City Hall News

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
April 30, 2009

1. **The Spotlight is on Linda Bainbridge!** Treatment Operator Linda Bainbridge assists in the City's Municipal Lab with sampling and compiling data. She helps keep the lab running and provides input from a Treatment Operator's perspective. She handles daily sampling and analysis of the different process units at the wastewater treatment plant. The sample data is important in monitoring the performance of the treatment plant and helps inform the operators about how each component of the treatment process is performing and what adjustments might be needed. Thank you, Linda, for your contributions to the City!

2. **State Bond Sale May Free Up Money for City Reimbursement and Capital Projects.** Last weed, California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer was able to sell $6.85 billion in bonds, including $5.2 billion in Recovery Act-backed bonds. The proceeds from the sale will be used to restart stalled bond-funded projects. Three City of Fort Bragg projects are included on the list of more than 5,000 projects that are authorized to restart: Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement Project (Prop 50); Bainbridge Park Restrooms (Prop 40); and Fort Bragg Waterfront Acquisition (Prop 40). The Pudding Creek Force Main Replacement project was completed last summer and the City is owed nearly $1M in reimbursements from the State. The City entered into a contract with Whitney-Stone for construction of the Bainbridge Park Restrooms last November, but the project was put on hold due to the State's budget situation. While the Fort Bragg Waterfront Acquisition funds were also frozen, that funding won't be needed until next spring when title to the Coastal Trail & Parkland property is expected to transfer. Unfortunately, the City's Otis Johnson Park Restoration Project does not appear on the list. We have begun work on that project with Caltrans' mitigation funding, but will need to receive the California Rivers & Parkways grant funding to complete the project.

3. **More Good Work by the Fort Bragg Police Department.** Once again, the Fort Bragg Police Department is to be commended for their pro-active investigation of local cyber-predators MySpace.com. The investigation resulted in the arrest of a suspected sexual predator. Hopefully, publicity over this incident will serve as a warning for parents and youth in our community about the potential dangers of social networking with strangers on the internet.

4. **PG&E WaveConnect Update.** PG&E released an update on the WaveConnect wave energy project last week and announced a Thursday, May 21st community workshop that will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Portuguese Hall. The announcement states that "the proposed project is to develop a small-scale project that would allow several wave energy technologies to provide power to the coastal communities while demonstrating the potential for this clean renewable energy resource." The notice states that more information will be provided at the May 18th open house.

5. **Public Works Department Updates**. While the torn up streets and sidewalks in the Downtown are the most visible capital improvement projects currently underway, the City's Public Works Department has a number of other irons in the fire, including the following:

   - **Renewal of 5-Year NPDES Permit**. The Water Board has scheduled a June 2009 hearing on the renewal of the City's 5-year National Pollution Discharge Elimination

System (NPDES) permit. The revised permit has been reviewed by City staff and our engineering consultant and the City has submitted written comments to the Water Board. The revisions are relatively minor and we do not anticipate any problems with this round of permitting.

- **Two Projects Out to Bid**. The City currently has two new projects that are in the bid solicitation process—the Corporation Yard Paving project and the Town Hall Parapet Replacement project.

6. **Federal Highway Bill Reauthorization.** The City submitted two projects last week to Congressman Mike Thompson's office as potential "earmarks" for funding through the five-year Federal Highway Bill Reauthorization. We requested $3.6M for the construction of the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail and $1.3M to complete the funding for the Main Street (SR1) Realignment Project.

7. **Mill Site Specific Plan Update.** Please take a look at Georgia-Pacific's website for the Mill Site project. It has been updated recently with a user-friendly interface and reformatted information. The Mill Site Specific Plan overview portion of the site is particularly content-rich. The website can be accessed at: www.fortbraggmillsite.com. And don't forget to come to the community workshop on the Specific Plan next Saturday, May 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Dana Gray Elementary School multi-purpose room!