City Hall Notes

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
September 24, 2009

1. **September "Spotlight" is on Finance Technician I Erica Zamarripa.** Finance Manager Rosana Cimolino provided the following statement about Erica: "The Finance Technician position requires exceptional customer service skills and the ability to multi-task effectively. In addition to sharing duties for customer service issues with other department members, Erica is currently responsible for processing the monthly utility bills, issuing and maintaining purchase orders and processing employee vision reimbursements. Erica's positive attitude is contagious and even triumphs over our cranky folding machine and various printer issues during the always hectic billing periods. Erica provides enthusiastic participation on the Employee Recognition Committee which she joined early this year. Erica has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's and Ethnic Studies from Humboldt State University. She is currently on the Board of Directors of the Glass Beach Pre-School and she is a volunteer at the Sherwood Oaks Convalescent Home. As if this isn't enough to keep her busy, Erica and her partner recently became foster parents to a three-month old baby girl. Thank you, Erica, you are a pleasure to have on our team!"

2. **EcoMotion Update.** The EcoMotion Mendocino event promoters have submitted the required $20,000 deposit to cover City staff costs in conjunction with planning and ensuring public safety at the event. There is still a considerable amount of work to be done, but we are all hoping for a safe and successful block party in downtown Fort Bragg on Saturday, October 10, 2009.

   CANCELLED

3. **New Sales Tax Report – City Revenue Snapshot.** The City received a summary of cash receipts for sales tax for 2nd quarter 2009 (March-June) last week. The summary includes sales tax receipts for each of the jurisdictions in Mendocino County and for regions throughout the State. The negative numbers for the 2nd quarter are staggering. Statewide, sales tax revenues are down by nearly -21% from the 2nd quarter 2008. Fort Bragg's sales tax revenues were $72k less than for 2nd quarter 2008, which represents a -17% decline. Year over year revenues have declined by nearly $106k. Once we review the data with our sales tax analyst, it may be necessary to revise the assumptions that were used in the 2009-10 Budget regarding sales tax revenues. Not surprisingly, we have seen a decline in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues as well. We have TOT data through June 2009 and the City's year over year TOT receipts declined by about $70,000 of -4.47% in 2008-09. All things considered, the TOT receipts are remarkably robust. By the end of next month, we will have collected TOT payments for the July-September period and can assess the extent to which the recession affected our local lodging establishments.

4. **Stage 1 Water Emergency.** According to Chief Treatment Operator Alan Hodges, the City recorded between .2" and .3" of rainfall at the treatment plants as a result of the recent rains. Noyo River flows have held steady at 1.8 cubic feet per second (cfs) and our Water Treatment Operators have been able to keep the City's raw water ponds full despite the restricted pumping regimen. Newman Reservoir continues to provide 170 gallons per minute (gpm) and Water Fall Gulch is providing 100 gpm. City Water Project Manager Teri Jo Barber conducts regular flow measurements on the Noyo and she observed a significant increase in flows prior to the recent rains, which signals the beginning of the dormant cycle in our forests when the trees stop drawing so much water from the soil. With a little luck, we'll make it through until the onset of the rainy season without imposing greater water

conservation requirements. In the meantime, it is real important that all City water customers continue to conserve water in compliance with the Stage 1 Water Emergency order.

5. **City Joins Other Local Partners in Requesting Judicial Review of GreenWave Permit.** On September 10th, the City joined with Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics, Mendocino County, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, the Institute for Fisheries Resources, the Ocean Protection Coalition, and Elizabeth Mitchell to petition the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to review the Federal Regulatory Commission's Order Denying Rehearing in the GreenWave Mendocino Project.

6. **City Receives $81,000 Repayment to Deposit in Program Income Fund.** The escrow for Ukiah Community Center's purchase of Parents & Friends' Harrison Street House property has closed, and the City received a check for $81,000 as reimbursement for grant funds used to rehabilitate the Harrison Street House. Those revenues will be deposited in the City's Program Income fund. The Council has allocated a total of $204,000 in Program Income to the construction of the Phase 1 Skate Park. The design and engineering of the project will be conducted this winter and we hope to construct the park next spring. Based on a preliminary Phase 1 cost estimate of $260,000, there is a funding gap of $56,000. Staff is investigating grant funding opportunities (including possible Prop 84 funding through the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program). If other funding doesn't materialize, allocation of additional Program Income to the Skate Park Project is a possibility that the Council may want to pursue.

7. **New Issue of Crime Prevention Connection.** Please check out the September issue of the Fort Bragg Police Department's "Crime Prevention Connection." It includes a great section on Cyber Bullying among other topics. Access the newsletter at http://city.fortbragg.com/ on the Police Department's web page.