

CITY COUNCIL

Dennis G. Hoffman, Mayor
Bruce T. Roundy, Vice Mayor
James Paschall, Sr.
Charles Gee
Salina Edwards

CITY OFFICIALS

Angela Crook
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
Pamela Otterson
City Treasurer

CITY OF ORLAND

INCORPORATED 1909

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CITY MANAGER
Peter R. Carr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Orland Becomes the 40th Bee City USA in the Nation

(Orland, CA, March 7, 2017) – Orland's City Council voted unanimously this week to become a Bee City USA®. This validated the efforts of City staff and community members and groups to accomplish this certification.

City Manager Pete Carr made the presentation to Council members, supported by local residents and businesspersons Terrie Barr and Ray Olivarez. The City of Orland established the Orland Bee City Committee as the lead facilitating group for Orland's efforts to engage the community in promoting pollinator-friendliness. Councilmember Salina Edwards, along with key industry and education representatives, will serve on the committee.

Bee City USA is a nonprofit national organization that fosters ongoing dialogue in urban areas to raise awareness of the role pollinators play in sustaining three-quarters of the world's plant species and what each of us can do to provide them with healthy habitat. Many local agricultural products, like almonds and oranges, are entirely dependent on bees for pollination.

Mayor Dennis Hoffman said, "Our City Council let it be known that we understand the importance of sustaining pollinators, and want to help everyone understand why and how to be more pollinator-friendly. We are stepping forward as the top-producing honey and queen bee area. We are proud of the accomplishments of the local bee industry and its generations of family commitment."

According to Carr, during the process of applying for the certification, a number of organizations were brought into the discussions including UC Davis Ag Extension, The Friendly Garden Club, Glenn County Farm Bureau, Glenn County Fair, Orland Area



Chamber of Commerce, the Orland Economic Development Commission and local apiary owners.

Bee City USA founder and director, Phyllis Stiles, said, "The program aspires to make people more PC ("pollinator conscious," that is). If lots of individuals and communities begin planting native, pesticide-free flowering trees, shrubs and perennials, it will create large-scale change for thousands of species of pollinators at risk. How each city or county celebrates pollinators is up to them, but we especially encourage educational programs for children, like school gardens. When a child falls in love with pollinators, they are friends for life."

Terrie Barr said, "Orland is an ideal candidate for certification because its local ag industry is so pollination dependent, and because of its outstanding local apiary producers. Queen bees are shipped worldwide from Orland."

A designated Bee City USA is expected to annually celebrate being a Bee City USA community with a proclamation and public awareness activities; publicly acknowledge commitment to the program through signage and web links; and annually report activities to Bee City USA to renew the certification.

The Orland Bee City Committee will start meeting soon at the Carnegie Center and will invite all local residents to offer their ideas for pollinator-friendly initiatives. The more people and organizations involved, the sooner pollinator declines will be reversed.

For more information about the Bee City USA organization visit www.beecityusa.org or email Director Phyllis Stiles at beecityusa@gmail.com. For more information about the Orland Bee City USA program, contact Pete Carr at citymanager@cityoforland.com or (530) 865-1603.

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