



MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2024

1. On January 23, 2024, City Staff faced a significant challenge when the city's only pharmacy announced its closure. This posed a severe concern for the 3,000 Medi-Cal patients (2,300 IEHP Patients) who relied on Rite-Aid for their pharmaceutical needs over the past two years. To provide context, Needles has a population of 5,200, with 33% of the residents over 55 and over half receiving government subsidies.

The City Council took decisive action on January 30, 2024, by formally adopting Resolution No. 2024-7, declaring a Local Emergency in response to the pharmacy closure. This resolution empowers the City Manager to proactively seek essential goods, services, and mutual aid from neighboring local agencies, the County of San Bernardino, and the State of California. The strategic initiative is designed to ensure the swift acquisition of abundant resources to address the immediate emergency, facilitating the procurement of aid and services. This ensures that residents of Needles maintain uninterrupted access to critical medications and essential goods and services.

Through a collaborative effort and a cross-agency initiative, City Staffs successfully worked with the private sector to establish five pharmacies in Arizona that are now accepting Medi-Cal patients, with one that will deliver to Needles. This proactive approach has enabled us to address the needs of our residents swiftly and effectively. You can find further details in the attached press release Exhibit 1.

2. The City of Needles is committed to enhancing its aging street infrastructure through a 15-year Pavement Management Plan funded by the city's cannabis tax revenues. In the fourth year of implementation, the city allocated \$2.2 million for the ongoing fiscal year to fund critical waterline and street improvements, as Exhibit 2, Phase 4 A outlined.

To ensure the timely progress of critical projects, the city actively seeks grants and alternative funding for identified priority initiatives. For example, Congressman Jay Obernolte [CA-08] secured \$757,803 for road and water infrastructure improvements in Needles. Refer to attached Exhibit 3.

Among these, the River Road project has been a focal point, with City Staff diligently applying for grants and exploring alternative funding avenues to expedite its development. City Staff has meticulously estimated the required improvements for River Road, with a projected cost of \$2.4 million. Further details can be found in the attached project scope, Exhibit 4. The city remains dedicated to innovative, strategic investments in its infrastructure to enhance the community's overall well-being.

3. Colorado River Medical Center conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment every three years to ensure they are constantly improving the community's health. CRMC continues to work to understand the community's needs and health issues residents are facing so CRMC can bring in the right services and equipment to serve the Needles population better. CRMC has asked for community input to help in this process of identifying what those needs might be. Refer to the attached flier (Exhibit 5) and complete the [survey](#) by March 1, 2024.
4. City Staff orchestrated a successful auction, employing a sealed bidding process to procure miscellaneous equipment and vehicles, resulting in a noteworthy \$31,343 in funds raised for the City. Various vehicles, including a forklift, pallet jack, and other miscellaneous items, were effectively sold to members of the public during this auction. In adherence to a strategic and fiscally responsible approach, the City intends to conduct annual auctions to divest itself of items that have become obsolete or are no longer deemed helpful to municipal operations. This systematic process ensures ongoing financial prudence and resource optimization for the City.
5. The City Staff is delighted to extend a warm welcome to the latest addition to the City of Needles. On February 9, 2024, the proprietors of the Chevron Gas Station, situated at 2321 Needles Highway, inaugurated 07 Boba (see attached photo Exhibit 6). This exciting establishment presents a diverse menu featuring fruit tea, lattes, Boba Milk Tea, and Thai Tea. Beyond its delightful beverage selection, 07 Boba also offers an array of freshly baked cookies and doughnuts. Further details can be found in the attached flier Exhibit 6, providing comprehensive insights into the offerings and ambiance of this new establishment. The city enthusiastically encourages residents and visitors alike to explore and enjoy the offerings of 07 Boba.
6. City Staff has been responsive to community concerns regarding the inconvenience caused by semi-trucks double parking on Ice Plant Road, impeding sightlines for those exiting the Needles Towne Center. In collaboration with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, a strategic traffic sign has been installed to facilitate enforcement measures on the street. In a proactive move, on February 14, 2024, City Staff undertook to repaint the designated "No Parking Zone" in strict adherence to Ordinance 610-AC, as approved by the City Council in 2018. This measure aims

to improve traffic flow and ensure the safety of motorists navigating the area. For a comprehensive understanding of these initiatives, please refer to Exhibit 7. The City remains committed to addressing community concerns and enhancing its residents' overall quality of life.

7. On February 14, 2024, City Staff was notified by the Chamber of Commerce that there had been a leadership change. Board president Mark Orr has resigned from his position after two years of dedication and hard work. Effective February 15, 2024, the Board of Directors appointed Karrie Brazaski as interim Board President. Karrie is the COO/Partner of AIRzona Comfort Solutions. If you want to learn more about becoming a member or volunteering, please get in touch with Wayne Colburn at the chamber office by calling 760-326-2050 or info@needleschamber.com. Refer to attached press release for additional information Exhibit 8.
8. City Officials and staff engaged in an insightful tour of a cultivation and retail facility, aiming to deepen their understanding of the intricacies within the flourishing cannabis industry in Needles. This sector has played a pivotal role in creating over 500 jobs, contributing significantly to the local economy. For a visual representation of the tour, please refer to the attached images Exhibit 9.

Presently, the City of Needles takes pride in hosting a robust \$40 million cannabis sector, featuring 34 operational businesses spread across 269,981 square feet. This dynamic landscape includes a Consumption Lounge, three Manufacturing Facilities, seven Cannabis Retail Businesses, five Distribution Facilities, and eighteen Cultivation Facilities.

The City maintains a steadfast commitment to fostering a thriving and well-regulated cannabis industry that not only contributes economically but also enhances the social fabric of the community.

9. The City of Needles proudly announces the successful installation of its first solar streetlight on Safari Drive, a milestone in sustainable technology. This cutting-edge lighting adheres to industry standards, contributing to the city's energy resilience and environmental goals. Additionally, a damaged streetlight on Lillyhill was swiftly replaced, ensuring ongoing safety and visibility through a thorough assessment and compliance with regulations. For any streetlight outage reports, the public can engage by reaching out to the City of Needles billing office at 760-326-2115 press #9 or leveraging the convenient Needles Connect app, available for download on both Android and Apple products. See attached images Exhibit 10.
10. Upon receiving community complaints about the state of the fence at Pioneer Cemetery, City Staff took immediate action. On February 9, 2024, a contract was secured with Cal Zone Fence Co. to address and permanently rectify the concerns raised. We are pleased to report that the fence at Pioneer Cemetery has been successfully repaired, ensuring its longevity and overall improvement. The City remains committed to promptly addressing community concerns and maintaining the quality of our public spaces. Refer attached Exhibit 11 for details.

11. The City of Needles Recreation Programs offers the public to rent various city-owned facilities for private events. Available facilities for rental include:
- Aquatics Center
 - El Garces
 - Recreation Center
 - Golf Course
 - City Parks
 - Softball and Baseball Fields

A rental fee is applicable for these facilities. For those interested in renting a City-owned facility, please get in touch with Jennifer Valenzuela at 760-326-2814 or jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com. Any issues or incidents at the mentioned locations should be reported to Jennifer Valenzuela for prompt resolution. Your cooperation ensures a smooth and enjoyable experience for all users of our facilities.

12. On February 9, 2024, City Staff acted promptly to address and restore the restroom facilities at the Needles Recreation Center. The collaboration among various Departments successfully repaired the damage caused by tree roots to the facility's lines. Subsequently, the bathroom and kitchen are fully restored to operational status. This swift response ensures the continued functionality and convenience for all visitors to the Needles Recreation Center. Refer to the attached images.
13. Thrilling advancements are in progress at Bob Belt's Beach Park (First and Second Beach) and Duke Watkins Park, both funded entirely by grants totaling \$6.1 million. These funds are dedicated to ushering in transformative park improvements for the City of Needles. Refer to the attached image for details, showcasing the innovative new walking path at Bob Belt's Beach Park and the enhanced curb and sidewalk infrastructure at Duke Watkins Pump Track. These developments reflect our commitment to creating vibrant and accessible spaces for the community.



PRESS RELEASE

City of Needles

817 Third Street, Needles, California 92363
(760) 326-2113 • FAX (760) 326-6765
www.cityofneedles.com

*Mayor Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Kirsten Merritt
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
City Manager Patrick Martinez*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2024

Contact: Rainie Torrance
Emergency Response Coordinator
760-326-5700 Ext. 140
rtorrance@cityofneedles.com

Rite Aid Pharmacy Closure Update #3

Needles Community – Needles Community – Rite Aid has officially transferred ALL prescriptions to CVS Fort Mohave, situated at 4744 S. Highway 95, AZ 86426. For any inquiries, please contact CVS Fort Mohave directly at (928) 763-6822. We understand the impact this may have on the community, and we appreciate your understanding during this transition period.

Where can I fill my prescriptions?

CVS

4744 S Highway 95
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426
(928) 763-6822

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Safeway

4823 S Highway 95
Fort Mohave, AZ 86426
(928) 704-4433

Medi-Cal Enrolled

CVS 24-hour

2350 Miracle Mile
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 758-2212

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Riverside Pharmacy

2410 Highway 95
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928) 219-4700

Medi-Cal Enrolled

DeeFlat Pharmacy

2580 Highway 95
Bullhead City, AZ 86442
(928)299-5070

Medi-Cal Enrolled

Not Enrolled in IEHP Dual or IEHP Covered

NEW

DeeFlat Pharmacy now offers FREE home delivery every Wednesday.

Be sure to call the pharmacy before going to pick up your prescriptions. The pharmacy will verify over the phone that they have your medication in stock, and your refills are available to be picked up. For residents with specific insurance requirements, Safeway, CVS, DeeFlat Pharmacy, and Riverside Pharmacy are confirmed to be enrolled with Medi-Cal. Be sure to verify their operating hours and explore any additional services they may provide.

As more pharmacies get approved, we will furnish you with additional information to further assist you. Thank you for your understanding during this transitional period, and we are committed to keeping you informed about available healthcare options in the community.

What resources are available for transportation from Needles to a pharmacy in Arizona?

Dial-a-Ride (DAR) Medical Transport:

Fare: \$6.00 (round-trip) from Needles Senior Center up to Safeway/CVS/Smiths, Fort Mohave, AZ or \$12.00 (round-trip) up to Laughlin Bridge in Bullhead City, AZ
Days: Tuesday/Thursday
Reservation and prepayment are required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.
There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.

DAR Shopper Shuttle:

Fare: \$9.00 (round-trip) from El Garces (leaves the parking lot at 8:15am) to Walmart, CVS, Smiths, and Safeway in Fort Mohave, AZ
Day: Wednesday
Reservation and prepayment is required no later than 11am the day prior to the scheduled trip and, as seats are limited, all trips are on a first come first served basis.
There are no discounted or free fares on this service, the fare applies to all passengers.
Call the Senior Center at (760) 326-4789 to schedule your reservation for the Medical Transport or Shopper Shuttle.

Additional information can be found on the City of Needles website www.cityofneedles.com.

What resources are available?

Please call Medi-Cal Rx at 1-800-977-2273 (TTY 1-800-977-2273) for questions about your Medi-Cal pharmacy benefit. A Medi-Cal Pharmacy can be located on the [Medi-Cal Rx website](#).

Medi-Cal Rx Bulletin – [Rite Aid Closure in Needles, CA](#)

- IEHP DualChoice (Medicare/Medi-Cal)
 - 1-877-273-IEHP (4347)
 - TTY: 1-800-718-IEHP (4347)

- IEHP Covered (Covered California)
 - 1-877-433-IEHP (4347)
 - TTY: 711

Mail order pharmacy services are also available for IEHP Dual Choice and IEHP Covered members. SortPak pharmacy is an IEHP network mail order pharmacy. Starting February 6, 2024, prescriptions can be transferred by contacting SortPak Pharmacy at (877) 570-7787 and ask them to contact the CVS Pharmacy in Fort Mohave at (928) 763-6822.

Department of Behavioral Health – www.sbcounty.gov/dbh/

- Access Unit (Behavioral Health Helpline) - (888) 743-1478 (24 hours/365 days)
- Screening Assessment and Referral Center (Substance Use Disorder Helpline) - (800) 968-2636 (24 hours/365 days)
- Crisis Contact Center - Community Crisis Response Teams - (800) 398-0018 or text (909) 420-0560 (24 hours/365 days)
- Needles Behavioral Health Clinic – (760) 326-9313

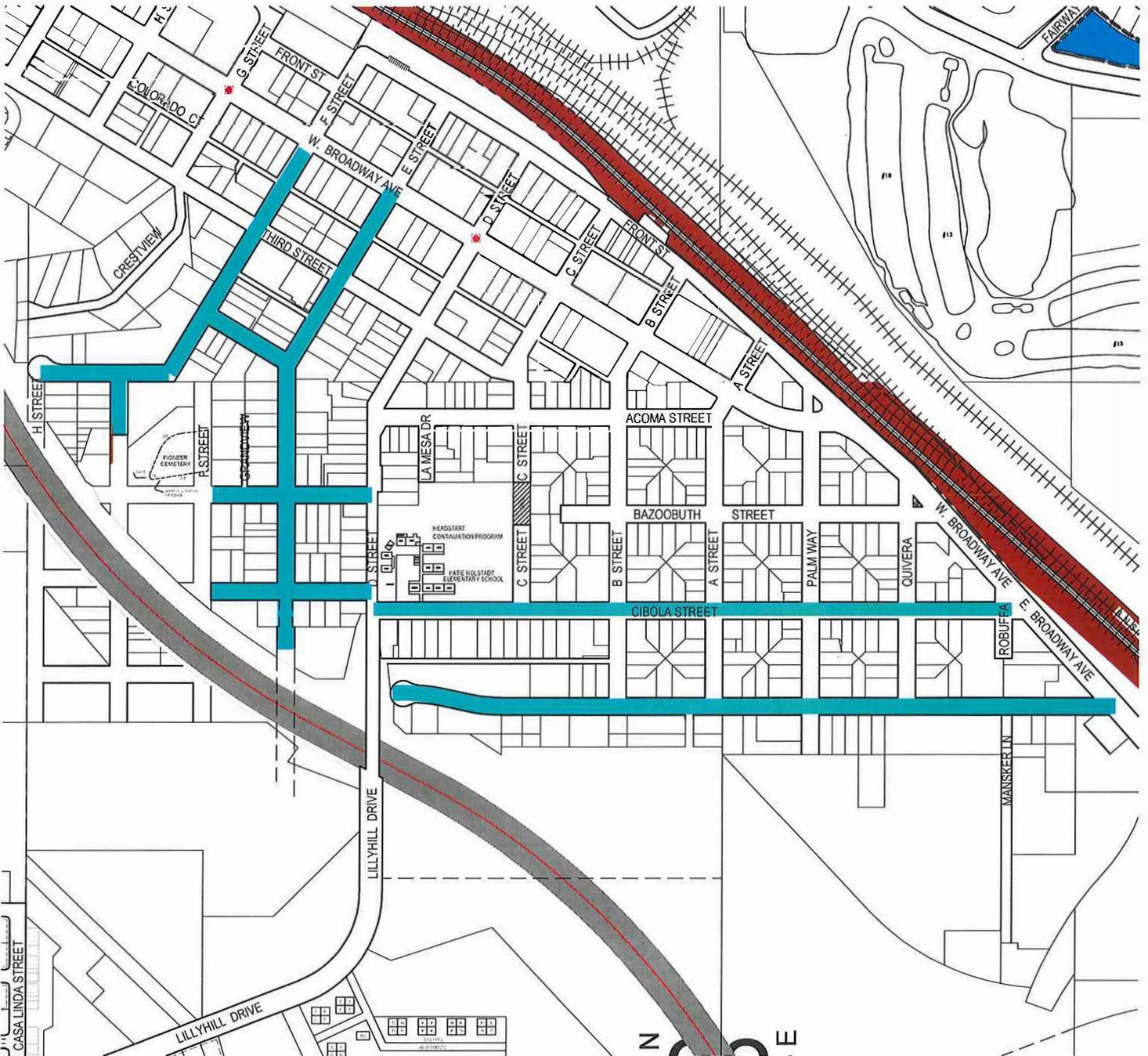
Department of Aging and Adult Services-Public Guardian – hss.sbcounty.gov/daas/

- Senior Information and Assistance - (800) 510-2020
(Non-emergency response, Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Adult Protective Services - (877) 565-2020 (24-hour Hotline)
- Needles DAAS-PG Office - (760) 326-9328 (Monday-Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

For press release information from the City of Needles, download the citizen engagement mobile app named Needles Connect in the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or visit www.cityofneedles.com

2. Street Improvements & Water Service Replacement

PHASE 4 A



DOWNTOWN AREA

DESOTO STREET	(D Street to W. Broadway Ave)
CIBOLA STREET	(D Street to W. Broadway Ave)
F STREET / ARMY RD	(Broadway Ave to Interstate 40)
E STREET	(Broadway Ave to Interstate 40)
DOWNEY AVE	(D Street to F Street)
VALLEY AVE	(D Street to F Street)
FOURTH STREET	(F Street to E Street)
G STREET	(@ Army Rd)

LEGEND

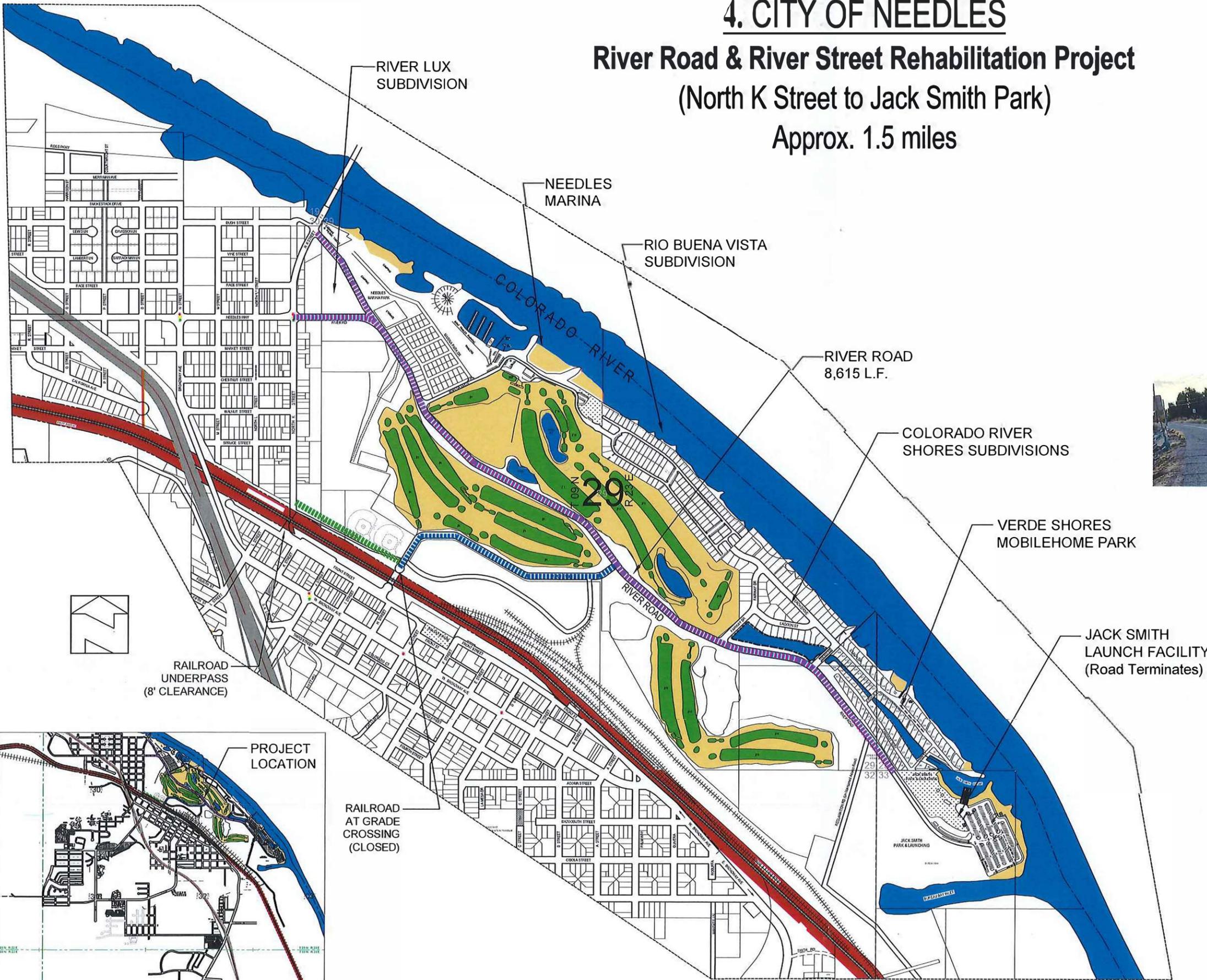
 PHASE 4A - PAVING IMPROVEMENTS
Including Water Services

4. CITY OF NEEDLES

River Road & River Street Rehabilitation Project

(North K Street to Jack Smith Park)

Approx. 1.5 miles



EXISTING ROAD

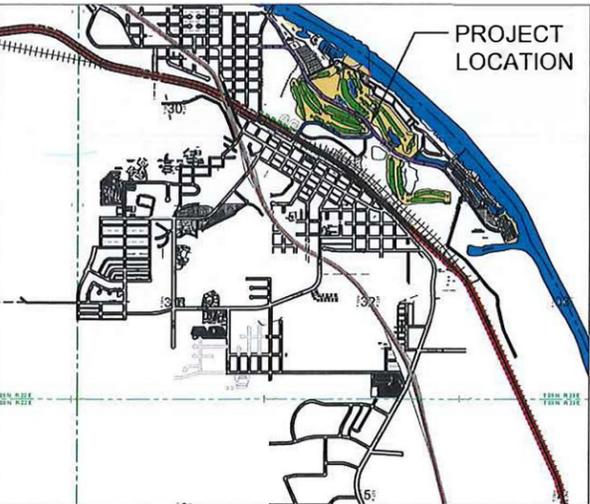
- 2 lane roadway built on a dike
- Located between the Colorado River and rail road tracks
- Provides one entrance access to approx. 463 residents, 2 beaches, 2 parks, 3 ball fields, 1 municipal golf course & launch ramps
- Single paved access to Needles Residents & City amenities

CONDITION

- 30 year old pavement cracking, raveling, edges breaking off
- Golf street crossings need enhancement.
- Widening required for fire access
- Minimal utility work
- No ROW needed
- Priority for Needles for safety of the public and maintaining services to our residents.

COSTS:

- River Road Rehabilitation \$1,600,000
- Golf Course Crossings \$300,000
- River Street (2nd paved access) \$500,000



5. CRMC SURVEY



At CRMC, our goal is clear: to provide the highest quality healthcare tailored to the needs of our community. But we can't fulfill this goal without YOU.

Your feedback is invaluable in helping us enhance our services and ensure they meet your expectations. Together, we can continue to improve and innovate, delivering the care you deserve.

Please take a moment to scan the QR code and complete our survey. Your feedback will directly influence what we will be working on over the next 3 years.

Thank you for entrusting us with your care and for helping us serve you better. Together, we're building a healthier community.



URL: [Click Here](#)

If you do not have access to the internet you can fill out a paper version at the hospital

6. 07 BOBA GRAND OPENING



GRAND OPENING



2321 Needles Hwy, Needles CA 92363

(760) 393-7123

(760) 393-7123

07
Boba

2321 Needles Hwy



Extra Topping
75¢

PRICING

16OZ

\$5.79

24OZ

\$6.99

Drink Menu

JASMINE GREEN TEA (FRUIT TEA)

Single Flavors

- Mango
- Strawberry
- Passion Fruit
- Peach
- Dragon Fruit
- Lychee



Specialty

- Tropical Fusion
(Mango - Strawberry - Passion Fruit)
- Dragon Peach
(Peach - Dragon Fruit)

LATTES

- Tiger Brown Sugar
- Strawberry



MILK TEA DRINKS

- Assam Milk Tea
- Jasmine Milk Tea
- Black Tiger Sugar Tea
- Strawberry Milk Tea
- Taro Milk Tea (Dairy Free)
- Matcha Milk Tea (Dairy Free)



OTHER TEA DRINKS

- Thai Tea

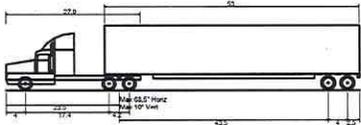
7. ICE PLANT ROAD REPAINTING



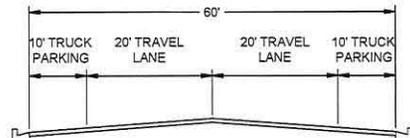
ASSUMPTIONS:

- STANDARD AASHTO WB-67 SEMI TRUCK (8.5' WIDE BY 73.5' LONG). SEE DETAIL AT RIGHT.
- TRUCK PARKING STALL DIMENSIONS:
WIDTH: 12' (10' ASPHALT PLUS 2' OF GUTTER)
LENGTH: 75'
- DESIGN SPEEDS FOR SIGHT DISTANCE CALCULATIONS PER AASHTO GREEN BOOK SECTION 9.5:
BROADWAY ST: 35 MPH
ICE PLANT RD: 10 MPH

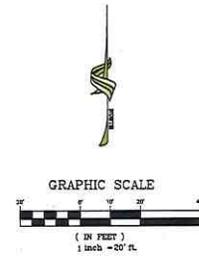
DESIGN VEHICLE DATA:



WB-67 - Interstate Semi-Trailer
 Overall Length 73.50ft
 Overall Width 13.50ft
 Overall Body Height 8.50ft
 Min Body Ground Clearance 1.334ft
 Max Track Width 8.50ft
 Lock-to-lock time 8.00s
 Max Steering Angle (Virtual) 28.40°



SECTION A-A



- CONSTRUCTION NOTES**
- LEGEND:**
- PAINTED RED CURB
 - SOLID WHITE STRIPING
 - SOLID YELLOW STRIPING
 - TRUCK EDGE PATH
 - SIGHT TRIANGLE

NOTES:

1. AERIAL IMAGERY AND DATA HAVE BEEN SCALED FROM GOOGLE EARTH. THIS PLAN IS FOR CONCEPTUAL PURPOSES ONLY.

WARNING
CALL BLUE STAKES



REVISIONS	

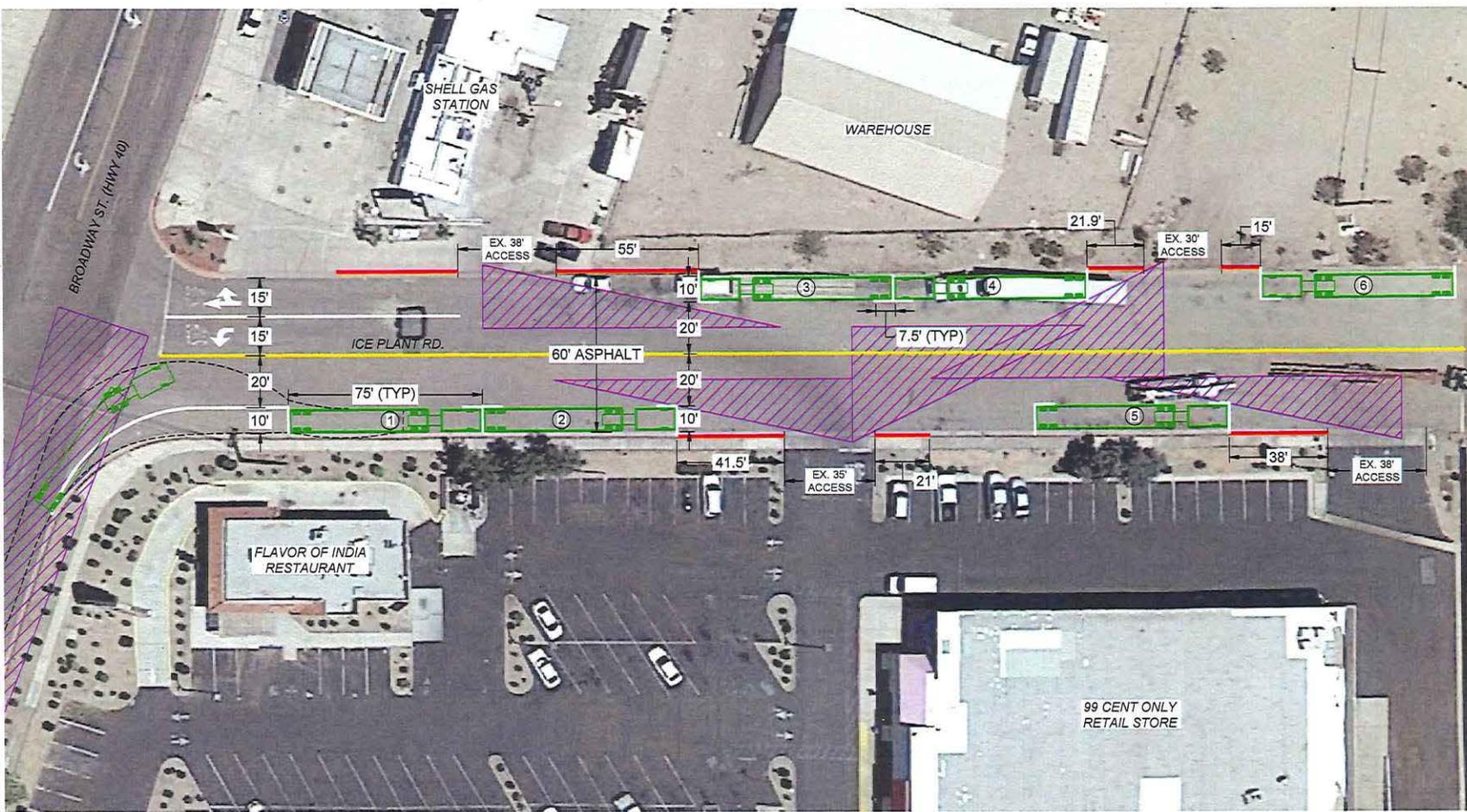
DRAWN	ATM
DESIGNER	ATM
REVIEWED	DID
PROJECT #	

SCALE	1" = 20'
MAX SCALE DIMENSIONS OF A 24" x 36" SHEET	
FOR THE BEST QUALITY, PRINT ON A LARGE SCALE SHEET.	

PROJECT NAME:
ICE PLANT ROAD SEMI PARKING

SHEET TITLE:
STRIPING PLAN (10 MPH)

PLAN SET	SHEET
CONCEPT	1 OF 1



8. LEADERSHIP CHANGE



Board president, Mark Orr, has resigned his position after two years of dedication and hard work. The board is grateful for his strength, leadership, and guidance to the chamber of commerce, and the Needles community. We wish him great success in his future endeavors.

Effective February 15, 2024, the Board of Directors appointed Karrie Brazaski, as interim Board President. Karrie is a fractional COO/Partner of AIRzona Comfort Solutions, a leading heating/air company in our tristate area. Brazaski, brings a collaborative expertise of over 20 years in directing, management, executive coaching, training, and burnout recovery as owner of Redwood Executive Coaching.



The Needles Chamber will continue to be a champion for a strong and vibrant community while creating opportunities for businesses to connect, grow and be successful.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a member, or volunteering, please reach out to Wayne Colburn, at the chamber office by calling 760-326-2050 Cell 760-903-3939 or emailing: info@needleschamber.com

Getting involved with a Chamber of Commerce in your community can offer significant benefits to you, including making new friends, contacts, and potentially gaining new customers for a successful business outcome.

	<p>Wayne Colburn Needles Chamber Administrator.</p> <p>Phone 760-326-2050 Cell 760-903-3939 Email info@needleschamber.com 950 Front St Suite A 9-11, Needles CA 92363</p> <p> </p>
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9. CANNABIS TOUR



10. SOLAR STREETLIGHT AND REPAIR LILLYHILL



11. PIONEER CEMETERY FENCE



12. NEEDLES RECREATION CENTER



13. DUKE WATKINS PARK IMPROVEMENT



13. BOB BELT'S BEACH PARK IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

