

# City Hall News

From the desk of  
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing  
February 22, 2007

1. **City Awarded \$316,481 Community Development Block Grant.** The City received word from the State Department of Housing & Community Development that our application for \$316,481 of CDBG funds for the rehabilitation of the Hospitality House emergency shelter was successful. Congratulations to Jennifer Owen and the Community Development Department for preparing another successful grant application!
2. **City Hall to Stay Open at During the Lunch Hour.** Following up on the Council's goal of engaging the community and increasing access to City services, City Hall will be open during the lunch hour starting on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. This will allow local residents to pay their water bills and access the Community Development Department during their lunch break. Many thanks to the downstairs City Hall staffers who will be flexing their own lunch breaks to ensure adequate staff coverage to make this service available.
3. **Local Coastal Program Amendment Update.** Bob Merrill and Tiffany Tauber from the Coastal Commission's Eureka office will be meeting with City staff in early March to discuss progress on the Commission staff's review of the City's LCP Amendment application. Mr. Merrill has indicated that Commission staff is hoping to have the LCP Amendment brought forward for Coastal Commission certification at their September 5-7, 2007 meeting in Eureka.
4. **Mill Site Remediation Update.** A meeting on the Mill Site remediation project was held at the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) last week. The meeting was attended by representatives from DTSC, GP, various resource agencies, and the City's environmental consultants. The primary topic of the meeting was the ecological and human health risk assessments that will be conducted for the Mill Site. Information was provided about DTSC's sampling of the tissues of mussels collected from three locations at Soldier Bay along the coast of the Mill Site and a "control" sample of Washington State mussels purchased at a local grocery store. The mussels were tested for PCBs, dioxins, and heavy metals. The control sample mussels were found to have higher levels of PCBs and dioxins than the Soldier Bay mussels. The metal content of the Soldier Bay mussels was higher than that of the Washington State mussels, consistent with the geology of the California coast. GP will be sampling sediments offshore of the Mill Site and representatives of the Department of Fish and Game and the NOAA will be visiting the site next week to determine appropriate locations.
5. **First Responders Meeting.** Last week, a multi-agency meeting was held at Fort Bragg Town Hall to share information about the "emergency preparedness" of the various agencies who will respond to local disasters. The meeting was convened by the City and the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services and was attended by about 30 representatives of the City of Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg Unified School District, Mendocino Coast District Hospital, Fort Bragg Fire Department, Coast Guard, California Highway Patrol, California Division of Forestry, State Parks, PG&E, KOZT, County Department of Transportation, County Department of Health & Human Services. The City, School District and Hospital will be continuing to update our emergency plans and planning a "table top" exercise later this year.

6. **Tsunami Workshop.** The County Office of Emergency Services is planning a Tsunami Workshop here in Fort Bragg on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first day will be an educational seminar led by representatives of the National Weather Service and scientists from CalTech. The second day will be a table top exercise. It is also noteworthy that PG&E has donated a tsunami warning siren to our community. It will be located in Noyo Harbor and activated (when needed) by the Coast Guard.
  
7. **Bones at the Noyo Dredge Spoils Site.** Registered professional archaeologist Thad Van Bueren has submitted his archaeological investigation of the Noyo dredge spoils site to the City and the Noyo Harbor District. As mentioned previously, the bones that were discovered during the Harbor District's preparation of the site for dredging activities last fall have been determined to be non-human. The historic Pomo village of Kadiu occupied a large area including the beach and the bluff tops behind it. In the mid- to late-1800's a timber mill was located at the base of the bluffs, but it burned to the ground in 1909. In the early 1900's the site was occupied by the Pomo village as well as fishermen's residences. The archaeological report recommends protective measures to ensure that any surviving deposits of the early village and the historic mill site under the dredge pond are not harmed. These measures include finding an alternative site for the temporary disposal of dredge spoils, installing a clay lining in the pond, and recommendations for ceasing work and contacting authorities if evidence of an archaeological site is discovered during future activities in and around the pond.