For immediate Release
April 4, 2012

For more information contact
Jerry Hendrix, 512-262-3921

The City of Kyle Removes Water Restrictions, Moves to Continuing Water Use Management

Thanks to recent rains, the City's water sources have been sufficiently recharged to allow for the removal of water restrictions beginning immediately. However, even with the removal of mandatory twice a week watering and other restrictions, City officials continue to ask residents to do their part to conserve water.

"Kyle residents and businesses are to be applauded for their diligence in following our water restrictions as we successfully navigated our way through this very severe drought," said Kyle City Manager Lanny Lambert. "I'd also like to recognize our staff and crews who monitored our water systems around the clock to be sure that everyone in the city had a sufficient water supplies while also ensuring that we honored our water permits with our various suppliers."

Although there are no restrictions under the Continuing Water Use Management rules in the City's Water Management Ordinance, Kyle residents are asked to follow a few simple rules to help continue to conserve Kyle's water and reduce monthly water bills:

- Regularly check for leaks, including broken sprinkler heads, leaking valves, leaking or broken pipes, or leaking faucets.
- Do not operate an irrigation system with:
  - a broken head
  - a head that is out of adjustment where the arc of the spray head is over a street or parking lot
  - a head that is misting due to high water pressure
- Don't allow water to run off property such that there is a trail of water running in the street for a distance of 50 feet or greater

- Don’t allow water to pond in the street or parking lot to a depth greater than 1⁄4 inch.

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“Remember that is Texas we are either in a drought or between droughts, so it is important that we continue to conserve water as best as we can,” said Lambert. “It is also important to note that if drought conditions return, we might have to reinstate these water restrictions.”

Check the City of Kyle Web site at www.cityofkyle.com for the most current water management status.

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For immediate Release
April 18, 2012

For more information contact
Jerry Hendrix, 512-262-3921

City of Kyle Opens New Library
Grand Opening Scheduled for Saturday, May 12th

KYLE, TX - The new Kyle Public Library opened for business on Monday, April 16th, bringing with it a vastly expanded computer area, room for thousands of new books, and meeting rooms for community and civic groups to meet.

The $3.25 million facility is four-times the size of the old library and is designed to meet community needs for many years to come.

"Public libraries have evolved into much more then a place to read and borrow books," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "Along with the sharing of vast amounts of information, today's libraries are places where the public can conduct research across multiple platforms, learn valuable skills and meet new friends through community programs, and receive job search training and assistance. This library will be improving the lives of Kyle residents for many years to come."

Kyle's new library is located in the far western part of downtown and has over 32,000 books, 50 computer workstations, a special children's area, and two community rooms for area groups to meet. The community rooms are also designed to be combined to make one large room.

"I'm so pleased that we are finally able to open the doors to this beautiful facility to the citizens of Kyle," said Kathy Ryan, Chairperson of the Library Advisory Board. "We've worked diligently for a very long time to make the new Kyle Public Library a reality. It really is a dream come true for all of us."

"This new library is such a jewel for the City of Kyle," said Connie Brooks, Director of Library Services. "Much of what we have here is due to the generous donations from the Friends of the Kyle Library. The support and financial assistance we've received from the Friends has made this library a much more useful place."

The Friends of the Kyle Library is a non-profit organization that operates a thrift shop just north of the Kyle City Hall and donates portions of the proceeds to the Library.

The new Kyle Public Library has also benefited from a $200,000 grant from the Burdine Johnson Foundation for the purchase of new books for the new library.

In just the first few days of being open, the new library has hosted over 700 visitors a day. This is up from about 300 visitors a day at the old facility.

A grand opening event for the new library is being planned for Saturday, May 12 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event is open to the entire community and will have activities for all ages.

Kyle's former 5,000 square foot library was located in the heart of downtown Kyle and had served the community since 1962. Since then, Kyle has grown from a small ranching community to a full service city of approximately 30,000. Much of Kyle's growth has occurred over the past 10 years when the city was the fifth fastest growing city in Texas.

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For immediate Release
April 19, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Kyle City Council Seeking Applications for Community Support Dollars

Kyle, Texas – The Kyle city council is taking applications for allocations of $30,000 set aside in this year's budget for supporting service organizations in the City of Kyle. Applications must be submitted to the Kyle City Secretary by Noon on Wednesday, May 30th, 2012.

Application forms can be downloaded from the City of Kyle's web site at cityofkyle.com. The forms are also available at the Kyle City Hall, Kyle Public Library or by requesting them by calling the City of Kyle at 262-1010.

Qualifying organizations must provide services directly to the citizens of Kyle. Final recommendations regarding the allocation of the funds will be made by the city council's community relations committee and presented to the Kyle city council. The council will hear the recommendations and make final decisions on allocating the funds at the July 3rd regular council meeting.

For more information, contact the City of Kyle Communications Department at 512-262-3921 or jhendrix@cityofkyle.com.

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For immediate Release
April 24, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Historic Kyle Train Depot Restoration Begins

Major project to restore the building being funded in large part by private donations

Kyle, Texas – An effort to restore a key part of the history of the City of Kyle began this week as workers started the process of restoring the City's historic train depot to its original splendor.

The building, originally built in 1917, has played a key role in the history of the City of Kyle. Even before the train depot was built, the railroad was the original reason for establishing the town. In 1880, city founders David Moore and Fergus Kyle deeded 200 acres to the International-Great Northern Railroad with the intention of starting a town, which later became the City of Kyle.

For years the depot was the center of activity for the city and remains a key element as a gateway into the city's historic downtown and has served as home to the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce.

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“Being able to see this project underway is a great pleasure for all of us,” said Kate Johnson, Chairperson for the Kyle Train Depot Committee. “We have been working of this for years, and to see construction finally underway is very exciting.”

The project, which is expected to cost approximately $900,000 is being funded mostly by private donations. The City of Kyle has dedicated $250,000 to the project with another $25,000 coming from a grant for the Pedernales Electric Cooperative. Other Grants and donations in the amount of $80,000 have been received from the Burdine Johnson Foundation and Soliref Inc. has donated $10,000.

“We’ve obviously had some success in raising funds for this project,” said Johnson. “We also have a long way to go. We feel that the restoration of this valuable icon of Kyle’s history should be preserved, and with the generous help of our community and other stakeholders, we will make that happen.”

The entire project is expected to take 10 to 12 months, depending on funding. Once the project is completed, the building will be used as a museum commemorating Kyle’s history and will also continue to house the Kyle Area Chamber of Commerce.

The architect for the project is Clayton&Little Architects, and the contractor is SpawGlass, Inc., both are based in Austin.

Interested persons can follow the progress of the project on the Kyle web site at CityofKyle.com. Anyone interested in making donations can contact the City of Kyle at 512-262-3921.

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For immediate Release
April 30, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Super-Krete Opens Doors In Kyle

Innovative company makes concrete a fun and environmental alternative for projects of any scale

Kyle, Texas – The City of Kyle welcomed another innovative and cutting edge company into the city's ever growing economic base this week when Super-Krete International opened the doors on their new Kyle office.

The new office and distribution warehouse will take advantage of being located in the middle of central Texas' growing economy where demand for their product has been steadily increasing.

"Having a company with the creative and innovative vision that drives Super-Krete to bring their operations to Kyle is a huge gain for our city," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "Super-Krete is known around the world for the quality and beauty of their products, and to have that kind of company here in Kyle sends a message that our City is ready to receive other companies with similar qualities."

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Super-Krete is a leading manufacturer of complete systems and environmentally friendly products for the waterproofing, repair, restoration and beautification of concrete. The company also emphasizes an environmentally conscience manufacturing process that uses manual labor to reduce energy consumption and also uses both recycled and recyclable material in their products.

"We are optimistic about our future in Kyle," said Tracey Lackovich, Super-Krete's President. "After several visits to Texas during our search for a new location, Kyle was the most appealing for us as a corridor to Austin and San Antonio. I was personally very excited to move my family to the area and we've since been welcomed by the community with open arms."

Super-Krete products provide a significant cost savings by repairing and resurfacing existing concrete versus the removal and replacement process of most damaged concrete.

Examples of the quality and versatility of their products can be found inside many homes and businesses, on roads, bridges and railways around the world, and even on movie sets. The water fountain in the movie Angels & Demons and the Flying Dutchman pirate ship in Pirates of the Caribbean are examples of the work being done by Super-Krete.

Super-Krete joins companies like RSI, Inc., Xtreme Power and Image Microsystems as companies that bring unique, cutting edge technology that is sought

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after and known internationally to Kyle.

The City of Kyle is located about 15 miles south of Austin, Texas, and has been one of the fastest growing cities in Texas for much of the last decade. The city's population as grown from 5,000 residents in the year 2000, to almost 30,000 residents in 2010 according to the last census. The City's economic base has also been growing with approximately 3 million square feet of retail space ready for occupancy and a medical sector that has added 1,600 jobs to the city in the last two years. Ground breaking on a new Austin Community College is also expected to take place in the city later this summer.

"To say that the City of Kyle has a bright future would be a tremendous understatement," said Johnson. "When companies like Super Krete bring their business and global reputations to Kyle, we know that we have to be doing something right."

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For immediate Release
May 4, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Kyle Staff Working on Kyle Visioning Forum Part II
Next meeting set for Saturday, May 19th, at the New Kyle Library

Kyle, Texas – Following up on the success of the first Kyle Visioning forum, City of Kyle staff have been working diligently to make the preparations for next meeting which is set for Saturday, May 19th, from 9 a.m. to Noon, at the new Kyle Library.

In the first meeting, which attracted 65 participants, city staff worked with residents to develop priorities regarding improving roads, public safety, water and wastewater utility needs, parks, libraries, economic development, and other needs.

"We are all very pleased with the turnout and the information we received for the first Visioning Forum," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "It is very important that we know what the community is expecting from their city and what they are willing to pay for. All these projects that have been identified are very important, but paying for all of them at the same time would be difficult."

City staff are currently working on assigning cost amounts and funding mechanisms to the projects outlined in the first meeting and will present those findings to participants at the next meeting. The final product of the Visioning process will be information used to determine what

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projects may be presented to voters for a possible bond election in the fall or included in the next city budget.

City priorities were grouped into four categories in the first Visioning session. These categories were: Economic Development, Public Safety, Infrastructure, and Quality of life. Participants heard presentations from city staff on each category and then held discussions to determine priorities in each.

Priorities that were developed are as follows:

Economic Development

- Reallocate tax dollars to support Economic Development
- Purchase Monarch water system
- Development of a Research & Development Park

Public Safety

- New Police Headquarters Building
- Additional Personnel, uniformed and non-uniformed
- Implementation of Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Purchase of a new ladder truck for the fire department

Infrastructure

- Reconstruction of Burleson, Lehman, Goforth, and Bunton Roads
- Extension of Kyle Parkway to Goforth
- Engineer new roads so they are ready when funding becomes available
- Extend Market Place Road north of the HEB shopping center
- Improvement and extension of city wastewater service.

Quality of Life

- Improvement and extension of city parks system
- Development of Community Building
- Additional staffing for new library
- Development of Bookmobile Program

"We hope to determine what the voters might support for a fall bond election in this next meeting," said Johnson. "This is an important next step in our growth as a city. We need as many people as possible to help us in the process, so I hope to see an even larger turnout for the next meeting then we saw for the first one."

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For immediate Release
May 16, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Kyle City Council Reluctantly Approves Monarch Settlement, Sends Clear Message that the Utility is not Welcome in the City.

Kyle, Texas – The Kyle City Council approved a settlement agreement with Monarch Utilities at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 15 that reduced a proposed rate hike from 62% to 14%. The council also made it clear that the settlement is not a win-win, but the lesser of two considerable evils and that the City of Kyle is ready to be rid of the utility.

The agreement was the result of negotiations between the utility and a coalition of cities that included the cities of Kyle, Buda, Ivanhoe, and Blue Mound.

"Denying this settlement agreement would do nothing to help us be rid of Monarch Utilities in the City of Kyle," said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. "Monarch Utilities is a detriment to our residents and a deterrent to potential economic development in that area. Our goal is find a way to get them out of our city limits."

Monarch Utilities is an investor owned utility that provides water and wastewater services to various areas in Texas. The utility holds the right to sell water to the neighborhoods of Indian Paintbrush and Amberwood in the City of Kyle, serving about 900 households. These rights are determined by the company's possession of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity

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(CCN) which is granted and regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The CCN grants the utility the sole right to provide water service in the area.

Monarch originally filed for the rate increase on November 11th, 2011. At that time the utility was requesting a system-wide increase of 62.3%. Although the settlement reduces the increase to 8.7% effective June 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and another 4% beginning January 1, 2013, the rates will be more then double the rates being paid by City of Kyle water customers.

"We want to make it clear that Monarch Utilities is not our friend," said Kyle City Manager Lanny Lambert. "Unfortunately, this is the best settlement we could get them to agree to. We know that their rates are exorbitantly high and that their service is below any semblance of an acceptable standard. We have already begun to explore ways to either purchase their system or to be able to compete directly with them. Our goal is to have them leave our city and be done with them."

Representatives from both the affected neighborhoods argued that the council should deny the settlement and move forward with the rate case. Denying the settlement would have cost the City thousands of dollars in legal fees and risked having the utility's rate case expenses being charged to customers.

State law that governs water rates in Texas allows for utilities to pass along rate case expenses to the customers. The settlement agreement that was approved calls for the utility to pay the expenses that have already been incurred and not pass those costs on to customers.

"I think the chances are very low that we could achieve a better rate by moving forward with a full blown rate case," said Jim Boyle, attorney representing the coalitions of cities. "The risks of having the rates retroactive to the original filing and also having the rate case expenses

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passed on to the customers is a very real possibility. It is also highly unlikely that we would achieve a better rate outcome."

District One Council Member Diane Hervol, a resident of the Amberwood neighborhood and a customer of Monarch, voted for the settlement, but called on the council and residents to come together to fight the utility.

"We've been at this with Monarch for a very long time," said Hervol. "If I thought denying this settlement would allow us to eventually remove them from our city I'd vote for it. But fighting this would not be the best use of our resources and would not be in the benefit of the customers. We need to come together and aggressively push this issue with the state legislature and the investors of the utility. We are not going allow this to go on in our city and we are not going to go away on this issue."

Monarch Utilities is a part of Southwest Water Company, which is owned by an investor group led by J.P. Morgan Asset Management and Water Asset Management.

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For immediate Release
May 24, 2012

For more information contact:
City of Kyle
Jerry Hendrix, APR 512-262-3921

Kyle Visioning Forum Part II
Lays Out Community Priorities and Funding Sources

Kyle, Texas – The Kyle Visioning process that started in March with citizens working with city staff to identify and prioritize projects completed its next step with a second meeting that put price tags on the projects and asked citizens to identify what projects could be afforded.

The group of about 50 Kyle residents considered 16 projects ranging from a host of new roads, a new police station, and additional staffing, to park improvements and a bookmobile for the library.

"This was a very enlightening process with some very interesting outcomes," said Mayor Pro Tem David Wilson who welcomed participants at the beginning of the meeting. "I think we have a very good idea of what is important to our residents and what they might be willing to afford. We are going to have to consider the outcomes of these meetings very diligently as we move forward with our budget deliberations for next year."

The group considered a total of 16 projects that totaled over $125 million. The projects were also separated by their respective funding sources of property taxes, bond sales or utility billings. If all the projects were to be implemented at the same time, the average residence in Kyle would see an increase $1.0760 per $100 of evaluation on their property tax and an

(more)

additional $204.06 per year on their utility bill. The monthly impact would amount to approximately $129.69 per month for the average residence in Kyle.

The job of the Visioning forum was to whittle down that amount by prioritizing the projects and making a recommendation on what should be funded first and what the residents could afford in the short term.

The results indicated that the group felt that public safety and roads needed the most attention with economic develop funding following closely behind.

“The outcome of the visioning process clearly shows that our residents have concerns about our transportation and our public safety,” said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. “Our job as a council will be to develop a plan to implement these projects in a manner that is both timely and fiscally responsible.”

The projects that were recommended by the group included selling bonds to pay for reconstruction and expansion of five roads, construction of a new police station, hiring up to 25 new police officers and associated staff and equipment, engineering for new roads, reallocation of sales tax currently going towards property tax reduction, and expansion of the city’s water and wastewater system to spur additional economic development, and various other staffing and program enhancements.

The total impact of the recommended projects, if implemented simultaneously, would increase the average resident’s tax bill by $89.13 per month and their utility bill by $4.50 per month.

“We realize that it would be very difficult to implement all of the recommendations in the next budget cycle,” said city manager Lanny Lambert. “City staff will be working with the city council through the budget process to turn this into a viable capital improvements plan that will turn these projects into reality within a reasonable time frame.”

More information on the Visioning process is available at CityofKyle.com

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For immediate Release
June 15, 2012

For more information contact
Jerry Hendrix, 512-262-3921

Kyle Police Department Adds Motor Cycle Units

KYLE, TX - The City of Kyle announced this week the addition of two Police Motorcycle Units to the department's patrol fleet.

The units will work Monday through Saturday during daylight hours and will be responsible for traffic enforcement, accident investigation, and will assist with major crimes in progress until other units secure the situation.

The units will also address complaints in residential neighborhoods, school zones, major highways, and at other locations as needed to address safety concerns. They have also attended several community functions to promote traffic and pedestrian safety.

"We are very excited to offer this additional coverage for the citizens of Kyle," said Kyle Police Chief Jeff Barnett who is also a Certified Motor Officer. "The motorcycle units will be able to respond quickly to fast breaking situations and will be able to also focus on traffic control in our neighborhoods."

Two Kyle police officers, Officer David Saenz (a three year veteran of KPD) and Officer Dago Pates (a 4 year veteran of KPD), have been trained and certified as Motor Officers and are now assigned to the Traffic Unit under the direction of Sgt. Patsy Oaks.

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The Certified Motor Officers training is a rigorous two-week certification course designed to teach the officers proper use of the motor cycle units as well as unique police tactics that are best suited for the units. The training class was a rigorous two-week course offered in Cedar Park and sponsored by the Cedar Park Police Department.

“The Kyle City Council is committed to enhancing our public safety programs,” said Kyle Mayor Lucy Johnson. “These motor cycle units will be able focus on concerns in our neighborhoods and respond quickly when needed. Just knowing that these officers are out there should provide an additional deterrent for criminals and an incentive for drivers to be more mindful of our speed limits.”

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