



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 6-12-15

City Manager/City Attorney's Offices – Proposed Southern California Edison Additional Desalination Unit at Pebbly Beach Generating Station

In what is very likely the LEAST best-kept “secret” in town, the City has been working closely with Southern California Edison regarding the proposed addition of a second desalination unit at SCE’s Pebbly Beach facility, with output capacity of approximately 150,000 to 200,000 additional gallons of freshwater per day – twice Avalon’s required off-peak water demand. The proposal for the additional unit stems from the community’s desire to stave off Phase 3 water rationing, that comes with the accompanying requisite fifty-percent reduction in water use from the baseline period. While residents and visitors to the City of Avalon and greater Catalina Island have done an exemplary job of doing their part to reduce water usage – realizing at least a thirty-three percent reduction at last report from SCE – it is widely believed that additional conservation beyond what is currently being done will be difficult. Further, certain important components of the local economy – notably hotels – would be hard-pressed to achieve a reduction in water usage of fifty-percent without having to limit their available inventory.

The bottom line is that Phase 3 water rationing would likely have a significant impact on the island’s economy, with the trickle down impact on the municipal organization being a reduction in revenue. Accordingly, City staff is pleased with the cooperative effort being undertaken with SCE. A proposal for a significant City of Avalon contribution to the desalination project – to be proposed at \$500,000 – will be coming forth for City Council review and consideration in the near-term. City staff is aggressively reviewing potential grant sources (including the Prop 1 water bond, which contains proposed funding for desalination) to backfill the cost of the project, or at least, a portion of the cost of the project. Meanwhile, SCE is completing and submitting the requisite permitting required. This afternoon, in fact, SCE filed its permit for the project with the California Coastal Commission. Many additional important steps remain to bring this project to fruition – including potential challenges related to the plant’s discharge. Both SCE and the City of Avalon hope that this additional desalination unit could be online as early as the Fall, around the time that Phase 3 water rationing is predicted to commence. Should the project timeline and the onset of Phase 3 water rationing not coincide, SCE is also pursuing regulatory relief to prevent the inevitable lower reservoir levels with automatically triggering a required use in water reduction (with the thought that the reservoir level trigger could be relaxed if the additional desalination plant was close to coming on-line).

It is important to recognize that this additional proposed desalination unit is not the solution to the island’s water challenges; instead, it is only a short term resolve to prevent the onset of Phase 3 water rationing. However, with a “patchwork quilt” approach of other remedies – including proposed additional potential wells, reclaimed water and advanced technologies, ultimately Catalina Island and the City of Avalon will have a more sustainable and promising water-related future.

City Manager's Office – Gateway Integrated Regional Water Management Group

This week staff attended the Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) integrated regional water management group (IRWM), where the GWMA board voted to include Avalon in their joint powers authority, with Avalon becoming a full voting member of the organization. This is a very important first step in ensuring that the City is able to be included for consideration of federal and state bond and grant fund monies. At last week's City Council meeting, Council voted to authorize \$15,000 for GWMA dues. At next week's City Council meeting, a result resolution will be presented for proposed City Council adoption, appointing City staff members to serve on the board. (Jordan Monroe as Delegate; Audra McDonald as Alternate). The GWMA expressed excitement to have Avalon as part of the organization, and even said they would be willing to "sacrifice" and convene one of their future meetings in Avalon.

Recreation Department – Proposed Artificial Turf at Joe Machado Field

The City of Avalon "Turf Team", comprised of staff from our Administration, Recreation, Planning, and Public Works Departments, met this week to detail the progress thus far and detail next steps to move forward with the proposed artificial grass turfing of Joe Machado Field. Public Works Director Dennis Jaich and Recreation Assistant David Hart have met with seven artificial turf companies thus far to gather information on their products and the options available, especially with regards to design/build options with their companies, and crumb rubber versus organic materials used in the infill of the artificial turf. The companies they met with thus far are FieldTurf, Astro Turf, Sprint Turf, Domo Turf, UBU Turf, Shaw Turf, and Hellas Construction who owns Matrix Turf. They also met with one project management contractor and will meet with one more this Tuesday. All of these serve as reconnaissance meetings, familiarizing staff with the major players in the industry, fundamental differences in products, and installation variations that exist.

Recreation Coordinator Jennifer Monroe will be attending the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission meeting this coming Monday evening, where the Commission will vote on their choice of infill to be used city-wide. This will be beneficial to staff as we are able to hear the Long Beach community's concerns, and how they are addressed by the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission, Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department staff and expert consultants on the project. Jen has reached out to the Long Beach Parks & Recreation Department for a meeting on Monday afternoon (prior to the community meeting) to discuss Long Beach's progress with their \$4 million artificial turf project and will report back with our neighbor's struggles and successes as we prepare to proceed with our project plan in Avalon in the near future. Go Turf Team!

Recreation Department - Vons Community Message Board

We received the final cables this week to complete installation. David Hart, with assistance from IT Consultant Pat Grady, will complete the installation Monday morning prior to Vons opening, while Jen Monroe completes uploading the first content to be shown.

Recreation Department - City Employee Frank Rojo Receives Community Award

Our very own Frank Rojo was honored with the Joe Machado Award at Avalon High School this past week. It is an award that honors a citizen who has given unselfishly to the children sports programs at Avalon Schools, as well as within our community. Frank has been a long-time volunteer as a chain gang member for high school football, and a volunteer coach for the Recreation Department's flag football, soccer, t-ball and basketball programs. He has always

made the sports fun, but has also focused on teaching the values of them. Next time you see Frank, please congratulate him on this honor!

Public Works Department/Capital Improvements – Dive Park Handrail Update

The Public Works Department staff is proud to announce that our popular and historic Dive Park area handrails have been repaired, mended and completed. The after-effects of the storms in late 2014 wrecked havoc on many of our seaside facilities, including the Dive Park. Some of the rails were bent, dislodged, and broken from their foundations.

We were able to leave this important area open after the damage the storms caused by making temporary repairs; however, permanent restorations had to be performed. The process was challenging due to the adverse conditions the ocean often presents, but our crews dealt with the effects in a professional and expeditious manner. Thanks go out to the public, and especially our Public Works team for completing the effort in a thorough and timely manner.



Public Works Department – Palm Tree Maintenance

In the past two weeks, our crews were able to trim and cut loose fronds from the tall palm trees along the beachfront. This task was difficult due to the height and access to the trees, but the efforts were completed properly, and in a safe manner.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – Beach Sand Replenishment

As many community members are aware, the hurricanes and surges of 2014 caused much of our existing beach sand to disappear back into the ocean. Fortunately, staff brought this issue to the City Council's attention, and the purchase of new beach sand was approved.

We have now completed the beach sand replenishment assignment, and are pleased with the appealing nature that the newly placed beach sand presents. We thank the public for their cooperation during the times that their access was temporarily impeded to the beach.



Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – New Fuel Dock

Our efforts to acquire the proper permitting from the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) for the fuel dock reconstruction have been a very challenging task, to say the least. It appeared that each time we saw some light at the end of the tunnel, we experienced another setback. When we felt we had satisfied the ACOE requirements, we were next informed that we had to produce additional studies of various natures. Then the log process of acquiring the CCC permit got stalled during the plan review, and clarifications had to be submitted to satisfy the agency's engineers.

Fortunately, we now believe we have met all the permitting requirements. Therefore, it is with cautious anticipation that we advise that all requests of these two agencies have been satisfied, and that our permitting process may be considered for approval at the CCC monthly meeting in August of this year. If approval is received, staff believes a public bid for the work can be advertised within a month thereafter.

Chief Administrative Officer/Code Enforcement – Unregistered Vehicles

The City has seen an increase in unregistered vehicles, and expired State and City tag(s) violations. At its July 7, 2015 meeting, the City Council will discuss and determine the course of action to take. Currently the Avalon Municipal Code allows the City to notify the owner, and if the problem is not corrected within 15 days, the vehicle may be shipped to the mainland where it will be impounded. If it is not claimed within 30 days, it will be disposed of pursuant to Civil Code Section 3068.1. Staff will be looking for direction from the City Council on this matter.

Planning Department – (former) Nuisance Property at 215 Clarissa

Kudos to Bryan Zuppiger, our Building Inspector, Art Jimenez and Miguel Bonilla, our Code Enforcement Officers, and the City Attorney's Office. Thanks to their collective efforts, one of the most visible nuisance abatement properties in Avalon has shown noticeable improvement. The owner has completed 90% of the items required to be addressed.

215 Clarissa Before



215 Clarissa After



Planning Department/Grants Administration – Transportation Services RFP

Staff has scheduled meetings beginning next week with all Council Members and Roy Glauthier, AMMA, to review the Request for Proposal Process the City is embarking upon for transportation services. Mr. Glauthier was hired last month to assist the City in this process. The purpose of the meetings is to receive input and direction from the City Council to guide the City as we move ahead to publicly bid the City funded transportation services contract.

Fire Department - Firefighting Water Supply

Over the past several weeks, fire agencies throughout the State of California have been meeting to discuss the drought's impact on available firefighting water. Avalon/Catalina has a sufficient amount of firefighting water available. Specifically, between the salt water hydrant system and the fresh water supplied hydrants with its connected storage system, we have no shortfall.

However, this does not imply there is any water for us to waste before or during firefighting operations. The natural reservoirs that normally contain water and can allow us to draft water directly for firefighting are obviously dry and unavailable. We also are prepared that pumps/wells may not produce or refill storage tanks as quickly as when the water table is higher.

With the available, brush clearance, extra staged equipment and ongoing preparedness; both the Avalon Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department are well prepared for fire protection during this historic drought.

Harbor Department – Mooring Sales

It is interesting to note that in the past two weeks, four moorings have sold for prices ranging from \$250,000 for a 40', and \$900,000 for a 60', from which the City receives 5% of the purchase price as a transfer fee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager