CITY OF STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE SELF-SERVICE PLATFORM FOR PLANNING HOME OR BUSINESS PROJECTS

STOCKTON, Calif. – The City of Stockton has introduced a new customer service option, the Community Development Department Virtual Assistant, an online self-service platform designed to give homeowners, contractors, and realtors, the ability to research information related to residential or commercial projects, such as zoning information, permit fee estimates, and other related activities.

There is a significant amount of planning and research that takes place before a construction crew shows up on a property or before an entrepreneur turns over the "OPEN" sign on a new business. The Community Development Virtual Assistant is available 24/7 to assist with that preliminary work and help with testing out different ideas and projects. Project planning details, such as zoning information, the cost of required permits, estimated business license fees, and supplemental and incentive information may also be available, based on the location of the project and details provided.

"We are excited about this online tool," shared Community Development Director Stephanie Ocasio. "Helping customers understand what they need to know for a successful project is at the core of what we do each day. For example, making sure the selected location is zoned for the proposed project or business or determining project costs. We

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want to make certain that customers have all the information they need upfront to accomplish their goals, without unanticipated expense or delay."

With the new Community Development Virtual Assistant, anyone planning a business or residential project can easily input basic project information and plan a project online, from installing a backyard pool, to opening a coffee shop, and more. Just answer guided questions, then print a project scope with a summary of details that outline step-by-step project plans. To move forward with a project, open the project and begin applying for permits online.

To view the Community Development Virtual Assistant, visit www.stocktonca.gov/CDD and use the CDD Virtual Assistant link to launch planning and project ideas.

For more information or to schedule a demonstration, please contact the Community Development Permit Center at (209) 937-8310

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