

# CITY OF EMERYVILLE MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Patrick D. O’Keeffe, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Progress Report –July 2010

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

## **CITY MANAGER**

- In July the City School Committee (City Council and School District Board) made a unanimous recommendation to the Emery Unified School District Board to proceed with a ballot measure this November that will pay for the reconstruction of the EUSD primary and secondary school facilities. The measure will authorize selling bonds to finance the construction of new buildings that meet current seismic code and contain needed educational improvements, including adequately sized class rooms, basic science lab equipment, library facilities, and athletic facilities. This was followed by a vote of the School Board at their next meeting to place the matter before the voters. The vote was preceded by consideration of extensive information over two meetings of the Committee which included public input. The information considered included the future Emeryville student growth the District is expecting due to rising test scores (already evident in this year’s enrollment at Anna Yates Elementary School), the relative cost of different alternatives including remodeling existing buildings verses constructing new, the results of polling information about the proposed bonds, and testimony from parents, teachers and students about how additional academic achievement could be accomplished with adequate learning facilities. The Committee’s support for the project demonstrates the community’s commitment to transform the school district to match the remarkable transformation of the rest of the city that has occurred over the past 20 years.
- Staff from the City Manager, Planning Department and City Attorney office briefed our two new Planning Commissioners in an orientation to provide

information on how the City in general operates and the specific roles and duties of the Planning Commission.

- As part of its long term efforts to prevent the State from stealing redevelopment funds, the California Redevelopment Association (CRA) is encouraging local groups of cities/redevelopment agencies to coordinate their efforts on helping the public understand the many benefits of the redevelopment tool, and how its effectiveness is being eroded by State theft of local redevelopment monies. There are now several regional groups of agencies (staff) that are meeting to discuss how to implement joint efforts locally. The redevelopment agencies of Alameda and Contra Costa counties have begun meeting on a periodic basis and staff attended the last meeting which featured a discussion of Proposition 22 (Local Government Revenues Protection). Similar regional efforts will need to occur at the elected level through the League of Cities East Bay Division and the Mayors Conference.
- The Council adopted a resolution at its last meeting to support the passage of Proposition 22 which will appear on the November ballot. Prop 22 will prevent the State from diverting local government revenues to balance the State budget. This includes General Fund revenue sources as well as redevelopment funds.
- Council and staff recently attended a briefing with State Assembly member Nancy Skinner to hear details on the magnitude of the State deficit and measures the democrats are advancing to balance the budget. The good news from the session is that the legislature so far is not proposing a new round of local government revenue take aways. When asked if she would support Proposition 22 to protect local government revenues Assembly Member Skinner quickly stated her opposition to the measure as it would “tie the State’s hands”.