City Hall Notes

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
August 27, 2009

1. **Coastal Commission Debriefing on Preliminary Mill Site Vision Plan.** The Coastal Commission "debriefing" on the Preliminary Mill Site Vision Plan on August 12th was very interesting. Eight of the nine commissioners attended and they listened attentively to the presentation of the plan, asked insightful questions, and provided lots of feedback. The Commissioners all expressed concerns about the amount and intensity of development permitted by the plan and recommended that it be scaled back and that more open space be provided. A number of Commissioners expressed concerns about parking, circulation, and traffic impacts on Highway 1. They also provided feedback on the need for a functional "wildlife corridor" between the riparian area and the coast and support for integration of sustainability concepts into the plan. The Commission had spent four hours with the League's Coastal Cities group on the previous day talking about ways to improve their regulatory process and they were clearly enthusiastic about having an opportunity to communicate their expectations to the City and GP early in this planning process. And we were very thankful to have the opportunity at this stage of the process.

2. **EcoMotion Update**. City staff are working with Nykety Splits Presents to finalize all the permits required for the proposed Saturday, October 10, 2009 EcoMotion Mendocino event. Nykety Splits Presents is working hard to pull together a traffic plan, security plan, and insurance for the event. The City is hopeful that all the required permits will be approved upon completion of these outstanding items. If approved, the event will take place from noon to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday October 10th and will include live performances, kids play station, booths, beer garden, local food, etc. The event will result in the following street closures:

    - Laurel Street between Franklin and McPherson will be closed on Friday, October 9 at 9:00 a.m.
    - The City Hall parking lot and 400 block of Franklin Street will be closed starting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9.
    - The entire event area will be closed to traffic at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 10. This includes Laurel and Redwood Street from Main to McPherson and Franklin Street between Pine and Alder Street.
    - All streets will be open again by early Sunday morning.

3. **Water Supply Status.** Noyo River bypass flows at the City's Madsen Hole diversion are falling as the summer progresses and we expect the river to drop below the 3.0 cubic feet per second limit for pumping water within the next week. At that point, the City will initiate its modified pumping program where pumping only occurs when the tides are high. The City distributed a press release yesterday initiating a voluntary water conservation program. We will likely implement the Stage 1 water conservation program in early September. Water consumption in the City tends to drop considerably in September as the tourist season winds down.

4. **1st Quarter Sales Tax.** The City's sales tax analysts report that, with the exception of food markets and a slight gain in auto sales, all retail categories continue to show a decline in sales tax collections. Reduced gas prices and the ongoing decrease in general retail and

construction resulted in an overall drop of 14.7% in the City's 2009 1st quarter collections when compared to the same quarter in 2008. Final numbers for FY 2008/09 equal the $1.6M projection reported earlier in the year. The FY 2008/09 special sales tax for street repairs came in a little higher than the $805,000 projected at $812,000. No revisions to the factors used in the FY 2009/10 Budget revenue projections are anticipated at this time as the amounts reported are in line with the City's expectations.

5. **September 2nd City Council-Planning Commission Work Session on Mill Site Specific Plan.** On Wednesday, September 2nd, the City Council and Planning Commission will conduct a joint work session on the Mill Site Specific Plan. This session will focus on defining land use classifications and policies for future development on the southern half of the Mill Site.

6. **Public Works Projects Update.** The Public Works Department has a number of projects underway, including the following:

   a. **Corp Yard Paving Project.** Baxman Gravel Co. was awarded the contract to install improvements to the City Corporation Yard parking area, and work began on the project the last week of July. Final paving on the project was completed in early August, and Baxman came back last week and installed the striping for the parking. Striping was not included in the original scope, but it gave the contractor an opportunity to test out their new striping machine, so they used their equipment and personnel, the City provided the paint, and there was no additional charge. The final project has greatly improved the access to and from the Corporation Yard and also resolves on-site drainage issues.

   b. **Town Hall Parapet Project.** Larkin Construction has begun work on the Town Hall Parapet Project, and several portions of the work have already been completed. The sub-contractor completing the removal of hazardous material has completed that portion of the work, and the loose paint has also been removed. The contractor has begun installation of the stabilizing features within the roof structure and has been working with the architect and structural engineer to verify structural anchors for the concrete parapet. Several areas have also been investigated for potential water damage due to leaks and steps area being taken to address a couple minor structural upgrades.

   c. **Pomo Bluffs Trail Extension.** The Pomo Bluffs Trail Extension project is out to bid and bids are due at the end of the month. The project will install new trail improvements from the easterly end of the existing trail near the bluff to the eastern edge of the accessway in front of the Cliff House Restaurant. The City acquired a 50-foot wide easement along the bluff line in the original property purchase and last year exercised an option to purchase the remaining connecting easement. The project will consist of installing an asphalt pedestrian/bicycle path matching the width of the existing trail; split rail fencing along the southerly boundary of the easements; benches; interpretive signs; directional signs and pedestrian markings. Funding for the project is provided by a State Coastal Conservancy grant and the project improvements must be completed by the end of this calendar year.