

Spring 2007 FOWD Press Release on
FOWD Fair Oaks Village Enhancements



‘The new District facilities should evoke a sense of civic pride and serve as a community cornerstone.’

**FOWD’s New Administrative and Customer Service Center
To Compliment Fair Oaks Village Charm**

The Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) recently completed a series of public meetings, receiving input and suggestions from Fair Oaks community members regarding the architectural design “look and feel” of FOWD’s new Administration and Customer Service Center (ACSC), as well as the proposed FOWD Corporation Yard update plan.

At the first meeting, District representatives asked the public probing questions regarding the Fair Oaks community, the role of a “Civic” building, and their opinions of an “appropriate architectural expression” for a public building in Fair Oaks. Using the input received at the first meeting, three design concepts were developed. These three design concepts were presented at the second public meeting hosted by the Fair Oaks Water District. After recording all ideas, suggestions and concerns, and viewing three different building concepts and architectural renderings, the participating community members selected one conceptual design scheme they felt best represented the Fair Oaks community and complimented the Fair Oaks Village.

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Now that the public has provided input on a new building design concept, the FOWD design team and Board are now pleased to be moving forward with the development of the new FOWD ACSC (to be located at the former “Racy’s Garden Décor and Furniture Center,” at 10330 Fair Oaks Boulevard in Old Fair Oaks Village), and the FOWD Corporation Yard (on the site that is presently the FOWD administration office complex). A graphic rendering of the selected building design concept, developed by the architectural firm of Murray & Downs, may be seen on this at the FOWD website.

Upon completion, the new FOWD ACSC will allow the FOWD to provide ratepayers with upgraded services, and ultimately better traffic flow and parking.

The FOWD was already in the planning stages of constructing a new facility when the Racy property became for sale. The FOWD Board chose to purchase the property when it was determined by both the FOWD management, and the new building architects, to be ultimately less expensive and less impactful on FOWD’s customers and employees to simply build on the vacant property across the street, while continuing operations at the present facilities.

Debra L. Smith, Senior Project Architect for the firm of Murray & Downs, made the following statements after review of the available information. “We determined that the cost of building at the Racy site will be less than the replacement of facilities on the existing site. Having this site across the street will allow the District to build a new administrative center, while remaining in the existing facilities without incurring interim facility costs...The site will allow the District greater flexibility in the time schedule to develop their existing property and will allow their existing property to better serve the vehicular traffic for operations.”

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“It’s our hope that the new Fair Oaks Water District Administration offices will eventually act as gateway or welcome point as the community and visitors enter Old Fair Oaks,” commented Tom Gray, General Manager of the Fair Oaks Water District. “We now look forward to constructing new facilities at the site across the street, while continuing our day-to-day operations at our current site, allowing us to save thousands of rate-payer dollars in the process. When construction is finally completed, the District will have wonderful new administration and customer services facilities on one side of the street, and storage, vehicle and service operations on the other side of the street. It will be better for our customers and add a valuable new asset to the community – everyone wins.”

To learn more about the history of the Fair Oaks Water District at its present location, as well as FOWD’s future construction and expansion plans, check the District’s website at: www.fowd.com.