

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 23, 2010  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** John Pietig, City Manager  
**SUBJECT: FRIDAY UPDATES**

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### **Storm Recovery Update (12/23/10 at 1 p.m.):**

- Coast Highway and the downtown are completely open. Come shop in Laguna Beach and visit the restaurants!
- Laguna Canyon Road should reopen tonight or early tomorrow morning. Caltrans is working to clear the roadway.
- Portions of the boardwalk at Main Beach will be closed until repairs can be made. This may take several weeks.
- Cleanup work will continue today and tomorrow.
- 46 businesses and over 20 homes have damage.
- As of this morning, residents are being allowed back into to Hidden Valley. No other evacuations are underway.
- The Red Cross has opened an emergency shelter at the high school which will remain open tonight.
- Homeless persons will be staying overnight at the shelter at the high school again tonight and will not be utilizing the Alternative Sleeping Location until Friday night. This is due to the ongoing work to reopen Laguna Canyon Road.
- Today, two cars and four railroad containers are being removed from east end of the private portion of Laguna Canyon Creek.
- There were sewage spills from a couple of city lift stations and the Coastal Treatment Plant. Most other cities or special districts also had sewage spills. As a result, the County Health Department closed beaches from roughly Crystal Cove to 12 miles to the south.

**Proclamation of Local Emergency and Special City Council meeting** - Early Wednesday morning I signed a proclamation declaring a local emergency (copy attached). Per the Municipal Code, the City Council must ratify the proclamation within seven days. Mayor Iseman has called a special meeting of the City Council for 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning to consider ratification of the proclamation. The meeting will be held in the City Council chambers.

**Disaster communications** - During the disaster, the City used several forms of communication to try and keep the residents and businesses informed. The Alert OC system was used to provide automated calling information to residents in the morning and the evening; emails were used to provide Traffic Alerts; the Traffic Hotline phone number of 949-497-0747 had a recorded message; and media releases were used to try and keep the media informed. Citizens can sign up for these services as follows:

- The Alert OC system calls people at their homes or businesses based on the phone numbers they have listed in the phone system. However, citizens can sign up to also receive phone calls on their cell phones by going to: <http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/cityhall/police/resources/alertoc.asp>
- Citizens can also sign up to receive email Traffic Alerts by visiting the City of Laguna Beach website at: [www.lagunabeachcity.net/services/traffic\\_alerts.asp](http://www.lagunabeachcity.net/services/traffic_alerts.asp)

**Special Building Division Hours** – City Hall is closed tomorrow but the building division will be open with limited staff from 8:00 a.m. to noon to assist property owners damaged by the floods.

December 23, 2010

Friday Updates

Page 2

**Debris Removal** - Individuals can drop off storm related dirt and debris at large Waste Management bins located in the parking lots at Albertsons and Pavilions for the next week. The City's Peppertree parking lot and the City's parking lot adjacent to Hennessey's will have bins available through the weekend. Residents and Contractors can also bring storm related mud and soil to the Act V parking lot for the next week.

**Mutual Aid from Fire Agencies** – During the flooding incident, the City received assistance from the following fire departments: Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Orange, Orange County Fire Authority and Santa Ana. We appreciate and are grateful for their assistance.

**Coastal Commission Update** - At the request of Coastal Commission staff, the City is withdrawing most of an application for an amendment to its certified Local Coastal Program (LCP). This particular application included ordinance amendments regarding a change to grading/construction material hauling hours, modification of the thresholds for development requiring design review, modification to design review noticing requirements, exemption of elevator shafts from floor area calculation, regulations regarding development on nonconforming lots and additions to legal nonconforming structures without a variance, and an update to the floodplain ordinance. Revisions to the medical marijuana ordinance that were part of the ordinance amendments will continue to the Coastal Commission for consideration in January. The reason for the withdrawal is that it will take the Coastal staff additional time beyond the Coastal Commission's legal limit of 15 months to take an action on a LCP amendment application for a thorough review. The City is working with Coastal staff and resubmit a new application in the future.

**Riddle Field - Baseball Infield Replacement Project** - This past week Laguna Beach Little League teamed up with the head groundskeeper of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim to restore and renovate Riddle Field for Spring 2011 use. Along with removing and replacing the existing infield grass, new infield playing surface mix was added, irrigation heads were adjusted, and the pitcher's mound was rebuilt. Waste Management provided the hauling of waste materials.

**Promotion in Water Quality Department** – The Water Quality Department is very glad to welcome their newest member, Ashley Collins, as the new Administrative Assistant. As the Senior Office Specialist for the Personnel Division, Ashley worked with several City departments. Her experience and enthusiasm will serve the Water Quality Department well. She will start in her new role in mid-January.

**Day Without A Bag** - In spite of inclement weather conditions, local volunteers handed out over 1,700 free, recycled, reusable grocery bags on last Saturday's Day Without A Bag event organized by the City. The City thanks those local volunteers and stores that assisted with making the effort a success. A limited number of free bags are still available to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis in the Public Works/Water Quality Department, located on the second floor of City Hall at 505 Forest Avenue. There is a limit of one-bag-per-household.

The members of the City Council and City staff would like to thank everyone for heeding our warnings to stay out of the downtown yesterday. Because of your cooperation, we were able to get it cleaned up and open for business.

Attachment:

- Advisory Regarding Repair of Flood Damaged Properties
- Proclamation

## **ADVISORY REGARDING REPAIR OF FLOOD DAMAGED PROPERTIES**

The recent rainstorm has caused damage to many homes and businesses in the City. In order to assist property owners in the repair of their properties, the building division is advising the following:

1. Water damaged drywall or other wall covering, flooring, and insulation should be removed to reduce the risk of mold formation. The exposed framing and concrete slab should be dried prior to installing new wall or floor covering. A building permit and inspections are required to install new wall covering.
2. Electrical wiring that is below the “water line” of the flooding or mud flow should be replaced.
  - a. Use a licensed electrical contractor to make any repairs to electrical systems.
  - b. Water damage to electrical wiring cannot be seen by the naked eye and may result in injury or fire if not replaced.
  - c. An electrical service or sub-panel, including circuit breakers, below the “water line” of the flooding or mud flow must also be replaced unless certification acceptable to the Building Official for the existing service or sub-panel is provided.
  - d. An electrical permit is required for repairs to electrical systems.
3. Heaters below the “water line” of the flooding or mud flow should be repaired or replaced. All ducts below the “water line” must be replaced. Ducts that have been subjected to flooding are a source of mold. A permit is required for repair or replacement of heating equipment and for the replacement of ducts.

After damaged interior wall covering is removed and after obtaining the required permits, it is permissible to install new electrical wiring while the framing is drying. After the framing is dry, a rough electrical inspection can be requested. Once the rough electrical is approved, interior wall covering may be installed and inspected.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Senior Building Inspector/Plan Checker Douglas Miller at (949) 497- 0715.