

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 2014
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

Transit Survey - A transit survey will be mailed this Friday to all residential addresses in Laguna Beach and to Emerald Bay residents. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey and return it in the postage paid envelope they will receive with the survey. The survey may also be completed online as an alternative to mailing it back. The survey is accessible on the front page of the City's website www.lagunabeachcity.net.

Fire Weather Conditions - The National Weather Service has declared "Red Flag" fire conditions since Monday, May 12. The Fire Department has staffed an additional engine and the Police Department has also added additional personnel and has increased patrols in areas adjacent to the wilderness. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and the Red Flag Patrols have also been activated and are patrolling the City. The Fire Department has sent one engine to the fires in San Diego County. On a related item, the goats that maintain the fuel breaks around the City have returned to the City and are grazing the area of the fire road between Top of the World and Arch Beach Heights at this time.

CERT Class Graduation - The fourth Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class graduated last week. There are now 102 graduates of the Laguna Beach CERT program. These graduates will be helpful in the event of a major catastrophe in our City; or a major incident elsewhere in Orange County. The graduates are also utilized during Red Flag periods to aid the community by alerting them of fire danger and as a deterrent to a potential arsonist.

Peace Officer's Memorial Day - City flags will be flown at half-staff today to honor fallen peace officers. This event has special meaning this year given the loss of Motor Officer Jon Coutchie.

Mermaid Street Retaining Wall Public Art Project - On Monday, May 12, 2014, murals were installed on the newly constructed retaining wall on Mermaid Street. Seven designs include: two each by Jesse Bartels, Jill Cooper and Mike Tauber and one design by Philip Powers. The murals will be dedicated on Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 5 p.m. at the Laguna Beach Community Center Art Room located at 380 Third Street. This program is funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

Lifeguard Headquarters Art in Public Places - Artist Terry Thornsley recently completed the installation of "Grace" at the Lifeguard Headquarters at Main Beach Park. The wall mounted sculpture is created of stainless steel, copper, and bronze and is illuminated at night. Attached are two images of the completed work. (**Attachments**)

City Council to Discuss Proposed Regulation of Commercial Stand-up Paddling - The City Council will discuss potential regulations regarding commercial Stand-Up Paddling activity at its meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The proposed regulations would apply to commercial activity only, such as classes, tours, instruction, lessons or group activities. Those who have an interest in the topic are encouraged to attend the meeting and provide input. For more information, please contact Kristin Buhagiar, Recreation Supervisor, at 949-497-0304.

2013 California Building Code Accessibility Workshop - The Building Division will present the new code requirements for accessibility standards that went into effect in January of this year. Contractors, architects, residents, and commercial building owners are invited to attend this workshop next Wednesday, May 21, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach.

The Ranch at Laguna Beach (formerly the Aliso Creek Inn and Golf Course) - On Wednesday, May 14, the Planning Commission unanimously approved a major renovation to the hotel and golf course facility that included creating more hotel rooms within the existing hotel buildings, upgrading the exterior façade of all of the existing buildings including the restaurant, reworking the parking layout and adding valet parking, altering floor area of the restaurant building to create a new hotel lobby, erecting a porte cochère entrance feature near the new lobby and constructing a new wellness spa and fitness building.

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