

CITY OF EMERYVILLE

MEMORANDUM



TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Patrick D. O’Keeffe, City Manager

SUBJECT: Progress Report –June 2009

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

CITY MANAGER

- At the beginning of June the City Council conducted an Advance on Saturday morning to discuss the short and long term fiscal direction for the City. Staff was given direction for the mid cycle adjustments to the current 2 year operating budget and areas to look into for new revenues and expenditure reductions for the long term. Direction included the following:
 - Examine ways to reduce retirement benefits costs including employees paying for the employees share of the PERS premiums, and two tier system.
 - Limit cost of living increases.
 - Continue to freeze all vacant positions (now 16)
 - Examine ways to make the Child care Center more self supporting
 - Pursue two revenue measures: Landscape District and Card Room Tax increase.
- Considerable time was allocated to tracking the State budget negotiations and sending messages to the Governor and legislature advocating that local City and Redevelopment Agency funds not be taken to balance the State budget. At the end of the month three different grabs of local government funds were proposed including redevelopment funds (capital budget), gas tax funds (street maintenance) and property tax (General Fund). The worst case hit to Emeryville would be \$6.6 million of redevelopment funds and \$500,000 in gas tax/property tax funds. The State seems to be unable to restrain itself from dipping into local government funds while cities are struggling to balance their budgets as it is.
- The “2nd/4th Friday E-Bulletin, the City’s new electronic newsletter was distributed on June 12 and 26. The June 12 edition featured the newly adopted

Construction/Demolition Waste Reduction/Recycling Ordinance; a community forum sponsored by Emeryville's State Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, and the announcement that Pixar Animation Studios had provided \$2million to the proposed Emeryville Cultural Center as part of their development agreement with the City. The June 26 edition featured articles on "What is Redevelopment?" and also provided a summary of Redevelopment Agency projects, including assistance with economic development projects as well as funding parks, open space, and other public facilities/amenities; announced that the proposed Emeryville Marketplace project was the first in the nation to receive "platinum" certification for environmental standards; and provided the latest update on the State's budget crisis and potential impact on the City's budget. The July editions will be posted on July 10 and 24. 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.

- Staff has continued to meet with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) to negotiate a new solid waste franchise agreement (the current agreement ends in December 2010). Based upon initial discussions, WMAC will be requesting refuse rate increases. Currently, Emeryville's residential solid waste management fees are as much as 66% less than other Alameda County cities and commercial fees are about 50% less than Oakland, which is also served by WMAC.
- Staff has been working with the Emeryville Transportation Management Association (TMA) to develop a recommendation for the Citywide Property-Based Business Improvement District (PBID) assessment levy for FY09-10. The PBID funds the Emery Go-Round shuttle.
- Staff is still 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 July. The project is taking longer than expected as Code Publishing is doing a complete edit/proof of the entire Emeryville Municipal Code as part of the update.
- Staff has started scanning some of the City's most requested public documents to make responding to public information requests faster and able to be disseminated electronically. The first records to be scanned (will be searchable as well) are Fair Political Practices Commission records. This will be an ongoing project as part of larger project of readying the City Clerk's Office to convert to an electronic-based records management/retrieval system.
- 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. In addition, based upon the Council's "Advance" in June, staff is readying resolutions to place a proposed measure to increase the cardroom business license tax on the November 3 ballot for Council consideration on July 21.