



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 5-02-14

Recreation Department - Three Great Events this Weekend:

21st Annual Catalina Island Rugby Festival on Saturday, May 1st: Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Cancer Community Support Group in Redondo Beach. Matches of 40 year old (and older) so-called "Old Boys" will be held from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM, and the local VFW serves up BBQ and beer in the courtyard all day to benefit their organization. The City supports the event by preparing the field, assisting the VFW with their ABC permit, installing uprights, providing paint and field marking equipment, and coordinating the restroom cleaners and trash pick-up. All of this is coordinated months ahead of time with Mr. Tom Hendrix (event organizer), who will check his keys out to the facility for set-up on Friday morning from City Hall.

Royal Scottish Dance Society from Torrance, CA: Now in its 3rd year, event organizer Doris Fisher brings over 100 dancers who are enthusiastically performing Scottish country dances (think black-tie formal meets beards and kilts). The group will practice in Tremont Hall on Friday evening and Saturday morning, with the grand ball held in the Casino on Saturday night. A final practice will be held in Tremont Hall and the AHS gymnasium Sunday morning. The City ensures Tremont Hall has been cleaned before and after the event, assists the group to contact the other properties involved, collects fees, the security deposit and liability insurance, and schedules restroom cleaners. The keys get checked out from City Hall, with a final inspection prior to return of the deposit.

Catalina Island Classic Downhill Skate event taking place Saturday & Sunday, May 3rd-4th: Also in its 3rd year, the City of Avalon is proud to be a supporting partner of this event with Riviera Skateboards. Preparation work is set months prior to the event with a pre-race meeting involving the City, The Chamber of Commerce and Catalina Island Vacation Rentals. As part of its supporting event partner arrangement, the City coordinated housing for the management teams, coordinated cleaning crews, moved bleachers to the spectator zone, built a stage for awards and announcers along the race course, and will help sleeve the 450 foam block that the City will jointly own with Riviera with their new vinyl covers and move them to the race course. The Interact Club (Jr. Rotary comprised of high school volunteers) will pitch in. The City will also assist with moving the new half pipe to and from the Skate Park to the Wrigley Stage for a skate demo on Saturday night. In addition, the City coordinated with Xceptional Music Production Company to provide stage lighting for this event, and Dudley Morand, our Vehicle Clerk, is assisting with vehicle permits. Administration processed the Special Event Permit and insurance, the Finance Department coordinated fees and billing, and the Fire Department is providing personnel and ambulance staging both days. The Public Works Department coordinated road closures and signage, as well as use of heavy equipment to move bleachers, the ramp, the stage and foam blocks.

All three of these events this weekend are privately operated and organized, but the City of Avalon is an active participant to ensure their success.

Recreation Department - Recreation Assistant Assessment/Interview Process:

As reported last week, the City received 28 applications for the Recreation Assistant position, of which was narrowed down to 10 applicants who submitted a complete application and met the minimum qualifications as stated in the job description. On Monday, April 29, 2014 the City of Avalon conducted interviews. The interview panel consisted of Assistant Fire Chief Mike Krug, City of Signal Hill Recreation Director Pilar Alcivar-McCoy, City of Seal Beach Recreation Coordinator Morgan Wraight, and Recreation Coordinator Jennifer Monroe. All applicants completed an assessment center prior to their interview to evaluate their software skills. One additional interview that could not be held on Monday is scheduled for next week, and once the interview process has concluded, the panel will provide their recommendations to the City Manager for review and final determination.

City Manager's Office – Compensation & Classification Request for Proposal (RFP):

The City's Classification and Compensation RFP submittal deadline is this week. We have received 5 out of 10 solicited RFPs, and one unsolicited for a total of 6 RFPs at this time. The City's most recent study was completed in 2006 with earlier studies occurring in 1994 and 1989. Per the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations, the City shall complete a comprehensive review of the classification plan and pay structure every five years. The RFP is located on the City's website, under the News section.

City Manager's Office – Proposed FY 14/15 Budget Timeline:

Yes, it's that time already. I know that it seems like we never STOPPED talking about the budget (and I guess we really didn't) – but now it is time to discuss next year's budget – the Fiscal Year 14/15 Budget. We are recommending 2 or 3 budget study sessions on Wednesday mornings (June 11th, 18th and 25th), with the goal of a budget to be presented for City Council review and anticipated adoption at the first regularly scheduled City Council meeting in July (Tuesday, July 1, 2014). We will be reaching out to you individually to see if these proposed study session dates work for you.

City Manager's Office - Annual Visit from Cal Recycle:

Each year, Cal Recycle, an arm of the State of California's Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery, pays a visit to the City of Avalon. The purpose of the visit is to ensure that the City and its waste provider (CR&R, of course), are in compliance with State law, and that the City is prepared for the required submittal of the annual report to the State. Cal Recycle's visit this year took place on Wednesday of this week. In particular this year, Cal Recycle advised that they would like to see programs/events/communications that support diversion goals, as well as any new undertaking in support of increased diversion. Our impression from interactions during their visit is that Cal Recycle is pleased with the diversion efforts here in Avalon, and that the City is prepared to competently submit the annual report to the State, which will be due in August.

Planning Department - Proposed New Vons Store:

Vons has expressed a desire to meet with City Council Members and City staff to discuss preliminary review of the proposed plans for the new Vons store. Denise will be contacting individual City Council Members to schedule meeting(s), possibly as early as this coming Tuesday, May 6th.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvement Projects:

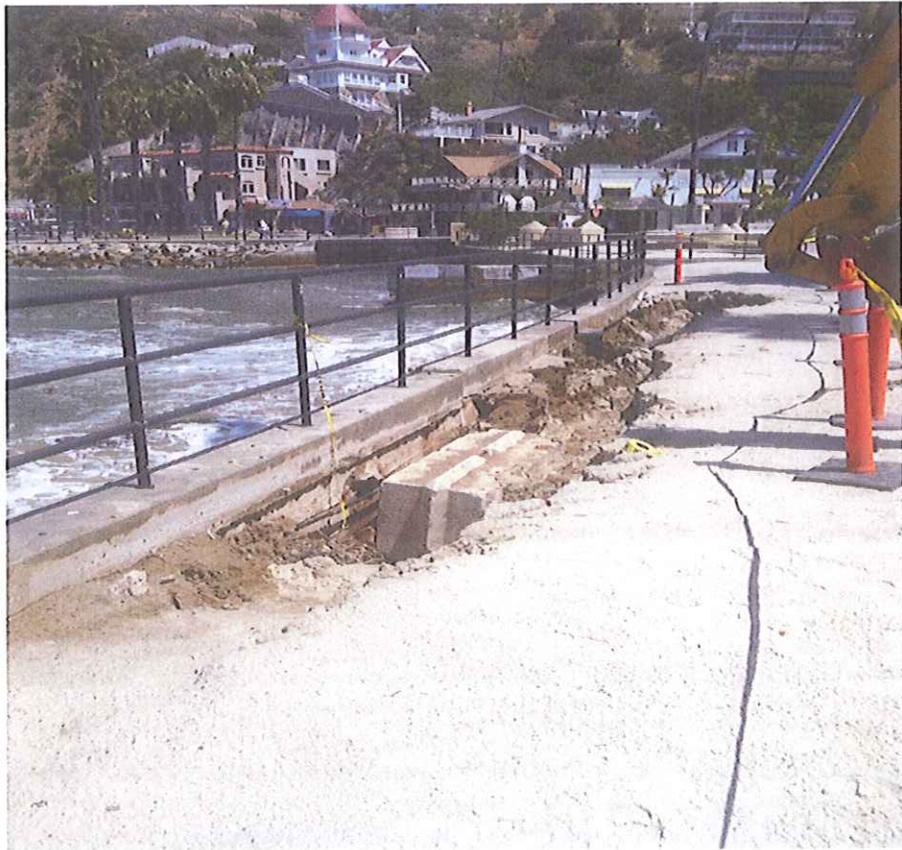
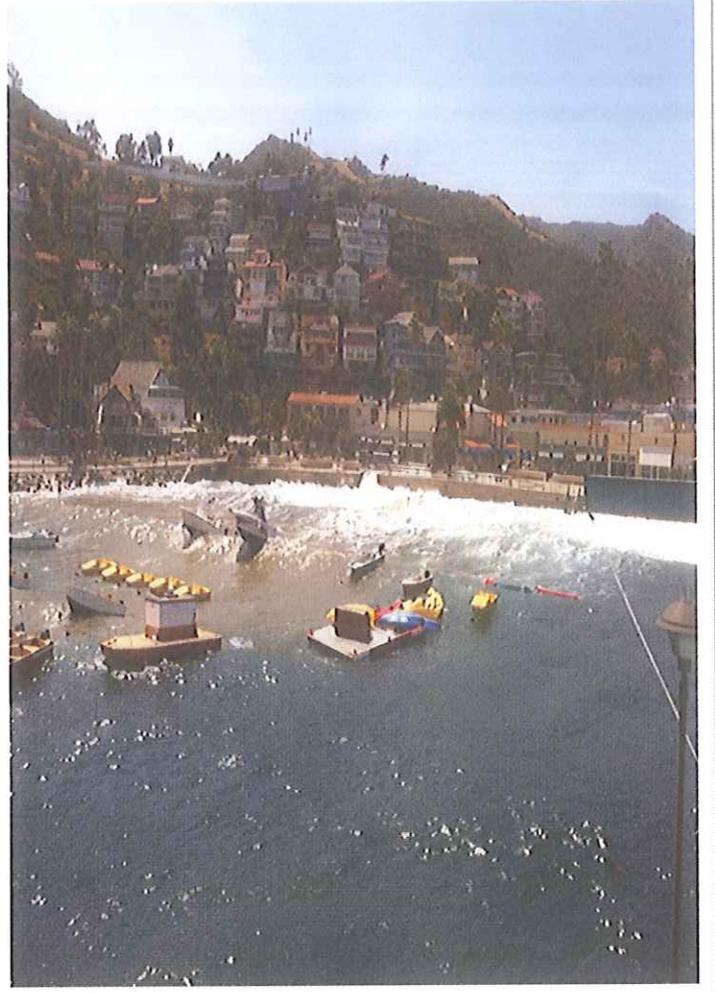
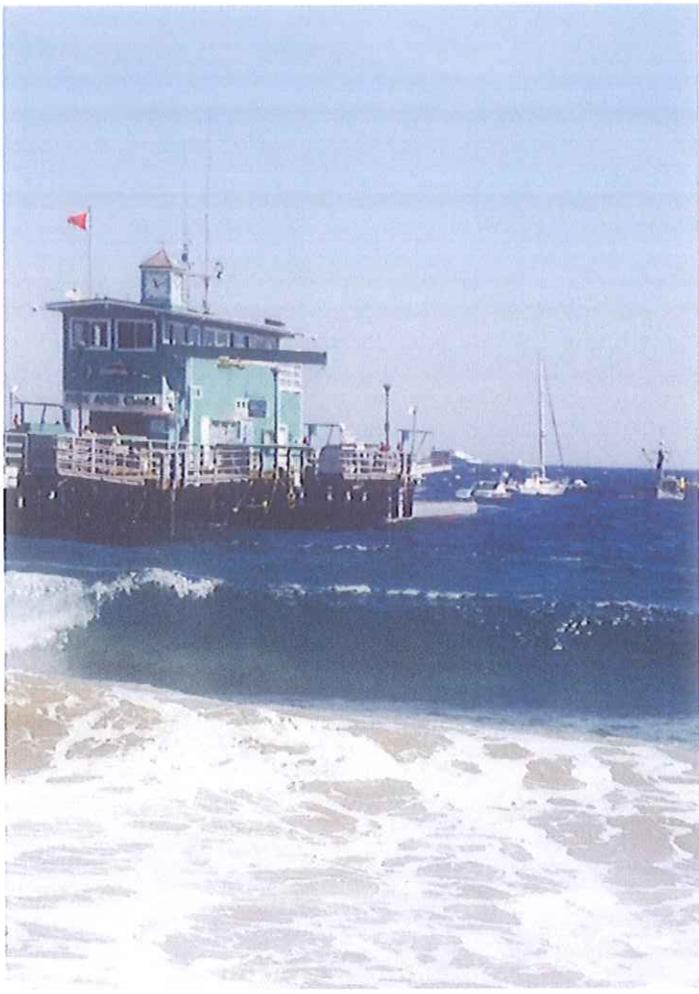
Crescent Ave Storm Drain Repair: The final concrete pour (ceiling) was performed on Monday, April 21, 2014. We will have to continue the imposed weight restriction (17,000 LBS GVW) until the cure time has ended (a couple more weeks).

Fuel Dock Project: City Staff is having some difficulties with the engineer of record, Blue Water Design. They received a formal letter of non-response from the City last week. A meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday between senior City Staff and the principals of the Blue Water Design in a concerted effort to get engineering efforts back on track.

Casino Temporary Bathrooms: With the cooperation of SCICo, The City will be shortly commencing efforts to improve the bathroom situation at the Dive Park by installing a temporary bathroom trailer (featuring running water and a sewer connection). We hope to be able to start the process of hooking up the restrooms by the end of next week. We are working with SCICo on a long-term solution for the area. Both the City and SCICo recognize this tourist (and resident) destination needs some sprucing up and additional amenities to allow for a better experience.

South Beach Sea Wall: With Wednesday's winds and high seas hitting the harbor, it has become even more apparent that near-term action will be needed to fortify the sea wall and restore the beach. We will be talking to experts (including the Army Corps of Engineers) and other beach cities to gather ideas as to improvements that may need to be made. It may be that a study is required. Another windstorm or bad weather and strong waves may damage the existing wall. Staff also would like to provide additional handrails close to the pier where there is at least an 8' drop-off on the ocean side.

On the following page I've placed a few pictures from Wednesday that are illustrative:



Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon

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