



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 12-12-14

City Manager's Office – State Department of Water Resources Water Energy Resources Grant

Thanks largely to the doggedness and determination of Jordan Monroe; the grant proposal to the State Department of Water Resources for the Catalina Island Low Temperature Water Heat Desalination Project was submitted on Friday. The purpose of the grant is to provide “funds to implement water efficiency programs or projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce water and energy use. Draft awards are scheduled for March 2015, with a public comment meeting April 2015 and final awards presented in April/May 2015.

City Manager's Office – Important Fresh Water-Related Meetings

Along with the Mayor and the Mayor Pro Tem, I participated in two important fresh water-related meetings this past week: the Island Consortium on Tuesday and Southern California Edison (SCE) on Friday. Both meetings were positive and productive (I feel), with action items and additional discussions to follow. For your review (for those of you who were not present at the meetings), I will be preparing a memorandum summarizing the discussions and furnishing you with those materials distributed.

Public Works Department – Drinkable Air

Consistent with the City Council's goal to pursue additional fresh water resources, the Interim Public Works Director and I met with Green Living Solutions a week or so back to discuss their Drinkable Air product, which claims to produce water from the atmosphere. That is correct, water from air! The foundation for this philosophy results from the fact that the unit acts like a generator. The company claims that the device takes the natural moisture out of the air, and produces drinking water, with a guarantee on the purity. Nonetheless, since this is a new product, the PWD will be drawing the produced water from the unit this weekend and we will test it accordingly to determine its purity. If the finished product is deemed acceptable, the unit will be available at City Hall for a taste should any interested parties desire. Of course, other questions remain about the unit, including the amount of electricity required to produce the water. We will have the unit on hand for an undetermined period of time, which will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the unit and quality of the product. On the following page you'll find a picture of the drinkable air unit, which is currently sitting within the break room at City Hall.



Public Works Department – Holiday Lighting & Decorations

Staff has completed our annual decorating of Front Street with holiday lighting and decorations. A casual stroll in the evening hours will display a beautiful array of colored lighting, strung from trees and buildings, and also a well-decorated Christmas tree set up on Wrigley Stage. Additionally, we are proud to announce that the efforts to save monies from past years decorations efforts have been accomplished by purchasing strong longer-lasting materials, the additions of timers, as well as a more strategic placement of strands of lights (we spent approximately ½ as much on the decoration effort than in years past). The City would also like to thank the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts on the Christmas tree. Much appreciated!

Public Works/Capital Improvements – Cisterns at Public Works/Harbor Warehouse

Due to the necessity to save water, and our desire to continue with implementing options thereof, we are installing more runoff water containers at the warehouse buildings. It is quite amazing how much water can be captured during a storm, in deliberate areas, and collected for use on any non-potable needs. Our crews are doing a great job of utilizing containers, installing roof drains, and then dispersing the water to needed areas. This is definitely making a positive impact on our water demand, as well as satisfying our goals to save this precious commodity.

Recreation Department - Holiday Program Donation

The Recreation Department received great news this week from the Santa Catalina Island Company: the announcement of a generous donation of \$2,500 towards the Holiday Food Program and Toys for Tots Program for local families in need this Christmas season. Sixty families will receive food boxes, and over 200 kids will receive toys this season thanks to the Island Company's kindness and consideration! The Holiday Food Program is also supported by Rotary Club and Lions Club, and Toys for Tots is being co-sponsored this year by our local Girl Scout Troop and the Avalon Fire Department. Thanks to all for the work from all parties involved to make our community a wonderful place to call home!

Recreation Department - Fourth of July Fireworks

The Recreation Department, Fire Department, Harbor Department, and Chamber of Commerce are working together to make the 2015 Fourth of July Fireworks Show the safest and best show yet. Part of increasing safety and increasing options for new elements as part of the show include moving the launching point to a barge, similar to the set-up currently used by Two

Harbors. This will increase the safety perimeter and get the launch area away from dry island hillsides. This year's Fireworks show, headed up by the Chamber of Commerce, will be part of the Fourth of July Extravaganza, and the theme of the 2015 festivities will be "Celebrating American Music".

Chief Administrative Officer - Code Enforcement Information Update #2

Code Enforcement works with Avalon Environmental (AKA CR&R) on Sections 6-2.205, Used Cooking Oil Receptacles, and 6-2.206, Disposal of Boxes, of the Avalon Municipal Code. We have all seen what a greasy mess and unsightly problem it causes in our alleys and on the sides of the road when these rules are not followed. Section 6-2.205 states that all commercial establishments which utilize oil for cooking or frying of food shall place used oil in a watertight container, clearly bearing the name of the establishment, having a tight-fitting lid and not exceeded fifty (50) pounds. Section 6-2.206 states that any commercial establishment having any pasteboard and corrugated paper boxes shall break them up so that the material lies flat and place the materials in designated recycling bins or containers. The City receives continuous calls with reports that these regulations are not being adhered to. It is up to Code Enforcement to respond to these issues and determine who the alleged offenders are, and then follow the violation/and or fine process. It should be noted that billing for used oil is attached to the property tax bill of businesses that do not recycle their own oil. If oil is illegally dumped, then the City bills the offending business for the disposal.

Chief Administrative Officer - Waste Water Treatment Facility and Reverse Osmosis Units

The City received the draft Conditional Use Permit (CUP) guidelines from Environ Strategy for the impact of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Systems on the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of the CUP is to ensure adequate review of the RO Unit and its impact on the system, the community and its assets. At the time of application a review of the location, design, configuration and impact of the proposed system shall be conducted. City Staff is in the process of reviewing the permit and guidelines, and will report back on this shortly.

Chief Administrative Officer - Landfill and Christmas Trees

Please help spread the word that Christmas trees will be recycled to 100% mulch. Tree disposal will take place this year at a new site, the former horse stables location. Drop-offs may take place from December 26, 2014 thru January 14, 2015. It is necessary to remove all lights, ornaments, decorations, tinsel, and stands (wood, plastic or metal). This is a collaborative effort between several stakeholders, including the Santa Catalina Island Company, Avalon Environmental (AKA CR&R), the Catalina Island Conservancy and the City of Avalon.

Harbor Department – Reported Boat Fire

Last Saturday (12/6/14), Rescue 2 and Baywatch responded to a call for assistance for a 41' power boat reporting a fire on board 2 miles NE of Avalon. Upon arrival, our crews determined that it was just an engine that had overheated, and once secured, the vessel was released to travel back to Alamitos Bay under its own power on one engine.

Harbor Department – December 11-12 Storm Preparation

In preparation for the forecasted SE winds on Thursday and Friday this past week, all vessels were moved on from moorings on the west side of the harbor to moorings near the pier. We received some SE swells affecting the fuel dock area, but the most of the forecasted winds blew by out in front of the harbor. We did measure .67" of rain at the Harbor Department Office for

the storm. Harbor Patrol staff pumped out numerous skiffs so they wouldn't sink on the storage string line and the dinghy docks.

Fire Department – Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Each year, fire departments across the country respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer. Here are some additional Christmas tree safety tips:

Picking the tree - If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant. If you are selecting a natural tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree - Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk. Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree - Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect. Never use lit candles to decorate the tree. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas - Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Trees can be disposed of at the local community recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

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City Manager
City of Avalon