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NEWS RELEASE

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Stewart Park Construction Temporarily Paused to Maximize Outside Funding and Minimize Local Taxpayer Impact

Beaumont, CA— In October 2024, the City of Beaumont was selected for a \$3.1 million federal grant to support Phase II of the Stewart Park revitalization project. In coordination with the State of California, the City has temporarily paused construction at Stewart Park for approximately six months. This pause helps ensure the City remains eligible for millions in federal grant funding earmarked for Phase II of the park's revitalization.

During this time, no additional construction activity will occur within Stewart Park project boundaries. By pausing construction now, the City can protect local Beaumont taxpayer dollars by securing approval of all required state and federal environmental reviews, which is an essential step for outside funding.

"This is an opportunity to bring in millions in federal funds to support our community," said Mayor Mike Lara. "We are taking the right step, so we don't rely on local taxpayers later."

"Responding to the state's request and following the process carefully is a smart and responsible approach," added City Manager Elizabeth Gibbs. "This temporary pause keeps the project eligible for major funding and ensures long-term savings for Beaumont residents."

Once environmental clearance is granted, construction will resume and include features such as:

- A secondary playground featuring bouldering and rope elements
- Upgrades to the existing skate park
- Relocation of the basketball court with added pickleball striping
- New picnic shelters and a dedicated bandshell for concerts and community events

The City remains committed to delivering a reimagined Stewart Park for residents of all ages while maximizing grant opportunities and minimizing local costs. For further information on Stewart Park and other City initiatives, visit www.beaumontca.gov and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

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