City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
February 12, 2009

1. **Coastal Commission Approves Georgia-Pacific's Permit for Coastal Trail & Parkland Remediation.** On Wednesday, February 4th, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved Georgia-Pacific's coastal permit for clean-up of contaminated soils in "Operable Unit A" which comprises about 75 acres along the coast of the Mill Site. The clean up will be conducted this summer. Once the site is cleaned up, the City and Georgia-Pacific can complete the purchase transaction for the 75-acre Coastal Trail & Parkland area. With a little luck, the City will take title to the parkland in 2010 and complete park improvements on the northern half of the parkland in 2011, at which time the public will have access to the magnificent coastline of the Mill Site property for the first time in nearly a century.

2. **Water Supply Update.** To date, Fort Bragg has less than 13 inches of rainfall this season, as compared to average annual precipitation of 41 inches. By comparison, Fort Bragg received 21 inches of rainfall in 1976 which is the driest year on record. The recent rain has helped a little, but much more is needed. Water conservation programs are likely to be necessary this summer. The City is forging ahead with plans to construct a small reservoir at the City's Newman Reservoir property off Summers Lane to help provide water in late summer when our water supplies are constrained by pumping restrictions on the Noyo. We expect to complete the design and permitting work this year and to construct the reservoir in 2010.

3. **Caltrans Grants City $200,000 for Restoration and Enhancement of Otis Johnson Wilderness Park.** Over the past couple of months, CalTrans has been working with City staff to define a "mitigation" project that will satisfy their obligation to provide mitigation for impacts to wetlands associated with Caltrans' Ten Mile River Bridge replacement project. Caltrans has agreed to help fund the City's Otis Johnson Park restoration project and, specifically, to provide $200,000 for the removal of non-native invasive plants, wetland restoration and two new bridge crossings. The City has also received a grant of $175,000 from the Prop 50 California River Parkways grant program which will be used to help with restoration activities and to establish other amenities, including signage, interpretive panels, bike racks, picnic tables, and enhanced trails. We expect for work on the project to begin this summer, with restoration activities extending over a four year period.

4. **Energizing Local Entrepreneurs.** With funding from the Fort Bragg Promotion Committee, the West Company is organizing an exciting half-day workshop to be held Tuesday morning, March 24th. The workshop will be facilitated by Karen Dabson of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. The Center works to encourage entrepreneurship development as an effective route to building prosperous, dynamic, and sustainable rural economies. This is an important opportunity for everyone with an interest in strengthening our local economy to learn about how to create a supportive community to energize our local entrepreneurs.

5. **Update on PG&E's Mendocino WaveConnect Project.** Earlier this month, the California Public Utilities Commission approved PG&E's request to expend $4.8 million of Emerging Renewable Resource Program funds on the Mendocino and

Humboldt WaveConnect projects. This funding will allow PG&E's technical consultants (CH_2M-Hill) to get to work. When PG&E representatives met with the Council's ad hoc wave energy committee in early January, they indicated that the consultant's first task would be to prepare a work plan for technical studies and preliminary design activities necessary to evaluate the WaveConnect project. We will encourage PG&E to hold a community meeting to share this information with the public.

6. **City Files Motions on Greenwave, LLC Wave Energy Project.** On January 28th, the City of Fort Bragg filed a Motion to Intervene with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Greenwave LLC Mendocino Wave Energy Project. Last week, the City filed a subsequent Motion to Stay or Deny the Preliminary Permit Application for the Greenwave LLC Mendocino Wave Energy Project. As the Motion to Intervene was filed timely, we expect FERC will grant the City intervenor status. It will be quite a surprise if FERC approves the City's motion to stay or deny Greenwave's preliminary permit application.

7. **Animal Care & Control Update.** The County was unable to reach an agreement for a private contractor to run the Coast Animal Shelter and, at the January 27th Board of Supervisors meeting, County Health and Human Services Director Carmel Angelo reported that, in order to operate the shelter within the budget allocated, the following steps are needed: (1) operate with two full time employees; (2) reduce days open to public from five to four days per week; (3) no upgrades to shelter, equipment, computers, septic system; (4) hold animals at the shelter for the "stray period" for owner redemptions. After the stray period, animals would then be eligible to go to rescue organizations or would go to Ukiah Shelter to be adopted out. At this same meeting, the "animal control" portion of the Animal Care and Control Division was transferred to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Angelo, Public Health Department Director Stacy Cryer, and Sheriff Tom Allman will attend the February 23rd Council meeting to provide a status update on Animal Care and Control services. With the County struggling to trim $4,000,000 from its budget, the prognosis is grim