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## County and City Join Forces to Complete Highway 20 Beautification Project

(COLUSA, CA) August 11, 2021 – On August 5<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the County of Colusa, the City of Colusa, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Colusa Highway 20 Beautification Project, also known as the Bridge Street Project. The project began with street improvements, and lead to an undergrounding of utilities, resulting in improved traffic, functionality, and pedestrian safety, and presenting an attractive welcoming to the City of Colusa.

Constructed in the 1950s, the one-mile stretch of State Highway 20 between Butte Vista Drive and Market Street required extensive maintenance and improvements. The pavement cross slopes no longer met highway standards, the drainage system needed improvements to avoid constant maintenance issues, and some sections of the highway lacked sidewalks for pedestrians. In addition, the utilities needed undergrounding.

In 2016, the Colusa County Board of Supervisors voted to contribute 100 percent of the county's Rule 20A allocations to the project – totaling more than \$3.3 million. Rule 20A provides cities and counties with utility credits for conversion projects. When the initial project ran over budget, Colusa County was successful in acquiring an additional \$2 million in Rule 20A credits to complete the project, bringing the total county contribution to more than \$5.3 million.

“This project is a great example of the impact of effective collaboration,” stated Colusa County Supervisor Denise Carter. “The County’s contribution of over \$5.3M of Rule 20A allocations for undergrounding of the utilities has enhanced the beauty of Bridge Street tremendously. I am grateful for our partnership with the City of Colusa and Caltrans, and am proud of the improved safety, accessibility, and appearance of the final result!”

“I was happy to participate in the ribbon-cutting for the Highway 20 Beautification Project, and am proud of the appearance of the street as you enter the City of Colusa,” stated Colusa Mayor Pro Tem Tom Reische.

The project included the following components:

- Replaced old pavement and bring the roadway cross slopes to current highway standards, improving access for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Improved the curved section of the curbs location at the corner of intersections to meet today’s Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- Constructed new sidewalks.
- Updated the current highway curbs and gutters.
- Converted the existing surface drainage into an underground system, improving drainage.

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