

**CITY OF EMERYVILLE
MEMORANDUM**



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Patrick D. O’Keeffe, City Manager

SUBJECT: Progress Report –February 2009

The following provides the City Council and staff with a summary of the activities of each department for the prior month.

CITY MANAGER

- Staff participated with the Mayor and representatives from Emery Unified School District and the Emeryville business community in our annual trip to Washington D.C. to advocate for federal funding for various city and school projects and programs. This year the EUSD was able to secure \$190,000 in funding for the proposed wellness center which will be established initially in existing facilities with the objective of transferring this program to the Center of Community Life in the future. We learned about a number of funding opportunities for City capital improvement projects, consisting of both short term federal stimulus funding as well as longer term programs.
- Staff has continued to work with the City of Oakland to renew the library services agreement between our cities that recently expired (Emeryville contracts with Oakland for library services). The City of Oakland has notified the City that in order to renew the agreement, Emeryville will have to substantially increase the amount it pays Oakland to provide access to their library services. Staff is considering all the City’s options, including entering into a library services agreement with Alameda County and establishing an Emeryville library as part of the proposed Emeryville Center of Community Life (would take up to 5 years).
- Staff will submit a request to the Public Works Committee to start discussions to enter into a new solid waste management with Waste Management of Alameda County in March. The current franchise agreement terminates in December 2010. If the Public Works Committee concurs with staff’s recommendation, the next step would be for staff to formally notify WMAC of the City’s desire to begin discussions to enter into a new solid waste management agreement. Staff would also start

preparing a specific list of issues for discussion related to the following general topics: meeting waste diversion mandates, meeting other City environmental goals, improving customer service, and revenue (staff would consult with Alameda County Waste Management Authority/Alameda County Recycling Board (StopWaste.org) staff as part of this process). Staff expects that the negotiation process would take approximately six months. If negotiation with WMAC does not result in a proposed new franchise agreement that meets the City's needs, the City would still have the option to initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) for solid waste management services.

- The City Manager completed the meetings with staff at their department s meetings in February (except one) to discuss the financial condition of the City. This effort was made in response to the Employee Survey comments. The Monthly Reports to the City Council are now also available to all staff so that they can stay current on what other department are doing.
- The “2nd/4th Friday E-Bulletin, the City’s new electronic newsletter was distributed on February 13 and 27. Highlights included Emeryville business community members featured in a recent Newsweek Magazine article on innovators; an update on the Park Avenue Improvement Project; information on the next phase of Pixar Animation Studio’s facility expansion; information on the 8-to-Go On Demand Senior Transportation Van program; a Call to Artists for the proposed Bus Shelter Art Project; and an update on the City’s General Plan Update process. The March editions will be posted on March 13 and 27. Interested community members can read the electronic newsletter on-line from the City’s website: www.emeryville.ca.us or can subscribe and have the newsletter sent directly to their email address. Information on how to subscribe is listed at the bottom of each e-newsletter.

CITY CLERK OFFICE

- 1) The City’s monthly progress reports are now available for viewing by the public at <http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/admin/pr.html>. The monthly progress report contains status reports on current city department activities/responsibilities including economic development/housing projects, economic forecasts/city budget information, information technology initiatives, community service activities, neighborhood preservation initiatives, public works projects, and police/fire department service logs. The progress reports are organized so viewers may either read the entire report or jump to a specific department progress report (such as economic development/housing).
- 2) Due to technological and other issues, the City Clerk’s Office has postponed using streaming video technology (“web” or “pod” casting) to broadcast public meetings (in addition to broadcasting through ETV-Channel 27) until the April 7th City Council/Redevelopment Agency meeting. Podcasting will enable access to live and/or delayed (after meeting) broadcasting of public meetings to anyone

who has access to the Internet. With this technology, viewers of live webcasts will be able to simultaneously refer to City Council, Redevelopment Agency, and Planning Commission staff reports while viewing the meeting. Viewers of rebroadcast/archived Council, Agency or Commission meetings will be able to “jump” to specific agenda items rather than having to view the entire meeting. Podcasts as well as the accompanying staff reports and handouts will be archived for future reference as well. In addition, all other ETV-Channel 27 programming, such as special events and public information programs will be viewable through the podcast.

- 3) Staff continues to work with the Information Technology (IT) Office and CivicPlus, a widely used public agency website consultant to update the City’s website. The website redesign will be compatible with the City’s streaming video (podcasting) plans and future intentions to convert to an electronic-based records management system. With the new system, departments will be able to take direct responsibility for updating and amending their department websites through user-friendly templates. The new website is expected to be up and running in April, after a presentation is made to the Council on the new appearance and organization of the site.
- 4) Staff has been working on the upcoming Alameda County Mayor’s Conference that will be held in Emeryville on April 8th at Trader Vic’s. This event is expected to attract Mayors, Council members, City Managers, and other public officials from most of the cities in Alameda County. As the host city, Emeryville will be making a presentation on the proposed Emeryville Center of Community Life and other examples of the close partnership between the City and the Emery Unified School District.