



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 11-14-14

City Manager's Office – Pursuing Fresh Water Opportunities

This week City staff met with Hittite Green Solutions to discuss their low temperature seawater desalination evaporator. This system won the Development Marketplace 2006 Global Competition for Innovations in Water, Sanitation and Energy Services for Poor People grant funding organized by the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Following this grant award, a system was subsequently installed in Turkey, the company's home country. Hittite Green Solutions is looking into expand to the US market, and views Catalina Island as a perfect demonstration location. Coupled with an open Water-Energy Grant Program offered by the Department of Water Resources to fund residential, commercial, and institutional water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and also reduce water and energy use, the City is interested in exploring opportunities such as this which not only provide solutions for our island but also help foster other opportunities. As with all fresh water opportunities on the island, the City will need to work with SCE to pursue this grant opportunity and project. The grant deadline is fast approaching (December 12), so additional meetings and analysis will be shortly conducted in an attempt to beat the grant deadline and enter a submission for potential project funding.

City Manager's Office – Rental Golf Carts Vehicle Noise Testing

Vehicle Noise Testing is still underway, and the first round of rental golf carts was tested this week. However, at the beginning of the second day of testing, there were variations in the calibration that raised questions. Therefore the sound level meter is being sent back for a factory calibration check to ensure that every test is accurate. While the sound level meter is calibrated with a certified instrument each time it is used, after so much use and time has passed, it is common practice to check the equipment. During the interim until the noise meter is returned, temporary permits will be issued to those who require the noise testing to ensure no one is inconvenienced.

City Manager's Office and Harbor Department – Meeting with Island Enterprises

The Harbormaster and I met with Island Enterprises today to discuss the future of the shore boat franchise within the Harbor. With changes to the tendering contract for Carnival Cruise Lines, the ongoing continuance of the shore boat operation within the confines of its current structure has been called into question. Both Island Enterprises and the City have an interest in continuing shore boat services within the Harbor – however, the scope and structure of these services may evolve as we jointly discuss the future. We will keep you posted on this topic.

City Manager's Office – Intergovernmental Relations – Supervisor Knabe's State of the County

Along with Council Member Cassidy, I attended Supervisor Knabe's annual State of the County Address today in Long Beach. Well-attended as always, and now in its Eighth Annual year, the Supervisor's event is a great opportunity to interact with representatives from all twenty-seven cities within the 4th Supervisorial District within Los Angeles County, as well as other key County stakeholders. As always, there are always some surprises announced at the presentation. The City of Avalon received special mention during the address as a locale that has recently

undergone significant political change. Further, the Supervisor hinted that he may be investigating helping with potential improvements for the City's County library facility (fingers crossed!). Here is a picture of the Supervisor delivering his address to crowd gathered:



City Manager's Office – Catalina Island Conservancy Symposium

Following the State of the County address, Council Member Cassidy and I stopped in at the Catalina Island Conservancy's Symposium event. Filled with "TED-style" short presentations, the symposium offered insight to the Conservancy's recent research projects. We hope to bring some of these presentations to the City Council and the greater community to provide an update as to the "goings-on" and the activities of the Conservancy. Further, while at the Symposium, I spoke with both Ann Muscat and John Mack regarding the possibility of providing the Conservancy's Naturalist training program to some (and potentially all) City employees in the near future. Naturalist training could be beneficial in ensuring our employees have additional tools in their tool belts to help them do their jobs. In addition to helping us become more knowledgeable about Catalina Island's ecosystem and unique endemic species (both plant and animals); it also helps us all to become better "island ambassadors", for both our visitors and residents. I will be coming back to you with more on this proposal at a later date.

Administration - Chief Administrative Officer- Landfill

City staff met earlier this week with CR&R to discuss some unresolved items. Here is a summary of the discussion:

- City owned compactors in the alley at Vons Express will be sold to Avalon Environmental and they will be maintained by them.
- Possible rain gutter replacement at the landfill is being pursued
- Per their contract – we will finalize in the near future the types of recycling receptacles for Crescent Avenue
- Baler Installation has been moved to the end of January 2015. There are several reasons for this. January will be a good month for the replacement to happen because the volume at the landfill will be less during that time frame which will allow for the installation. They have adjusted the current baler pressure to yield bale weight over 2000 pounds, which is almost double from before.

Administration - Chief Administrative Officer- Phase II Small MS4 Stormwater Permit

City staff met with RBF consultants today regarding the continued implementation of several major points in our permit that need to be followed and tracked. During Year 1 the City was required to do a Gap Analysis of our Landscape ordinance. We discussed the Low Impact Development Integration Strategy for the City. RBF provided us with the beginning of engineering details and specifications for bio retention technical specifications. Secondly we covered the Construction Plan Document Approval Procedures that the City will be implementing and tracking during Year 2 of the permit. We went over best management practices for construction sites, and erosion and sediment control plans.

Fire Department – Training at the former Catherine Hotel and Restaurant

This past Tuesday November 11th, the Avalon Fire Department was able to conduct training at the site of the former Catherine Hotel and Restaurant that is scheduled for demolition. This property that is now owned by the Catalina Island Conservancy, and is going to be the future site of their Trail Head headquarters project that was recently approved by the Planning Commission. The Conservancy's generous permission for the City to use this property prior to its removal was exceptional because of its size and configuration which allowed the department to conduct a variety of training evolutions. Some of these evolutions included: hose lays, rapid intervention crews, forcible entry and hose line advancement. All of these scenarios took place while a movie-type special effects smoke generator specifically designed for the fire service was in operation, creating zero-visibility conditions in some locations. This device operates with a water-based non-toxic fluid, and allows for the safest possible training conditions for all personnel. Thanks again to the Catalina Island Conservancy for the use of this property that provided a large dynamic training environment for the City.

Public Works Department – LASD Sheriff's "Black Box"

As discussed at the last City Council meeting, the Public Works Department has been asked by Captain Feteroll to install a crime tip/suggestion box in an area at City Hall. The idea behind the box is to provide the community with a repository to offer anonymous comments, ideas, or any information that will help the LASD be more effective on Catalina Island. Once this box is installed, Captain Feteroll will be the only person with a key, and he advises that he will be checking it regularly. Once the box is installed, we will provide the location so that the public may be aware, and may start using this repository.

Public Works Department – Excavation Permits

With the help of our Planning Department, the PWD has developed a new Standard Detailed Plan for excavations within the City. In the future, applicants for excavation permits will be required to follow these permit requirements accurately, and properly. The new excavation permits issued will include specific backfill measures that have been designed to reduce the many depressions and settled trenches that exist on our roadways. These new permits will also include different requirements for replacement of the asphalt, traffic control, and advance notice to the city staff on the start of excavations.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvements – Fuel Dock Project

This week, The City Manager and the Interim Public Works Director met with Russ and Jenny Armstrong, proprietors of the Casino Dock Café and City Tenants, to discuss the status of the Fuel Dock project. Pier reconstruction design is on track, and the City is in the process of acquiring the proper California Coastal Commission permit. Our designers have completed the construction drawings to a 90% state, and City staff is currently reviewing them. Once these

plans are approved, the next step will be for the designers to submit the specifications and the 100% drawings for City review and approval.

Public Works Department – Avalon Bay Water Quality Testing

Testing of Avalon Bay waters has been completed for the season by LA County Health Department. Many important sewer lines have been repaired in town, and we are continually cleaning outlining areas in order to sustain positive results; however, we cannot become complacent. Our continual efforts must proceed as there is more work to be done. Although testing is finished for the season, the Public Works Department will continue its own testing efforts.

Recreation Department - Fourth of July

City Staff, Councilmember Cassidy and Mayor Marshall met with community members, including representatives from the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce, Santa Catalina Island Company, Catalina Island Yacht Club, Catalina Beverage, and Catalina Business Enterprises to begin a comprehensive, all-encompassing plan for 2015's Fourth of July Extravaganza. The Extravaganza will include the Fireworks, Parade, USC Band events, and new holiday events to add to the festivities. The City is excited to have all of these various community organizations and events under one coordinated umbrella.

Recreation Department - Catalina Island Conservancy Donation

The Catalina Island Conservancy donated 17 trash cans to Joe Machado Field this week. See photo below. Thank you, CIC!



Recreation Department - Thanksgiving Food Boxes

The Recreation Department received a generous donation from the Avalon Lions Club for Thanksgiving Food Boxes, which will be distributed to the community the week before Thanksgiving. Rotary Club has pledged to make a similar donation for Christmas Food Boxes. Recipients are chosen by a panel with representatives from the Recreation Department, Avalon Schools, Catalina Island Medical Center, Singing Waters, and the Teen center.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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