



# City of Calexico

# NEWSLETTER

April 2026 / Issue 5



## *Professional Municipal Clerks Week* May 3-9, 2026



The City Clerk's Office is pleased to welcome Ms. Dolores Pacheco as our newest team member. Ms. Pacheco joins us through the SER Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and brings with her 24.5 years of experience from her previous employment. Although retired, she continues to share her knowledge and dedication with our office.

We are delighted to have her on our team. Stop by our window and say hello!



Say hello to Ms. Karla Gomez-Silva! Karla has proudly served the City for the past two years. As a valued member of the City Clerk's Office, Karla plays a key role in keeping daily operations smoothly and supporting our community with professionalism and care. Her reliability and teamwork make a big difference, and we sincerely appreciate her continued hard work and commitment to public service.

City Clerk - Veronica Luna-Alvarado

## **Congratulations to the City of Calexico!**

Michael Baker International and the City of Calexico are the recipients of an Honor Award of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of California, for demonstrating an exceptional degree of innovation, complexity, achievement and value within the engineering and land surveying industry.



## **Donation to Reps4Vets**

The City of Calexico donated five (5) trailers it had acquired through a donation from the County of Imperial to assist Brendon Brown from Reps4Vets with the project Roofs for Recovering Program to support homeless veterans transition.

# Grant Funding Report

The city continues to demonstrate strong leadership and fiscal responsibility by actively pursuing external grant funding to support essential services, infrastructure improvements, and community programs. These efforts allow the city to expand services while minimizing the financial impact on taxpayers.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report

- 20 applications submitted
- \$53 million in funding requests
- Funding awarded \$531,620
- Departments involved: Public Works, Police, Fire, Library & Parks & Recreation

## Funding Requests

- \$25,000,000 for Wastewater Plant Rehabilitation
- \$15,000,000 for De Anza Bridge Construction
- \$10,000,000 for Lift Stations Rehabilitation
- \$667,826 for Airport Rehabilitation
- \$500,000 for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

These projects represent critical investments that will improve public infrastructure, support economic growth, and enhance long-term sustainability.



## Upcoming City Council Meetings

**May 13, 2026 (Priorities Session)**

**May 20, 2026**

**June 3, 2026**

**June 17, 2026**

**Fernando "Nene" Torres  
Council Chambers  
at 6:30 pm**

**608 Heber Ave.  
Calexico, CA**

## Grant Funds Awarded to Date

- \$286,119 – Caltrans – Calexico Clean-Up Project
- \$64,479 – Imperial Irrigation District – Replacement of outdated air conditioning systems at the Camarena Memorial Library & the Carnegie Technology Center
- \$164,000 – Imperial Irrigation District – Tree planting initiatives at multiple city parks

These awarded funds directly support environmental improvements, facility upgrades, and enhanced community spaces.

Through a collaborative, team-based approach, we continue to build a stronger and more resilient community.

Grants Manager - Laura Bowen

# Calexico Fire Department

The City of Calexico Fire Department continues to provide high-quality emergency response, fire prevention, and community risk reduction services to our residents and visitors. As of April 2026, the department remains focused on strengthening emergency medical services (EMS), enhancing operational readiness, and investing in workforce development.

## Emergency Response Activity

- Responded to 1,754 calls for service between January & May 2026
- Consistent with prior years, approximately 85-90% of incidents are EMS-related, highlighting demand for ambulance and medical services
- Crews continue to respond to a wide range of incidents including fires, traffic collisions, hazardous conditions and public service calls

## EMS System Improvements

- Ongoing collaboration with AP Triton on an EMS Transportation and Optimizazion Study to improve efficiency, reponse times, and cost recovery
- Continued evaluation of creating an Ambulance Enterprise Fund to enhance financial transparency and reinvest revenues into EMS operations

## Staffing & Workforce Development

- The department maintains below standard staffing levels while addressing ongoing recruitment and retention challenges
- Personnel actively engaged in training, certifications, and professional development

## Equipment & Fleet Readiness

- Outgoing efforts to maintain and repair frontline and reserve ambulance units to ensure uninterrupted service delivery. New Type 1 Ambulance should be delivered mid-May or early June
- Progress on long-term apparatus replacement planning, pre-construction meeting set for May for our two new Type 1 Fire Engine
- Evaluation of additional equipment needs to support firefighter safety and operational effectiveness

## Community Engagement

- Expansion of public outreach programs such as Sidewalk CPR training, empowering residents with lifesaving skills
- Continued collaboration with regional partners to strengthen mutual aid and emergency response capabilities



Fire Chief - Juan Contreras

# Library Department

## National Library Week

Celebrated National Library Week with a week long of activities which included, a third Get Together for the Vintage Club, a club for senior citizens where they pick up a monthly packet which includes a book, and other activities to keep them active. Also hosted an Author's Day with 8 local authors presenting their books.

## Parent/Child Workshop

Offered a new 5-week session of the Parent/Child Workshop for families with children ages 1-3. A specialist from the community (librarian, pediatrician, speech pathologist, nutritionist and music & movement) was invited to each session.

## Dia del Niño Family Night

During the Dia del Niño Family Night, over 110 children and their parents enjoyed of arts & crafts, games, a sensory area, listened to stories in English and Spanish, played games, painted, got a photo booth experience, got a snack and each child took a new book home.

## Carnegie Technology Center

Through a partnership with AARP, offered free income tax preparation services to our community for 6 weeks. In addition offered a new 3D Printing Workshop session.

## Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

The Camarena Memorial Library is celebrating it's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Keep updated about library programs by visiting the website <https://calexicolibrary.org>



This year's Family Summer Reading Program will be offered from June 15th-August 7<sup>th</sup>. Join the library's 8-week program. There will be activities for the whole family including reading incentives for kids and teens!

Visit the library's website to register starting May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Library Board of Trustees Meeting

June 1, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the  
Fernando "Nene" Torres  
Council Chambers

Library Manager - Lizeth Legaspi

# Public Works Department

## Water Treatment & Distribution

In addition of performing a wide range of daily maintenance and emergency repairs to ensure the continuous flow of safe drinking water to residents and businesses, the Water Treatment Distribution Division successfully repaired Clarifiers "B" and "C", both of which treat a combined amount of 14 million gallons per day (MGD) or raw water, that ultimately reach the citizens of Calexico.



Furthermore, this division also replaced four (4) pumps with a 4,000 gallons per minute (gpm) capacity, along with their motors. This adds more reliability to our distribution system, ensuring that potable water will reach all our residents and businesses.

Among other improvements, a water main was upgraded in the downtown area along Rockwood Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. Since this section was scheduled for paving, it was essential to replace the aging line with more durable materials before the new surface was applied.



## Wastewater Treatment & Collection Division

Public Works Department conducted the restoration of the Wastewater Plant's Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) tank, which is a crucial part of the wastewater treatment operation, removing suspended solids during the secondary treatment process.

The Wastewater Collection Division replaced a 6-in storm drainpipe at the intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and Heffernan Ave., thus ensuring that the storm drain system will work properly during future rain events at that location



## Park System

Parks Division recently planted approximately 60 trees in various parks, being the Rodriguez Baseball Park and the Joel Reisin Park among them. This initiative aims to enhance the local environment, increase shade coverage, and strengthen our partnership with IID, which funded the project through a successful competitive grant application process.

Besides that, in its ongoing efforts to improve the community, the Public Works Department, working with the collaboration of the city Grants Manager, has been actively pursuing additional funding for our parks. Notable examples include the "Trees for All" Public Green Space Grant (PSGS) and the Green Lighting for Outdoor Wellness (GLOW) Grant.



## Streets Maintenance (Asphalt & Striping) Milestones

Calexico Intermodal Transit Center – Working in collaboration with the Imperial County Transportation Commission, the Public Works Department completed the paving of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Paulin & Heffernan Avenue, Rockwood Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Alley north of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Heffernan Avenue between the Alley south of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and the Alley north of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

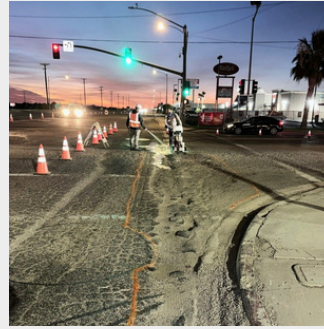
### Photos Before



### Photos After

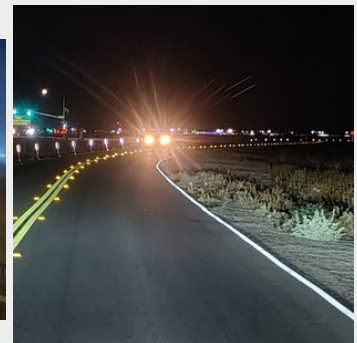


The Streets Maintenance Division has been working diligently to repair severely damaged roads, ensuring they remain functional until the road restoration program reaches those specific areas.



## Yourman Road Re-Striping Project

Completed entirely by the Public Works Department's Striping Division. As this road serves as a primary access point to one of the City's key economic hubs, the new striping provides enhanced safety and improved visibility for the high volume of motorists traveling through the area.



## Engineering Division

Alley Improvement Project Phase III - Public Works Dept. will commence the Alley Improvement Project in May. This project aims to improve the air quality of the city by the rehabilitation of existing alleyways, as well as paving of Sherman St. between Pierce Ave. and Emilia Dr. and Sherman St. between Railroad tracks and Harold Ave.

Weakley Road Improvements Project - The City is currently advertising the project for improving a portion of Weakley Road between Scaroni Ave. and Portico Blvd. This project will provide connectivity and reduce air contamination, as that segment is currently unpaved.

Dutch Bros Coffee - The City reviewed and approved a Grading Permit for this construction.

Sun Community - The City reviewed and approved a Grading Permit for this project.

Encroachment Permits - Approximately eighteen (18) permit applications have been reviewed & approved.

# Recreation Department

The Calexico Recreation Department is here to support our community with quality programs, events and services for all ages.

## Past Events

Valentine's Dance - Friends and couples had a nice Valentine's evening.

Daddy-Daughter Dance - Fathers had a special date with their daughters in 80's style.

Noche Bohemia - During this event, the community joined us for special performances, karaoke and everyone's favorite-- dancing!

Easter Egg Hunt - Over 1,200 people of all ages enjoyed games, recreational activities, raffles and an amazing 11,000 egg hunt.



## Community Involvement

The Recreation Department continued to strengthen community connections by participating in Dool Elementary School's Parent Resource Meeting and Cesar Chavez Elementary School's Career Day.

For questions about classes, facility rentals, upcoming events, or general inquiries, please contact us.

707 Dool Ave. Calexico, CA 92231 (760) 768-2176

## Carmen Durazo Cultural Arts Center

- Women in the Arts - 55 female artists participated in this event bringing together a total of 101 art pieces for the community to enjoy.
- Creative Young Minds - 51 young artists from Calexico, El Centro, Imperial, Brawley and Mexicali brought 71 unique art pieces for a wonderful display.
- Celebrated Children's Day with a special Paint Night especially designed for children.



## Upcoming Events

Summer Program is here! Join the fun from June 9<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>. Get ready for an exciting summer filled with activities for all ages! The City of Calexico Recreation Department is proud to offer a variety of programs including arts & crafts, sports clinics, fitness classes, and special events designed to keep our community active and engaged all season long.

### REGISTRATION DATES:

Seniors : Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 am

General Public : Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 am

### LOCATION:

Calexico Community Center or online at <https://calexicoca.myrec.com/>

Community Services  
Commission Meeting

\*Second Wednesday of the  
month at 5:00 pm at the  
Fernando "Nene" Torres  
Council Chambers

Recreation Manager -  
Norma Gerardo



# Police Department

## New Police Officer

We want to welcome Pedro Rivera as he is the newest police officer. He was hired since April 13<sup>th</sup>. He is completing his field training.



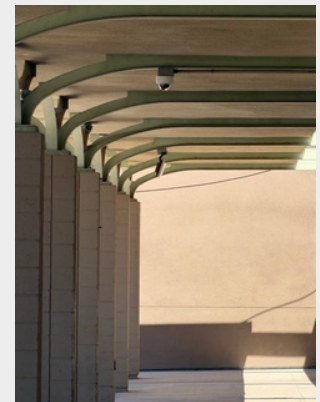
## New Projects

We had new lights and cameras installed on the exterior and interior of the Calexico Police Department for the safety of our community members and city employees.

The interior hallways, bathrooms and locker rooms were thoroughly cleaned and freshly repainted, which gives it a nice clean look.

New lights were installed to the covered parking shade in the rear parking lot of the police department.

A neighborhood clean-up of the downtown was completed by the Police Advisory, Traffic and Code Enforcement Commission, city staff, police department and the community.



Police Advisory, Traffic & Code Enforcement Commission Meeting

\*Fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm

at the Fernando "Nene" Torres Council Chambers

Police Chief - Armando Orozco

# Finance Department

- Delivered a balanced Mid-Year Budget Update, confirming the City's finances are on track and aligned with expectations
- Successfully closed Fiscal Year 2024-25, ensuring strong financial management and accurate reporting
- Completed the FY 2024-25 annual audit with a "clean" opinion, confirming the City's finances are transparent, accurate, and in full compliance with accounting standards

Finance Director - Karla Chaparro



# Human Resources Department

## New Employees



- Laura Estrada - City Attorney
- Pedro Rivera - Police Department, LT Police Officer
- Jorge Ruiz - Public Works, Collection System Maintenance Operator
- Miguel Quintero Hernandez - Public Works, Laborer
- Daniel Hernandez Valdez - Public Works, Engineering Technician
- Jose Sanchez - Public Works, WWTP Operator II
- Luis Lopez - Public Works, Supervisor Maintenance & Operations

## Farewell to Employees Retiring

- Jesus Marquez - Public Works, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator II
- Victor Felix - Public Works, Park Maintenance Crew Leader
- Ricardo Calatayud - Public Works, Street Painter
- Cuauhtemoc Cortez - Building Department, Building Official

## Promotion / Change of Status

- Jorge Villanueva - Fire Dept., Fire Captain
- Joshua Paddock - Fire Dept., Permanent Engineer
- Hugo Leyva - Public Works, Crew Leader
- Jose Figueroa - Public Works, Laborer FT
- Thomas Carrillo - PW, Laborer FT

## Employment Opportunities

- Reserve Police Officer
- Police Officer
- Building Official
- Firefighter

For questions, email [personnel@calexico.ca.gov](mailto:personnel@calexico.ca.gov) or call us at 760-768-2107

HR Manager - Maribel Castro

# Planning & Building Department

## Good News!

- Reduced building, planning and encroachment permit fees are in effect!
- During the month of April, the Building & Planning Department has approved and issued 58 building permits consisting of:
  - 45 residential building permits
  - 12 commercial building permits
  - 1 industrial building permit
- Preparation of the Housing Element Environmental Impact Report is underway, with Scoping Meeting taking place on April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Camarena Memorial Library
- Remote Video Inspections are now being conducted for most building inspections by our partner at Safebuilt
- Community Core, an online permitting system, has been set up. All complex plan checks such as new multifamily and commercial buildings are now being completed electronically
- The Mobile Food Vendor form is now available to facilitate the processing of new mobile food vendors such as food trucks



## New Developments

### Dutch Bros Coffee Shop



Dutch Bros Coffee Shop has broken ground on the lot next to Popeyes!

### Sun Community Federal Credit Union



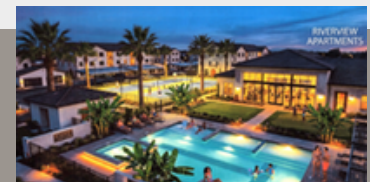
Sun Community Credit Union has broken ground at 523 Cole Blvd., next to Corazo Credit Union.

### Solara Condominium



Staff is finalizing the review of the Solara Condominium Map with a tentative hearing before the City Council in June. The Solara Residential Community will consist of 182 condos along Sheridan Street and McKinley Street next to the Remington Villas.

### Riverview



The 32-acre vacant "Riverview" property at the western entrance to the City along Highway 98 is under escrow by a developer who is proposing to build 276 luxury apartments as the first phase of the project. The development would include a swimming pool and clubhouse.

Planning Director - Michael Coyne