



Avalon City Council Weekly Update 8-21-15

City Manager's Office/Los Angeles Sheriff's Department – Traffic Safety at Busy Intersections

In response to questions and concerns from multiple City Council Members, I spoke with Captain Fetteroll regarding some of our busier intersections in Avalon. As a result, and as you may have seen in today's edition of *The Catalina Islander*, Captain Fetteroll himself and his Avalon Sheriff Deputies have been actively monitoring the City's busier intersections, focusing on motorists' stops at stop signs to ensure that they are coming to complete halt behind the limit lines. The results have been very encouraging. Captain Fetteroll and his team will continue to review and monitor the intersections, especially with the impending arrival of the school year, which always brings additional traffic to the streets.

City Manager's Office/Southern California Edison – Additional Desalination Unit

Southern California Edison advised the City of Avalon this week that the additional desalination unit that was jointly purchased and shipped from Singapore will be arriving on the island late this evening. Next week, the unit is slated to be transported over to SCE's Pebbly Beach Generating Station, where the work to install the unit and bring it online will commence. We will keep you posted of the progress made here. In related news, and as a reminder, SCE also announced during their update to the City Council at Tuesday's regularly scheduled meeting that they would be submitting an Advice Filing to the California Public Utilities Commission indicating that they will not be triggering Phase Three Water Rationing in the Fall as they had originally forecasted. This is of course in keeping with the covenant SCE entered into with the City of Avalon for the purchase of the additional desalination plant. Nevertheless, I want to remind you all of this important action (the CPUC Advice Filing) that will be undertaken by SCE sometime during the month of August.

City Manager's Office – Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors' Meeting City Update

At the invitation of Jim Luttjohann, CEO and President of the Catalina Island Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau, I provided the Chamber Board of Directors with a City of Avalon Update at their monthly meeting that took place yesterday. Similar to the update that I had previously provided to the Rotary Club a month ago, this update offered information on recent happenings and City accomplishments. A hardcopy of the presentation has been printed out and placed in your inbox here at City Hall.

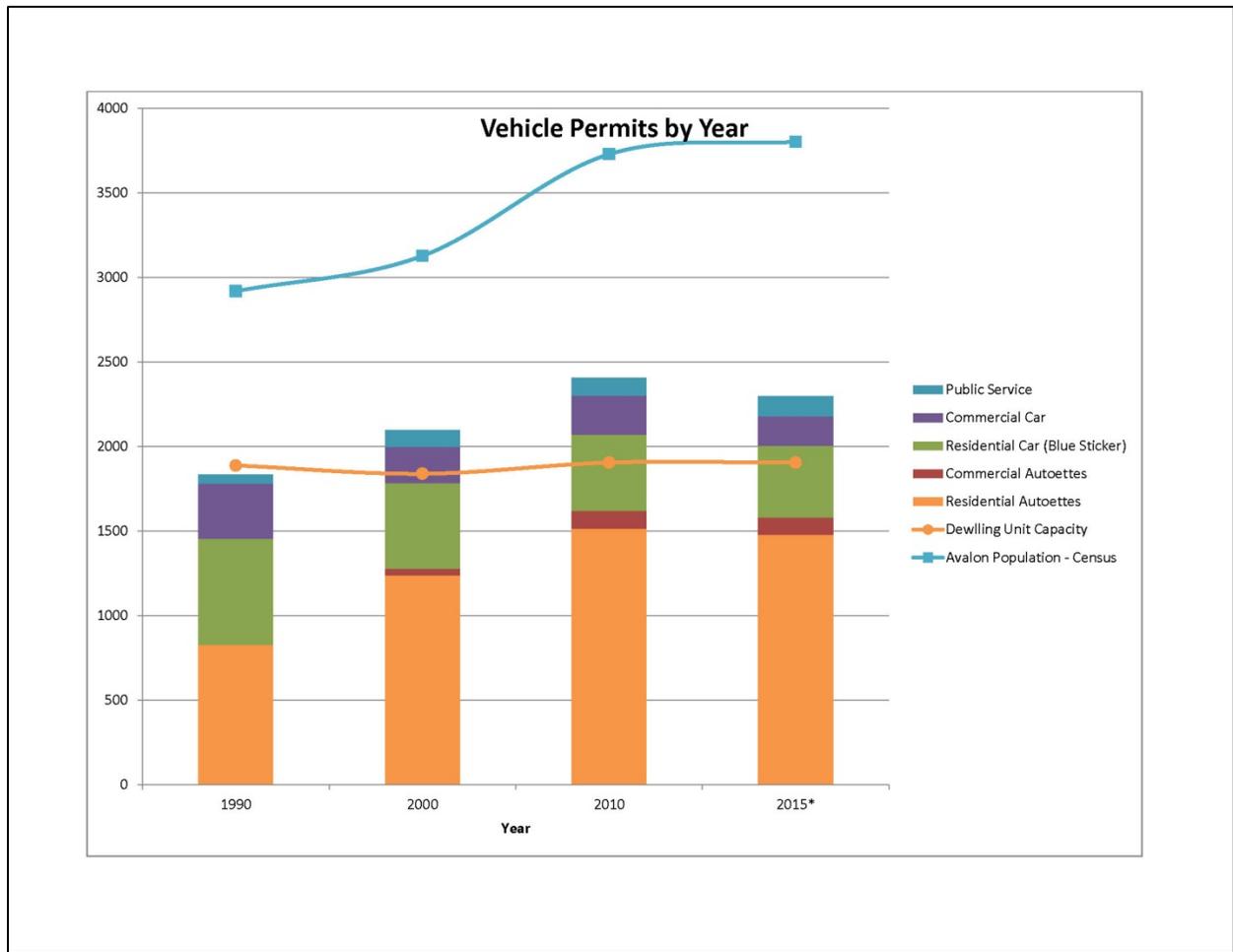
City Manager's Office – Issues with Verizon Cellular Coverage

In response to my own concerns, as well as issues brought to my attention by City staff and local businesses, I contacted Verizon about cellular coverage in Avalon. In particular of late, we have observed issues related to delayed receipt of voicemail and text messages, difficulty loading email messages on wireless devices, and other problems. Verizon has alerted their engineers, technicians and technical experts to the reported problems. We are working with Verizon to provide them with examples of the problem such that they may better troubleshoot

the issue. Verizon opined that the issue being experienced may be an inadvertent and unfortunate by product of a recent infrastructure upgrade that was made here on the island.

City Manager's Office – Upcoming Transportation Study Session

In preparation for the third Council Transportation Study Session – date tbd – staff has been compiling requested data and information to help better understand the circumstances and conditions surrounding our current design. Included as a preview is a draft chart showing the number of permitted vehicles over time. Note, the lines represent population, and total dwelling units (dwelling units is also the capacity for residential autoettes). Also the numbers for 2015 are incomplete, as we have not closed out the year, thus we do expect the numbers to be more inline with the 2010 numbers.



Public Works Department – Weed Abatement Program

Especially in the summer months, it is critical that we inspect and maintain many areas around town where overgrowth and dry vegetation exists. Our crews have to trim and cleanup dead limbs, branches, and foliage, which can cause a fire hazard. Once the unwanted materials are cut and trimmed, they are collected on our trucks and hauled to the landfill at Pebbly Beach. This process will continue on an as-needed basis in an attempt to rectify the hazard conditions.



Public Works Department – Sidewalk Inspection Program

Our sidewalk inspections continually reveal requisite areas that need removals and repairs. This week we attended to some sidewalk areas on lower Avalon Canyon Road where a Palm Tree has displaced some portions of the existing concrete walkway. As this situation occurs frequently within the City limits, it is important for our crews to be diligent and report other areas that require attention. We thank the public for their understanding and cooperation while this work is in progress.



Public Works Department /Sewer Lateral Inspection Program – Cleaning & Maintenance

As is consistent during our regular activities, video testing and cleaning of City sewer lines are an ongoing process. Again this week, our staff inspected the interior of old lines of residences that are in the process of being sold. This is a condition of the Avalon Municipal Code, and our staff must attend to this issue in a prompt and expeditious manner.

Additionally, as time goes on, the old City collector lines need attention. It is prudent and necessary that the City is proactive with these approaches to ensure minimal, if any, adverse affects that may cause unwanted infiltration of unclean waters into our Bay. The PWD staff is cognizant of the seriousness of this issue, and deals with the required procedures efficiently.

Public Works Department /Capital Improvements – 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Staff is continually inspecting our aged infrastructure. This is a necessary undertaking that must be documented and identified. As time goes on, the list of items that will need future care and repairs are denoted, updated, and attended to when it is possible. Moreover, the CIP that is produced also allows City administrators to properly schedule funding and make arrangements for the future work. Although the amount of items that will need attention is substantial, this CIP effort is an important device to implement requisite development and planning.

Planning Department – Temporary Oversight from Michael Baker International starting 8/25

As a follow-up to recent email that I have sent you all – as well as an item in last week's Council Update document – I wanted to remind you that beginning next Tuesday, August 25th, Al Warot from Michael Baker International (MBI – formerly known as Pacific Municipal Consultants) will be providing temporary oversight of the City's Planning Department while the Planning Director is on leave. I have met with Al Warot and the Planning Department staff, and notified Planning Commissioners and key stakeholders of this transition.

Planning Department/Grants Administration – City of Avalon Transportation Services

Thank you for participating in sessions this week with Audra McDonald and Roy Glauthier, the City's contract Transportation Consultant. These sessions were important, as they provided distilled feedback from previous meetings documenting the City Council's objectives pertaining to transit design (or "redesign", as the case may be) for Avalon Rapid Transit (door to door taxi service), Avalon Community Transit (fixed route service) and Avalon Dial-A-Ride. For the September 1st City Council meeting, we will be bringing forward have the Ebus purchasing agreement for a progress payment for our new electric buses. For the September 15th City Council meeting, we will be bringing forward a review of the proposed transportation request for proposal (RFP). At the October 6th City Council meeting, we will bring forward the final review and anticipated approval of the transportation RFP.

Recreation Department - Digital Signboard

The City was notified of a salt water shut-off last Monday that affected a small portion of town and was able to immediately publicize the information on the Community Digital Signboard located at Vons. Templates are in place and available for instant posting for various scenarios, such as road closures, interruption to utilities, and emergency situations that warrant notifying the public. Jordan Monroe, David Hart and Jennifer Monroe are able to modify the templates and post on the signboard immediately should the need arise.



Recreation Department - Turf Team Update

Two members of the City's "Turf Team" tasked to move forward with the installation of artificial turf on Joe Machado Field, Jen Monroe and David Hart, conducted a full day of site visits last Friday, August 14 to compare the various turf technologies, namely the various infill options currently available. They met and spoke with representatives from the top artificial turf manufacturers, as well as the site managers at each location who described their real world experience with the products. Among the sites visited included: the multipurpose Intermural Field at UCLA, the YMCA field complex in Westlake Village, the Thorson Stadium and two other practice fields at Oaks Christian School (private), and the football field at Westlake High School (public). A heat measurement comparing air temperatures to field temperatures was taken at each location. A detailed memo describing the meetings' results will be forthcoming as the Turf Team reconvenes in the coming week to discuss their findings.



David Hart with Rich Mylin, Director of Recreation Sports Venues & Events Operations at UCLA



*Jen Monroe and David Hart at the newly re-turfed
Westlake High School in Westlake Village*

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Harvey

Ben Harvey
City Manager