

CITY OF EMERYVILLE

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Patrick D. O’Keeffe, City Manager

SUBJECT: Progress Report –May 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 started franchise agreement negotiations with WMAC in late May (the current agreement ends in December 2010). Major areas of discussion include meeting local, regional, and state solid waste diversion targets; meeting Climate Action Plan objectives; and maintaining competitiveness, stable rates/revenue streams.
- Staff worked with the Emeryville Transportation Management Association (TMA) and Amyris Biotechnologies to submit a \$3.9million federal grant application (federal stimulus package funds) to the Department of Transportation to fund an innovative program to pilot the use of biodiesel fuel in diesel/electric hybrid engine buses. Kudos to everyone involved as the application was put together in less than 3 weeks!
- Staff continues to work with Berkeley and Oakland to develop a model partnership with PG&E to demonstrate new approaches to energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, resolve market barriers, and focus on long-term solutions (such as financing, ordinances, and community campaigns). The approach is to leverage the resources that PG&E already controls, and in partnership with the three cities, maximize energy efficiency and conservation programs of the cities’ local Climate Action Plans. For example, PG&E has agreed to work with the three cities to develop computer models using PG&E’s databases to target specific energy sectors and energy program priorities and provide hard data to the three cities to assess each strategy’s effectiveness in meeting Climate Action Plan goals.
- Staff attended the May California Redevelopment Agencies Board meeting to discuss the State budget and its impact on redevelopment. The State has decided to appeal the CRA lawsuit Superior Court ruling which held that the State cannot take local

redevelopment funds to balance the States budget. Although that action was expected, we also learned that some State legislators and their staff are working on ways to circumvent the lawsuit with new legislation that would take redevelopment funds in a manner that would not violate the recent court ruling. Assembly Speaker Karen Bass made reference in a recent speech to “redevelopment reform” that may be code for a new attempt to raid redevelopment funds.

- Staff continues to try and work with the City of Oakland to come to agreement regarding library services. However, given the City of Oakland’s lack of responsiveness, staff has grave doubts that this issue is going to be successfully resolved. We will recommend at the Council Retreat on June 6th that the agreement with Oakland be allowed to elapse.
- The “2nd/4th Friday E-Bulletin, the City’s new electronic newsletter was distributed on May 8 and 22. The May 8 edition featured an announcement that Emeryville now has more than 10,000 residents, swine flu FAQ’s, proposed AC Transit budget cuts and the annual Call for Artists for inclusion in the Emeryville Celebration of the Arts. The May 22 edition featured an announcement about a School District paid summer youth internship program and had links to “primers” on city/school district government/finances. The June editions will be posted on June 12 and 26. Interested community members can read the electronic newsletter on-line from the City’s website: www.emeryville.org 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) Staff is working with Code Publishing to update the City’s municipal code and develop/host an on-line, searchable Emeryville Municipal Code (EMC) book that will be accessible to the public. Once launched, interested parties will be able to access the on-line, searchable code through the City’s homepage. The new electronic EMC is expected to be completed and go live by the end of June.
- 2) Staff continues to work out the “kinks” of the City’s new streaming video (pod or webcasting) system. The system’s default templates and operating procedures were not designed to address having multiple meetings (Council, Agency, MESA, etc.) that often overlap and for optimal operation should be initiated in conjunction with an electronic agenda-making/records management system (planned for FY 09-10). Staff is working closely with Granicus to customize the system to meet Emeryville’s unique challenges. In the meantime, while live meeting broadcasts should run smoothly, there may be delays in public access to archived meeting videos/agendas and minutes.
- 3) Staff submitted the November 3, 2009 Election Calendar to the City Council in mid-May. Staff is submitting resolutions to call the election and consolidate with

the School District and County for Council action at the June 16 meeting. The nomination period for City Council candidates will begin Monday, July 13 at 9am. and will end Friday, August 7 at 5pm. (however, if one of the incumbents does not file by August 7, then the nomination period is extended until August 12). Nomination packets will be available at the City Clerk's Office starting 9am. on July 13.