



City of Grover Beach

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 25, 2008

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR GRAND AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT

On *Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.*, the City of Grover Beach will break ground on the Grand Avenue Bridge at Meadow Creek and Storm Drain Project. Groundbreaking will take place near the site of the bridge replacement, across Meadow Creek on West Grand Avenue. With shovels in hand, Mayor John Shoals will be joined by members of the City Council and other City officials to do the honors. According to Mayor Shoals, *"I am thrilled to be starting work on this long-awaited bridge repair project that will provide community members and coastal visitors convenient access to our beautiful beach and sand dunes. I would like to thank representatives from the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, the California Coastal Commission, and the State Parks and Recreation Department for their cooperation on this very important project."*

Annually, the four- (4) lane bridge provides the main access to Pismo Beach State Park and the dunes for approximately two million visitors. Damaged in the December 2003 earthquake, the bridge has been reduced to only two- (2) lanes, one in each direction. Once completed, the bridge will take on an entirely new look. It will feature sidewalks on both sides, rock-faced balustrades, and improved ornamental lighting. It is expected that the project will serve as a welcoming gateway to the State Park at the beach and the future location of the Grover Beach Lodge and Conference Center. The Council recently took an initial step towards finalizing a contract with Pacifica Hosts to construct the Lodge immediately west of the bridge.

In addition to the bridge replacement, the project will include installation of a large storm drain, from the bridge eastward across Highway 1 to 4th Street. Removal of storm water from this portion of the West Grand Avenue corridor is expected to be of significant benefit to the surrounding businesses.

The bridge project has been awarded to MGE Underground, with costs expected to be in excess of \$2.6 million dollars. Approximately \$1.6 million dollars is being provided through federal grant funds obtained by the City through the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG). The remainder of the funds will come from the City's Improvement Agency. This investment of more than \$1 million represents a major contribution from the City's economic development program. For more information, contact City Manager Bob Perrault at (805) 473-4567.

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