



PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Communications Specialist

City of Arcata Receives National Digital Governance Award and Invites Press & Public to Launch of Public e-Comments

Friday July 11, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
In the Council Chamber
Arcata City Hall

(Press conference to include demonstration of this unique system)

The City of Arcata received national recognition for “Excellence in Constituent Engagement”. Arcata received second place in the national 2008 Digital Governance Award presented by Granicus Inc. and Microsoft. The award recognizes government agencies for excellence, innovation, creativity, and leadership using digital technology to improve their government.

“We are proud to honor the City of Arcata. They are the first among our 400-plus clients to develop a program that will integrate a Public e-Comment service into their webcasting solution to improve citizen involvement in local government” stated Lauren Alexander, Corporate Communications Manager from Granicus .

The *Excellence in Constituent Engagement Award* recognizes excellence in the application of digital media to measurably improve public outreach and citizen engagement. Other recipients in this category:

First Place: Onslow County, NC
Second Place: City of Arcata, CA
Honorable Mentions:
City of Chesapeake, VA
City of St. Paul, MN

The City of Arcata received the award for the development of *Public e-Comments* – an online process for the City Council to receive *Public Testimony*. The e-Comment Form allows the public to give online feedback and weigh-in on items coming before the Council from their personal computers prior to the meeting, and have the comments be included in the public record.

The Community will have an opportunity make online comments starting at noon this Friday when the City launches *Public e-Comments*. If the public wishes to submit e-comments for the July 16th Council meeting, which can be received up until 8:00 a.m. the morning of the meeting, go to the online City Council agenda at the City’s Website www.cityofarcata.org. *Public e-Comments* are considered part of the public record for that agenda item and will be compiled into a report by the City Clerk for the City Council in advance of the meeting.

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For More Information regarding the Digital Governance Awards, please contact Granicus Corporate Communications Manager, Lauren Alexander, at (415) 357-3618.

Additional Materials (Attachments):

- Development of Public e-Comments

- Public e-Comment Form

- April 7, 2008, Staff Report by Communications Specialist Jan Kraepelien regarding philosophy and background for setting up e-Comment system. Recommendations from the report were unanimously approved by City Council on April 16, 2008 and can be viewed by going to:
http://www.cityofarcata.com/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=61
and selecting VIII Old Business Item A.