



City of Gilroy

7351 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, California
95020-6141

Telephone (408) 846-0254
Fax (408) 846-0445

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From: Joe Kline
Public Information Officer

Contact: Joe Kline
408-846-0254

Gilroy Youth Center Structural Issues Being Reviewed

It has come to the attention of city management that certain sections of the Gilroy Youth Center building are constructed of unreinforced masonry. This information came about as a result of a recent routine safety inspection at the facility, which is located at the corner of Sixth and Railroad Streets. On September 10th, in conformance with state law, the building was posted with a notice that it contains unreinforced masonry. Although not deemed a high risk situation, the city is acting with an abundance of caution and will be taking precautionary measures to deal with this situation.

City staff is taking immediate steps to assess the building's condition and is developing the necessary action items to address the issue, including the possibility of relocating Youth Center programs to alternate locations. Currently, the facility houses the City's after school youth center between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and the Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA) utilizes the facility for the offering of various youth and adult outreach programs.

URM building mitigation has become a higher priority issue in recent years, especially since the Paso Robles earthquake in December 2003, and the City of Gilroy URM Ordinance which was adopted in 2006. As part of the building purchase process for this facility, a building evaluation was commissioned by the City of Gilroy in 1996. Among many other findings, it did indicate that Building B on the site was of unreinforced masonry construction. However, this was not generally considered a significant health and safety risk at the time and the building's purchase proceeded to ensure continued use as a youth center.

The exterior walls and parapets of the larger L shaped building are constructed of unreinforced hollow clay tile and brick masonry, although this is not readily apparent as the structure has an outer stucco covering. An engineering report will be commissioned by a licensed structural engineer experienced in URM construction to fully evaluate potential mitigation measures.

The 1996 Building Evaluation report, and a floor and site plan, accompanies this press release. Updates will be provided as further information and strategies are developed.

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