

# CITY OF EMERYVILLE MEMORANDUM



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

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

## **CITY MANAGER**

- The California Redevelopment Association is a co-sponsor of the litigation against the State to stop the theft of redevelopment funds in violation of Proposition 22. All of the member agencies of CRA (including Emeryville) have been asked to make prior payments for the litigation costs. Since the litigation has been more complex and lengthy than originally anticipated, CRA has requested additional funding from its member agencies of \$10,000 to \$15,000 depending on the size of the redevelopment agency (measured by tax increment revenues). The next Emeryville payment due is \$10,000. Since we have an initial exposure of approximately \$40 million if the State succeeds in defending its legislation, (and up to \$100 million) it makes sense for us to continue to pay our share of the CRA costs. This amount falls within the City Manager payment authority so staff will process the payment in the next week, but wanted Council to be aware of the expenditure. It will be paid from redevelopment funds.
- Staff participated in the EUSD ceremony with State Superintendent of Schools, Tom Torlekson, to celebrate the final loan payoff to the State for the EUSD bankruptcy assistance, allowing full return of local control to the school board. This was made possible by the extension of the lease with the City for use of school facilities for the City recreation programs, and the Council’s willingness to pay all of the lease payments up front to allow it to be applied to the outstanding balance of the loan. This marked another significant recent achievement in the improvement of the District, along with the bond sale to support the Center for Community Life project (authorized by Measure J), and the hiring of new Superintendent Dr. Debra Lindo.

- A second celebration the same day marked the completion of the Park Avenue Street Beautification and Underground Utilities Project that was jointly sponsored and planned by the Community Services Department and the Chamber of Commerce. Although the poles are not yet down, the landscaping is taking hold and the street character has experienced a major improvement.
- The executive management team met this month to discuss the results of the third employee survey (previously distributed to Council in a Monthly Report). There are many positives in the results that reflect on the efforts that the team and all employees are making together to improve customer service and the working environment. We continue to work on areas that need strengthening including interdepartmental communications and relationships. We made plans for the City Manager to make another annual presentation to all employees (by department) in October.
- City staff worked with Novartis staff to organize a ceremony commemorating Novartis' donation of a state-of-the-art emergency response vehicle to the City. This new vehicle will allow the City's Police and Fire departments to better respond in the case of critical incidents such as: mass casualty, natural disaster, man-made disaster, and/or major crime-scenes.
- 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 September 13th ENEWS, the City's electronic newsletter featured articles on the Park Avenue festival; Novartis' donation of an emergency response vehicle; public school volunteer opportunities; and Coastal Clean-Up activities. The September 27<sup>th</sup> ENEWS featured articles on the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the Arts Exhibition; the Emery Unified School District's repayment of the 2001 State emergency bail-out loan and consequent regaining of full financial authority; and national recognition of the City's Building Division as being in the top 2% of building departments in the nation. The September 27<sup>th</sup> edition also announced a free financial workshop as well as free green-collar job training opportunities for local residents. Both ENEWS editions announced that the Emeryville Child Development Center was accepting applications for enrollment. Interested community members can read the electronic newsletter on-line from the City's website: [www.emeryville.org](http://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. As of September 30, the ENEWS has 903 individual subscribers.