

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT

Bill Lobdell, (949) 887-2541 wlobdell@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

PRESS RELEASE

Costa Mesa enters social media world using Facebook and Twitter

Social media push part of city's initiatives to better communications, transparency

April 4, 2011

Costa Mesa, Calif.—The City of Costa Mesa has launched a Facebook page (www.facebook/CostaMesaCityHall) and opened a Twitter account (@CityofCostaMesa) to better reach out to residents, media and others interested in news about the city.

The social media push is one of several initiatives by Costa Mesa to increase transparency and deliver timely information to its stakeholders.

"We're excited to join the social media revolution and begin engaging in digital dialogues about Costa Mesa," said Bill Lobdell, the city's interim director of communications.

In addition to the social media push, the city is in the process of revamping its website to provide more update-to-date news and information, including public documents. The first phrase, now underway, will be a new series of pages to its current website that will be focused on breaking city news and newly available public documents.

The second phrase will involve an overhaul of the website, allowing for greater ease of use, more transparency, searchable documents including City Council agendas and minutes, and more ways to conduct online business with the city.

The funds for the \$50,000 worth of website improvements were part of a \$200,000 consultant package approved by the City Council earlier this year. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the website redesign will be ready this week.