

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 29, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Kenneth Frank, City Manager
SUBJECT: FRIDAY UPDATES

Public Art Dedication – On Thursday, February 4, Mayor Elizabeth Pearson will dedicate the sculpture “At That Moment” by Louis Longi on the ocean side of the Inn at Laguna Beach on the pathway from Main Beach to Heisler Park. The bronze sculpture is on loan from the artist and will be on temporary exhibit through 2012 and has been facilitated by Marion Meyer Contemporary Art. A reception will be held following the dedication at the Inn at Laguna Beach. This program has been funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

Recycling at The Montage – Last November the Montage partnered with Waste Management to implement a Zero Waste program for one week. They were able to increase their diversion rate from 22% to 34%, so they decided to continue their program on a permanent basis. By the end of December, they had achieved 70% diversion. As part of this program, Waste Management collected and transported most of the food waste to their transfer station for processing. A small quantity of food waste is being processed on site using a small dehydration, E-correct machine. The Montage has eliminated the need for compactor service for trash. They now use only two bins for trash, serviced three times per week, with the goal of reducing that to one time per week. They also increased recycling and now have a total of six recycling bins that are serviced six times per week. Waste Management also had thirty food waste recycling carts especially made for the Montage. The full carts are transported to a transfer station for processing three times per week. This service will be eliminated when a larger E-correct machine is purchased using regional recycling diversion grant funding.

Summer Trolley Extension -- The Festival Coordinating Committee met this week to discuss the adding two days of trolley operations to accommodate the different operating dates of the festivals. The Committee tentatively agreed to share the cost of extending trolley service for two days of the Canyon route service. The cost is \$5,000 total and will be acted on March 22 when the Committee considers the 2010 budget.

Beach Cleanup – Recent storms have washed a significant amount of debris down to the beaches. This week alone, Public Works crews have removed ten tons of debris from Main Beach. The debris consists mostly of wood, palm fronds, tree branches, plastic bottles and Styrofoam.

Approval of Short-Term Rental Units – Our Code Enforcement efforts are identifying many units which have been illegally operating as short-term rentals. However, we give property owners the opportunity to obtain an administrative use permit. The process requires a hearing at the staff level with notification to the neighbors. This week, the Director of Community Development approved an administrative use permit and a variance for 14 short-term rental units at 690 South Coast Highway. This has been a long-term rental and short-term in the past. Also, individual units were approved at 601 Glomstad and 1130 North Coast Highway. An administrative use permit was denied for a short-term rental at 476 Arroyo Chico due to extensive neighborhood opposition.