



## Avalon City Council Weekly Update 6-27-14

### Imported Water – Discussion with Catalina Freight:

Rich Coffey of Catalina Freight and I had a discussion today regarding his desire to barge in non-potable - and (potentially) potable water - to serve residents of Avalon, and the island. Currently Catalina Freight is barging non-potable into Avalon for the Santa Catalina Island Company and Hamilton Pacific for construction purposes. In very short order, Catalina Freight could potentially begin supplying non-potable water for other commercial, as well as residential uses in town. Rich is proposing the potential for commercial and residential delivery of fifty-five gallon drums of non-potable into Avalon at a cost of approximately \$30-\$40/barrel (more or less depending on additional factors to be determined). Of course, there are details that would need to be worked out with this proposal, including the potential for proposed City assistance with transportation permits for the requisite trucks involved in an effort like this. Rich is also exploring what would be involved with becoming certified to be able to bring in potable water. He does not (yet) have a proposal for consideration here, and has reached out to Southern California Edison and water regulators as to what would be involved in a potential effort like this. I will continue to keep you posted on this matter.

### Recreation Department - Concession Stand:

The City of Avalon had the final inspection by the Building Official, and fire suppression tested and signed off by Fire Chief Krug on Tuesday, 6/24/14. We were issued our Notice of Occupancy to proceed with the Health Department final permitting. We then had our final inspection by Los Angeles County Public Health Plan Check on Thursday, 6/26/14 and passed with flying colors. The facility is able to begin serving food immediately, with the official opening day scheduled for July 3, 2014 (see below)

### Recreation Department - Joe Machado Field/Concession Stand Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony:

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration honoring Supervisor Don Knabe on the generous contributions by Los Angeles County towards the renovation of the Joe Machado Field to a multisport facility will be held this Thursday, July 3, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at the Joe Machado Field. This contribution included the new bleacher seating, expanded fencing, new scoreboard, moving and adding field lighting, the new restroom and concessions stand buildings and new courtyard hardscape. This ribbon cutting will also honor the Lions Club and many other community members and businesses involved in the completion of the commercial kitchen concession stand. Please feel free to invite community members to this celebration!

### Recreation Department - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade:

Eight WWII veterans have confirmed their desire to participate as Grand Marshal of this year's Fourth of July Parade. Three other veterans unable to participate will be honored via proclamations, and the list of veterans includes: Bill Hill, Bill Jones, Bill Meister, Roger Upton, Doug Bombard, Marie Whittington, George Dold, Jim Burke, Robert "Jerry" Huiskens, Jack Linden, and Dick Kellogg. They will be leading the parade, followed by the local VFW, the USC Marching Band, and the AFD Ladder truck. Parade Line up is at the Casino Building at 12:30 pm, with the Parade start time at 1:00 pm. Immediately following the parade, all Grand Marshal Veterans and City Councilmembers are invited back to the Wrigley Stage for the presentation of the proclamations prior to the USC Band performance.

#### Planning Department – Proposed Vons Project:

Vons had a Review in Concept at the June 18 Planning Commission meeting. It was well attended. We have provided Vons with a list of items they will need to include when they submit their application. They are:

1. Traffic study that addresses the Sumner/Beacon intersection change and delivery bay functionality.
2. Noise study with primary issues of roof top equipment, delivery and trash pick up.

Vons continues to work on the parking mix for the off-street parking. The Planning Commission has asked SCE for further clarification regarding the proposed project's water allocation.

#### Planning Department - Conservancy/Trailhead Project:

City will be meeting with the Catalina Island Conservancy team on Tuesday of next week for a kickoff review of their proposed project at the Catherine Hotel Site. A Historical Resource Report has been completed and review by the City Attorney's Office, and the Conservancy has been cleared to move forward with demolition at the site.

#### Avalon Fire Department – Retirement of Chief Hoefs

Avalon Fire Chief Steve Hoefs retires from twenty-five years of service with the City this coming Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Chief Hoefs was honored at an internal Avalon Fire Department acknowledgement ceremony. We thank Chief Hoefs for his service, and wish him well as he enters this next chapter of his life.

#### Avalon Fire Department - Fire Apparatus Water Use:

At last weeks City Council meeting a citizen concerned with water conservation in Avalon raised the question about how water is used in regard to washing fire department vehicles.

The Avalon Fire Department, as well as our sister agency LACoFD Station 55, are partners in water conservation in Avalon. We do however need to use a small amount of water daily to test pumps to ensure readiness. This water is normally limited to a few gallons, which we also use to wash apparatus or equipment at the same time.

Keeping apparatus clean goes beyond just the reflection on our department. It is also necessary due to our constant exposure to salt. Simply put, it comes down to maintaining what is expensive equipment and not allowing it to fall into disrepair. We will continue to be shareholders in water conservation and take every precaution to not waste or mismanage that resource, while carrying out our daily requirements for readiness and maintenance.

#### City-Department Wide Confined Space Training:

Last week three days of Confined Space Training was conducted with several COA Departments (AHD, Public Works, AFD and Salt/Sewer). The training was divided into sections pertaining to each specific department's responsibility and areas of responsibility. This training represents mitigating a hazard that kills on average of 100 people a year in the United States. Thanks again to Dennis Jaich for working hard to get this training delivered on the island, coordinating the scheduling and getting it in before the busy summer season.

#### City Manager's Office – Leases:

According to the schedule previously released, revised City lease documents will be sent out to all City lessees on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Revised leases will go into effect six (6) weeks from the date of mailing, on August 15, 2014.

#### City Manager's Office – Bay Water Quality Update 1:

City staff met with County water tester technicians this week to go over Avalon Bay water quality testing procedures, and to compare results. A duplicate sample was tested in each lab (the County's as well as the City's), as well as secondary samples independently taken by the City for comparison. These efforts are a continuation of the Avalon Bay Water Quality Symposium as a means to help educate the general public and keep all the involved and interested stakeholders on the same page. This all helps make sure the City and community's efforts are productive and taking Avalon's water quality in the right direction. Reports and follow ups will be shared once completed. Anyone interested in following the Symposiums ongoing discussion may email Management Aide Jordan Monroe with the subject "Bay Symposium Email List" to be added: [jmonroe@cityofavalon.com](mailto:jmonroe@cityofavalon.com)

#### City Manager's Office – Bay Water Quality Update 2:

The Bay Foundation hosted a multi-day and multi-organization workshop in Avalon and took part of their time to meet with City staff to discuss the efforts of the City and the community to address Avalon Bay's water quality. Due to the bay's impressive improvements highlighted in Heal the Bays 2013/2014 Beach Report Card, and noting the innovative efforts implemented to address this issue, such as the dye tab program - a program which they were not aware of many, if any, other harbors or boat communities have - the City of Avalon has been requested to write an article outlining the City's efforts as an example for other communities.

#### City Manager's Office – Intergovernmental Relations:

Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal brought her District Office services to Avalon last Friday the 20th. Lowenthal, along with four staffers were available from 11-4 at their "sidewalk office" in front of the courthouse. Feedback from the staffers was positive, as they were very busy assisting Avalon residents with community concerns, legislation, and all of the services available through her District Office. Opportunities such as this may help island residents remember that just because we live on an island does not mean we are isolated from resources off the island. Assembly Member Lowenthal also took the opportunity while in Avalon to meet with City staff and Council Members, as well as key stakeholders and businesses in the community. The Assembly Member also presented Maggie's Blue Rose with a certificate of recognition as the Business of the Month.

#### City Manager's Office – New City Council Member Training:

Through the assistance of Kristine Guerrero (League of California Cities Public Affairs Region Manager), and In advance of the League of California Cities annual conference in September, and the annual New City Council Member Training Institute in January of 2015, we are working to provide a on a one-off training session specifically for the Avalon City Council to be convened here on the island. Jim Goodhart, Mayor of Palos Verdes Estates, is willing to travel to Avalon to present a workshop to the Avalon City Council, assuming all schedules work out. Mayor Goodhart is on the League of California Cities' State Board of Directors, as well as the Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors, and is a past President of the Mayors and Council Member's Department. Mayor Goodhart has provided presentations like this in the past.

#### Public Works Department - Lower Terrace Project:

New roadway asphalt has been placed. Building the wooden stairs is in progress. Besides cleanup and minor work, the project will be finalized by the end of next week.

#### Public Works Department - Underground Utility Vaults on Metropole:

Grinding and new asphalt is scheduled for late next week. There remains the planting of the street trees upon which the City, the Catalina Island Conservancy and Henkels & McCoy (Southern California Edison) are coordinating upon.

Public Works Department - Work Schedule Modification:

Transitioning and alterations with the labor forces are ongoing. Crews and schedules are changing; priorities are being analyzed and developed, and purchasing powers/sources are being modified and corrected. Additionally, the 9/80 schedule is being dropped as of next pay period. The Department will be scheduling the work force on a 5 day, 8 hour work week. This will allow for more manpower on the weekends, and well as a consistent presence during the busy season. Consideration will be given to changing the schedule during the winter months if and when it will be appropriate and/or feasible.

Respectfully submitted,



Ben Harvey  
City Manager  
City of Avalon

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