



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 4-22-15

City Manager's Office - Anheuser-Busch Bud Light "Up For Whatever" 2015 Event

The City has received the special event application from Mosaic (contractor for Anheuser-Busch) for the May 29th-31st Bud Light UpForWhatever event to be held here in the City of Avalon. The Department Heads, the Chamber, the City Attorney and I participated in a discussion with Bobby Wells (Production Director at Mosaic) on Friday morning, who is heading up preparation and planning for the event on Anheuser-Busch's behalf. Bobby will be tracking down answers to questions posed by the Avalon team, and will be next meeting with all of us when he is on-island on Tuesday. Once the special event application has been completely reviewed – and approved – which will occur very shortly, we will be releasing details to the public about the scope, size and footprint of the event (we will also likely convene some type of general information meeting(s) in the near future as well so that the general public may learn more about the event). On a parallel path – the City Attorney's Office is working on the draft agreement with Anheuser-Busch for the event. Lastly, as a follow-up to an email that I sent out to you all, the City has hired Danica Cresswell-Hoffmann as a City temporary worker to serve in an Events Liaison capacity, facility questions/answers between Anheuser-Busch and island stakeholders, following up on action items, and just in generally helping to ensure that the event planning is moving forward in a satisfactory manner.

City Manager's Office – Proposed FY 15-16 Budget Preparation Update

In keeping with my pledge to have City staff deliver a budget to the City Council for review and anticipated adoption prior to July 1, 2015, I met with Chris Woidzik and Gina Schuchard this week. We have all the budget requests from the Department Heads. Chris, Gina and I have reviewed and discussed the preliminary budget assumptions, including the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) component. Early next week (if Gina has not yet already done so), the working calendar will be presented. It is our intention that City Council questions may be reviewed and answered such that the budget may be considered for adoption at the June 16th meeting. With the Mayor Pro Tem on scheduled vacation for a portion of May, this will mean that City staff will need to work quickly and efficiently over the next couple of weeks to complete the preliminary budget. Thank you for your support here.

City Manager's Office - A/V Council Chambers

During the past few weeks, it was learned that all requisite data and voice lines for the Audio Visual Council Chambers project are already in existence at City Hall, and no new conduit needs to be installed (saving a significant amount of money). This will allow for monitors at the dais for each City Council Member. I will be meeting with the project team next week on the remaining to discuss the future plans for any remaining infrastructure completion. Once this is complete, we will immediately start working on installing the TV, wireless mic system for the podium and speaker system with a schedule and approach that is not disruptive to our scheduled City Council Meetings within the City Council Chambers.

City Manager's Office – Supervisor Training – Day 2 of the 3 Day Academy

The City's Department Heads, Managers and Supervisors completed the second day of the three (non-consecutive) day supervisor training course this week. I was extremely pleased with the training provided, and the participation and interaction from the City team. This training is consistent with the City Council's goals for staff training and professional development. Day 3 will be convened in May.

City Manager's Office – Prop 1 Water Bond

City staff attended a Proposition 1 workshop in Sacramento this week. The focus of the workshop was on the water recycling funding program but it was a good introduction to the funding process, requirements and opportunities. The City coordinated with Southern California Edison and both organizations had a representative at two separate workshops. A follow up meeting with the Proposition 1 administrators and Southern California Edison is being planned so our community can take full advantage of this opportunity.

City Manager's Office – Wastewater Discharge Permit

With assistance from the City Attorney's Office, the Mayor Pro Tem and I convened a discussion this week with Sam Unger, the Executive Office for the regional Water Board here in Los Angeles County. Mr. Unger was interested and helpful in trying to determine the best manner to move forward with the Mayor Pro Tem's concept of expanding the discharge permit for the Wastewater Treatment plant to allow for the potential of additional, temporary desalination units within Avalon in light of the advancing onslaught of Phase 3 Water Rationing. A temporary placeholder has been added to the Water Board's agenda for their July, 2015 meeting to consider a forthcoming, proposed application from the City of Avalon. Of course, this is just one piece of the puzzle, with remaining components such as augmented salt water (read: new well(s)) and water storage, among other items, remaining to be addressed. Regardless, this is an encouraging development, and we will be working to pursue this potential modification with ES (our wastewater treatment plant operator, of course), Southern California Edison, the Water Board, and the other regulatory agencies involved.

City Manager's Office – Proposed Residential Desalination Units

City staff met with Southern California Edison (SCE), Environ Strategies (ES), and a couple interested developers/contractors this week regarding residential desalination units in Avalon. The City does not (yet) have a proposed, draft permit for residential desalination units finalized. This is anticipated shortly. Further, SCE, as the owner of fresh water rights and the fresh water purveyor on Catalina Island, ultimately has the ownership and authority over the allowance of these types of units. Both the City and SCE recognize the potential benefits of these units to the community, especially considering our ongoing drought. However, we want to make certain that public safety and health, impact to the waste water treatment plant, and other important considerations are addressed. It should be noted that any existing residential desalination units within Avalon – whether for swimming pools, or otherwise – which may have been in existence for some time – are not permitted. As part of this effort, both the City and SCE would like to “catch up” with these existing units such that we may ensure that they are ultimately retroactively permitted, and not causing any issues to their owners, or the City's infrastructure, etc.

Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk's Office – GWRS Tour

On Wednesday, a group consisting of Mayor Marshall, Councilmember Cassidy, former Mayor Ralph Morrow, R-Tap committee member Jon Council, and City staff Dennis Jaich and Denise Radde went to the Orange County Sanitation District Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) located in Fountain Valley. GWRS became operational in January 2008, and is the world's largest water purification system for potable reuse. The system takes highly treated wastewater that would have previously been discharged into the Pacific Ocean and purifies it using a 3 step advanced treatment process consisting of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light. The process produces high quality water that exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. This state of the art water purification plant can produce up to 70 million gallons of water every day. The group very was excited to learn about such amazing technology. Pictured below is the Avalon delegation on the tour:



Public Works Department – Step Beach Area Repairs

PWD crews have been in the process of repairing the damage to Steps Beach that was caused by the unfortunate Nor'east storm of last December. The tremendous force of wind and water created many sinkholes behind the sea wall, damaged the handrails, and dislodged the famous stairs that lead down to the popular beach. As this area is a prominent and popular entrance to our bay, it was our desire to get it back in shape as soon as possible. Therefore, our crews have been concentrating on the repairs, while attending to our other pressing issues, in an attempt to expedite the work as soon as possible. We anticipate that this work could be finished within 3 weeks, which would allow us to open this portion of the beach by mid May 2015.

Public Works Department/Capital Improvements - Fuel Dock Project Temporary Repairs

As directed by the City Council, City staff hired an engineering firm to evaluate the costs of a temporary repair for the Fuel Dock, in hopes that we could allow the Casino Dock to remain open through this summer, while the permit process continued. When this study was completed, the estimated costs reported were approximately \$100,000. Upon acquiring this information, it

was believed by some that the pricing was excessive. This belief launched a new study (second opinion), which when completed, unfortunately revealed a new cost estimate of \$159,000 for the temporary remedial work. Therefore, efforts and considerations for short-term repairs have now ceased, and as a result, it is believed that the Fuel Dock structure will have to be closed this coming summer season, while we continue to wait for the permitting process to conclude; then the schedule for construction can begin. It is anticipated that within 60 days, the paperwork and agency approvals (permits) will be received, and the public bid for construction will take place soon thereafter. The total Fuel Dock project construction is anticipated to be completed by June 2016.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Beach Sand Replenishment

As many community members are aware, the storms and surges of 2014 caused much of our existing beach sand to disappear as it took the materials back into the ocean. Fortunately, staff brought this issue to the City Council's attention at our last meeting, and the purchase of new beach sand was approved at that time. Due to this positive decision, PWD staff is making preparations to purchase replacement sand that will be used to replenish the areas of Step Beach, and some areas along Middle Beach, South Beach, and other deficient areas. We anticipate that this replacement process can begin within 3 weeks.

Harbor Department – Float 5 Ramp Repair

Welding repairs were scheduled for the ramp on Cabrillo Mole Float 5 from April 15th until May 6th. While Float 5 is out of service, Catalina Express and the cruise ship tenders are able to use both sides of Float 4. Thanks go out to Catalina Express, Catalina Classic Cruises and Princess Cruise Line tenders for working together while Float 5 is out of service.

Harbor Department - Extra Cruise Ship Visits

Princess Cruise Line will add 2 cruise ship visits this week. On Sunday 4/26, Crown Princess will be arriving and anchoring in Avalon at 1:00 AM and will tender their passengers to Float 4 from 7:00 AM until their departure at 2:00 PM. On Monday 4/27, Grand Princess will be arriving at 7:00am and departing at 6:00pm and will tender their passengers to Float 4. To help accommodate this, Carnival Imagination will change their visit until Tuesday, and Carnival Inspiration will change their visit to occur on Wednesday.

Planning Department/Grants Administration – CalAct Conference

City staff attended the annual CalAct (California Association For Coordinated Transportation) Spring Conference in Yosemite. CalAct membership is primarily comprised of small transit operators, contractors and cities. A portion of the City's attendance is reimbursed through a scholarship offered by Caltrans. Breakout sessions included changes to federal regulations in relationship to transit funding, state funding updates and utilizing census data. Staff also was able to coordinate a meeting with Leslie Rogers, FTA Administrator for the Western Region, to discuss options for permanent commuter subsidy funding, among other items, and extended an invitation to visit Avalon in the near future.

Planning Department/Grants Administration – CalAct Conference

City staff attend the Caltrans-sponsored Active Transportation Program (ATP) Workshop in Irvine to learn more about the upcoming funding opportunity offered by Caltrans. The ATP is a State and Federally funded program that emphasizes "ACTIVE" modes of transportation, such as walking and bicycling, and offers competitive grants for planning and constructing facilities that increase the proportion of trips accomplished by walking or riding a bike. It is the intent of

staff to prepare an application to fund the cost of developing an ATP Plan for the City of Avalon for this funding cycle which is consistent with the City Council's "Goal 6-Comprehensive Transportation Review".

Fire Department - FAST:

The American Heart Association is asking public safety agencies to spread the word about the importance of quickly recognizing the signs of a stroke. The faster that stroke patients are identified and medical interventions are initiated the greater chance of positive outcomes.

FAST is an acronym used as a mnemonic to help detect and enhance responsiveness to stroke victim needs. The acronym stands for **F**acial drooping, **A**rm weakness, **S**peech difficulties and **T**ime.

- **Facial Drooping:** A section of the face, usually only on one side, that is drooping and hard to move.
- **Arm Weakness:** The inability to raise one's arm fully.
- **Speech Difficulties:** An inability or difficulty to understand or produce speech.
- **Time:** Time is of the essence when having a stroke and an immediate call 911 or trip to the hospital is recommended.

Finance Department – Time Entry Software

The City rolled out the new time entry software city-wide three weeks ago. All departments are up and using the software. Although employees are still getting used to the requirement of needing to "punch in" and "punch out" using either a computer or a finger scanner, this is progressing along. Not only does the software register the time in and out, but it also accommodates the scheduling of employees and allows them to submit time off requests electronically. We're continuing to make refinements to the software and are working with the employees to make sure the use of the time entry software works well for the City.

Finance Department – FY2013-14 Audit

MHM, the City's auditors, have been on site this week conducting the audit of the FY2013-14 financial statements. Two weeks prior to this we closed the City's General Ledger for FY2013-14 and sent the preliminary GL to them. Last week was spent preparing the majority of the "PBC" (prepared by client) audit schedules detailing out selected account balances where the auditors wished to see detail. The audit is progressing according to schedule thus far, and it is expected that we could receive draft financial statements by the end of next week. It is further anticipated that the audit is to be finalized with issued financial statements by the 3rd week of May.

Finance Department – FY2013-14 MTA Audit

The FY2013-14 MTA audit has been completed, and we have received the issued financial statements with a “clean opinion” (an unqualified opinion) from Vasquez & Company, who performs the audit on behalf of Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. The MTA audit specifically reviews our administration of monies received from Proposition’s A and C, Measure R, and TDA (Transportation Development Act) Articles 3 and 8 to ensure the monies are used within the approved guidelines. The city received approximately \$1.2M from these funding sources in FY14 for transportation related activities. There were no issues noted with the audit nor were there any questioned costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager
City of Avalon