



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 5-08-15

City Manager's Office - "Residential Desalination" Discussions

The City has been engaged in discussions with Southern California Edison, Environ Strategies (the contracted operator of the City's wastewater treatment plant) and interested local developers and contractors regarding the requisite components (read: permits) and next steps for the proposed permitting and subsequent installation of desalination units within residential and commercial properties. Both the City and SCE are interested in allowing for individual desalination units within the community, and understand the potential for assisting in offsetting fresh water demand. However, there are concerns which need to be addressed – including impact to the wastewater treatment plant, requisite regulatory approval from the California Public Utilities Commission and other agencies, potential required modifications to the municipal code, etc. We will continue to keep you apprised of our progress here; all parties involved are trying their best to fast track this effort.

City Manager's Office – SCE/City of Avalon Fresh Water Public Funding Opportunities

City staff met with representatives from Southern California Edison earlier this week to discuss and coordinate efforts to obtain funding for short term and long term water related projects. Much of the focus was on Proposition 1 funding as well as Proposition 84. In order to receive Prop 84 monies Catalina Island would need to be a part of an Integrated Regional Water Management group. SCE and the City are working together to pursue Catalina's inclusion in the appropriate IRWM.

City Manager's Office - UpForWhatever May 29-31

All City Departments, the Chamber of Commerce, Los Angeles County public safety partners and multiple businesses in Avalon have been working diligently with Mosaic (a firm contracted by Anheuser Busch) to host the 2015 Bud Light UpForWhatever event, coming to the City of Avalon during the May 29-31st weekend (the weekend *after* Memorial Day). The City has issued a special event permit to Mosaic, information regarding the event has been posted on the Chamber of Commerce website (the City's website has a direct link to the information on the Chamber's website), and Town Hall meetings hosted by Mosaic have been scheduled for Thursday, May 14th at 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM at Avalon City Hall. The UpForWhatever information posted on the Chamber's website – link here: <http://www.catalinachamber.com/ufw/> - will be dynamic, with updates provided as they become available. Basically, in order to ensure that the public is receiving the most current and accurate information possible regarding the UpForWhatever event, we are asking people to simply go to the website. Most questions should be answered there with the provided information, and updates will be made frequently. Those who would like to hear more – and/or speak directly with Mosaic representatives – are encouraged to attend one of the two Town Hall meetings that are scheduled for May 14th at Avalon City Hall at 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

City Manager's Office - Proposed FY 15-16 Budget Study Sessions

City staff is on track to deliver a budget for City Council review and anticipated adoption prior to July 1st . In order to reach our goal during this exciting busy season, budget study sessions as well as individual meetings with City Council members are being scheduled to incorporate comments, insights and proposals into the process. At this time, we are holding the following dates for City Council Budget Study Sessions: Thursdays May 28th, June 4th and June 11th. Additionally, we will have budget actions planned for Council Meetings on May 19th (Budget Policies), Tuesday June 2nd (Misc. Fee Public Hearing) and June 16th (Budget Adoption Public Hearing). If additional Budget Study Sessions are necessary, Thursday June 25th and Tuesday June 30th are tentatively being held.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Master Development Plan RFP

Considering the current drought conditions, and with the prospect that the City should anticipate future rainfall deficiencies, we have embarked on the first step to study, evaluate, and consider all avenues that will help us implement facilities and/or devices that will relieve the demand for fresh water. This first step is the “Master Development Plan & Recycled Water Sub-Plan”.

The City has solicited a Request for Proposal (RFP) to qualified engineering firms with experience and expertise in preparing a Recycled Water Sub-Plan as part of a Master Development Plan for potable water, wastewater, seawater, electricity, desalination possibilities, and municipal solid waste. The purpose of the Master Development Plan is to help the City realize goals of an adequate, properly functioning utility infrastructure; as energy self-sufficient as technology allows. This RFP will also include a feasibility study and conceptual design of a recycled water system as well as the many other facets or aspects that could be involved in this significant task.

Proposals are expected to be submitted to the Public Works Department in late May. At that time, the information and associated costs will be analyzed and evaluated. Upon the selection of the successful bidder, the matter will move forward to the City Council for their review, consideration, and anticipated action.

Public Works Department – Hardscape Repairs & Cleaning Procedures

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 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. Our ongoing early morning cleanup aids in our attempt to limit disruption to our visitors and community members, and we appreciate the cooperation everybody extends to us during this procedure.

Public Works Department – Public Parks Restorations

The PWD is continuing with our plan to repair and restore some of the parks around town that need attention. Many of them have been negatively impacted due to the lack of water, and they have shown the diminished affects of normal wear and tear. Staff is committed in keeping our parks and recreation sites in good shape, and we are trying to keep on top of the areas that need attention. This process will continue on an as needed basis.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Trash Can Study & Replacement

Staff is considering replacements to the trash cans that are placed along the beachfront and other outlining areas. We have been working with Avalon Beautiful, and CR&R, for an acceptable design. Our partners, CR&R, are working with City staff on their respective supply of recyclable cans. We are discussing these various options as well.

However, and most importantly, costs for the many different choices are of a concern and needs further evaluation and agreement by all parties. Discussions are underway, and we anticipate gaining a consensus soon. The costs for the implementation of this program are substantial, but we will soon be able to make recommendation for the purchases in the near future.

Harbor Department – Float 5 Ramp

Float 5 ramp repairs were completed ahead of schedule and placed back in service Thursday April 30th. Thanks go out to the harbor maintenance, mechanics and public works crews for teaming up to make this happen.

Harbor Department - Up For Whatever

Harbor Master Bray along with UFW staff will be scheduling a conference call with tour businesses on the pier that will be affected by the pier closure. Tentative plans are to lift all ramps and remove all pier floats and direct tour and charter companies along with the shore boats and general boating public to use Float 5 for loading and unloading for the period Friday May 29th at noon until Sunday May 31st at noon. Dinghy docks on the pier will be removed and added to the dinghy dock along Casino Way across from the showers. As more detail emerges we will provide information to you.

Harbor Department – Training

Harbor Patrol staff along City Fire, County Fire, and Baywatch paramedics and Sheriffs staff attended a refresher course regarding handling dive emergencies taught by Sergeant Carver from the Sheriff's Emergency Services Detail.

Planning Department - Catalina Island Museum Project

The stop work order for the Museum was lifted last week. The museum has submitted an application to amend their site plan for minor changes to the square footage and floor plan for the May Planning Commission agenda.

Planning Department/Grants Administration - Active Transportation Plan

Staff attended a workshop hosted by Caltrans in Irvine that focused on offering support for smaller agencies and disadvantaged communities to develop effective Active Transportation Plans. This workshop was the second half of a two-part workshop, the first of which was attended last week. Staff is in the process of preparing a grant application through the State's ATP program to fund an Active Transportation Plan for the City.

Fire Department – Fire Breaks

The Los Angeles County Fire Department will have heavy equipment and crews on island, May 12th through the 25th. This combination of bulldozers, graders and support vehicles will travel to and from the island by Connolly Pacific Barge to improve firebreaks and motorways in and

around Avalon. This type of work is critically important to help possibly prevent or limit the extent of damage caused by wildfire. It is also a great example of the ongoing partnership between both island fire agencies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager