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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Chowchilla Adopts Neighborhood Infill Program

Chowchilla, CA – April 6, 2016

The City of Chowchilla approved a bold measure to enhance many of its older, more established neighborhoods. By a unanimous vote, the Council agreed to waive 100% of building impact fees when a builder constructs new homes on vacant lots in the City's older, more established neighborhoods, providing that the builder secures 30% of its goods and services from within Chowchilla.

It is not uncommon for older neighborhoods to have vacant lots interspersed among homes. These lots can become problematic when trash builds up or weeds become overgrown. The effect is a decline in the appearance of neighborhoods, taxing the resources of the City to keep them clean. The challenge faced by builders though has been one of cost; it is often too expensive to construct on a single lot when the surrounding home values are less than what the builder can get in new subdivisions.

In an effort to solve this problem, the Chowchilla City Council adopted an infill incentivization program with the goal of creating healthier, more vibrant neighborhoods. The benefits of infill include a rise in property value in neighborhoods as new homes fill in the empty spaces; reenergizing the livability of neighborhoods that are close to the City's downtown; enhancing the efficiency of City services by utilizing existing infrastructure versus building new ones; and the overall increase in the economy of neighborhoods and the City when builders hire local and buy local.

According to City Administrator Brian Haddix, "attractive neighborhoods build pride in where we live. The City and the community are in lockstep in seeing a stronger Chowchilla through this investment.

Mayor Waseem Ahmed noted that, "we have great school, attractive parks and a strong sense of community pride. The City will continue to do all it can to bolster those strengths by investing in its neighborhoods."

"This is about the people's confidence in how we treat the taxpayers' money, said Mayor Waseem Ahmed. We are committed to staying the course of ferreting out and eliminating any inefficiencies that we find in our system.

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