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PRESS RELEASE

July 17, 2007

City Council/Planning Commission meeting on redevelopment Thursday

LODI -- A meeting for the public to learn about redevelopment and its possible future in Lodi is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, July 19, at the Lodi Boys & Girls Club, 275 E. Poplar St.

The joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting will include a brief staff presentation on redevelopment, comments by representatives of Merced and Healdsburg where redevelopment projects improved their communities, and a question-and-answer session for the public.

Because the meeting is not at the Council chambers at the Carnegie Forum, it will not be broadcast live by Comcast, Lodi's cable television provider, nor will it be available in streaming video on the city's Website. Instead, Comcast will air a videotape of the meeting Friday, immediately following the 3 p.m. replay of the July 18 City Council meeting.

The only issue for the City Council to decide Thursday is if it will give City Manager Blair King the authority to start what could be a two-year process to create a redevelopment project in Lodi. The City Council included \$300,000 in the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget for redevelopment studies. The City Council will not decide at Thursday's meeting what projects will be funded, but community members may express their preferences.

"It's time to consider redevelopment as a tool to benefit Lodi," King said. "It's important that the community participate in this discussion Thursday so we can address residents' questions and concerns they may have about redevelopment. If redevelopment goes forward in Lodi, we want it to accomplish the community's goals."

Under California redevelopment law, all cities in the state have the ability to designate area within their city limits in need of physical or economic improvement. Following a process that includes public hearings and studies, cities are allowed to retain a greater portion of future property tax increases to improve their communities.

State law requires 20 percent of redevelopment income to be used for affordable housing projects. The rest can be used for projects such as repairing or constructing public facilities and infrastructure, financial assistance to property owners to improve their buildings, and programs to stimulate the local economy.

Translators for the community's Spanish and Urdu speakers will be available at Thursday's meetings. Leaflets notifying the community about the meeting and common questions about redevelopment have been distributed in English, Spanish and Urdu. Copies are available at the

city's website, www.lodi.gov/press_releases/index.html.

The Lodi Chamber of Commerce, the chamber's Hispanic Business Committee and the Lodi Conference and Visitors Bureau have endorsed this initial step.

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