



City of Needles

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

Mayor, Janet Jernigan
Vice Mayor Ellen Campbell
Councilmember Tona Belt
Councilmember Jamie McCorkle
Councilmember JoAnne Pogue
Councilmember Henry Longbrake
Councilmember Larry Ford

City Manager Patrick J. Martinez

MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 14, 2026

City Manager's Weekly Highlights

Public Safety & Community Services

- Advanced storm recovery and regional coordination, with City crews continuing neighborhood cleanup and San Bernardino County Flood Operations scheduled to begin work on identified drainage and maintenance areas next week.
- Implemented the City's Oversized Vehicle Ordinance, with required signage installed and citation enforcement now underway to protect neighborhoods, roadway infrastructure, and public safety.
- Strengthened the City's regional public safety presence through a San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force operation that conducted several dozen vessel, vehicle, and trailer inspections throughout the Needles and Colorado River area.

Economic Development & Legislative Affairs

- Advanced AB 1756 to the Governor, following passage by the California Legislature, as the City continues advocating for extension of the Needles OHMV Pilot Program through January 1, 2033.
- Continued the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 advocacy, building community and regional support for Needles' nomination ahead of the State's August 28 public comment deadline.
- Continued implementation of the OHMV Pilot Program, expanding access for Arizona and out-of-state riders through the local availability of California Nonresident OHV Use Permits.

Community Investment & Quality of Life

- Took delivery of a new \$181,000 Dial-a-Ride vehicle, fully funded through State Transit Assistance capital funds with no General Fund impact, while the Students Ride Free Program carried 30 students on the first day of school.
- Continued back-to-school and youth programming, including after-school enrollment and fall youth sports registration.
- Celebrated community momentum through a sold-out Night Golf Tournament at Rivers Edge and recognition of HMBL ZAY's 3,000-mile cross-country charitable walk, which concluded in Needles after raising more than \$200,000 for charity.

1. **AB 1756 – OHMV Pilot Program Advances to Governor:** Assembly Bill 1756, authored by Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, has passed the California Legislature and is advancing to Governor Gavin Newsom for consideration and signature. The legislation would extend the City of Needles' Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Pilot Program through January 1, 2033, providing additional time to operate and evaluate the City's combined-use route network. The City appreciates Assemblymember Gonzalez and the Legislature for their continued support of this important program and will continue advocating for the Governor's signature.
2. **Storm Damage Response and County Coordination:** The City continues to proactively work with regional agencies to address storm-related damage and maintenance needs throughout Needles. This week, City staff met with San Bernardino County Public Works Director Noel Castillo, Deputy Director Sameh Basta, and members of the County Public Works team to review impacted areas and coordinate next steps. County Flood Operations crews are scheduled to be in the Needles area from August 17 through September 3 to address several identified locations, including the Lillyhill culverts, Smith Road, S Street Channel, D Street, graffiti, and other maintenance needs within County Flood Control right-of-way. The City appreciates the County's responsiveness and continued partnership and will remain engaged with County Public Works as this work moves forward. Residents are also encouraged to help identify areas needing attention by submitting service requests through [Needles Connect](#), which allows the City to document, track, and route community concerns to the appropriate department or agency for follow-up.
3. **Oversized Vehicle Ordinance Enforcement:** The City has successfully implemented Ordinance No. 680-AC and has begun issuing citations for oversized commercial vehicles traveling or parking on restricted City streets. The ordinance is intended to improve traffic and neighborhood safety, protect City streets from unnecessary heavy-vehicle impacts, reduce roadway maintenance costs, and direct commercial traffic to appropriate routes. Required signage has been installed at key locations throughout the community, allowing enforcement to commence. Staff will continue monitoring compliance and enforcement activity.
4. **Caltrans I-40 Pavement Rehabilitation Project:** Caltrans has begun a **\$7.4 million pavement rehabilitation project along Interstate 40 near Needles**, extending from approximately 3.2 miles east of the US-95 junction to just east of the East Broadway Street Undercrossing. Work includes pavement removal and resurfacing with rubberized hot-mix asphalt. Construction is scheduled primarily at night between **8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.**, with alternating lane closures and message signs in place to notify motorists. The project is anticipated to be completed by **early Fall 2026**, weather permitting. Motorists are encouraged to use caution, slow down through the work zone, and plan for potential delays.

5. **San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force Enforcement Operation:** Last weekend, the San Bernardino County Auto Theft Task Force (SANCATT), in coordination with the Needles/Colorado River Sheriff's Station, conducted several dozen vessel, vehicle, and trailer inspections throughout the Needles area, including local waterways, highways, and recreational areas. The operation focused on identifying stolen boats, trailers, and vehicles while providing a visible law enforcement presence during a busy summer weekend. No significant violations or stolen property were discovered. The operation demonstrates the continued commitment of regional law enforcement partners to proactive enforcement and sends a clear message that vehicle and vessel theft will not be tolerated in the Needles and Colorado River area.
6. **Needles Area Transit – New Dial-a-Ride Vehicle and Student Ridership:** This week, the City took delivery of its new Dial-a-Ride vehicle, which will be used for specialized Dial-a-Ride transportation and the Fort Mohave/Bullhead Shuttle. The vehicle replaces an aging transit unit and was fully funded through **\$181,000 in State Transit Assistance capital funds provided through SBCTA, with no impact to the General Fund.** The new vehicle features the Dial-a-Ride branding previously approved by the City Council and is expected to enter service next week following installation of its communications equipment. Needles Area Transit also reported strong participation in the **Students Ride Free Program**, with 30 students utilizing the service on the first day of school and filling the bus to capacity. These investments and programs continue to expand safe, reliable, and accessible transportation options for the Needles community.
7. **Time Zone Petition – Next Steps:** On August 11, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2026-35 authorizing staff to prepare and submit a petition to the U.S. Department of Transportation requesting a change to the federal time-zone boundary affecting the City of Needles. Staff will now begin assembling the supporting record, including information regarding the City's economic and commercial ties to Arizona, transportation and commuting patterns, healthcare and regional services, tourism, media markets, and community support. Staff will also begin outreach to regional partners and businesses for supporting information and letters. The Council's action does not change the City's current time zone; any boundary change requires federal review and approval by USDOT.
8. **Kratom Ordinance – First Reading:** On August 11, 2026, the City Council introduced Ordinance No. 686-AC, which would add Section 14-21 to the Needles Municipal Code prohibiting the commercial sale and distribution of kratom products within the City. The ordinance is intended to address public health and safety concerns associated with unregulated kratom products while maintaining exemptions for personal possession and authorized medical, academic, and scientific research. The ordinance will return to the City Council for consideration of final adoption.
9. **Utility Efficiency & Conservation Programs:** The **Needles Public Utility Authority** offers several programs designed to help residents lower utility costs, improve the efficiency of their homes, and conserve energy and water. The

Energy Efficiency Rebate Program provides rebates for qualifying improvements such as high-efficiency air-conditioning systems and mini-splits, electric water heaters, and residential solar screens. The City also offers the **AB 2021 Low-Income/Senior Energy Efficiency Program**, which provides qualifying income-eligible households with assistance for energy-efficiency improvements, with homeowners responsible for 25% of eligible equipment or repair costs. For water conservation, the **Toilet Replacement Pilot Program** provides rebates for the purchase of WaterSense-approved toilets, while the **Turf Removal Pilot Program** provides NPUA water customers \$2 per square foot, up to \$2,000, to replace existing turf with qualifying low-water-use landscaping and permeable materials. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of these programs and contact the Utility Department before beginning a project to confirm eligibility and current program requirements. Additional information, program guidelines, and applications can be found on the [City of Needles Utilities website](#).

10. **Needles Sunday Market – Vendor Applications Open:** The **Needles Sunday Market is returning for the fall season**, beginning **Sunday, September 13, at Santa Fe Park**, and vendor applications are now open. The market will be held Sundays from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. PST** and will feature handmade goods, food, art, produce, and more. As part of the City's efforts to support local entrepreneurship and small businesses, qualifying vendors participating in approved community events with annual gross receipts of **\$15,000 or less may be eligible for a waiver of the City's administrative business-license processing fee**. Vendors remain responsible for all other applicable licensing, permitting, and regulatory requirements. Interested vendors are encouraged to [submit the Needles Sunday Market vendor signup form](#) and participate in the upcoming season. Additional information regarding the City's recently adopted small-business license waiver is available in [Ordinance No. 682-AC – Small Business License Waiver](#).

11. **Community Events Calendar Now Live:** The City's new website now features a [Community Events Calendar](#)—a centralized location for community events, public meetings, and civic programs. Local organizations are invited to submit events or update existing listings through the City Clerk's Office to help keep the calendar current and inclusive. Residents can subscribe to and sync the calendar with their mobile devices for real-time updates, making it easier to stay informed about local events and civic activities.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RECOGNITION

- I. **Opportunity Zone 2.0 Public Comment Period:** The State's public comment period for Opportunity Zone 2.0 nominations remains open through **August 28, 2026**. Needles remains eligible for designation, and the City continues to encourage residents, businesses, property owners, community organizations, and regional partners to submit comments supporting **Census Tract 06071010700**. Opportunity Zone designation could help attract long-term private investment, housing and business development, and job creation in Needles. Comments may be submitted through the California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal. Additional information and submission instructions are available through the City.

- II. **Community Achievement Awards – Nominations Due August 24:** The Laughlin Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the **29th Annual Community Achievement Awards**, recognizing outstanding individuals, businesses, organizations, educators, students, volunteers, and young leaders throughout the Colorado River Region. The City encourages residents to help ensure **Needles is well represented** by nominating deserving individuals and organizations from our community. **Nominations are due August 24, 2026.** Eligible nominees must work, reside, do business, and/or provide services within the Colorado River Region. Residents are encouraged to submit their nominations before the deadline by [clicking here](#).
- III. **River Communities Coalition Rummage Sale:** The River Communities Coalition's Community Rummage Sale has been rescheduled for **August 21 and 22 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at ABC Collision in Needles.** Proceeds will support RCC community programs, and donations are still being accepted. To donate or arrange pickup, contact Roxanne at (928) 706-8323, Nancy at (562) 900-4808, or Wayne at (760) 801-4076. The City encourages the community to support this local event.
- IV. **Rivers Edge Golf Course – Summer Scramble:** Rivers Edge Golf Course will host its **Summer Scramble on Saturday, August 29**, featuring a three-person scramble with a **7:00 a.m. shotgun start**, on-course prizes, and awards following play. Registration is **\$55 per player or \$165 per team.** Residents and visitors are encouraged to register and enjoy a summer morning at Rivers Edge Golf Course. For additional information or registration, contact Rivers Edge at **(760) 326-3931**. A copy of the Summer Scramble flyer is attached for the Council's reference.
- V. **Parks & Recreation Programs:** Registration remains open through **September 14, 2026**, for the City of Needles Fall Youth Sports season, including **Peewee Soccer, Flag Football, and Volleyball**, with the season running October through November. Sibling discounts are available, and scholarships may be available for qualifying families. The City's **After-School Program** is also accepting enrollment for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade, providing a safe, supervised environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, positive role models, and daily snacks. For additional information or registration for either program, contact Parks and Recreation at **(760) 326-2814** or parksandrecreation@cityofneedles.com.

1. AB 1756 – ADVANCING TO THE GOVERNOR



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AB 1756 does not expand the scope of the Needles pilot program. Rather, it extends the program through **January 1, 2033**, providing sufficient time for the City and the State to evaluate long-term safety performance, environmental impacts, recreational use, traffic conditions, and economic benefits to our rural community.

This extension is particularly important because the pilot represents more than a recreational opportunity. A structured and enforceable OHMV network provides riders with a legal connection between federal recreational lands and local services while supporting public safety, reducing unauthorized travel and trespass onto private lands, and directing recreational activity onto designated routes.

For Needles, this is also an economic development opportunity. Visitors who can legally access lodging, restaurants, fuel stations, stores, and other businesses from surrounding recreational areas can generate meaningful economic activity in one of California's most geographically isolated communities. This effort also complements the City's broader economic development strategy, including its pursuit of designation under California's Opportunity Zone 2.0 process, by strengthening the infrastructure and recreational amenities that can help attract private investment, create jobs, and support local businesses. At the same time, the pilot gives the State an opportunity to evaluate whether a carefully planned combined-use system can serve as a successful model for rural recreation access.

The City appreciates the Legislature's continued recognition of the unique circumstances facing Needles and the leadership of Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez in carrying AB 1756. We are committed to operating the program responsibly, coordinating with our state and federal partners, and fulfilling the reporting and evaluation requirements established by law.

For these reasons, the City of Needles respectfully requests that you **sign AB 1756 into law** and allow this important rural pilot program to continue.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of California's rural and disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,


Mayor Janet Jernigan
City of Needles

Cc: Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez
Senator Stephen Padilla
San Bernardino County Supervisor Dawn
Rowe Patrick Martinez, City Manager, City of
Needles

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1756 (Gonzalez) – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Pilot Program – City of
Needles – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Needles, I respectfully request your signature on **AB 1756 (Gonzalez)**, which extends the City's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle (OHMV) Pilot Program and provides the time necessary to fully evaluate its safety, environmental, recreational, and economic benefits.

The City of Needles is a remote, rural, and disadvantaged community of approximately 5,200 residents located along the Colorado River and adjacent to Arizona. Our community is geographically isolated from much of San Bernardino County and is surrounded by federal public lands heavily used for off-highway vehicle recreation, hiking, and backcountry access. Tourism and outdoor recreation are important components of our local economy.

In 2022, the Legislature enacted AB 2152 to authorize a pilot program allowing the City of Needles to establish designated combined-use highway segments connecting existing federal trail systems and recreational areas with lodging, fuel, restaurants, and other essential services. Since receiving that authority, the City has worked diligently to implement the program responsibly and safely.

The City has completed the extensive planning and implementation necessary for the pilot, including engineering and safety analysis, stakeholder and agency coordination, public outreach, and adoption by the City Council of a **9.20-mile OHMV route network**. The California Highway Patrol reviewed and approved the City's OHMV Master Plan and designated routes, and the City's combined-use route network is now operational.

Much of the original pilot period, however, was necessarily devoted to planning, engineering, safety review, agency coordination, and implementation. As a result, the City needs additional operating time to collect meaningful real-world data and properly evaluate the program.

2. STORM RECOVERY & COUNTY COORDINATION

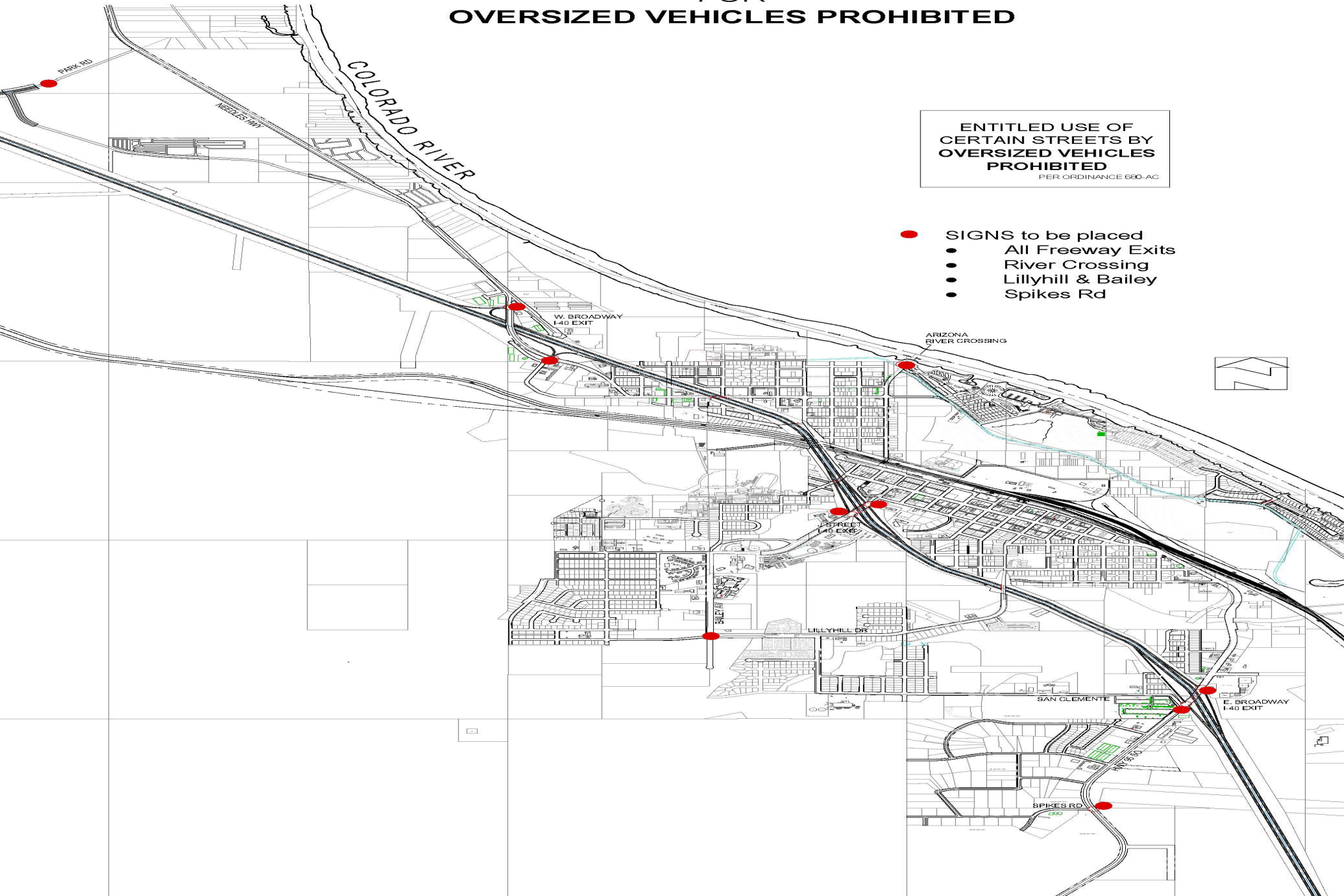


3. OVERSIZED VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT UNDERWAY

SIGN LOCATIONS FOR OVERSIZED VEHICLES PROHIBITED

ENTITLED USE OF
CERTAIN STREETS BY
OVERSIZED VEHICLES
PROHIBITED
PER ORDINANCE 680-AC

- SIGNS to be placed
- All Freeway Exits
- River Crossing
- Lillyhill & Bailey
- Spikes Rd



4. \$7.4M I-40 PAVEMENT PROJECT UNDERWAY

State of California • Department of Transportation

Commuter Alert



Date: August 10, 2026

Alert: 26-819

District: 8 Riverside/San Bernardino

Project ID: 08-1N8104

Contact: [Jas Hampal](#)

Phone: (909) 553-6837

For Immediate Release

INTERSTATE 40 PAVEMENT REHABILITATION AUGUST 2026

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces the start of a new \$7.4 million pavement project on Interstate 40 (I-40). The scope of work includes cold plane asphalt concrete (AC) pavement and resurfacing with rubberized hot mix asphalt open grade (RHMA-O) along I-40 near Needles, from 3.2 miles east of W. Junction US-95 to 0.1 mile east of East Broadway Street Undercrossing. *Weather permitting.*

Nightwork is scheduled between 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Alternating lane closures will be implemented, with COZEEP personnel present to oversee and monitor the closure areas. Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS) will be activated to inform traffic of upcoming work and closures.

Work is anticipated to be completed by early Fall 2026.



Be sure to slow down when driving within or near the work zone.

Know before you go! To stay on top of roadwork in the Inland Empire follow us for the latest information on [Facebook](#) and [X](#). To assist in planning your commute, view live traffic conditions using [QuickMap](#).

For those with sensory disabilities requiring alternate formats (i.e. Braille, large print, sign

language interpreter, etc.) and those needing information in a language other than English, please contact Caltrans Public Affairs at 909-383-4631 or TTY 711.

###

5. REGIONAL AUTO THEFT ENFORCEMENT OPERATION



6. NEW DIAL-A-RIDE VEHICLE



8. KRATOM ORDINANCE – FIRST READING

CITY OF NEEDLES SALE OF KRATOM PROHIBITED

ORDINANCE NO. 686-AC

AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE I, OF THE
NEEDLES MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING
SECTION 14-21, "SALE OF KRATOM PROHIBITED."

AUGUST 11, 2026



9. UTILITY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



City of Needles

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM

Customer Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Account No: _____ Email: _____

Check all that apply

Option A Air Conditioner Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option B Water Heater Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option C Solar Screen Installation
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Option D Commercial Buildings
Air Conditioner Replacement
(See back for restrictions)

☐

Signature

Date

Documentation is required showing the efficiency rating before pre- approval of rebate credit will be issued on utility bill after confirmation and inspection.

Customer must be in good payment standing to qualify for rebate.



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RE: AB 2021 Low Income/Senior Energy Efficiency Program Application

Dear Customer,

Thank you for requesting information regarding the City's AB 2021 Energy Efficiency Program. Enclosed, please find the following:

1. **Energy Efficiency Program Highlights**

- o This is an overview of the program including services and annual budgets.

2. **AB 2021 Energy Efficiency Program Application (1 page)**

- o It is important to note the number of individuals within the home and their ages.
- o Proof of income must be returned with the completed application.

3. **Poverty Guidelines**

- o To qualify for the program the monthly net income must not exceed the poverty guidelines.

For additional Weatherization services please contact the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAPSBC).

1. Clients inquiring about Weatherization or Utility Assistance who have **not** previously been served should call **(909) 723-1500** or visit **www.capsbc.org** and select the **Energy Education and Environmental Services** tab to request Weatherization Assistance.
2. Clients who have already been served may inquire about their application or services by emailing:
 - o weatherizationservices@capsbc.org
 - o utilityassistance@capsbc.org
 - o or by calling **(909) 723-1608**.

Please note that the Weatherization Program generally takes approximately **six (6) months** from start to finish. The services can help decrease monthly utility bills and increase the efficiency of your home.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Rainie Torrance

Rainie Torrance
City of Needles
(760) 326-2115 Ext. 140

9. UTILITY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



City of Needles Water Department
City Utility Services Office
817 Third Street
Needles, CA 92363
Phone: 760-326-5700



Turf Removal Pilot Program 2022

In an effort to increase the City's resilience regarding drought and climate change, reduce the demand for municipal water use. The Needles Public Utility Authority (NPUA) demonstrates its duty to saving water and money by introducing a Turf Removal Program.

The Turf Removal Program rebate program requires the removal of existing turf and replacement with permeable hardscapes, a minimum number of California friendly plants, wood mulch covering, installation of high-efficiency sprinkler heads and/or drip irrigation.

\$2.00 per square foot to replace eligible lawn areas up to 1,000 square feet with low-water-use, climate-appropriate plants and permeable hardscape (pavers or other materials that allow water to pass-through to the soil). Examples include pavers, crushed granite, decorative stones, mulch, metal landscaping art and more. Leak-free, drip irrigation if used in the converted area, must be low volume drip, micro-spray or bubbler and be free of malfunctions. Once installed, the irrigation system must not create runoff, overspray, or misting. The following per site maximum/minimum rebate amounts apply:

If you have already removed your turf, your project is not eligible for this program. Additionally, projects must not be started prior to the receipt and acknowledgement of this Program's Letter to Proceed.

Maximum:

\$2,000 for Single-Family Multi-Family (equivalent to 1,000 square feet of lawn removed). Customers may remove turf area than is covered by the rebate program, but the per site maximum/minimum \$ still applies.

Program Eligibility:

- Rebates are available for residents that receive their water from the NPUA.
- New construction does not qualify as the Turf Removal Program is aimed at encouraging retrofitting of existing landscapes
- Projects must be completed within 120 days of pre-approval. Extensions can be provided on a case-by-case basis, if requested. However, funds are limited, and an extension does not reserve or guarantee funds will be available when your project is completed.
- Non-qualifying materials include, but are not limited to the following: seed, sod, vegetable gardens, vineyards, high water use plants, lawn ornaments,

Coupon for \$100 Toilet Rebate

Present this coupon to City of Needles Customer Service Staff to receive a rebate of up to \$100 when you purchase a new WaterSense approved toilet. Residential accounts can apply for up to two rebates, and commercial accounts can receive up to four rebates. To qualify, your proof of purchase must also be submitted.



10. NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET RETURNS



NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET

Season Two

RETURNS!

STARTING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH!

 **EVERY SUNDAY**
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM PST

 **SANTA FE PARK**
NEEDLES, CA

Good Vibes. Local Finds. Community Strong. ♥

**SHOP LOCAL
SUPPORT LOCAL
LOVE LOCAL** ♥

**HANDMADE
GOODS
& MORE!**



NEEDLES SUNDAY MARKET

VENDOR APPLICATIONS

are Open!

JOIN US THIS SEASON!


**SEASON BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 13**


**SUNDAYS
10 AM – 2 PM PST**

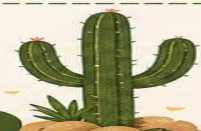

**SANTA FE PARK
NEEDLES, CA**

HANDMADE • FOOD • ART • PRODUCE • AND MORE!

READY TO JOIN US?
APPLY TODAY!



tumbleweedmarkets.mymarket.org/forms/signup



I. OPPORTUNITY ZONE 2.0 – SUPPORT NEEDLES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Needles Invites Public to Support Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Residents, Businesses, Property Owners, and Community Organizations Encouraged to Submit Comments by August 28

NEEDLES, CA — The City of Needles is encouraging residents, business owners, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to participate in California's **Opportunity Zone 2.0** public comment process by submitting comments and letters of support for the City's nomination before the **August 28, 2026** deadline.

Although the City of Needles remains fully eligible for Opportunity Zone designation, the City's nominated census tract (**Census Tract 06071010700**) was not included on the State's initial list of recommended census tracts. The California Department of Finance is currently accepting public comments before California submits its final Opportunity Zone nominations to the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Opportunity Zone Program is a federal economic development initiative established to encourage the reinvestment of private capital into economically distressed communities through long-term investment. Opportunity Zone 2.0 expands opportunities to support housing, infrastructure, business development, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, tourism, workforce development, and other job-creating investments.

The Needles nomination represents one of only **four eligible rural census tracts in San Bernardino County** and builds upon more than **\$28 million in recent public infrastructure investments**. As California's eastern gateway, Needles is strategically located along Interstate 40, Historic Route 66, the BNSF Southern Transcon rail corridor, and Needles Municipal Airport. Combined with municipally owned electric, water, and wastewater utilities and development-ready sites, the community is well positioned to leverage Opportunity Zone designation to attract long-term private investment, expand housing opportunities, create quality jobs, strengthen regional supply chains, and support sustainable economic development.

On **July 28, 2026**, the Needles City Council unanimously adopted **Resolution No. 2026-33**, supporting and ratifying the City's Opportunity Zone 2.0 nomination. In adopting the resolution, the City Council found that continued Opportunity Zone designation will strengthen the City's ability to leverage public investment and enhanced rural Opportunity Zone incentives to attract private capital, expand housing opportunities, support business growth, create quality jobs, revitalize underutilized properties, diversify the local economy, and advance the City's long-term economic

development strategy. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a predictable, investment-ready environment that supports sustainable economic growth, implementation of the California Jobs First Regional Plan, and continued revitalization of the City of Needles.

The public comment period provides an important opportunity for residents, businesses, property owners, developers, community organizations, and regional partners to demonstrate broad support for Needles' nomination. Every public comment and letter of support helps reinforce the community's commitment to attracting long-term investment and expanding economic opportunity in eastern San Bernardino County.

How to Support Needles' Opportunity Zone 2.0 Nomination

Community members are encouraged to support the City's nomination by:

- **Submitting comments** through the [California Department of Finance Opportunity Zone Public Comment Portal](#) using **Census Tract 06071010700**.
- [Watching the California Department of Finance's step-by-step instructional video](#) explaining how to submit comments.
- **Learning more** about Opportunity Zone 2.0 by visiting the [GO-Biz Opportunity Zones 2.0 webpage](#).
- **Submitting a letter of support** by emailing **City Manager Patrick J. Martinez** at pmartinez@cityofneedles.com. Organizations are encouraged to customize the City's sample letter of support template for inclusion in the City's public comment submission.

The public comment period closes **August 28, 2026**.

For additional information or assistance with submitting comments or letters of support, please contact the Office of the City Manager.

Community participation is critical to demonstrating the broad local and regional support behind Needles' nomination. The City encourages everyone to submit comments before the August 28, 2026 deadline.

Media Contact

Office of the City Manager

Patrick J. Martinez

City Manager, City of Needles

817 Third Street

Needles, CA 92363

Phone: (760) 326-2115

Email: pmartinez@cityofneedles.com

Website: www.cityofneedles.com

II. COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATIONS



COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Judicial Philosophy

The Community Achievement Awards are not competitions - they are celebrations. Each nominee represents the heart of the Colorado River Region: individuals, businesses, and organizations who move our communities forward through leadership, compassion, and service.

Each year, a diverse panel of judges review dozens of nominations with care, considering not only accomplishments but also each nominee's alignment with our community's values, mission, and impact. This includes service, integrity, and the ability to inspire others. Finalist selections are made by majority vote following interviews, and the decisions are final.

To ensure this legacy is upheld, our judging process centers on more than achievement. It is grounded in character, impact, and alignment with our shared community values. Judges evaluate not only what a nominee has accomplished, but how they've done it - with humility, respect, and an unwavering commitment to community.

Judges review nomination packets, conduct in-depth interviews, and cast their final votes by secret ballot. The process is confidential, impartial, and rooted in fairness - intended to reflect the dignity of this regional honor.

Chamber staff administer the nomination process and provide procedural guidance to the judging panel but do not participate in deliberations, vote on finalists, or influence the outcome of the awards.

Final award selections are tabulated and verified by independent third-party observers to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the voting process.

The result? Finalists and awardees who inspire trust, unity, and admiration - the very people we are proud to uplift.

III. RCC COMMUNITY RUMMAGE SALE



RCC
RUMMAGE
Sale!

DON'T MISS IT!

NEW DATES!

**AMAZING FINDS!
GREAT PRICES!
BIG IMPACT!**

SHOP. SAVE. SUPPORT.

All proceeds benefit
RCC and our
community programs!



NEW LOCATION!
ABC COLLISION
NEEDLES, CA

*Plenty of room,
great deals, and
even better finds!*

**SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE!**

**TREASURES
WAITING FOR
YOU!**

NEW DATES!
AUGUST
21 & 22

7 AM – 3 PM
BOTH DAYS!

**TOOLS,
FURNITURE,
HOME GOODS,
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
& SO MUCH
MORE!**

WE'RE STILL COLLECTING DONATIONS!

HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE?

We accept clean, gently used items, tools, furniture,
household goods, medical equipment & more!

**YOUR
DONATIONS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!**

**HELP US
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IV. RIVERS EDGE SUMMER SCRAMBLE



SUMMER SCRAMBLE 2026

TOURNAMENT

● ENJOY THE
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OF THE
SUMMER
MONTHS
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**SATURDAY
AUGUST 29th**

AWARDS & PRIZES
AFTER GOLF

SHOTGUN STARTS
AT 7:00AM

REGISTRATION
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CLOSEST TO PIN
LONG DRIVE

TOURNAMENT FEE:
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3-PERSON SCRAMBLE

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