

Sea Breeze

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF GROVER BEACH

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Election Day is November 4th when millions of voters will head to the polls. This is your opportunity to weigh in on the issues that matter most to you. Together our votes will influence policies and issues to be addressed by elected officials. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, young or old, this is one time when we are all equal. Please don't think that your one vote doesn't count. History is filled with examples when important issues were decided by the smallest of margins. Here are just a few...

In 1868 - President Andrew Johnson was impeached by the House of Representatives. The Senate, charged with deciding the fate of the president, fell one vote shy of the necessary two-thirds required to remove him from office.

In 1920 - the proposed 19th Amendment to the Constitution was making its way through the state legislatures. The amendment was the culmination of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. It had to be ratified by 36 states in order to be adopted. Tennessee passed the proposed 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by a one-vote margin, becoming the 36th state to ratify the measure and clearing the way for its official adoption just days later.

In 2000 - The Presidential election was decided by an extremely narrow margin. George W. Bush won the state of Florida by just 537 votes, making him the next President of the United States. Close to 6 million voters went to the polls in Florida. Although it wasn't a difference of one vote, every vote certainly counted.

In 2008 - The Unified School Trustee Area No. 3 seat in Stockton, California was won by one vote. Jose Morales received 2,302 votes while the other candidate received 2,301.

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MEASURE K-14 Questions and Answers

By City Manager Robert Perrault

In July 2014, the City Council unanimously voted to place Measure K-14 on the November ballot. If approved by the voters, the City will be authorized to issue \$48 million in bonds. The revenue generated from the sale of the bonds will be used to repair and rehabilitate City streets. Since the Council placed the measure on the ballot, a number of questions continue to be asked regarding the measure. Outlined below are answers to the most frequently asked questions:

1. How did our street system develop?

D.W. Grover laid out the street system in the 1880s in a grid system with long, wide avenues. As the streets were developed, they were constructed with limited base/foundation and often on packed sand. The result today is a system that consists of

45 lined miles and more than 10 million square feet of asphalt. This system is very difficult and costly to maintain.

2. What is Measure K-14?

A recent evaluation of street and road conditions in Grover Beach by an independent pavement management engineering expert rated 71% of residential and 58% of major streets as "Poor" or "Failed". Without sufficient funding for a major street rehabilitation program, our streets will fail within 6-8 years. This is why the City Council acted to put **Measure K-14, the Grover Beach Street Rehabilitation and Safety Improvement Bond** on the ballot to generate the funds necessary to initiate and carryout the street rehabilitation and repair program.

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Grover Beach Police Department Increases Community Engagement with Social Media

The Grover Beach Police Department has enhanced its community policing program through the use of social media. The Police Department initially launched a Facebook page several years ago, however, it wasn't until 2014 that the Department began to actively use this social media tool to promote community outreach and citizen engagement with regular Facebook posts. The Department also has a Twitter account.

New and relevant Police Department information is being posted on both social media sites with continuous updates. For example, there's a "Weekly Wanted Person" program featuring an individual wanted by law enforcement, including the person's criminal charges and ways to contact the police if the person is seen. This program has been very successful in clearing active arrest warrants and getting the offenders back into the court system for case resolution. The program has also been successfully copied by other law enforcement agencies.

Social media is one more tool utilized by your Grover Beach Police Department to protect our community — alerting citizens regarding traffic issues, safety concerns, missing persons, law

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3. What is the total cost to repair the streets?

The total cost to repair the streets is \$62 million. \$48 million will be sufficient to repair all of the City’s residential streets and a number of the City’s major streets over a period of years.

4. Why doesn’t the City have money to fund these repairs?

Grover Beach’s budget is the smallest in the County! Simply put, the General Fund Budget (of \$7.7 million per year) will never stretch far enough to fix the City’s network of streets. This, combined with State takeaways of \$5,000,000 over the past five years, means the City does not have the sufficient funding it needs to repair or rebuild our streets. Funding from Measure K-14 will repair deteriorating streets, roads, and potholes before they get worse. The longer the delay in making these repairs the worse the streets will become, costing more in the future or requiring complete replacement.

5. What will Measure K-14 cost?

If approved by the voters, this \$48 million local Street Rehabilitation/Safety Improvement Bond Measure is estimated to cost homeowners an average of \$77 per \$100,000 of assessed—not market—value of the property over the life of the program. In other words, if your property is assessed at \$252,000 (an average Grover Beach home) your annual payment will average \$195 per year or \$16.25/month. If your property is assessed at \$300,000 your annual payment will

average \$231 per year or \$19.25 per month. For those residents/property owners who bought their house/property decades ago and have an assessed value of \$50,000, your payment will average \$38.50 per year or \$3.20 per month.

6. How can I be sure that Measure K-14 funds are spent only on streets as promised?

Measure K-14 contains comprehensive Fiscal Accountability Safeguards. By law all Measure K-14 funds must be placed into the Street Designated Fund and can only be used for the Street Rehabilitation and Repair Program for streets in Grover Beach. As an additional safeguard, the funds will be annually audited and will be subject to the review of a Citizens Committee. Funds generated by Measure K-14 cannot be used for any other purpose. For example, they cannot be used for the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center or any other economic development expenditure except for the repair and rehabilitation of City streets.

7. I pay property taxes. Why can’t the City use property tax revenue to pave the streets?

The City receives only 14 to 17 cents of every dollar from property taxes collected. The remaining 85% of the property tax is distributed to schools, County government, and special districts. (Please see the chart on property tax distributions.) The City’s property tax makes up approximately 50% of the City’s General Fund budget and is used to support police, fire, recreation, and other essential services. Property tax revenues are not

sufficient to maintain these services and repair streets.



8. Can the City adjust the Sales Tax to provide the funds for Street Repair?

No, and any funds raised as the result of an additional adjustment in the sales tax would not be sufficient to deal with the problem.

9. When will my street be repaired if the measure gets approved by the voters?

With community input, the City will develop a program approved by the City Council that will order the repair of the streets according to the condition of the street and its location. Other factors will need to be considered in developing the plan, including the continuity of the work, cost effectiveness, and orderly execution of the projects.

In the event you desire additional information regarding the ballot measure, please access the City’s website at www.grover.org or by contacting me by phone at City Hall – (805) 473-4567.

Environmentally Friendly Car Washing Tips to Minimize Stormwater Pollution

Did you know that washing your car at home can contribute pollutants to our creek and ocean? Dirty water from commercial car washes goes into the City’s sanitary sewer system and is treated at the regional wastewater treatment plant. However, soap suds and water run-off from vehicles being washed on driveways, parking lots, and streets typically flows along the gutter and into a storm drain before it empties into Meadow Creek or the ocean.

PROBLEM POLLUTANTS – Soap is only one part of the discharge problem. Even if you only use water, there’s a mix of pollutants, including oils, grease, heavy metals or particulates from vehicle exhaust emissions, brake linings, and rust being washed down the drain. Adding soap to the mix may introduce phenols, dyes, acids, and ammonia. Even more potentially harmful ingredients are found in spray-off tire cleaners.

THE SOAP FACTOR – Detergents in car wash cleaners affect fish in several ways. All detergents contain a surfactant so that the cleaner rinses off easily with water. Surfactants destroy the external mucus layers that protect fish from bacteria and parasites, causing severe damage to their gills. Even in low concentrations, surfactants will kill fish eggs. Detergents can lower the surface tension of water, allowing organic chemicals—such as pesticides and phenols—to be more easily absorbed by fish. Soaps that contain phosphates



promote plant growth and can cause excess algae growth in waterways. As these plants decay, large amounts of oxygen are consumed, leaving very little oxygen available for fish.

COMMERCIAL CAR WASHES – Are there environmental advantages to washing your car at a drive-through or self-serve commercial car wash? Absolutely! Commercial car washes drain used water into the sanitary sewer system instead of storm drains. Plus, conveyor car washes can use substantially less water, depending on the equipment used. Advanced, computerized pumps and nozzles control water output, reducing the amount of water used by up to 60 percent compared to washing a car at home. Special pressure nozzles mix 50 percent air in with the water to create pressure without volume. Some even recycle and reuse water on site.

SMART CHOICES AT HOME – If you plan to wash your vehicle at home, here are some earth-friendly tips. If you wash with more than water, choose soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled phosphate-free and biodegradable. Vegetable or citrus-based soaps are the safest products. Before you get started, sweep driveways to prevent leaves and trash from being carried to the storm drain. Control water volume by using a quick acting shut-off nozzle, a wash bucket and, if possible, wash your car in an area where runoff doesn’t flow into the street (i.e., gravel or grassy areas). If your wash area is paved and slopes toward the street, try rolling up a few towels to divert run-off to a lawn. When you are done, discard dirty wash water onto your grass, flower bed or into the sink.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES FOR THE FALL SEASON

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS Sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department



Carved Pumpkin Contest & Halloween Activities –

Fun for the whole family, bring your already decorated or carved funny, scary, spooky or goofy pumpkin and enter it in the contest to win great prizes donated from local businesses. Carnival games presented by the Arroyo Grande High School Link Crew, free hot dogs, and Ballooney the Clown will entertain! Halloween night, Friday, October 31, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Ramona Garden Park.



City Hall Tree Lighting Ceremony – Enjoy light refreshments as we kick off the holiday season. Monday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. (preceding the City Council meeting) Grover Beach City Hall, 154 S. 8th Street.



48th Annual South County Holiday Parade and Santa's Workshop

– This year's theme is *A Very Musical Holiday!* The parade begins at 16th Street, travels west on West Grand Avenue to 9th Street and finishes at Ramona Garden Park. Santa's Workshop, a fine art and craft faire, immediately follows the parade. There will be over 40 artists and crafters presenting their wares for your holiday shopping. Saturday, December 6, Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

Holiday of Lights Decorating Contest – Show your holiday spirit by decorating your home or business and earn bragging rights in your neighborhood! Awards in several categories will be presented. The Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission will be holding preliminary judging on Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14 from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., be sure to have your lights on! Final judging will be held on Thursday, December 18.

For more information regarding any of the events listed, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (805) 473-4580.

PAY WITH CREDIT CARD – IT'S CONVENIENT, ECO FRIENDLY, AND TIME SAVING

You can pay by credit card with no processing fees to register for Parks and Recreation Department classes, events, parks, and facilities. Go to www.grover.org and select "Online Payments".

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

Beautification Awards Program – Did you know you can nominate your home and/or other addresses in our community for a Beautification Award? If you, a neighbor or local business has a property that has beautiful landscaping – keeping in mind drought tolerant features – consider nominating it for an award. Award winners will be recognized with a certificate of appreciation from the Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commission and will be invited to be honored at a City Council meeting.



Commissioners Johnston and Boatman present beautification award to the Fletcher Family, 1244 Atlantic City Avenue

Volunteers, Donations and Sponsors Needed Year-Round – The many activities and special events offered to the community throughout the year are made possible through the assistance of hard-working volunteers, generous donations, and monetary sponsors from local businesses and private citizens. The Grover Beach Parks and Recreation Department is working hard to continue these services. If you would like to volunteer for a special event or make a contribution, please call (805) 473-4580 for more information or send an e-mail to parksandrecreation@grover.org.



South County Skate Park

1750 Ramona Avenue, Grover Beach
Operated by the San Luis Obispo County YMCA, call for more information on fees and hours of operation - (805) 543-8235.



WATER CONSERVATION BY THE #S

1 Unit of Water = 100 Cubic Feet = 748 Gallons

The City thanks residents and businesses who have already made a strong commitment to reduce water consumption. However the fact remains, we are in the midst of a severe drought. Grover Beach receives its water from two sources: stored water in Lopez Lake and pumped water from the underlying groundwater aquifer. Both of these sources are dependent on annual rainfall for replenishment. Normal rainfall is about 20 inches per year. The running average for rainfall over the last three years is 46% of normal or less than 10 inches. Groundwater

levels in our wells are falling and Lopez Lake is at approximately 40% of capacity.

On June 16, the City Council declared a Stage III Water Shortage due to the severity of the drought. In addition to mandating a number of water use prohibitions, the Stage III declaration carries with it a requirement to reduce water consumption by 10%. We've included a chart with information on typical household activities and the average amount of water used that should assist you in identifying different options for conserving water. The City also has incentive programs available to assist

you with your conservation efforts. Please remember - a single unit of water is 748 gallons.

Implementing the 10% consumption reduction requirement was a difficult decision for the City Council to make. Undoubtedly it will rain again, but this drought could be extended and every bit of water we save today will assist to preserve water for the future.

Activity	Water Used
Brushing Teeth*	3 gallons per day
Shower*	40 gallons for 10 minutes
Toilet*	28 gallons / per day / per person
Clothes Washer*	45 gallons / load
Dishwasher	15 gallons / load
Landscape*	350 gallons / per day
Car Washing	150 gallons

*Please visit www.grover.org for water rebate information & retrofit opportunities.

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enforcement activities, and special events impacting our citizens. Another benefit of utilizing social media has been the development of an open forum for stakeholders and community members to interact with the Police Department, ask questions, and share safety tips.

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT —



Like Us on Facebook
www.Facebook.com/GroverBeachPoliceDepartment



Follow Us on Twitter -
www.twitter.com/Grover_BeachPD



Click the Facebook or Twitter icon on the Police Department page at www.grover.org

Sea Breeze is published by the City of Grover Beach. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Call us at (805) 473-4567 or send email to gbadmin@grover.org



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“VOTE” from Page One...

In 2012 – In the race for Santa Maria City Council, Bob Orach was re-elected to office by a difference of only two votes.

In 2012 – The proposal for Grover Beach to become a charter city failed by four votes.

Every vote can be critically important, especially when it comes to local elections. Elected officials make life-altering decisions that affect our communities and our daily lives. Whether you vote by mail or go to the polls on Election Day —

Your Vote Counts!



MONTHLY CITY MEETING DATES

All Regular Meetings are Open to the Public and Held in the City Council Chambers Unless Noted Otherwise
154 South Eighth Street, Grover Beach

City Council - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission - 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Traffic Committee - 2nd Thursday at 9:30 a.m. (as needed)

Parks, Recreation & Beautification Commission 3rd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Citizen Oversight Committee (meetings are scheduled as needed)

Agendas are posted at City Hall and www.grover.org.

City Council Meetings are televised on the City's Government Cable Access Channel 20.

Your presence and participation at City meetings are contributions to good government.

Please attend as often as you can!

QUICK REFERENCE GROVER BEACH CITY HALL

154 South Eighth Street; *Mon - Fri; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(See www.grover.org for holiday schedule)

Administrative Svs./Water & Sewer Utility Billing	473-4550
Business Tax Certificates	473-4550
City Management	473-4567
City Council - City Clerk	473-4568
Human Resources	473-4564
Community Development Department	473-4520
Building Inspection Requests	473-4527
Parks & Recreation	473-4580
Facility Rentals	473-4580
Public Works Department	473-4520
Code Enforcement	473-4520
Public Works - Water Conservation Program	473-4520
Police Administration	473-4511
Emergency	9-1-1
City Website	www.grover.org
Join us on Facebook	www.facebook.com/GroverBeach

Other Frequently Called Numbers:

Charter Communications (cable television) 270 Bridge Street, San Luis Obispo - or - www.charter.com	(888) 438-2427
Community Library - Grover Beach 240 North 9 th Street (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 1:00-5:00 p.m., Sat: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)	481-4131
Five Cities Fire Authority 140 Traffic Way, Arroyo Grande	473-5490
Pacific Gas & Electric (electricity) - or - www.pge.com	1-800-743-5000
South County Sanitary (trash and recycling services) 874 West Grand Avenue - or - www.wasteconnections.com	489-4246
Southern California Gas Company (natural gas) www.socalgas.com	1-800-427-2200
SLO Superior Court - 1050 Monterey Street, SLO (8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	
Traffic Division	473-7070 - or - 781-5696
Civil & Small Claims Division	473-7077 - or - 781-5677
Criminal Division	473-7072 - or - 781-5670
SLO County Public Health Services - South County Branch 286 South 16 th Street	473-7050
SLO County Human Services & Support Groups Hotline	2-1-1