

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 4, 2010
TO: City Council
FROM: Kenneth Frank, City Manager
SUBJECT: FRIDAY UPDATES

Heal the Bay Beach Report Cards – Heal the Bay recently released its 20th annual Beach Report Cards Annual Report. In the report, Heal the Bay “grades” beaches throughout California on a scale of A+ through F based on wet and dry weather ocean water monitoring data from the previous year. Laguna Beach again made the honor roll for 2010, meaning straight A+’s in dry weather, for the following beaches: Treasure Island, Aliso Beach North, Laguna Lido and 1000 Steps. All the rest of Laguna’s beaches scored straight A’s in dry weather, including the mouth of Aliso Creek.

Skateboard Rules Proposed – A proposal by a resident to prohibit skateboards on streets steeper than 3% was presented to the Parking, Traffic, and Circulation Committee last week. There were about 30 people in attendance for this item. The Committee voted to create a subcommittee to study the issue more and research policies and regulations in other communities.

Heisler Park Sculpture Installation -- The sculpture “Breaching Whale” by Jon Seeman, scheduled for installation in June in Heisler Park, has been postponed. The delay is due to the possibility that the City will receive a grant in the next few months to complete the final phase of renovations at the park. The location of the sculpture is in the area of construction and will be installed as part of the renovation.

New Heisler Building Restaurants – On May 26, the Planning Commission conditionally approved the Rock’ n Fish restaurant with live non-amplified acoustic entertainment (three musicians) on the upper floor level of the Heisler Building. This building has recently been historically renovated. The applicant describes the restaurant as integrating the classic ambience of a Chicago steakhouse and New Orleans Bistro with a waterfront San Francisco eatery. This restaurant will have a 228-seat limitation. Earlier this year the Planning Commission also conditionally approved a Tommy Bahamas restaurant on the lower floor level, along with the related retail clothing store. That restaurant will have a seating limit of 105 seats.

Farmer’s Market Expansion – The June 9 Planning Commission agenda includes a proposal to increase the Farmer’s Market to include six local vendors. This was initiated by members of the City Council.

Upcoming Resurfacing Project – Bids were opened this week for the next big resurfacing project. The project includes mostly slurry seal of the City’s streets that have not been resurfaced in over 10 years, which includes about 1/3 of the City. A few areas where the pavement has deteriorated will get new pavement. The low bid of \$1.5 million is \$300,000 over the budgeted amount. The bids will be submitted to the City Council on June 15th with recommendations for covering the shortfall.

Kelp on The Beach – Over the past two weeks, the beaches from Main Beach to Bluebird Beach have been inundated with kelp. Public Works crews have doubled efforts to remove the kelp on a daily basis. This morning alone, 15 tons of kelp was removed from Main Beach.