

# City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

March 13, 2008

- 1. FERC Denies City's Motion to Intervene on PG&E WaveConnect permit application.** Last week, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) denied the Motions to Intervene on PG&E's WaveConnect project that were filed by the City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County, and Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics (FISH). FERC's notice denying the late interventions states that the three parties received adequate notice of PG&E's preliminary permit application and that "Allowing late intervention at this point in the proceeding would create prejudice and additional burdens on the Commission and the applicant. The City, County and FISH have until April 4 to request a re-hearing by FERC. We will seek direction from the Council on this issue on the March 24<sup>th</sup> agenda.
- 2. DTSC Conducting Informal Meetings on Thursday.** DTSC is planning to release the Draft Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for OU-A and the Interim Actions on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. They will hold two informal meetings on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to provide information to the community regarding the proposed remedial alternatives. A day-time meeting will be held at Larsen Hall (St. Michael's Church) from 10 am to 1 pm. An evening session will be at Dana Gray Elementary from 7 pm to 9 pm. DTSC will hold a "formal" community meeting on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Redwood Elementary School from 7 pm to 9 pm. The Fort Bragg Redevelopment Agency will meet the following afternoon at 4 pm at Fort Bragg Town Hall to consider the RAPs and advise DTSC and GP as to whether the RAPs are acceptable to the Agency in accordance with its responsibilities and authority under the Polanco Redevelopment Act.
- 3. MCOG Board Approves Overall Work Program.** The City submitted two requests to the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) for funding in the 2008/09 Overall Work Program: \$10,000 to purchase bicycle and pedestrian counter equipment; and \$45,000 to fund consultant services for pre-construction planning for the Glass Beach Bike Trail (extending on the west side of Glass Beach Drive from the Pudding Creek Trestle to Elm Street); and for preparation of a Citywide Bicycle Master Plan. The MCOG Board approved these requests at their meeting last week and forwarded the Overall Work Program for approval by Caltrans. The funds will be available July 1.
- 4. CDBG Planning Grant Awarded (Finally).** The City received word from the State Community Development Block Grant program that our application for \$70,000 in Planning & Technical Assistance funds was approved. This includes \$25,000 for planning and design of a Skate Plaza; \$25,000 for a planning study for improvements at the Main Street Fire Station; and \$20,000 for a new Household Income Survey.
- 5. Mill Site Specific Plan Update.** After reviewing six statements of qualifications submitted by specific plan consultants, and interviewing four consultant teams, the consensus of the Mill Site Coordinating Committee is that the team headed by RRM Design Group and Community Design + Architecture is best-suited for the task. Over the

next few weeks, the Committee and the consultants will be assembling a scope of work and schedule for the planning effort, and GP will be working to get them under contract. We are planning a “kick-off meeting” to introduce the specific plan consultants to the Council and community in April.

6. **Solid Waste Transfer Station Siting Study.** City and County staff met in late February for a status update on the Solid Waste Transfer Station Siting Study. County Division of Solid Waste staff have contacted the owners of the possible sites along the Highway 20 corridor that were identified in the siting study to further assess their potential interest in selling/leasing land for the project. All of the property owners expressed an interest. Staff is preparing a pro forma to evaluate project costs and possible associated increases in “tipping fees.” Follow-up on the study is on a bit of a “slow track” due to staffing shortages and other work priorities in both agencies, however we expect to bring a report back to the Council and Board of Supervisors this summer.
7. **Extended Hours for City’s Public Restrooms.** In response to sporadic, but on-going complaints about the hours of operation of the City’s public restrooms, and the concerns raised by Love In Action regarding accessibility of public restrooms to homeless people in evening hours, Public Works Director Dave Goble and Police Chief Mark Puthuff have decided to leave the restrooms at Pomo Bluffs Park and Bainbridge Park open 24 hours a day on a trial basis. If the restrooms are subjected to increased vandalism or there are problems with loitering after-hours at the parks, the restrooms will be locked at night again. With the assistance of Fort Bragg Police Department staff, we have also extended the hours for the Town Hall restrooms. They will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
8. **Street List for Rubberized Asphalt Overlay Project.** The Council’s Public Works & Facilities Committee approved the following list of streets for this summer’s rubberized asphalt overlay project which will be funded with revenues from the ½ cent sales tax for street repairs:
  - a. Oak Street, from Harold to city limits;
  - b. Alder Street, from Franklin to eastern limit of Alder;
  - c. Cedar Street, from Harold to city limits;
  - d. McPherson Street, from Bush to Walnut Street;
  - e. Harrison Street, from Bush to Walnut Street;
  - f. Whipple Street, from Bush to Walnut Street;
  - g. Oak Terrace, located off Oak Street;
  - h. Jewett Street, located off Oak Street;
  - i. Taubold Court, located off Dana Street;
  - j. Boatyard Drive, from Hwy 20 to Main Street.