

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 11, 2011
TO: City Council
FROM: John Pietig, City Manager
SUBJECT: WEEKLY UPDATES

Tsunami Warning – The City did not sustain any damage from tsunamis related to the earthquake in Japan and the beaches have reopened.

Laguna Canyon Road Maintenance Work – Caltrans will be closing one inbound lane on Laguna Canyon Road next week. The lane closures will be on the outside #2 lane from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. between Canyon Acres and the Pageant Grounds. Caltrans will be removing slide debris that is on the side of the road from the hillside.

2010 Census – On Tuesday the U.S. Census released the 2010 population data. The Laguna Beach population decreased 4.2% from 23,727 in 2000 to 22,723 in 2010. Prior to the release of this information, the State had estimated the City's population to be in excess of 25,000. Had the Laguna Beach population exceeded 25,000, the City, during the next Housing Element cycle, would have been required to up-zone the High Density Residential Zone from a maximum of 22 units per acre to 30 units per acre, to accommodate the State-mandated low-income housing requirements.

New Hedge Height Ordinance – On Wednesday, the Planning Commission reviewed and recommended that the City Council approve a new Hedge Height Ordinance that clarifies the definition of a hedge, acknowledges that there may be benefits of vegetation that form hedges and clarifies enforcement provisions for violations to hedge height determinations. The revised ordinance will likely return to the City Council in April or May for consideration.

Junior Lifeguard Equipment Building – At the Design Review Board meeting on Thursday the City's request to construct a 325 square-foot Junior Lifeguard equipment building in Heisler Park was approved. This structure will replace an existing storage structure within the park.

Structure Fire at Thalia – The FD responded to a Structure Fire at 528 Thalia this morning. Nobody was injured and damage is estimated at \$100,000. It appears that the residents will be able to stay in the home once the utilities are restored. The cause is unknown at this time.

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