



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2011

TO: Mayor Joanne Ward and City Council Members
City Employees
Members of the Public

FROM: Fred Deltorchio, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Interim City Manager's Weekly Report

Overview of Report: The following topics are included in this week's update:

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Special City Council Meeting to Present MRG review: On Tuesday, March 29, the City Council conducted a special meeting to discuss the results of the Municipal Resources Group (MRG) financial review. The review was very thorough and the City will receive the final report by the end of next week. Thank you to the Council and members of the community for your thoughtful and heartfelt comments and questions. [MRG's presentation](#) and the [video from the meeting](#) are available on the City website.

Implementing MRG Recommendations: We are now faced with the difficult task of implementing MRG's recommendations. I met with our labor groups this week and will continue to cut non-essential services. Department Directors have been asked to begin structuring their department budgets for FY 2011/2012 with a goal of achieving 10.5

million dollars in general fund expenditures. All expenditures must have an identified funding source before they will be approved.

Carson Street Slide: On Monday, additional heavy rains resulted in four more homes being yellow tagged due to the Carson Street slide. At the March 29th special meeting, the City Council declared a local emergency. On Wednesday, the Contra Costa County Administrator ordered a county-wide proclamation of the existence of local emergency; this proclamation supersedes the City's declaration. In addition, Senator Mark DeSaulnier, Assemblywomen Bonilla, Skinner and Buchanan authored and submitted the following letter to Governor Brown requesting that a state of emergency be declared for Contra Costa County.

Letter delivered to Governor Brown's Office on March 31, 2011:

"Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to respectfully request that you declare a state of emergency for Contra Costa County. Due to heavy rain during the week of March 21st 2011, landslides in the city of San Pablo, the city of Hercules and other communities in west Contra Costa County caused major damage to multiple properties and threaten to damage public and private properties in addition to putting the personal safety of neighbors at risk.

All available local resources are being utilized; however, they are insufficient to meet the needs of those affected by this disaster. Declaring a state of emergency will enable additional resources to be mobilized and deployed in Contra Costa County.

Earlier this week, the City of Hercules and the City of San Pablo both declared a Local Emergency and today the Administrator of Contra Costa County exercised his authority to supersede those declarations by ordering a county wide Proclamation of Existence of Local Emergency.

We strongly urge you to declare a state of emergency for Contra Costa County. Your swift response to this request would be much appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns."

Sincerely,

Mark DeSaulnier
Senator, 7th District

Susan A. Bonilla
Assemblywoman 11th District

Joan Buchanan
Assemblywoman 15th District

Nancy Skinner
Assemblywoman 14th District

Once the process is completed, affected residents will be eligible to apply for emergency relief funding.

Building Division staff contacted the Red Cross regarding the provision of services for the residents whose homes were yellow tagged. The Red Cross is able to provide assistance and contact information has been distributed to these residents. Building Division staff continues to monitor the slide regularly and will take whatever actions are necessary to ensure the safety of the neighborhood.

Bayfront/ITC Project: The City delivered responses to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Intermodal Transit Center (ITC) project to the Federal Transit Administration, which is the City's partner agency for processing the project's environmental review at the federal level, as required by the National Environmental Protection Act. Once the City has FTA's consent, the City can prepare and circulate the Final EIR for the ITC.

Next week City staff, consultants, and representatives of Hercules Bayfront LLC (the Waterfront developer/landowner) will meet with staff from the California Department of Fish & Game and the National Marine Fisheries for an on-site visit as part of the NEPA approval process.

ITC Grant Opportunities: The City is coordinating with Hercules Bayfront LLC (the Waterfront developer) on a Caltrans grant application for streetscape standards and parking management for the ITC Project. The City has also submitted an application for Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funds to finance bicycle and pedestrian mobility on Willow Avenue and the extension of John Muir Parkway.

HMU Power Outage in North Shore Business Park: On Friday March 25 the power switch serving most of the business park experienced a failure. Power was restored, but the switch needed to be replaced. Replacement was scheduled for Sunday March 27 and would require most of the park to go without power for up to ten hours. The businesses were notified and a new switch was purchased.

It turned out to be one of those rare events where everything went perfect. HMU started switching work at 7:00AM, power was out at 8:30AM and back on at 1:30PM. System switching and voltage checks were completed by 3PM. A great job by HMU staff.

Structural Fire in Foxboro: At 9:27 p.m. Monday evening, the Rodeo Hercules Fire District and Battalion 7 fire cooperators responded to a structure fire at 289 Newbury Street. The first unit to arrive on scene found a well advanced fire with flames and smoke issuing from the windows and eaves of a single story, single family dwelling. 17 fire fighters controlled the fire within one hour. The fire nearly destroyed the entire house. Occupants were home and had escaped the blaze with no injuries. Two adjoining homes were not damaged. Residents lost most all of their personal belongings and are receiving assistance from the American Red Cross.

Fire Information:

Control Time: 10:27

No. of Structures Damaged: One single family residence

Structure Loss: \$ 150,000

Content Loss: \$ 50,000

Property Saved: Adjacent homes

Cause: Under investigation

Assisting Agencies: Pinole Fire Department, Crockett Carquinez Fire District, El Cerrito, Contra Costa County Fire District

Check Registers: At the request of the community and members of the Finance Subcommittee, the Finance Department has created a web site page, called [Disbursement List](#) to provide access to the weekly check registers. Registers are posted every Monday. Hardcopies of the check registers are also available for review at the reception desk of City Hall.

False Imprisonment: On March 25, 2011 at 7:20 p.m., officers responded to the area of Railroad and Sycamore regarding a fifteen year old male who had called 911 stating he had been thrown and locked inside a closet in a building next to a restaurant. The juvenile said he had been trapped for about 45 minutes. The juvenile was located in a “sprinkler room” in a hallway near the restaurant. The door handle on the exterior side of the door was broken and the Fire Department responded and opened the door. After the juvenile was freed, he said three unknown male subjects grabbed him from behind as he was walking in the hallway to his friend’s house and threw him in the closet. The subjects never demanded or took anything from him. The juvenile was unable to provide any further information. The juvenile was driven home and contact was made with his parents.

Public Intoxication: On March 28, 2011 at 6:15 p.m., officers responded to Glenwood near Village Parkway for a man lying in the bushes. Officers located Freddie Taylor, from Hercules. Taylor was apparently suffering from extreme intoxication. Taylor was transported to a hospital instead of County Jail due to his extreme intoxication.

Search Warrant: On March 17, 2011, an officer stopped a vehicle on Parker at 7th. Bernard Reyes, from San Pablo, was arrested after a pound of crystal methamphetamine and two baggies with marijuana were found in his car. Reyes was transported to County Jail. On March 30, 2011, HPD’s Special Response Team served a search warrant at Reyes’ residence in the 2800 block of Arundel Avenue. No other contraband was found.