



## Avalon City Council Weekly Update 3-20-15

### City Manager's Office – Proposed Residential Desalination Units

Southern California Edison (SCE) requested to meet with the City this week to discuss the topic of residential desalination units. The City and SCE are both aware of the interest and pressure from the community for the proposed installation of desalination units within residences. In addition to those bootleg units that already exist in town (yes, the City is aware of a few non-permitted units); informal and formal proposals for residential desalination units have been submitted by homeowner groups, developers and business owners. The City and SCE will be meeting jointly with some of those who have expressed interest regarding residential desalination units to share some of the challenges that should be addressed to move forward. Here is a basic list of the concerns from the City's perspective:

1. The City would need a water supply permit from the State Water Resources Control Board to distribute water for human consumption to more than 14 service connections.
2. Second, if the City is able to obtain permission to distribute salt water for human consumption, the City needs to obtain a waiver from SCE of all potential takings claims based on service duplication.
3. Third, the manufacturer of any reverse osmosis device to be installed needs to obtain certification for the proposed use from the State Water Resources Control Board.
4. Fourth, the City may need to adopt local amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code which establish the condition under which connections between the potable and non-potable water supply lines may be approved.

### Finance Department – Tourism Based Revenue Statistics

This week we issued the Tourism Based Revenue Statistics (aka. "Chamber Statistics") report which has been updated to reflect the remaining months of calendar year 2014 (July-December). As we had been expecting, we continued to show revenue growth through 2014. Presented here are the changes in these categories:

#### Changes from 2013 to 2014:

Transient Occupancy Taxes - **11% or \$455,000 increase**  
Hotel Occupancy Rates – **18.8% increase**  
Admission tax Revenues – **19.8% or \$134,000**  
Harbor Use Fees – **12.3% or \$36,000**  
Wharfage Fees – Cross Channel Carriers – **7.3% or \$213,000**  
Wharfage Fees – Cruise Ships – **56.4% or \$163,000**  
Sales Tax – **17.7% or \$98,000**  
Total Visitor Driven Revenues – **12.4% or \$1.1 million**

While we are pleased with these continued increases, we're aware that Phase 3 water rationing is set to take effect later this year and this will have an impact on these revenues thereafter. In the meantime we're looking to build back up our reserves that had been deleted years ago, start funding some delayed capital improvement projects, and start setting monies aside for our equipment replacement program.

### Finance Department – Expense Report and Reimbursement

The Finance Dept. has created a new expense report to be used by staff for submitting their business expenses. This will be distributed next week. With the roll out of this we have also changed the practice of how we reimburse employees. In the past this was done by warrant through the accounts payable process. Going forward, including for those folks who had approved expense reports already waiting to be paid, this reimbursement will now be included in their pay check starting as early as this Friday. Please note that the reimbursement of business expenses is not taxable and is not included in taxable income for income tax calculation purposes. In prior communications we have commented on the average cost to issue a check, so by making this change we are serving to reduce our costs and eliminating additional work steps.

### Public Works Department – Beachfront Hardscape Repairs

The PWD is continuing with our plan to repair and restore some of the benches and other hardscape items along the beachfront on Crescent Ave. Considering that these areas are usually crowded with pedestrian traffic, we are trying to address the many needed repairs on a small scale basis, in order to limit any inconvenience to the public. Staff is committed in keeping our downtown areas in good shape, and we are trying to replace the worn tiles and brick that need attention on an as needed basis.



### Public Works Department – Ongoing Tree Trimming

Tree trimming has been taking place again during this last week; specifically along Avalon Canyon Road, heading up and along the golf course area. This activity will continue into next week, and then we are planning on heading down to trim and maintain the trees along Casino Way. We would like to thank the public for their understanding and cooperation during the traffic restrictions while this work is ongoing.

### Public Works Department /Environ Strategies (ES) – Sewer & Storm Drain Maintenance

On a weekly basis, our sewer and saltwater contractor, ES, conduct their regular weekly jetting maintenance of our storm drain inlets, the low flow diverter system, and the various sewer manholes, down along Avalon Bay. This process is necessary to comply with the PWD desires to keep sewer and runoff waters controlled, and to ensure, by visual inspections, that the sewer system remains in good working order and is functioning properly. We thank ES for their continued support and efforts by helping us safeguard these important facilities that are so near to our waters.



### Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Step Beach Repair Project

Attempts are being made to accelerate the production of the contract documents that are required in order to bring this needed repair project to fruition. The problems with ocean tides, and accessibility, are challenging and must be dealt with during the design and construction phases of the work. Staff is diligently trying to speed up the process in an effort to avoid any unnecessary disturbances from construction during the peak season. We will report on our progress in the near future in order to keep everyone informed.

### Public Works/Capital Improvements – eBus Charging Station

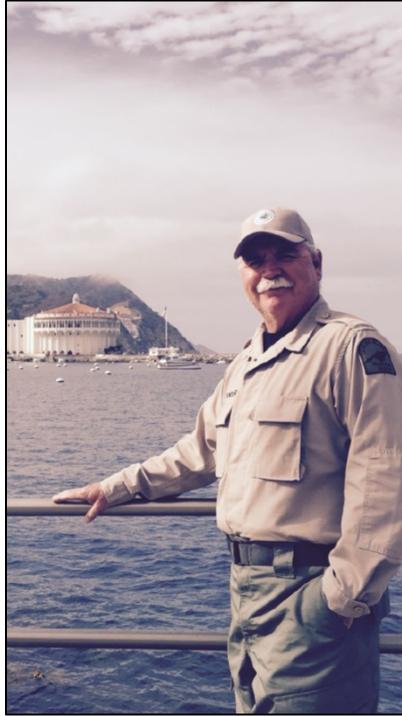
Staff has started the initial design for the construction of the eBus charging station. This process required the assistance of a contract electrical engineer. OMB Electrical Engineering Co., was selected for this task, and is currently designing the equipment necessary to charge the three new eBuses that will be purchased by the City. This charging station will be placed in the back parking lot near City Hall, by CKV, close to the Baywatch building. The area will be laid out properly in an effort to make ingress and egress as simple as possible for the busses, and also to accommodate other parking lot regulars.

### Avalon Public Safety - Assistant Harbormaster Poindexter:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has eight Search and Rescue Teams throughout Los Angeles County; one of those teams is located here on Catalina Island. These teams are specialized in mountain search and rescue and specifically in technical rescue operations. Assistant Harbormaster JJ Poindexter has been a volunteer member of the team since its inception more than 30 years ago, and is the only remaining original member. Membership in this program takes a great deal of dedication to training and responding to calls for service in any number of locations or conditions.

This week notification was made that JJ Poindexter had been nominated for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Volunteer of the Year. This prestigious recognition is made through the entire county and the countless LASD volunteer team who commit to helping their communities. A formal ceremony will be held April 18, 2015 at LASD Headquarters to recognize the nominees and announce the selection.

Please join me in extending my personal congratulations and thanks to JJ for his service to the community, and this well deserved recognition.



### Harbor Department- Marine Protected Areas Training

Harbor Patrol Officers William Flickinger and Greg Warner attended a meeting in Avalon on Wednesday put on by the Catalina Marine Protected Area Collaborative and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The meeting covered legal and jurisdictional clarification for coastal enforcement officers.

### Harbor Department- Coast Guard Industry Day

On Thursday, the United States Coast Guard, Marine Inspection Division, Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach conducted a "Marine Industry Day" in Avalon at City Hall. The meeting was intended to address the concerns of 6 pack operators, water taxis, dive charters, parasail operators, fishing vessels, water sports equipment rentals and all operators of "vessels for hire". Harbor Patrol Officers Cameron, Flickinger and Harbor Master Bray attended along with numerous operators spanning from Avalon to Two Harbors. Over the years Avalon has hosted several Marine Industry Days, all of them unique and all of them informative. This year the topics presented included:

1. Six (6) Pack Licenses and the Requirements for Uninspected passenger Vessels.
2. Digital Select Calling (DCS) (In about a year there will be requirement for all VHF radios to have DCS capabilities.) Come and learn about this new requirement.
3. Commercial Fishing and Towing Vessels (Soon commercial fishing and towing vessels will have to be inspected by the USCG)
4. New Regulations regarding the inspection of fishing and towing vessels.
5. Investigations: water sports equipment, dive boats and parasail boats.
6. Form CQ-2692, the form that must be filled out when there is an accident, injury or death. Learn the degree of and accident or injury when this forms if required.

7. Safe Dive Operations. There will be a discussion regarding the expectations of a diver or snorkeler when he leaves a dive boat for an excursion. Is he still a passenger when he voluntarily leaves the boat?
8. A case study on a dive accident.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk Office - Vehicle Registration Update

REMINDER There are only 8 business days left to get your vehicle registered. After that there will be a \$25 late fee charged. Registration hours are 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 pm. – 4:30 p.m. Monday – Wednesday, and on Friday. No vehicle permits will be issued on Thursdays. The cost for autoette and full size vehicle permits is \$30.00.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk Office - Property Related Fees

On Tuesday night, the City Council authorized a proposed rate increase for two of the three annual property related fees that go on the Los Angeles County Tax Roll bills. Council is proposing a 35% rate increase for salt water fees and a 15% rate increase on sewer fees. For a residential property that would mean an additional \$4.16/ month or \$49.92/year in salt water fees, and an additional \$5.95/month or \$ 71.40/year in sewer fees. An extra \$121.32 annually would be added to the property tax bill. A required public notice will be mailed out to all property owners and a public hearing will be heard on May 19, 2015 at 6:00 PM to hear any oral or written protests.

Recreation Department - Community Message board:

David Hart has been learning the community message board software system this week. In learning the system, David along with our IT Consultant Pat Grady, discovered some technical issues with trying to access the system remote. Pat will be working with Von's corporate IT personnel to trouble shoot the issue. We are hopeful to launch our first messages before the end of the month.

Recreation Department - LA Galaxy Soccer Camp:

LA Galaxy skill coaches held a free clinic at Joe Machado Field on Wednesday afternoon, with over 60 local kids participating. The LA Galaxy coaches will be coming back the island to run a camp on the weekend May 8-10. They are advertising it on their website to try to drum u interest from mainland kids as well. The Galaxy coaches advised that eventually they would like to hold multiple events here on Catalina Island. This is a great opportunity to co-brand ourselves with the 5-time MLS Cup Champions, and a starting point to entice other professional teams to consider making Avalon a destination camp or training center location.

Recreation Department - Kick it Up Dance:

The second session of Kick it Up Dance classes this week was a huge a success, with over a 90% retention rate and multiple new sign-ups. They will have a recital on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

***Ben Harvey***

Ben Harvey  
City Manager  
City of Avalon