

CITY OF EMERYVILLE MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Patrick D. O’Keeffe, City Manager
SUBJECT: Progress Report –August 2011

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 in the community meeting sponsored by the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, as well as a meeting with scientists at the current LBNL campus, concerning the attraction of the proposed Lawrence Berkeley Lab second campus to Emeryville. The positive testimony was very well organized by Wareham Development and Economic Development staff including the production of a Wareham video that can be used as a business attraction tool for Emeryville in general. Staff is working to put a link to the video on our website. The School District also came through with a poignant presentation by four students and Assistant Superintendent Annakarita Allen, on what learning about science has meant to them. It was overall a genuine expression of our interest and all the presenters did a great job.
- Staff participated in a meeting with the Emeryville Postmaster regarding flooding damage that occurred to the postal facility due to the break in a water line by the storm water drain contractor employed by the County. In addition to many staff from the postal service, the County Public Works Director was also present to hear the complaints, and staff had a productive post meeting conversation with him to discuss our overall concerns about how the project is being administered. This project appears to be plagued by a combination of problems including a less than stellar contractor, and project slowdown due to delays in getting Union Pacific approval of constructing under the tracks. We have our own inspector in the field and are closely monitoring the work.
- Staff started to attend the ECDC Advisory Committee meetings this month to assist the Committee with its deliberations on how to improve service, correct

State identified safety problems, identify the correct staffing levels and resolve the imbalance of revenues under expenditures. The Committee continues to work on its first annual report to the Council on progress it has made over the past year. There are some encouraging elements of improvement that have been made that will be presented by the Committee to the Council on October 4th.

- Staff met with two developers concerning the Sherwin Williams site: Bruce Dorfmann of Thompson Residential and Joe Ernst of SRM. This was the development team that was partnering with Sherwin when they were temporarily pursuing both the clean up plan and the entitlements simultaneously. The entitlement effort was dropped in order to focus on the clean up which is now underway. The development team is seeking to re-establish their relationship with Sherwin to restart the entitlement process for a mixed use project consisting of residential plus commercial re-use of the Horton street building.

CITY CLERK

- The City Clerk's Office has been very busy with November 8 Emeryville General Municipal Election activities, including preparing for an additional regular City Council meeting. Three City Council seats are up for election. Candidates include current City Councilmembers Ruth Atkin, Ken Bukowski, and Nora Davis. Jacqueline Asher, educator and William Michael Webber, attorney are also running for City Council. In addition, the City Council placed two measures on the November 2011 ballot. One of the ballot measures would raise the business tax rate from 0.08% to 0.10% of gross receipts and the other proposed ballot measure would remove the existing maximum tax cap on gross receipts (currently businesses do not have to pay more taxes after the tax percentage of their gross receipts total \$117,088 – equating to gross receipts of roughly \$146 million). An initiative measure entitled Initiative Ordinance Amending Emeryville Municipal Code §2-1.302 to prohibit the Emeryville City Council from Employing a City Attorney and Subordinate Employees in the City Attorney's Office and Require the City Council by Contract to Designate a City Attorney or a Law Firm To Act as City Attorney will also be on the November 2011 ballot.
- City Clerk staff continues to work on several organizational improvement projects, including the following: developing an "Emeryville 101" interactive workshop for City staff; developing an electronic tracking system for public records requests; expanding and improving the City's community outreach initiatives and procedures; and converting the City's paper-based records management system to an electronic-based system.

- The August “2nd/4th Tuesday ENEWS, the City’s electronic newsletters featured articles on the proposed Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory expansion; scheduled PG&E gas pipeline testing; proposed Temescal Creek Park redesign; Novartis’ donation of an emergency response vehicle; upcoming Park Avenue Celebration and information about the November 8th Emeryville General Municipal Election. The newsletter also announced that the Emeryville Child Development Center was accepting applications for enrollment, and provided information on the Thursdays Emeryville Farmer’s Market adjacent to City Hall. Interested community members can read the electronic newsletter on-line from the City’s website: www.emeryville.org or subscribe and have the newsletter sent directly to their email address. Information on how to subscribe/unsubscribe is listed at the bottom of each ENEWS.