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NEWS

CONTACT:

David Kelley

Town Manager's Office

Ph. # (707) 838-5306

dkelley@townofwindsor.com

Windsor, California - Loss of Redevelopment Threatens Town of Windsor; Mayor Allen Condemns Legislature's Illegal Budget

Windsor, California – (June 21, 2011) — California legislators took an illegal action last Wednesday (June 15) when they passed a state budget that eliminates redevelopment agencies and extorts so-called “voluntary” payments from local governments to balance the state budget. It is unlikely that our Redevelopment Agency can afford the significant payments required to the state to let us continue to operate without significant impacts to the projects the Windsor Redevelopment Agency has planned to undertake.

“I am extremely disappointed in the state lawmakers who passed not only a reckless, but an illegal budget last Wednesday, ignoring the dire consequences their irresponsibility will have on local communities. This elimination and hostage taking of local redevelopment funds sends our town and the entire State of California on the wrong track. Local Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro and State Senator Noreen Evans each cast a disappointing vote to support the elimination of redevelopment and extort so-called “voluntary” payments to other agencies. At a time when California, the nation and world fear a double-dip recession, it is unconscionable that the State Legislature including our local Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro and State Senator Noreen Evans would vote to shut down our most powerful job-creation tool,” said Mayor Allen.

Shutting down Windsor's Redevelopment Agency will have dire consequences for our community including the following community projects, jobs and local revenue:

- Specific projects at risk include the Old Redwood Highway Streetscape Improvement Project, Sutton Park and Pueblo Viejo Park Projects, and Windsor River Road Development Project;
- Local funding for Windsor's Affordable Housing Program;
- Loss of numerous local engineering and construction jobs; and
- Loss of approximately \$3 Million annually by the Windsor Redevelopment Agency in locally generated property tax revenue.

“I call on Governor Jerry Brown to do the right thing and veto AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27 and help put California back on a road to economic recovery,” said Mayor Allen. Redevelopment funds are already locally-generated property tax dollars (agencies do not receive State funding) directed toward community projects and programs directed by locally-elected officials with input from citizens. AB 1X 26 and AB 1X 27 wipe out the only tool local governments have to drive economic growth, build up tax revenues, and grow sustainably.