

MEMORANDUM

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

Biosolids Facility - The South Orange County Wastewater Authority, of which the City is a member, has decided not to partner with the Irvine Ranch Water District on a facility to handle biosolids.

City Hall Exhibition - A new exhibit of works from member galleries of First Thursdays Art Walk will be installed on Monday, August 15, 2011. A reception will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. The works will be on exhibit through October 14, 2011. This program has been funded by the lodging establishments and City of Laguna Beach.

Smoking in County Park's Open Spaces - Evidence of cigarette smoking in County Park's open space was recently found behind Nestall Road. The City is working with County Parks personnel to prevent further occurrences.

Sewer Line Emergency Repair - The Wastewater Division field crew found an unexpected problem with a sewer line in the Cliff Drive area. After conducting a video inspection it was discovered that an illegal repair to the City's sewer main was performed some ten years ago without City's knowledge. The substandard repair finally failed resulting in the pipe settling and the pipe section to become impassable with sewer line jetting cleaning tools. Fortunately, only a few homes are upstream of the point of failure. The resulting sewer spill was estimated at approximately 400 gallons and did not cause a beach closure. An emergency repair was successfully performed and the system restored to normal.

Laguna Beach Lifeguards Take Third Place - City of Laguna Beach Lifeguards took third place at the California Surf Lifesaving Regional Championships on July 24th at Seal Beach. On short notice, the department was able to field a team of twelve male and three female volunteers who competed at their own expense. Thirteen teams in total competed in this event. Los Angeles County, a department of over 600 employees, took first place and the statewide team California State Parks placed second

Laguna Beach Insurance Rating Improvement - The Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) is responsible for evaluating all government jurisdictions in regards to building code adoption and enforcement according to a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule or rating system from Class 1 to 10, with Class 1 being the best. The purpose of the rating system is provide insurance companies with a standard evaluation that can be taken into account in setting insurance rates for individual properties within the City. On July 25, 2011, ISO conducted a survey with Carl Hefner, the City's Building Official, and as a result of the thorough, organized and up-to-date information provided to the ISO representative, the City has been upgraded from a Class 4 to a Class 2 rating. This upgrade should have a favorable effect on local insurance rates, but the degree of the impact will depend on individual properties and their insurance companies.

Animal Shelter Renovation - The Animal Shelter renovation is substantially complete. The move back from the temporary facility started this week, and the facility is expected to be open to the public as early as Saturday August 13th. Kennels that were used at the temporary animal shelter will be moved to the renovated animal shelter starting on August 15th. A grand reopening is scheduled for August 19th. The renovated facility has masonry flood walls that will protect the facility from damage during a storm event of the magnitude that occurred last December.

Laguna Beach Recycles – Residents and businesses are recycling more waste than ever according to the annual recycling report recently submitted to the State. The City has maintained an all-time high diversion rate of 70%. The recycling efforts of residents and businesses continue to increase the city's overall recycling rate, which reduces impacts to limited landfill resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by an amount equal to saving the energy use of over 9,000 homes for one year. Residents participate in the free curbside recycling program on a consistent basis by using recycling carts. Residents have also requested over 2,000 free bulky item pickups in 2010. Eighty percent of the businesses and multifamily complexes also participate in commercial recycling programs by using recycling containers provided for no charge by the City's contractor, Waste Management.

Debt Rating – Attached is a memorandum from the City Treasurer regarding the recent downgrading of the Federal Government's debt rating. (Attachment)

Appointment of Assistant City Manager - Christa Johnson has been appointed as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Laguna Beach and will start on September 6, 2011. Ms. Johnson has more than 15 years of experience working in local government and has spent the last five years as the Assistant Town Manager for Windsor which is just north of the City of San Francisco. Prior to working for Windsor, Christa spent eight years working as an Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Alameda. She also has experience working for the County of Alameda and working in the hospitality industry to improve customer relations.

Ms. Johnson has experience assisting with the day-to-day management of full-services cities and working on collaborative efforts to resolve community problems and advance organizations. She is experienced in economic development and working to attract and retain businesses in communities. She holds a Masters of Public Administration from California State University, San Francisco, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Ms. Johnson and her husband Carl have two children.

The appointment of Ms. Johnson will complete a change of personnel in the City Manager's Office over the past year that reduces salaries in the office by more than \$50,000.

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