

City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
January 3, 2008

- 1. Mill Site Remediation Update.** The big news at December's monthly Agency meeting for the Mill Site remediation project is that DTSC project manager Ryan Miya has accepted a promotion within DTSC and he will no longer be working on this project. A new project manager, Edgardo Gillera, has been assigned to the project. GP's environmental consultant, BBL, submitted two draft Remedial Action Plans to DTSC last week (for OU-A and the Hotspot Removal areas), so hopefully, Ed will come up to speed quickly. DTSC is planning to conduct another community workshop in Fort Bragg in late January. While a date has not been finalized, January 29th and 30th are the tentative dates. We may try to piggy-back a special Council meeting onto the DTSC community meetings, as was done in early November.
- 2. Mill Site Specific Plan Request for Qualifications (RFQ).** The Mill Site Specific Plan RFQ was sent out to a select group of planning consultants before Christmas and we will be holding a mandatory pre-bid meeting and site tour in early January. Consultant submittals will be due in late January, interviews will be held in early February and we hope to have a consulting team for the Specific Plan assembled in March.
- 3. Special Council Meeting to Discuss LCP Amendments.** A City Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Fort Bragg Town Hall to discuss the Coastal Commission staff's recommended "suggested modifications" to the City's comprehensive Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment. The Coastal Commission will take action on the LCP Amendment at their January 11 meeting in Marina del Rey.
- 4. Wave Energy Forum on Saturday, January 19th.** The Wave Energy Forum is shaping up to be a really interesting and informative event. We are expecting upwards of 100 attendees and the day-long event will have two panel discussions in the morning, a free lunch, and two panels in the afternoon. Panelists include representatives of wave energy technology developers, PG&E, US Fish & Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Weather Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Federal Minerals Management Service, State Lands Commission, Coastal Commission, local fishing organizations, environmental groups, etc.
- 5. Skunk Train Parking Lot.** Per Council direction, staff submitted a proposal to Sierra Railroad last September outlining terms of a possible lease agreement to maintain the Skunk Train parking lot for public parking. Sierra Railroad responded last week and we appear to be pretty close to reaching an accord. We hope to have a lease in place before Memorial Day when the Skunk Train's peak season begins.
- 6. Residential Bulky Waste Pick-Up.** I met this week with representatives from Fort Bragg Disposal to discuss the annual "residential bulky waste pick-up" that is required by the City's solid waste franchise agreement. Fort Bragg Disposal plans to conduct the pick-up during the last week of February and they will be sending out information, instructions, and tags to all of their customers a few weeks in advance. This is an opportunity for City residents who subscribe to the curbside collection service to discard up to four "bulky waste" items per household. Bulky waste is defined to include furniture, household appliances, mattresses, and similar residential waste items that won't fit in a curbside

collection cart. We agreed that discarded refrigerators and freezers will need to be dropped off at Waste Management's Pudding Creek facility, as they can present a potential hazard to young children if left curbside. This will be the first year for the "residential bulky waste pick-up" and we are hopeful that it will be a great success.

7. **Question of the Week. *Why Does the City Council Spend So Much Time Talking About the Mill Site?*** While Council agendas frequently include discussions of the Mill Site, please be assured that the Council has continued to conduct all of the other business necessary to keep the City fully functioning on behalf of its residents and businesses. That said, the importance of the Mill Site redevelopment process to the future of Fort Bragg cannot be overestimated. The 425-acre Georgia-Pacific property comprises nearly one-third of the land area in the City and spans 3½ miles of coastline. The property presents an unparalleled opportunity for sustainable economic development and redevelopment. The City Council is responsible for ensuring that the future redevelopment of the property is conducted in a way that meets the needs of our community. Hence, the seemingly endless discussions about the Mill Site...