



# News Release

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**April 28, 2014**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Mayor Matt Beekman Delivers State of the City Address**

*“The condition of the City of Hughson is strong and stable as a result of prudent decisions made by the City Council during the recent economic decline.”*

On April 28, 2014, as part of a special meeting of the Hughson City Council, Mayor Matt Beekman delivered the State of the City Address that focused on the City’s fiscal condition, land use planning, public safety, water and economic development.

Approximately 50 individuals were in attendance comprised of City staff, elected officials or their representatives, partners, the media, residents and other guests to listen to the State of the City Address—the first in Hughson’s history since incorporation as stated at the event by Jean Henley-Hatfield an original member of the first Hughson City Council in 1972.

During the historic event, Mayor Beekman discussed the recent economic decline, including the history of assessed values and its impact to the City of Hughson in the area of property and sales tax revenue, staffing levels and the delivery of public services. The Mayor emphasized the City’s successful efforts to remain fiscally prudent during the recent recession and the open and transparent form of government as evident by the monthly, quarterly and annually reporting (i.e., treasurer’s report, budget, and unqualified audit) discussed by the City Council at its regular meetings.



Photo: Courtesy of Frank George, Hughson Chronicle

The Mayor highlighted some of the tools utilized by the City to ensure the effective delivery of public services such as the law enforcement contract with the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department that has made the City of Hughson one of the safest places to live in the Central Valley and the road maintenance program that has resulted in the City of Hughson having the highest Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating in Stanislaus County. The conditions of the roads in Hughson have an 82 PCI rating (on a scale of 100) in comparison to others in the County that range from the low 60s to low 70s.

A status of the Hughson Municipal Water System was also provided by City Manager Raul Mendez who shared both the ongoing challenges and the strategic approach for developing a responsible plan of action. The City of Hughson is working with the State of California Department of Public Health to secure funding to make necessary improvements to the water system that will provide a treatment facility that ensures the City's drinking water supply complies with stringent State standards. The City is also exploring several other avenues for obtaining the funding, including a portion in the form of a grant to minimize the impact to ratepayers.

Mayor Beekman concluded the Address by sharing some of the City's efforts in the area of economic development including the array of programs available to existing and new businesses. These include the City's business incentive program, business incubator center and small business development center to name a few. The City is also actively working with the Stanislaus Economic Development and Workforce Alliance on several fronts to market the programs and bring exciting new business opportunities to Hughson and its residents.

At the conclusion of the State of the City Address, attendees had an opportunity to interact with Mayor Beekman and the rest of the City Council (Mayor Pro Tem Jeramy Young, Councilmember Jill Silva, Councilmember George Carr and Councilmember Harold "Bud" Hill) in a short reception. Other officials in attendance included County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, County Assessor Don Gaekle, Stanislaus Animal Services Agency Director Annette Patton, Hughson Planning Commissioners Karen Minyard, Ken Sartain and Julie Ann Strain, Hughson Parks and Recreation Commissioner Juan Hernandez-Codallos, Hughson Police Chief Darin Gharat, Hughson School Board Trustee Jim Hudelson and Hughson School Superintendent Brian Beck. Daron McDaniel representing Congressmen Jeff Denham, Randy Gregg representing State Senator Tom Berryhill, and Brett McBay representing State Assemblymember Kristin Olsen were also present to demonstrate their continued support of the City of Hughson.

The Hughson City Council meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at City Hall located at 7018 Pine Street, Hughson, CA. For more information, please visit the City of Hughson website at [www.hughson.org](http://www.hughson.org) or call 209.883.4054.

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