



# City of Needles

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[www.cityofneedles.com](http://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 J. Martinez

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PATRICK J. MARTINEZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: WEEKLY MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 23, 2024

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1. The City of Needles was recently spotlighted on The Weather Channel's America's Morning Headquarters for its record-breaking July temperatures, surpassing Phoenix as the hottest city in the U.S. The feature showcased how Needles embraces its extreme summer heat, allowing residents and visitors to enjoy outdoor activities such as golf and recreation along the Colorado River. During the segment, Mayor Janet Jernigan and City Manager Patrick Martinez emphasized the community's resilience, highlighting how Needles not only withstands the heat but thrives with one of the "hottest" economies in the United States. Take a look at the [interview](#).
2. Governor Gavin Newsom has launched the Clean California Community Designation Program, a statewide initiative designed to inspire local communities to create cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environments. This innovative program, developed in collaboration with Caltrans, Keep America Beautiful, and Keep California Beautiful, is part of the larger Clean California effort. Supported by Governor Newsom's \$1.2 billion multiyear initiative, Clean California is committed to revitalizing, enhancing, and transforming public spaces throughout the state.

As a proud participant in this initiative, the City of Needles has been awarded \$2.4 million to revitalize [Needles Marina Park First Beach, now known as Bob Belts Beach Park](#). This project will beautify and sustain the area, providing an improved public space for the entire community. Additionally, city staff is working diligently to maintain a cleaner community through ongoing clean-up initiatives and beautification efforts, including regular community clean-up events. For more information, please refer to the attached press release.

3. The Duke Watkins Park Improvement Project, with a budget of \$3,965,400, is steadily advancing. This past Tuesday saw the completion of key installations, including a small dog park and shade structures, while the Route 66-themed splash pad is beginning to take shape. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for early

October to celebrate the park's transformation. For a glimpse of the exciting progress, please refer to the attached image showcasing the ongoing enhancements.

4. On Monday, **August 19, 2024**, the City Manager of Needles attended the CCMTAC Mountain/Morongo Basin/Needles Sub-Regional meeting in Yucca Valley, hosted by the San Bernardino County Council of Governments (SBCOG). City Managers from Big Bear Lake, Yucca Valley, and 29 Palms, along with representatives from Supervisor Rowe's Office and the San Bernardino County CEO's Office, participated in the discussion. The meeting focused on identifying and prioritizing projects for recommendation to the SBCOG Board of Directors. The City Manager presented Needles' key priorities, including housing development, workforce development, clean city programming, and a strategic marketing campaign to promote the community. Further details are available in the attached presentation.
5. This past weekend, Rivers Edge Golf Course hosted the 2024 Rivers Edge Night Golf Tournament with over 40 participants. The course was illuminated, offering a unique experience despite daytime temperatures exceeding 110 degrees. The event was well received, and participants appreciated the opportunity to play in a cool evening with a full moon (refer to the attached image for a glimpse). As a reminder, the course will close for overseeding in nine days, and entire operations will resume on **October 4, 2024**. Looking ahead, six new tournaments have been scheduled before the end of the year, including the Needles Women's Club Fundraiser on **November 16, 2024**, and the Jason Smith Memorial on **December 7, 2024**. The Needles Marina Open will also return on **October 19, 2024**. Please refer to the attached exhibit for further details on these events. Additionally, if anyone is interested in hosting a golf tournament at Rivers Edge, JJ DeLeon is the point of contact and can be reached at 760-326-3931. We are excited about the upcoming activities and will continue to work to ensure that Rivers Edge remains a valued asset to the community.
6. The City's Animal Shelter continues to successfully implement its Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) Program. As of this week, 153 community cats have been spayed or neutered and returned to their local areas. Below is a detailed breakdown of the locations involved in this week's efforts:
  - Needles Animal Shelter - 4
  - Rivers Edge Golf Course - 3
  - B Street - 10
  - N Street - 4
  - Spruce Street - 22
  - Front Street - 6
  - Acoma Street - 5
  - Cibola Street - 23
  - Desoto Street - 1
  - La Mesa Way - 11
  - Bazoobuth Street - 22
  - C Street - 1
  - Walnut Street - 5
  - California Ave - 4
  - A Street - 6
  - Valley Street/E Street - 8
  - Chestnut/L Street - 4
  - Desnok Street - 2
  - D Street - 12

This initiative aims to improve our community by controlling the population of roaming cats, reducing the spread of diseases, and increasing adoption rates, all while working towards eliminating euthanasia at our shelter. If you're ready to

welcome a new furry companion, our adoption fee is just \$60. Please refer to the attached images for available pets. To learn more about our adoption process or to schedule a visit, contact the Needles Animal Shelter at 760-326-4952. You can also report roaming cats through the Needles Connect app, available on both the [Apple App](#) or [Google Play Store](#).

7. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department/Needles Police will host its 5th Annual Trunk or Treat event on **Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. This popular community event will occur at the Recreation Center parking lot at 1705 J Street. If you're interested in participating, please get in touch with Misty Hunt at 760-526-9200 or [mhunt@sbcasd.org](mailto:mhunt@sbcasd.org). The Trunk or Treat event is a tremendous success each year, bringing residents together for a fun and festive evening. Participants will have the chance to connect with various local support services, including the CHP, Department of Public Health, Department of Aging and Adult Services, Department of Behavioral Health, and the BLM. In addition to distributing candy, the event will feature food and a lively, family-friendly atmosphere for all to enjoy. Refer to the attached flyer for more information.
8. IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:
  - **Groundbreaking Ceremony:** Phase 4A Pavement Management Plan and Obernolte Project **September 16, 2024 9am**, location TBD.
  - **Community Fall Festival: November 2nd, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** at 950 Front Street. To participate vendors can contact Jennifer Valenzuela, Recreation Manager, via email at [jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com](mailto:jvalenzuela@cityofneedles.com) or directly at 760-326-2814.

## 2. CLEAN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY

News

Aug 3, 2024

# Over 20 communities become first to earn new Clean California designation

**What you need to know:** After three years of the state's highly successful Clean California initiative — which has created 18,000 jobs and hauled away more than 2.6 million cubic yards of litter across the state — California is launching a new designation program to reward communities for committing to zero-litter policies and regular local cleanups.

regular local cleanups.

SACRAMENTO — Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the launch of the Clean California Community Designation Program, a statewide effort encouraging local engagement to make communities cleaner, safer, and more sustainable.

The innovative program – in partnership with Caltrans, Keep America Beautiful, and Keep California Beautiful – is the latest feature of Clean California, Governor Newsom’s sweeping \$1.2 billion, multiyear initiative led by Caltrans to clean up, reclaim, transform, and beautify public spaces.

The Newsom Administration joined the City of Fresno today to launch the program and designate Fresno as one of 22 California communities first to take the pledge.

For the past three years, Clean California has transformed littered areas around our state into cleaner, greener, and safer spaces. Now, more than twenty communities are stepping up and committing to do the same – becoming our state’s first Clean California Communities. We all deserve to be proud of the neighborhoods we live in, and with this program, we’re making that a reality for more Californians than ever.

Governor Gavin Newsom

Governor Newsom **marked three years** of Clean California earlier this week. The Clean California program has created 18,000 jobs and hauled away more than 2.6 million cubic yards of litter – enough to cover nine lanes of Interstate 5 with an inch of trash from San Diego to the Canadian border.

The Clean California Community Designation Program highlights localities

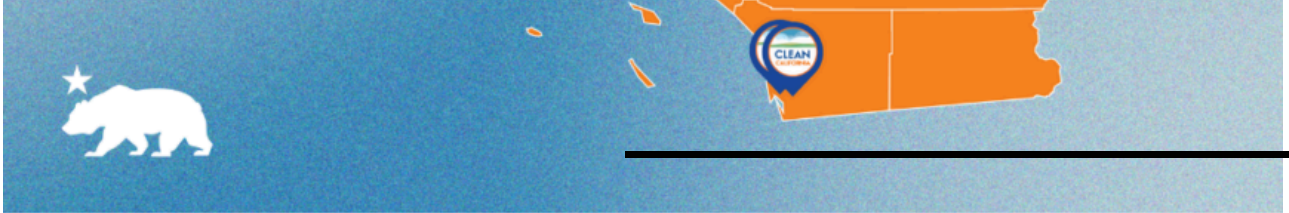
committed to a number of long-term, zero-litter policies designed to engage residents in supporting community beautification and environmental enhancement. Each municipality must complete 10 of 15 specific criteria to earn the designation. So far, 22 communities have taken this first step.

**BECOME FIRST TO EARN NEW CLEAN CALIFORNIA DESIGNATION**

over **20**  
**CLEAN CALIFORNIA**  
COMMUNITIES & GROWING



The graphic features a blue background with a white outline of California. The state is filled with an orange color. Twenty blue location pins are scattered across the map, each containing the 'CLEAN CALIFORNIA' logo. A larger circular logo is positioned on the right side of the map, featuring a landscape scene with a blue sky, green hills, and a white path, with the text 'CLEAN CALIFORNIA' below it.



“Today, we celebrated the first communities pledging to earn the Clean California Community designation and encourage others from across the state to join,” **said Caltrans Deputy Director Mike Kever** during the cleanup in Fresno. “The designation spotlights communities that are zero-litter leaders with a vision for a better tomorrow. These leaders understand the long-term benefits to clean communities, and we applaud them for their efforts.”



Clean California Designation Program criteria include a commitment from

top local officials, a litter abatement plan, regular local cleanups and litter collection drives, establishing measurements tracking litter removal, and engaging local stakeholders and businesses.

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In return, designated communities receive “Clean California Community” signage, educational resources, free cleanup kits, cross-promotional Clean California materials, and priority access to Keep America Beautiful national grant opportunities.

The program’s goal is to enlist 100 communities by June 2025. For more information or an application for the Clean California Designation Program, visit [cleanca.com/designation](https://cleanca.com/designation).

For other ways to help clean up your own community or to list a cleanup event, visit the volunteer page at [cleanca.com/volunteer](https://cleanca.com/volunteer).



Categories: [Press Releases](#), [Recent News](#), [Top Story](#)



### 3. DUKE WATKINS PARK UPDATE



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## 4. CCMTAC SUBREGIONAL MEETING



**cog**

San Bernardino  
Council of Governments

CCMTAC Subregional Meetings | Summer 2024

# sbCOG Updates Timeline

Work plan, Policies, and Bylaws

**May 2024:** Board Ad Hoc Interest Sought

**June 2024:** Board Ad Hoc Established/First Meeting

**July/August 2024:** CCMTAC Subregional Meetings

**August 2024:** Board Ad Hoc – Quick Work Plan Update and Policies and Bylaws discussion

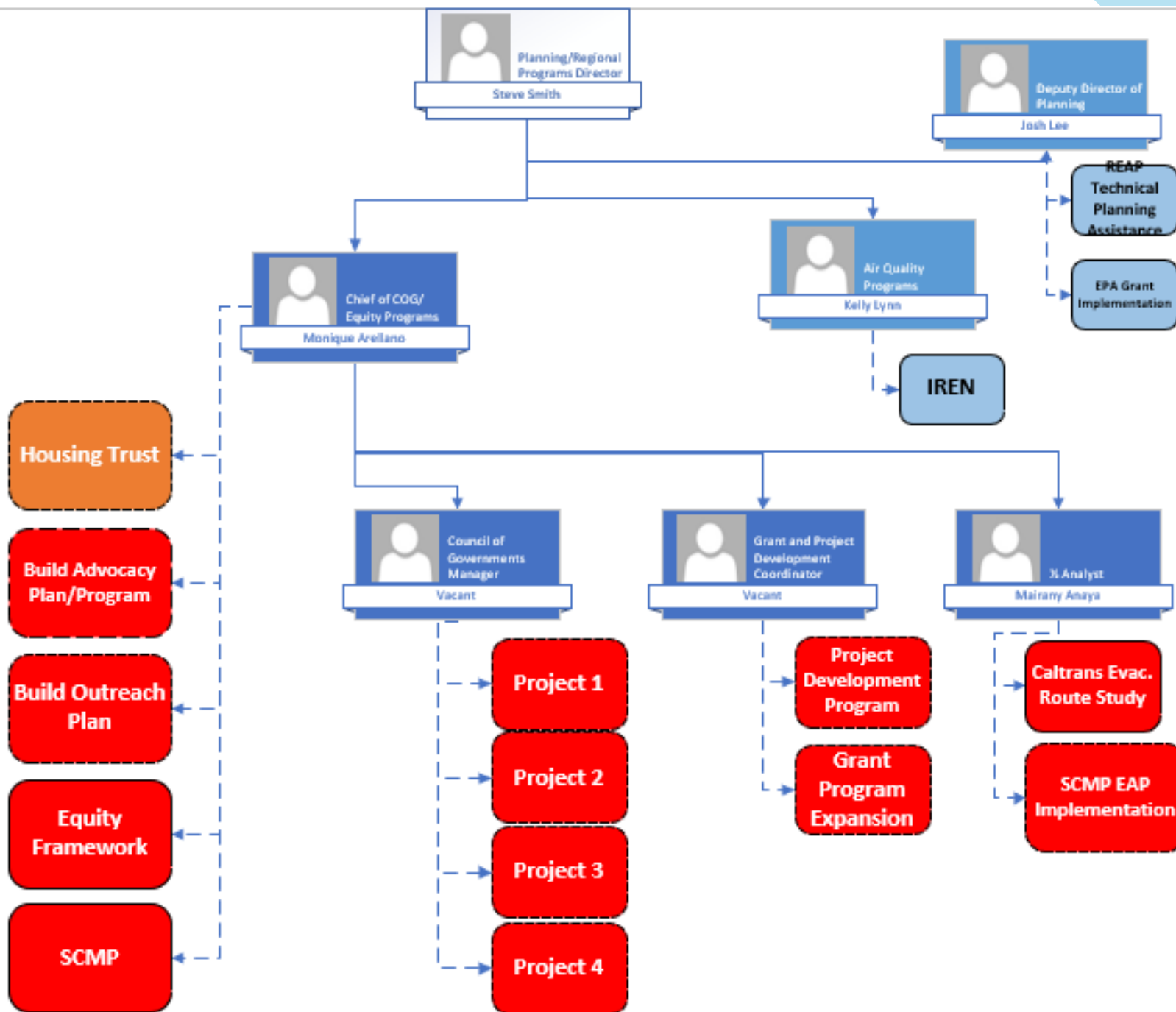
**September 2024:** General Policy Committee and CCMTAC  
Report and Feedback – Work Plan, Policies and Bylaws

**October 2024:** General Policy Committee  
Approval of Work Plan, Policies, and Bylaws

**November 2024:** Board of Directors  
Approval of Work Plan, Policies, and bylaws

# Functions of SBCOG

- Grant Assistance/Project Development
- Housing Trust
- Advocacy
- City/County Conference
- Equity
  - Small Business Programs
- Energy/Resiliency
  - IREN
  - Evacuation Studies
- REAP Programming
- Agency Liaison
  - SCAG
  - Countywide Vision
  - CALCOG
- Work Plan Programs and Projects





# FOUNDATIONS

- A. Countywide Vision Elements
- B. Collective Approach to Issues
- C. Eliminate Duplicative Effort





★ Public Safety

★ Quality of Life

★ Water

★ Communications

★ Environment

★ Housing

★ Education

★ Image



★ Infrastructure

★ Wellness

★ Jobs/Economy

★ Technology





**cog**

San Bernardino  
Council of Governments

CCMTAC Sub Regional Meetings | Summer 2024

## 5. NIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT



## 5. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE



**RIVERS EDGE**  
GOLF COURSE

2024 Tournament Schedule								
	Rivers Edge Golf Course	Date	Time	Player #	Format	Contact	Notes	Rebook/New
1	Opening Weekend Scramble	10/5/2024	8:00AM	60+	Scramble	JJ DeLeon	8:00AM Scramble \$60 PP	NEW
2	Needles Marina Open 2024	10/19/2024	8:30AM	120	Scramble	Eric Bryant	Scramble, Calcutta	REBOOK
3	Stauss Golf Group	11/2/2024	10:00 AM	24	Ind.	Mike Stauss	24 Players. Private Event	NEW
4	Needles Women's Club Fundraiser	11/16/2024	8:30AM	60-80	Scramble	Ellen Campbell	8:30 Shotgun/Fundraiser	NEW
5	Southern Cal LD's	11/19-20/2024	9:00AM	52	Ind.	Steve Avila	2 Day Event. Private	NEW
7	Thanksgiving Scramble	11/23/2024	8:00AM	60 +	Scramble	In House (JJ)	3-Person Scramble	NEW
8	Rio Buena Vista Scramble	11/30/2024	9:00AM	96	Scramble	Shelby Faulhaber	4-Person Scramble	REBOOK
10	Jason Smith Memorial 2024	12/7/2024	8:30AM	144	Scramble	Jeremy Smith	3-Person Scramble	NEW

Book a golf tournament today by contact JJ DeLeon at 760-326-3931

## 6. ANIMAL SHELTER ADOPTION



## 7. SBCSD TRUNK OR TREAT

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S**

**5TH Annual**

**TRUNK  
OR TREAT**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OCTOBER 30, 2024**

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

1705 J Street  
Needles, CA 92563  
(Rec Center Parking Lot)

Contact M. Hunt (760) 526-9200  
[mhunt@sbcasd.org](http://mhunt@sbcasd.org)