



## **Avalon City Council Weekly Update 2-27-15**

### Public Works/Capital Improvements - Fuel Dock Structural Evaluation

As previously reported, staff has undertaken the task of acquiring a structural evaluation to verify the integrity of the existing Fuel Dock pier structure. A written report was received this week, and is under review. From our initial review, it appears that the report confirms our original assessment that the structure is in poor condition. The report also lists some costs, along with the repairs that might be applicable, should a temporary repair procedure be implemented. After our analysis of the report is complete, we will provide an update to the City Council.

Due to the importance of this issue, and the significant costs/repairs that the first evaluation recommends, staff is also pursuing a 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion. It is anticipated that we will have the second opinion results by the end of next week. This second report is not going to be of any additional expense to the City, as it has been arranged by our current tenant of the Fuel Dock, Mr. Armstrong, who has requested the 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion via Anchor QEA, an engineering firm, Anchor QEA (a firm that is currently working on the Tuna Club structure). The City is appreciative of Robert Sherwood of Anchor QEA for his assistance on this important issue.

### Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Step Beach and Beachfront Repairs

Staff is in the process of developing a scope of work for public bids in order to repair and rehabilitate some areas along the beachfront that were damaged by the storm surges and inclement weather in 2014. The process of developing the contract documents is anticipated to take approximately 3 weeks, then an advertisement for public bids will be sent out to public contractors. It is the desire of staff to try and get construction scheduled as early as possible to rehabilitate this highly trafficked area in advance of the busy season.

### Public Works/Capital Improvements – Pebbly Beach Rock fall Protection Project

Along with other needed projects that are anticipated in the future, this Pebbly Beach project is of importance to the community. This project will involve placing some fencing on top of our K Rails that run along Pebbly Beach Road. Staff is currently working on the contract documents, and will be sending out a request for public bids in the near future. It is anticipated that this Pebbly Beach Road construction will not require any road closures; however, flagmen and/or lane restrictions will be in place. The public will be reminded again, prior to construction, to use caution when traveling on this busy road during the hours when the contractors' personnel will be onsite.

### City Manager's Office – LASD Contract Cities' Educational Seminar

Along with Captain Feteroll, I attended the annual Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD) Contract Cities Educational Seminar on Thursday and Friday of this week. Among the topics discussed was the proposed increase in fees for the Sheriff Department contract for contract cities. Avalon, due to its unique geographic nature and location as an "island within an island" of unincorporated Los Angeles County, benefits contractually with the Sheriff's Department, as we are not charged for certain personnel/overhead costs – among the most significant of these

costs being the charges incurred for the services of Captain Feteroll. LASD will be advising me in the next few weeks as to what the City may anticipate as far as any proposed increases for law enforcement services for the City of Avalon for the FY 15-16 budget.

Newly-elected Sheriff Jim McDonnell was present at the seminar, and we discussed the unique challenges and opportunities facing Avalon, and greater Catalina Island as it relates to law enforcement. The Sheriff is tentatively scheduled to visit Avalon on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. I will be working with LASD should this date be confirmed to line up meetings with the City Council and Sheriff McDonnell, as well as other key community stakeholders.

#### City Manger's Office – Island Consortium Meeting 3/24

A meeting of the Island Consortium has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in Long Beach. At the meeting, the City will discuss with the group the City Council's recently-authorized membership contribution, as well as the effort to solicit bids for professional services for a water feasibility study regarding the island's water utility system.

#### Chief Administrative Officer - Animal Control

Code Enforcement Officers have responded to several calls regarding cats that have been attacked and/or killed by dog(s) at large over the last week. The dog(s) in question seems to have the same description (a large dark dog around 60 pounds). These attacks have taken place on upper Sumner Street, Fairview Terrace and Eucalyptus Hill. Any information regarding this issue should be directed to our Code Enforcement Officers at 310-510-020 x 111.

#### Chief Administrative Officer - Vehicle Registration Update

A reminder that vehicle registration is underway with hours from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM on Monday through Wednesday and Friday. No vehicle permits will be issued on Thursdays. Numbers of permits issued so far are 247 residential autoettes, 134 non-residential autoettes, and 122 full-size vehicle permits. The cost for autoette and full-size vehicle permits is \$30.00.

#### Harbor Department – Float 4 Ramp Repair

The ramp on Float 4 has been lowered on to the dock to allow for welding repairs. While Float 4 is out of service, 3 moorings in the area have been dropped to allow Catalina Express and Catalina Classic Cruise tender boats to use both sides of Float 5.

#### Harbor Department – Underwater Clean Up

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual Avalon Underwater Clean Up took place last Saturday, February 21 with 427 divers participating. The divers were able to gather approximately 900 pounds of metal, 1640 pounds of boat parts, and 400 pounds of trash. The dive clean up organizers report there will be a change in the organization starting next year. They are changing their affiliation from the Catalina Conservancy to the USC Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies (WIES). The name of the group is now WEIS-CCD, or the Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies – Catalina Conservation Divers. Beginning in 2015, half of the proceeds from the Avalon Harbor Underwater Cleanup will go to the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, and half will go to WIES-CCD to support ongoing underwater research projects.

### Finance Department – CSMFO Conference

Last week the Interim CFO was able to attend the annual CSMFO (California Society of Municipal Finance Officers) conference. During the three day conference he was able to interact with many peers, sit in on various educational sessions relevant to Avalon, and speak with multiple businesses that provide different services to governments in the financial arena. Various take-aways from the sessions included policy ideas that we plan to incorporate in the next City budgeting process to start in the near future.

### Finance Department – PTA Fees Payment

No, not *that* PTA. PTA stands for property tax administration. As previously mentioned in a prior Council Update, this past week we received a wire transfer for \$13,500 from Los Angeles County representing the amount due to us from the settlement of excess property tax administration fees the County withheld from FY 2006–2007 through 2011–2012. This payment represents the conclusion of the case.

### Finance Department – Chamber Statistics

The revenue measures referred to as the “Chamber Statistics” showing the revenues received by the City for Sales Taxes, Wharfage Fees, Admission Taxes, Harbor Use Fees and Transient Occupancy Taxes for the period July – December 2014 have been updated and are undergoing internal review. These figures will be released next week.

### Planning Department – Proposed Vons Project Story Poles

City staff continues to work with Vons in an effort to ensure the story poles erected at the site accurately provide a representation of the proposed project’s elevations and footprint. Next week, additional confirmation will take place – and if merited, adjustments may be made. We will continue to keep you posted on this topic.

### Planning Department/Grants Administration – Grant for Meals on Wheels Program Administration

The Mayor and the Grants Administrator met this week to discuss an action plan to revamp/improve the meals-on-wheels program. The Mayor has background and expertise in this area stemming from her background as a prior Recreation Director for the City of Avalon. As part of this plan, financial data collected from the Finance and Recreation Department will be assembled and reviewed. It is believed that a portion of the City’s Federal Government-provided Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds may be eligible for use to supplant the administration of the meals-on-wheels program.

### Planning Department – March Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission meeting for March has been moved to March 25<sup>th</sup> from its originally scheduled date of March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Commission will be hearing the Descanso Coastal Development Permit application to correct the blind curve just behind the kitchen, as well as the proposed Zane Grey Renovation Project.

### Planning Department – Local Coastal Plan Update

We have put together a team including Steve Flint (Planning Consultant), Amanda Cook and Audra McDonald to kick the Local Coastal Plan update back into gear. I will provide you with an update regarding this effort next week.

Avalon Fire Department:

Congratulations to Probationary Firefighter Jorge Hernandez, who will complete his six month probation on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup>. As is the case with ALL of us (take comfort, George), the learning never ends, and FF Hernandez understands he has merely completed the initial phase of becoming a professional firefighter. Congratulations to him, and everyone who has helped and supported his learning process along the way.

Congratulations are also in order for Firefighter Steve Bray, who completed his requirements and approvals to become qualified as a Relief Engineer. Steven has demonstrated proficiency in both engines and the truck, and we welcome the addition of another qualified engineer within the department.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ben Harvey*

Ben Harvey  
City Manager  
City of Avalon