

NEWS



Contact:
John Pilger
Adam Levermore
(408) 730-7535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2010
Release # 12 04 10

***SUNNYVALE WORKS!* REPORT CARD ISSUED BY CITY**

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – It began as an ambitious plan launched during one of the worst economic recessions we have seen. The goal was to undertake \$60 million in capital improvements program projects at an unheard of rate.

Now, 20 months after the April 2009 launch of *Sunnyvale Works!*, will be presented to City Council this evening (Tuesday, December 7), and the program has achieved a solid A+ grade. Since its inception, *Sunnyvale Works!* surpassed all expectations, reaching more than \$80 million in projects, accelerating the rate at which projects were designed, bid, awarded and put under construction, while creating new jobs in the hard-hit construction industry.

City Manager Gary Luebbers predicted changes, saying “Cities will have to change the way they do business. The old ways just won’t work any longer. We are going to move on this quickly, and we are going to get these projects going right now. Instead of waiting years for some of these jobs, we will see some of them starting within the next six weeks.” True to his word, Luebbers shifted staff, broke down departmental walls and created a unified approach to expediting the capital projects.

~ more ~

City departments got creative and looked for new approaches to accelerating traditional processes. The Finance Department undertook a massive pre-qualification effort to identify construction management, engineering and inspection companies that could be pre-approved, thus speeding up the awarding of project bids. More than 300 requests were received by the City, and nearly two thirds of those were approved for the *Sunnyvale Works!* program.

The program became so large, that of the more than 900 City employees, more than 20 percent were involved in various degrees to making the program successful.

The Sunnyvale community has benefited in several ways. Major projects, that might have taken years to get underway let alone complete, were greatly accelerated by *Sunnyvale Works!*, in some cases by a matter of years. As new projects are completed, the City reduces the maintenance required for the older project, saving money while enjoying the functional benefits of completed capital projects.

The City has directly benefited from the recession, since construction companies, eager to keep their crews working, have made bid proposals 29 percent below the City's expectations. Over the total of \$60 million in projects, the low bids effectively lowered costs by \$23 million. At the same time, the City aggressively pursued federal and state grant funding, bringing in an additional \$30 million, \$27 million from the federal government alone.

As the low bids and grants were tallied, Luebbers directed the funds be used to expand the scope of *Sunnyvale Works!*, increasing the project total to more than \$80 million without involving any additional City funding.

“From the very start, we knew there would be a limited window of opportunity to reap these benefits,” explained Mayor Melinda Hamilton. “City staff has worked tirelessly to maximize the benefit to the community. And one of the greatest benefits of all has been the creation of new and retained jobs at a time when the construction industry has suffered greatly.”

~ more ~

By the numbers:

36 capital construction projects awarded

17 civil engineering contracts for project design, feasibility, inspection and testing services

26 capital projects completed to date

\$60 million in original projects targeted

\$82 million in expanded projects

29 percent (\$23 million) in savings from lower bids

\$27.2 million in federal grants

\$2.8 million in state and local grants

Examples of project acceleration:

- 400 percent increase in concrete, sidewalk, curb, gutter and driveway repairs;
- 1,000 percent increase in asphaltic pavement rehabilitation;
- 1,200 percent increase in construction of accessible pedestrian ramps (ADA curb cuts).

###