City Hall Notes

From the desk of
Fort Bragg City Manager Linda Ruffing
October 22, 2009

1. **FBPD to Benefit from $2.1M Technology Grant.** The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has obtained a technology grant for over $2 Million that is to be used to assist our region by providing technology upgrades aimed at establishing a uniform platform for our regional information technology needs. This grant will be used to identify "one system" that would meet the countywide needs of all of the law enforcement agencies. The IT Platform would include Mobile Laptops, CAD System, RMS (Records Management System) and other items. With one "platform" of operation, all the regional agencies could better exchange information. The funding will assist us in addressing interoperability issues as a region. This will allow for a significant savings in our technology planning needs.

2. **FBPD Officer and Sergeants Attend SWAT Course**. The City has two Sergeants and one Police Officer attending a two week course in Special Weapons and Tactics. This course is a highly specialized course that is very demanding and the course tuition is expensive. A large amount of the cost for the course was paid by Homeland Security funding. The financial assistance enabled all of the Mendocino County Law Enforcement Agencies to participate in the course. This course will benefit the City of Fort Bragg by providing training to help our officers respond a critical incident in our city. The course also is a step towards a possible regional multi-agency SWAT team in Mendocino County.

3. **City Awarded $814,000 Grant for Housing Rehabilitation.** The City received notification that our grant application to the Community Development Block Grant Recovery Program (CDBG-R) was awarded. The CDBG-R program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). CDBG directed their ARRA funding to jurisdictions that submitted eligible applications for the 2008/09 CDBG General Allocation grant program that were not funded. Housing & Economic Development Coordinator Jennifer Owen prepared the successful application for the CDBG-R funds. The City will use the CDBG-R funding to assist the Community Development Commission of Mendocino County (CDC) with rehabilitation of 42 housing units at three of CDC's Fort Bragg public housing properties including Sanderson Way Village, Glass Beach Apartments, and Seacliff Apartments.

4. **Downtown Streetscape Project Receives "2009 Outstanding Transportation Project of the Year" Award.** Green Valley Engineers submitted the City of Fort Bragg's Downtown Streetscape Project in this year's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) San Francisco Section competition for the Transportation category and..... we won! The project was recognized for the pedestrian and bicycle-friendly nature of the urban corridor, along with the sustainable enhancement aspects of the project. We'll be receiving an award plaque soon.

5. **Water Conservation Order Remains in Effect.** Despite the substantial precipitation received over the past week and a half, we expect Noyo River flows to fall below 10 cubic feet per second later this week, which puts the City back on a restricted pumping regimen. At this time, our Newman Gulch water source has been shut down due to increased tannins resulting from the storm. Once the tannin concentration decreases, it will be turned back on. The Waterfall Gulch water source continued to provide 85 gallons per minute with no change in water quality. The daily average demand for water this past week was .667 mgd which is a significant difference (11% decrease) from the previous week when the daily demand was .748 mgd. Hopefully, after the next storm we'll be able to lift the Water

Conservation Order. For now, it remains in effect and we encourage all water customers to use water sparingly.

6. **Storm Damage to Coastal Trail Test Plot.** City staff and a team of restoration volunteers spent most of a day in early October assembling two revegetation test plots on the Mill Site to determine which native plants will grow best on the 24 acres of bluff top property that will be revegetated in conjunction with the coastal trail project. Unfortunately, the heavy rains and extensive stormwater runoff early last week damaged one of the test plots, while other test plot held its own. Teri Jo Barber, the City's restoration expert, was on site during the storm, mapping and photographing the extensive storm water flows. At some locations the storm water was three to four inches deep as it sheet flowed over the bluff edge. The experience has reinforced how integral storm water management is to the success of the trail and restoration project. Staff will return to the Mill Site during the next heavy storm to complete further mapping of the concentrations of storm water flow across the site. This information will be used for the design and engineering of the stormwater management system and the restoration component of the trail project.

7. **Reminders: 350!** Saturday, October 24th is an "International Day of Climate Action" and the Noyo Food Forest, together with the North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council, PG&E, and Being Water, is conducting a rainwater catchment workshop at the Learning Garden at Fort Bragg High School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A locally-grown vegetarian lunch will be served.

   In case you're wondering what the **350!** is about, 350 parts per million is the maximum amount of carbon in the atmosphere that is necessary to sustain Earth as a planet "similar to the one on which civilization developed and to which life on earth is adapted." The bad news is that we're at 390 parts per million. The good news is that we have a scientifically-based target to aim for and there are many, many people around the world, including right here in Fort Bragg, who are trying to reduce carbon emissions.