The City of Grover Beach Marks the Passing of Former City Manager

GROVER BEACH, CA — Flags have been lowered to half-staff at all City facilities in Grover Beach in response to the passing of long-term former City Manager Arnold (Arnie) Dowdy. Mr. Dowdy passed away Tuesday, October 15th, at his home. Dowdy held the distinction of having served as City Manager for Grover Beach (City) for the longest period of time. Originally appointed as the City Administrator for “Grover City” in 1974, he continuously served in that capacity until his resignation in 1991 when he left to assume the position as Santa Paula’s City Manager.

Later Mr. Dowdy returned to Grover Beach and again served briefly as City Manager on an interim basis in 2001. Mr. Dowdy continued to live in Grover Beach in his retirement and to serve in a number of volunteer positions. Most recently, the Council appointed Dowdy to serve a term as a Parks, Recreation and Beautification Commissioner, and he also served as a committee member in support of the Charter City ballot measure last fall. During his tenure as City Manager, Mr. Dowdy is credited with moving then “Grover City” forward during the young city’s formative years. Among his many accomplishments was working with local philanthropist and former City Attorney Clifford Clark in facilitating the acquisition of property for what is now the Ramona Garden Park and the Ramona Garden Center.

In addition to his civic duties, he was very active with Rotary International. Mr. Dowdy was a past president of the Rotary Club of Pismo Beach-Five Cities and was a past District Governor for District 5240, which encompassed much of the counties in the Central Coast. One of his favorite Rotary campaigns was the campaign to eradicate polio. Mr. Dowdy and his wife Maria traveled frequently abroad as a part of the Rotary polio eradication team.

In making the decision to lower the flags in honor of Dowdy, Mayor Debbie Peterson commented “Arnie Dowdy was truly a community leader who contributed a great deal to the City of Grover Beach in its early days. Arnie provided leadership to the South County community and the region through his many Rotary activities” She added “Arnie was a great contributor to the community and his personal strength will be missed by all of us.”

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[Photograph of Mr. Arnold Dowdy is attached on page 2 of Press Release]

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