

City Hall News

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

- Clean Beaches Grant.** The City received notification from the Proposition 50 Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program indicating that our request for a \$1,500,000 grant to replace the Pudding Creek Force Main has been forwarded to the State Water Board as a recommended project. If approved by the Board, the City will be invited to submit a detailed application. This is really good news because, if the City is successful in securing the \$1,500,000 grant, we will be able to comply with the Cease & Desist Order that was received recently from the Water Board requiring replacement the Pudding Creek Force Main by 2009. Many thanks are due to Grants Manager Jennifer Owen and Associate City Engineer Nancy Atkinson for pursuing the Clean Beaches grant.
- Extra Funds for Franklin Street Project and Curb Ramps & Sidewalks Project.** The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) Board recently approved the allocation of approximately \$3.6 million of additional State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) augmentation funds made possible through passage of Proposition 1B last November. The MCOG Board opted to use the funds to cover cost increases for existing STIP projects which are a result of statewide construction cost increases and project delays caused by the State's recent financial problems. The MCOG Board agreed to allocate additional funds to two Fort Bragg projects. An additional \$700,000 was allocated to the Franklin Street Reconstruction Project and an additional \$374,000 was allocated to the Americans with Disability's Act (ADA) Ramps & Sidewalks Project.
- Redevelopment Plan Amendments.** Community Development Director Marie Jones, Finance Director Mark Johnson and I met with several redevelopment experts last week to brainstorm about potential modifications to the Fort Bragg Redevelopment Plan that will enable the Redevelopment Agency to use tax increment financing to assist with necessary infrastructure, public facilities, and public amenities to support redevelopment of the Mill Site property. We concluded that the best solution will be to detach the Mill Site from the existing Redevelopment Project and create a new Redevelopment Plan for the Mill Site. It may then be of benefit to merge the two projects. We will be continuing our analysis and preparing financial projections to explain the benefits of this approach to the Agency Board and other taxing entities. We will want to include the environmental review of the Redevelopment Plan amendments in the EIR for the Specific Plan.
- Mill Site Remediation Update.** Community Development Director Marie Jones and I joined up with the City's environmental consultants, Glenn Young and Mark Stelljes, last week to meet with staff from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), representatives from Georgia-Pacific and their environmental consultants (BBL), and staff from the various resource agencies with jurisdiction over the Mill Site remediation project. We received an update from BBL on the status of the site investigation and work that is planned for this summer. Staff from the resource agencies will be conducted a site visit on April 20th to gain more familiarity with the site and to identify appropriate locations for offshore sediment sampling.

5. **Coastal Trail Planning Process.** The Coastal Trail planning group, comprised of staff from the City, State Parks, Mendocino Land Trust and the National Park Service, met last week to refine the work program for the Coastal Trail Master Plan and chart a course for preparation of a conceptual plan for coastal trail and parkland facilities on the Glass Beach headlands of MacKerricher State Park and the northern Mill Site parklands, as well as an Interpretation Plan for the entire Mill Site parklands and Glass Beach. The group will be getting together again next month for a full-day of collaborative work and a field visit.