City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
January 15, 2009

1. **State Budget Crisis Impacts City's Grant-Funded Projects.** In mid-December, the State's Pooled Money Investment Board voted to freeze all bond-related payments due to a projected state cash flow crisis. The funding freeze directly impacts the City as follows:

   a. **Otis Johnson Park Enhancement Project.** We have been advised to stop work until further notification on the Otis Johnson Park Enhancement Project (funded by a River Parkways/Prop 50 grant) and have notified contractors that pending contracts for the Otis Johnson project will be held until clearance is received from the State.

   b. **Bainbridge Park Restroom Project.** The Bainbridge Park Restroom Project (funded by a 2002 Per Capita/Prop 40 grant) is affected by the funding freeze. We have notified the contractor that we cannot issue a Notice to Proceed for the construction activities until the freeze is lifted.

   c. **Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement Project.** Grant reimbursements have been frozen for the Pudding Creek Force Main Project which is funded by a grant from the Clean Beaches Program (Prop 50). The City will not receive nearly $1.1 million in reimbursements for the work that has been performed until the freeze is lifted. If the freeze is not resolved expeditiously, this could result in a cash flow issue for the City.

2. **Update on City Sales Tax Revenues.** Finance Director Pat Frost and I met last week with the City's sales tax analyst, Bret Harmon of MuniServices, to review the 3rd Quarter 2008 sales tax receipts and forecasts for year-end and FY 2008-09 sales tax revenues. At this time, the City can expect to receive approximately $1,650,000 in sales tax in 2008-09 which is on track with our budgeted revenue projections. For FY 2009-10, we expect a further decline in sales tax revenues as building materials and general retail continue to lag and energy sales and transportation-related sales tax declines due to lower oil prices.

3. **Skate Park Update**. Councilmembers Dave Turner and Meg Courtney, representatives from the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks District (MCRPD) Board and staff have met to discuss a potential redesign of the C.V. Starr Community Center master site plan to accommodate an approximately 11,500 square foot skate plaza. City staff prepared alternative conceptual site plans including the new skate plaza and a permanent dog park to assist with the visualization of the C.V. Starr Community Center plan incorporating those two new elements. MCRPD's architect has been instructed to incorporate a skate plaza and dog park in a revised conceptual master site plan for review and possible approval at the MCRPD Board meeting on January 21, 2009, 5:30 PM at Fort Bragg Town Hall. If the MCRPD Board approves adding the skate plaza to the C.V. Starr Community Center master site plan, a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the MCRPD regarding construction, operation and maintenance of the skate plaza will be finalized and the Community Development Department will give the skate park design team the go-ahead to create a site-specific preliminary design. City staff

remains optimistic that everything will fall into place and that people may be skateboarding in the long-awaited Fort Bragg Skate Park by next spring!

4. **Air Quality Management District Grant Application Submitted.** Grants Project Manager Jennifer Owen submitted a Motor Vehicle Program grant application last week requesting funds to purchase a hybrid vehicle to be used as a Police Department pool car. If funded, the alternative fuel vehicle will help the City save on gas costs and will also help to achieve the City's green house gas emissions reduction goals.

5. **Progress Reports on Capital Projects**. The City's Engineering staff are busy finishing up this year's projects before the onslaught of new capital projects that will commence this spring:

   a. **City Hall Remodel.** The City Hall Remodel project is progressing well, with the majority of the foundation, framing, and dry wall work completed. The painters have been on site for a week, and the redwood paneling has been clear coated and the painting of the completed dry wall areas has begun. The majority of the electrical and alarm systems are complete; the fire sprinkler contractor is scheduled to be on site for the next couple of weeks. All submittals for finish materials have been reviewed and approved, including the color scheme, carpet, linoleum, and finishes. Danco Builders confirms that the project is on schedule and they expect to be finished by the end of February.

   b. **Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement.** This project has been completed and the Engineers Certificate of Completion has been signed by Associate City Engineer Nancy Atkinson. The item is scheduled for acceptance by the Improvement District Board this evening. Staff is completing the final paperwork with the Construction Management Team and the contractor, North Bay Construction. City staff is working with Clean Beaches staff to try to reprogram the remaining grant funds for removal of the old pipeline from the Pudding Creek stream channel, as required by the Coastal Development Permit for the project.

   c. **Oak Street Repairs.** Robertson and Dominick Engineering has completed plans and specifications for the street repair project on Oak Street and the project will be advertised for bid this week. The bid process will have the minimum notice required and a request for contract approval will be coming to the City Council in February. Work on this project will require removal of the asphalt surface in the intersection of Oak and Livingston as well as in the parking lane on the north side of Oak Street from Livingston to McKinley. The water line break caused the pavement surface to lift in that entire area and there may be some structural voids in the subsurface that need to be addressed. Work on the project is expected to take no more than 10 working days, but finding a window of clear weather to complete the construction during this time of year may delay completion. Once a contractor has been selected, staff will coordinate with the contractor and residents to complete the work as quickly as possible and get the street back to a standard surface.