

City Hall News

From the desk of

Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing

September 27, 2007

- 1. Employee of the Month.** Grants Project Manager Jennifer Owen was selected as the City's August Employee of the Month. Jennifer earned this recognition for her stellar grant-writing and administration efforts. Over the past year, Jennifer has written and/or administered grants for a wide variety of projects including: Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, Microenterprise Program, Area E Drainage Project, Hospitality House Addition & Remodel, Noyo Center Strategic Plan, Public Facilities Master Plan, Wastewater Treatment Facility Master Plan, Inflow & Infiltration Project, Water Festival, Pomo Bluffs Construction Project, Pudding Creek Force Main, and the Safe Routes to School Project. Jennifer is self-motivated, highly productive and self-managed in her work. Her talents and her easy-going attitude make her a highly valued member of the Community Development Department and the City of Fort Bragg team.
- 2. Franklin Street Tree Grates.** The City has received the unfortunate news that the long-awaited tree grates for the Franklin Street Improvement Project do not fit into the frames that were installed in the sidewalk several months ago. After much investigation, Argonaut Constructors has determined that the problem is due to a manufacturing defect. Argonaut has been working with the manufacturer and the grates will be shipped back to the manufacturer this week, New grates are expected to be in Fort Bragg in early October. In the meantime, the plywood circles will remain in the frames for safety reasons, and Argonaut will be replacing any plywood that has deteriorated or is creating a tripping hazard.
- 3. Automated Water Meter Project.** The Automated Water Meter Project is nearing completion. All of the residential meters have been installed, and the Triton Water Technologies crew is finishing installation of the larger commercial account meters. Last week, in a matter of minutes, our Public Works crew used the new computer hardware to read radio signals broadcast by the transmitters attached to each meter. Finance Department staff has spent many extra hours working with new software, entering data into the City's billing system, checking for errors in the account information, and making sure that the City sends out accurate bills for water consumption. For this billing period, Public Works has had to manually read only 300 of the 2,800 meters in the system. All of the meters will be installed and the software completely operational prior to the next scheduled billing period.
- 6. Results of Soil and Water Sampling at the City's Water Treatment Facility.** Earlier this year, the Council authorized Fugro West to conduct soil and water sampling at the Water Treatment Facility and the wet well on the Noyo River. The soil samples were analyzed for semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), Title 22 metals, and dioxins and furans. Water samples were analyzed for dioxins and furans. No SVOCs were detected. Detected metals concentrations are consistent with anticipated background values and are significantly less than the Total Threshold Limit Concentrations. No dioxin or furans were detected in the soil samples with the exception of octachlorodibenzodioxin (OCDD) which was detected at levels that are significantly lower than the California Human Health

Screening Level established by CalEPA. The presence of OCDD as the only dioxin congener detected is likely the result of dioxin generation during historic forest fires in the upstream watershed. No dioxin or furans were detected in the water samples. These results are quite a relief! Staff will be sending a claim to the State for reimbursement of costs for the analysis along with a strongly worded letter to the State Department of Corrections, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Health Services, and the California Department of Forestry—all of whom were aware of the ongoing PCB/dioxin releases at the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp for more than 15 years yet never notified the City of the potential threat to our municipal water source.

7. **Mill Site Update.** I attended the monthly agency meeting with DTSC earlier this month to review the status of the Mill Site remediation project. GP's consultants presented more information about the results of the dioxin sampling on the site as part of their effort to establish a "background" value for dioxin in Fort Bragg. Preliminary results from the "land farming" (i.e., ex-situ bioremediation) pilot study were presented and it appears that bioremediation will be a feasible remediation alternative. The marine sediment sampling results also were presented and, the dioxin and PCB levels were well below screening criteria. There are some concentrations of metals that exceed the screening levels. DTSC is planning a community meeting in early November to provide a project update regarding the remedial investigation and the risk assessment.
8. **Question of the Week. *Why is there a big dip on North Franklin Street at the Redwood Street intersection?*** According to Public Works Director Dave Goble, that dip is a concrete valley gutter that is needed to convey storm water that flows in gutter on the south side of Redwood Avenue across North Franklin Street. The grades of the various legs of the intersection are such that the dip was unavoidable. Dave's advice: slow down!