

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
January 17, 2008

- 1. Wave Energy!** Please come listen to knowledgeable speakers from a variety of stakeholder perspectives discuss the potential promise and pitfalls of wave energy. A free, day-long forum, hosted by the City of Fort Bragg and Mendocino County, will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Dana Gray Elementary School at 1197 Chestnut Street.
- 2. Coastal Commission Acts on LCP Amendment.** Mayor Doug Hammerstrom, Councilmember Jere Melo and Community Development Director Marie Jones attended the Coastal Commission's long-awaited public hearing on the City's comprehensive Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment application last Friday. The Coastal Commission was receptive to the City's concerns about the up-to-the-last-minute negotiations over wording of particular policies and regulations in the LCP. They took the unusual step of certifying the LCP amendment, while at the same time telling their Executive Director to keep working with the City on crafting mutually agreeable policy language to resolve the remaining areas of disagreement. They also indicated that such changes will not need to be brought back to the Commission for approval. City staff and Commission staff will keep working on this and a more thorough report will be made to the Council at the January 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- 3. Winter Storm Update.** For the most part, the City's infrastructure fared well during the recent storm event. The wastewater and water treatment facilities performed without incident, and treatment personnel were kept busy fueling emergency generators and transporting the mobile generator to the various wastewater lift stations. All City facilities had full power restored by late Monday afternoon. Our Public Works team provided exceptional service during the storm and prepared a post-storm assessment identifying additional measures that should be taken to ensure preparedness for future storms including the need for upgraded generators and improvements to ensure adequate fuel supplies during emergencies.

When the traffic signals on Main Street went dark, Police Department personnel placed stop signs and flares at the normally signalized intersections on Main Street to help prevent accidents. Unfortunately, we have since been informed that placement of temporary traffic control signs is not sanctioned by Caltrans. City staff will be working this issue up the "chain of command" at Caltrans with the goal of obtaining a special "emergency" encroachment permit to authorize the placement of temporary traffic controls at intersections during extended power outages.

- 4. Grant Application Submitted for South Fort Bragg Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Plan.** The Community Development Department submitted a Caltrans Community Planning grant application for a Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Plan for the South Main Street corridor between the Hare Creek Bridge and Oak Street. The application seeks nearly \$77,000 in funds for preparation of a comprehensive plan and conceptual design for improved pedestrian and bicycle access.
- 5. Mill Site Remediation Update.** The most interesting development at this week's monthly "agency meeting" regarding the Mill Site Remediation project was Coastal Commission staff's indication that they would consider on-site consolidation and capping of soils contaminated with dioxin to be a "permanent repository or disposal site", a use that is not addressed in the Local Coastal Program (LCP). The Commission's concerns are about geologic stability, shoreline erosion, and long-term monitoring and maintenance. DTSC is still working to set dates for their upcoming community meetings. One will be held in late January or early February to discuss the Remedial Investigation and another will be held a few weeks later as part of the formal public participation process on the Draft Remedial Action Plan.
- 6. Application Received for Assisted Living Facility.** The Community Development Department received an application recently from Canyon Creek Development for construction of a 102-unit assisted living facility, 24-suite "memory care facility," and five duplexes (10 units total) on the large, vacant parcel between the easterly end of South Street and the Mendocino Coast District Hospital. The project includes a two-story, 110,625 square foot main building with assisted living suites organized in four wings around a central dining facility with views to Noyo Harbor.
- 7. Question of the Week. *How will the State Budget Crisis Affect the City?*** It's possible that the State will 'borrow' property tax revenues from cities and counties, although Proposition 1A restricts such borrowing to 8% of the revenues. Depending on how the 8% is apportioned, it is not likely to have a major impact on the City's budget. The Governor has proposed that the State withhold payment of gas tax revenues to local agencies for a five-month period, in effect providing a short-term loan to the State. We don't expect this delay in gas tax funds to affect any of this summer's scheduled infrastructure improvement projects. State revenues for local law enforcement (booking fee reimbursements; COPS grants) may also be suspended. While we hope that the State's crisis doesn't significantly impact City revenues, we are preparing for an economic downturn and a lean budget year in FY 2008-09.