately successful in bringing the WTS-DV tariff into the CPS rate case. Unfortunately, there is no further progress to report on either the requested meetings with CPSE's CEO or the one by Clark Hill with their legal counsel. We will continue to remind CPSE of these requests.

WWTP Pond Closure

No Change. At the October 14th council meeting there was some discussion about Councilman King's role in providing professional services pro bono without a formal agreement of some kind. This matter will be discussed with legal counsel in an executive session at the November 19th meeting. Staff will also seek council's guidance on whether to re-engage Lochner on the WWTP pond closures.

Community Center at Regional Park

The USDA has released funds and the contractor has been paid for all bills through October. The contractor has re-mobilized and will continue with the construction. The new finish date is February 23rd of 2026 which is approximately one month later than originally projected.

Lion's Park Splash Pad

No Change - Staff is working with the splashpad contractor – Advanced Aquatics to conduct additional site assessments including camera capture of the water and sewer lines. A date for this work has not been set but is anticipated to take place within the next two weeks.

County Streets Plan

Staff met with County personnel this week to scope out the proposed project and finalize cost estimates. This information will be referenced in the proposed interlocal agreement that the county is working on.

Facilitated Council Workshop

Included on the council agenda is an item to establish a date for the strategic planning workshop. Staff recommends that a workshop be conducted following the filing deadline for the May election so that the prospective council members can be invited to participate in the workshop.

Airport Soft Start Pump

Staff has evaluated Councilman Lee's request to consider installing a soft-start system at the Airport well. As noted by our Water Superintendent, soft starts are generally beneficial—they reduce mechanical stress on pumps, protect check valves through gentler stopping cycles, and are considered a best practice for long-term asset management. However, all existing City wells have operated for many years without soft-start systems and have not exhibited performance or reliability issues attributable to their absence.

The contractor provided a preliminary estimate of approximately \$6,800–\$7,000 to install a soft start at the Airport well, not including potential electrical panel upgrades that would likely be required. Staff's assessment is that installing a soft start at this time would not provide a meaningful return on investment, particularly given the broader condition of the Airport well. The well requires substantial rehabilitation work—including potential replacement of key components—and the long-term plan anticipates discontinuing its use for potable water once system improvements and capacity additions are in place.

For these reasons, staff recommends maintaining the existing equipment and transitioning to soft-start systems as pumps and controls naturally reach end of life. This approach captures the operational benefits while avoiding premature investment in a facility scheduled for eventual decommissioning.

There is a lot going on in the City of Castroville! If I have left anything out of this report, it was not intentional. It is my pleasure to serve the people of Castroville!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Scott Dixon". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "R" and a cursive "Dixon".

R. Scott Dixon, MPA

City Administrator, Castroville, TX