



**NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUNNYVALE WORKS! TOPS \$100M**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – In just eight months since the program was rolled out, *Sunnyvale Works!*, a local stimulus program, has jumped from the initial \$60 million in projects to more than \$100 million. Program managers have been so successful in gaining state and federal grants, that the impact of the work has been far less than expected on the City's budget.

*Sunnyvale Works!* is an innovative capital improvements project acceleration program launched by City Manager Gary Luebbers in April 2009. The program compresses several years' worth of capital improvement projects into a shortened time period, creating jobs and getting needed work done more quickly. The initial estimated value of projects to be accelerated totaled \$60 million. What the City found, however, was that bids were being submitted an average of more than 30 percent lower than projections.

The City was quick to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Luebbers began reassigning staff to work on reducing the amount of time projects spent in review before the contracts were awarded. As an additional time-saver, the City decided to pre-qualify design and construction management firms. More than 300 submittals, representing 15 service categories, were received by the City from 146 different firms. While the companies still need to bid on individual projects of interest, pre-qualification allows City staff to move projects along much more quickly.

Sunnyvale has used the low bids to the community's advantage. The savings have been reinvested into the program, expanding the number of projects planned or underway. Federal and state grants, including ARRA stimulus finding, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and state gas tax funds, have allowed for expansion of the *Sunnyvale Works!* program to its current \$100 million level.

The quantity of grant money Sunnyvale has received has provided tremendous leverage. As of this writing, \$45.3 million in contracts have been awarded, reflecting a \$21.5 million dollar savings to the

City from the expected costs. In addition, more than \$40 million in grant funds have been received to complete these projects, reducing the City's budget impact to about \$6 million.

This year alone, the City will have completed or begun \$50 million in bridge projects alone. The two Borregas Avenue bicycle and pedestrian bridges and the repair of the Wolfe Road Bridge have all been completed; next up for early 2010 is the start of the Mathilda Avenue Bridge redesign, followed by repairs to the Fair Oaks Avenue Bridge and work on the Calabasas Creek Bridge.

Sunnyvale Works! has dramatically accelerated construction of curb cuts at intersections, concrete work throughout the City, water tank maintenance and other infrastructure improvements and repairs that normally would have taken years to complete. While the poor economic climate that has brought about the cost-saving bids won't last forever, the City of Sunnyvale has reinvented its process for the design, review and award of capital improvement projects. The new faster, leaner model, is now the norm for the City and will likely serve as a best-practices model for years to come.

For more information, contact the City's Communications Office at (408) 730-7535, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit [SunnyvaleWorks.inSunnyvale.com](http://SunnyvaleWorks.inSunnyvale.com).

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