



CITY NOTES

October 9, 2014

WATER SUPPLY HOLDING STEADY>> Lead Treatment Operator Heath Daniels reports that water use in the City has dropped nearly 6.5% since the Stage 1 Water Emergency was declared last month. In September 2014, the City's water plant produced 12% less water than it did in September of 2013-- which is testimony to the diligent conservation efforts of local residents and businesses. At this point, the City is able to keep its water tanks full. The pumping regimen from the Noyo River diversion has been altered and is closely monitored in an effort to avoid pumping the brackish water that results in taste and odor problems. While the rainfall last month provided welcome relief, the flows at all three of the City's surface water diversions have receded to record lows as a result of the extended drought. At this time, the City is still able to sell water from the Highway 20 tank to local haulers who are providing water to folks whose wells have gone dry. This not only helps our neighbors, but also helps maintain the necessary chlorine residual in the tank thereby alleviating the need to periodically flush the tank. Until the winter rains arrive (and let's hope that is soon), it is very important that everyone continue to conserve water.

SALES REVENUE ON THE UPSWING>> The City recently received its second quarter sales tax report and it appears that the economy is slowly recovering. Fort Bragg's total sales tax collected in FY 2013-14 was up 4.8% from the prior year. While this is not quite as robust as the net growth in sales tax for Northern California (5.6%) or Statewide (5.0%) during the same period, it is a welcome improvement and hopefully marks a continuing trend.

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE>> Things are humming along at the Fort Bragg Police Department. All of the Department's sworn positions are filled. Police Recruit Brandon McGregor will graduate from the Police Academy in early December and our newest officer, Anthony Melendez, recently completed Field Training and joined the regular patrol roster. Interim Chief Stephen Willis has appointed Officer Oscar Lopez to serve as an Acting Sergeant, and Officer Wesley Rafanan has returned to his assignment with the Major Crimes Task Force. A recruitment will start soon to fill the vacant Community Service Officer position. Last but not least, recruitment efforts for a new Police Chief will begin later this month.

MAIN STREET MERGE PROJECT MOVING FORWARD>> Public Works Director Tom Varga has been working tirelessly to complete Caltrans' labyrinthine requirements for the Main Street Merge Project. In recent months, the following documents have been prepared: right of way certification, stormwater data report, Phase 2 environmental assessment, design exceptions, cooperative agreement, draft project report, encroachment permit, and the list goes on. At this point, we expect that the California Transportation Commission will approve the final funding allocation for the project in December and it will be put out to bid early next year. The Public Works Department will initiate a community outreach process and provide a full report to the City Council on the status of the project later this year. The Main Street Merge Project will implement the final phase of the Downtown Streetscape improvements and is scheduled for construction in 2015.

HARE CREEK CENTER PROJECT UNDER REVIEW>> The Community Development Department is processing permits for a new shopping center that is proposed on a three-acre portion of the vacant property located west of the Main Street/Highway 20 intersection on Todd Point. The project site fronts Main Street and is immediately south of the mini-golf course. The shopping center would be comprised of three buildings totaling 29,500 square feet of space with 99 parking spaces. Grocery Outlet is expected to "anchor" the shopping center. The applicant has recently erected "story poles" which depict the height and corners of the proposed structures. Vehicle access to the shopping center would be from Oceanview Drive and Harbor Avenue and improvements to the Oceanview Drive/Main Street intersection would be needed. The project requires a coastal development permit, use permit, design review and a boundary line adjustment. Once an environmental document is completed, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and consider action on the permits.

COASTAL TRAIL (PHASE 2) PLANNING WORKSHOP>> The Community Development Department will conduct a public scoping meeting on Thursday, October 16 at 6 PM at the C.V. Starr Community Center meeting room to discuss the environmental review and permitting process for the connecting link of the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail. This is the segment of the trail that traverses the "mill pond area" and will connect the two trail segments that are currently under construction. While construction of the Coastal Trail, Phase 2 project cannot commence until the cleanup of that area is completed, the environmental review and permitting must be completed at this time in order for the City to retain the Prop 84 grant funds for the project. The north and south Coastal Trail segments will be opened for public access in 2015 and we anticipate that the connector will be completed by 2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- CITY DIALOGUE 2014>> The next quarterly City Dialogue meeting will be held on Friday, October 24 at 8 AM (location to be announced). The City Dialogue meetings are informal round table meetings where community members can receive updates from City staff, ask questions, and offer suggestions. Everyone is welcome to attend!

City Notes is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. If you have questions or suggestions regarding the column, feel free to contact City Manager Linda Ruffing at (707) 961-2823, ext. 118 or L.Ruffing@fortbragg.com.