

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
January 11, 2007

- 1. Last Week's Power Outage.** The City's Water/Wastewater staff and Public Works crew were the heroes of last week's power outage. The wastewater and water treatment plants have emergency generators that kept the facilities up and running during the outage. However, the alarm system at the water plant (which is hooked into the phone system) failed when a fallen tree downed the phone lines. Subsequent problems with the system, combined with a concurrent water line break, resulted in a significant drawdown in the City's water storage. Fortunately, our astute operators noticed the problem, tracked down its causes, and responded appropriately to avoid a critical water problem. During this time, the City's crews were also rotating from pump station to pump station with portable generators, to keep the City's wastewater flowing to the treatment facility. The power outage resulted in the closure of City Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. With no lights, computers, phones or heat, the facility was not functional. This resulted in a bit of a crunch to get the City's payroll processed on Thursday, but the Finance Department pulled through. Needless to say, the City Hall generator project (funded in the FY 2006-07 budget) has moved up on the priority list for completion. The Police Department facility has a generator and remained operational throughout the power outage. The primary public safety issue created by the power outage resulted from the darkened traffic signals on Main Street. Initially, during the blackout, the signals ran on battery power. After the batteries ran out, the signals darkened and traffic control along Main Street became pretty "hit or miss." The situation was addressed by the Police Department with the placement of temporary stop signs at the intersections. Good job, everyone!
- 2. Community Workshop for Solid Waste Transfer Station Siting Study.** On Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., a community workshop will be held at Fort Bragg Town Hall for the Fort Bragg/Central Coast Solid Waste Transfer Station Siting Study. The workshop is intended to help identify potential sites for a commercial solid waste transfer station and to assist with the establishment of selection criteria for the Siting Study. Potential sites that have been identified include: Pudding Creek Transfer Station; Caspar Transfer Station; North Fort Bragg Industrial Zone; Georgia-Pacific Mill Site; West Highway 20 corridor; and the Mendocino Redwood Company mill site on Gibney Lane. Additional potential sites may be identified at the workshop and through subsequent evaluation.
- 3. C&D Ordinance Workshop.** The Community Development Department has scheduled a workshop to seek input from contractors, recycling firms, and construction industry professionals on the proposed Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling Ordinance. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Fort Bragg Town Hall. Invitations have been sent to local building industry professionals and recycling service providers and all members of the public are invited to attend.
- 4. LCP Amendment Update.** The Coastal Commission found the City's LCP Amendment submittal to be complete on October 31, 2006. The Coastal Act requires that an LCP amendment be scheduled for a public hearing and that the Commission take action within 90 days of the date the application was submitted. The 90<sup>th</sup> day would be January 29, 2007. Due to the broad scope of the amendment, Commission

staff will be seeking an extension of the time limit for up to one year (the maximum allowed) at the Commission's January 12, 2007 meeting in Long Beach. Based on conversations with North Coast District Manager Bob Merrill, it appears likely that the LCP Amendment will be brought forward to the Commission within the next six months.

5. **Skate Park.** The Fort Bragg Unified School District Board of Trustees will receive another report on a potential skate park facility at their meeting next Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. The proposal will be brought forward for Council consideration at your next meeting. Planner Sean O'Rourke has prepared a summary report for the skate park, in collaboration with a "skate park committee" comprised of School District, Rec District, and City staff members.
6. **Skunk Train.** I met with Robert Pinoli and David Magaw of Sierra Railroad this week to receive an update on the operations of the Skunk Train. Since purchasing the Skunk three years ago, Sierra Railroad has invested about \$1 million per year in improvements to the tracks and equipment. At this time, they are interested in strengthening their partnerships with local businesses and lodging establishments and working more closely with local and regional promotional efforts. We discussed Sierra Railroad's interest in generating revenues from their parking lot and agreed to bring the matter to the Community Development Committee for discussion next month.