

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2010



State of the City 2010 Speech

Mayor Don Suminaga – November 15, 2010

It has been an honor to serve as your mayor for the past year and I am pleased to present the 2010 Annual State of the City report. The annual report is an opportunity to acknowledge the City's accomplishments over the past year and highlight the activities that make Lomita such a wonderful city.

Before I talk about the annual report, I would like to take a moment to remember Tim King, our councilmember who passed away just a few months ago. He was a good man who provided strong leadership on the City Council and he will be missed.



Tim King

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of my fellow councilmembers and citizen advisory committee members and the commitment of our city staff who work tirelessly to provide the best service to the public. I would also like to thank Chuck Taylor and the Lomita Chamber of Commerce for their continued support of city businesses and all of our other service organizations including the Lomita Sister City Association, Lion's Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis and VFW for all the great work they do.

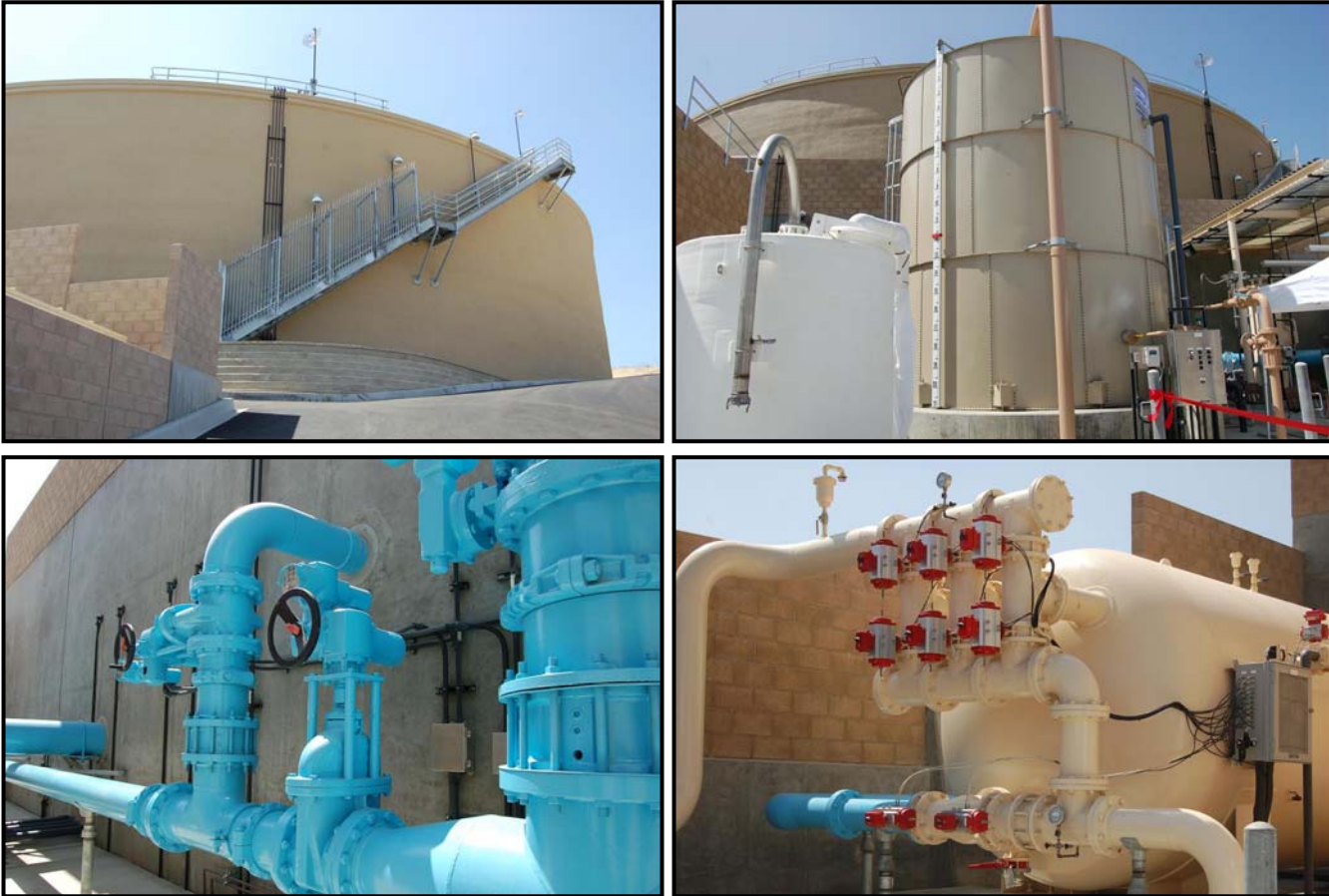
I want to thank the LA County Sheriff's Department for their efforts over the past year. Crime rates continue to be very low and our Community Resource Deputy continues to do a fantastic job as a liaison to our residents and business owners.

Budget

Times continue to be challenging due to the state budget crisis and the overall state of the economy. Due to the fiscally conservative past practices of the City Council we were able to adopt a balanced budget for fiscal year 2010-11. During fiscal year 2009-10 we had to deal with a deficit which was bridged by using a combination of general fund reserves and the equipment replacement fund. Over the past 7 months we were able to pay back a good portion of the general fund reserve that we borrowed and approximately 30% of the equipment replacement fund. Staffing continues to be very lean, we are currently at 47 full-time budgeted positions down from 50 full-time budgeted positions in FY 2008-09. We are definitely not out of the woods yet and expect some challenges ahead.

Water Reservoir and Treatment Plant

After many years of planning, the City's new water reservoir and treatment plant was completed earlier this year. This new 5.3 million gallon reservoir will be able to provide a minimum of 7 days emergency water supply for our residents. In addition, this new facility will eventually allow the City to pump enough water to meet approximately half of our annual needs instead of being solely reliant on imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District.



Cypress Street Reservoir Photos

Street and Water Line Projects

The City currently has approximately \$4,000,000 from various funding sources for street, water line and sidewalk improvements. The City has a number of public works projects that will be starting construction in 2011. The Phase I Street and Water Line Replacement project will repair and replace street and waterlines in a number of segments throughout the City. The Pacific Coast Highway project will replace the existing water line along that street segment. The South Walnut Street project will include a street rehabilitation and water line replacement. The City is also looking to rehabilitate/replace sidewalks throughout the community. Finally, another long-term project calls for the upgrade and rehabilitation of the Crenshaw Bl./Lomita Bl. intersection.

Green Programs

- Created a website called gogreenlomita.com where residents can obtain information on the City's efforts to be green.
- Received a grant from West Basin to develop a demonstration garden at city hall to educate the public about drought tolerant planting and reduced water irrigation.
- Participated in the County's Brag-About-Your-Bag campaign to reduce the use of plastic bags.
- The City Council adopted a water conservation ordinance which applies to any new or altered landscape area greater than 1,500 square feet and establishes a "water budget" to encourage the use of drought tolerant plants and other water conserving measures.



Lomita Drought Tolerant Garden
26255 Appian Way



Lomita Drought Tolerant Garden
Peruvian Verbena
26255 Appian Way

GOGREENLOMITA.COM

Social Media

- Adopted a social media policy and established a city facebook page as another communication medium to the general public.



Proactive Code Enforcement

Earlier this year, the City initiated a pilot program for a modified proactive code enforcement program in the City's residential areas. We had great results in addressing a number of code violations and in general cleaning up many of our residential areas. Due to the success of the

program, the City Council decided to make this an annual effort and our city staff will check all of the residential areas on an annual basis.

Administrative Services Department

For the fifth straight year, the City has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Lomita Golf Tournament

On July 30th, the City held its 4th Annual Golf Classic and Mayor's Cup at Lakewood Country Club. The event was a great success and we were able to raise monies for Lomita Junior Golf, Teen Program and other recreation programs.



From left: Roger Kobata, Supervisor Don Knabe, Mayor Don Suminaga and Rancho Palos Verdes Mayor Steve Wolowicz



2010 Lomita Centennial Golf Classic and Mayor's Cup Champions
Mark Siato, George Kuragami, Trent Yamauchi and Kevin Yamauchi

Other City Events

The City continues to sponsor and host many special events throughout the year including the Holiday Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt at Lomita Park, Drug/Gang Free Walk, Memorial Day Ceremony, Movies Under the Stars, 9/11 Ceremony and Halloween at the Park.

Lomita Railroad Museum

Our wonderful railroad museum continues to welcome visitors and hosts a number of events throughout the year including a Chamber Mixer, the High Tea fundraiser and the museum speaker series.



Lomita Parks and Recreation Programs

Our fantastic recreation department conducts numerous classes and various competitive sports for both kids and adults throughout the year. In addition to these activities, the City also offers dog obedience training, music and dance. The recreation department also organizes the Lomita Teen Program keeping teens busy with different activities and special field trips.

In closing, I believe even during these tough economic times, the City has been able to accomplish much and continues to offer so many things to its residents. We will continue to work tirelessly to make Lomita the best city it can be. Thank you.