

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
January 31, 2008

1. **Changes in Georgia-Pacific Staffing.** Carol Stephens, who has been GP's Senior Director of Corporate Real Estate and their key coordinator for the Fort Bragg Mill Site since the mill closed in 2002, has resigned. Chip Hilarides, a GP manager from Bellingham, Washington, will be stepping in as the project coordinator for the Fort Bragg Mill Site. Chip's area of expertise is with environmental clean-up and he has recently completed the decommissioning of GP's Bellingham pulp and paper mill. That project also involved a public land purchase transaction, complex remediation issues, and an urban design and planning process. We hope that the new team will share Carol's commitment to community collaboration and to completion of the Coastal Trail & Parkland acquisition.
2. **Consolidation and Containment of Mill Site Dioxins.** Coastal Commission Director Peter Douglas participated in an interagency staff meeting in mid-January to discuss the remedial alternative of consolidating and capping soils with dioxin on the Mill Site. While he indicated a preference for the material to be removed from the site, he also entertained discussion of alternative locations. From the Commission's perspective, they would like to see the containment location as far away from the coast as possible. A location in the vicinity of the Cypress Gate was discussed as a possible alternative. Coastal Commission staff backed off of their previous interpretation that capping contaminated soils on site is inconsistent with the City's Local Coastal Program and indicated that they will be focusing on evaluating coastal resource issues.
3. **Wave Energy Forum.** The Wave Energy Forum was a great success, and the fact that all five City Councilmembers attended the day-long event is testimony to the importance of the topic to our community. The ad hoc committee that coordinated the event met last Friday to debrief, delegate follow-up tasks, and begin strategizing about next steps. The Council's February 11 agenda includes a discussion of possible next steps and to seek direction from the entire Council.
4. **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Sales Tax Revenues.** City staff received the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2007 (July-August) Sales Tax Analysis from MuniServices last week and the numbers reflect the continued decline in local and regional economic performance. The City's net cash receipts for this period were 5.8% less than receipts in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2006. The biggest decline is in the construction category, which reflects trends throughout the State and nation.
5. **Mill Site Specific Plan Update.** The City and GP received six proposals from consultant firms vying for the specific plan contract. Proposals were received from:
  - a. Design Workshop;

- b. RBF Consulting (teamed with Collins Woerman, Crawford Multari & Clark, and Capitol Dynamics);
- c. Moule & Polyzoides (teamed with New Urban Realty Advisors, Poole Design, and Strategic Economics);
- d. Torti Gallas and Partners (teamed with Crawford Multari & Clark, HDR Sustainable Solutions; Leventhal Schlosser Newberger Architects; Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey; and Consensus Planning Group)
- e. Wallace Roberts & Todd/Solomon E.T.C. (teamed with Crawford Multari & Clark and Criterion Planners);
- f. RRM Design Group (teamed with Community Design + Architecture and Crawford Multari & Clark)

The Mill Site Coordinating Committee will be reviewing the proposals this week and inviting consultants back up to Fort Bragg on February 12<sup>th</sup> for panel interviews.

6. **Question of the Week? *How did the City select locations for the Sidewalk Infill Project?*** I've had a number of inquiries about how the City determined which missing sidewalk segments were installed with the grant funds. The sidewalks and curb ramps were prioritized based on the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. The priority areas included the four school sites, as well as locations where there are other public facilities and areas of public assembly (i.e., churches).