

CITY COUNCIL WEEKLY UPDATE

February 13, 2014

Planning Division

No update; the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014, was cancelled.

Development Services

Mission Avenue Improvement Project Phase 1: Work on the project continues. On the north side of Mission Avenue between Ditmar and Coast Highway the demolition of sidewalk, curb, gutter and asphalt and a portion of rough grading have been completed. In addition to the above, work will continue in the same area on water line relocation through next week. Street light and traffic signal infrastructure work will begin the last week of February between Ditmar and Coast Highway. Work continues east of Ditmar preparing infiltration basins and planter areas to receive future landscaping this spring, and precise grading for curb/gutter will resume in the first week of March.

Whelan Mitigation Site: In partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, City staff recently released a draft environmental document [Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/MND)] for the Whelan Mitigation Site Habitat Restoration project. The Whelan restoration project is a required regulatory action associated with the approved San Luis Rey Flood Control Project to mitigate impacts to protected wildlife species and their habitats. The proposed restoration project would include the restoration of riparian habitat and floodplain functions through active and passive restoration methods. Consideration and approval of the Final EA/MND is anticipated to occur on March 3, 2014. Construction is intended to begin on March 5, 2014, and it is estimated that implementation of the initial restoration activities may take approximately 6 weeks. Main access to the Whelan mitigation site for heavy equipment will be through Camp Pendleton on the north side of the project site. Two alternative access points may also be used at the northern and southern project boundaries, should it be deemed necessary. Residents located immediately west of the Whelan Mitigation site will be noticed prior to the commencement of construction activities in an effort to properly inform all potentially affected individuals.

Property Management

At the direction of the City Council, staff is conducting a public outreach meeting for the approximate 500 residents near the City's 21 acre parcel of vacant land located behind the homes on Pala Road near Los Arbolitos Boulevard just below the San Luis Rey River levy. The City is looking at a proposal to sell the property to a developer for the purpose of constructing single family residential homes and retaining approximately 5 acres of the property as open space. The meeting is to get feedback from the residents as to the City's use of the property. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Fousat Elementary School, 3912 Pala Road.

Neighborhood Services

Brother Benno's Auxiliary will be having its annual Membership Drive on Saturday, March 1 at the Thrift Shop. It will start at 9:00am. At 9:30, there will be a tour to the Brother Benno's Center and one of the women's shelter. There will be a light lunch at the Thrift Store following the tour. Membership fees are \$10 and the Auxiliary is looking for new members to support the women in the shelters and children.

Water Utilities

Drought Conditions: In January, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in California due to current drought conditions. While different parts of the state are being affected in different ways, San Diego County (including Oceanside) currently remains at a level 1 drought watch. We are asking residents and businesses to remain diligent in their water use and to continue using water wisely and efficiently. For more information about how residents and businesses can save water, please visit www.savewateroceanside.com. In addition, over the next few months, Water Utilities will be offering a series of free events and workshops that are designed to give Oceanside residents specific tools to reduce water waste and increase water use efficiency.

Fix-a-Leak Workshop: The Department will be offering a free Fix-a-Leak workshop on Tuesday, March 18 at the Civic Center Community Rooms from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The workshop will feature a licensed plumber from Green Plumbers USA, who will provide information on the most common leaks found in a home, how to identify them, and tips on how to fix them yourself.

California Friendly Landscape Workshop: Join us for a free Landscape Workshop on Saturday, March 29. Attendees will learn 6 ways to become more water-wise gardeners. Topics will cover "Right Plant, Right Place," "Using Rainwater as a Resource," and "Managing Irrigation." The workshop will be held in the Civic Center Community Room from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. March 29. Seating is limited. For more information, or to make a reservation, call 760-435-5857 or visit the website at www.greenoceanside.org.

California Friendly Landscape Contest: Oceanside residents who have front-yard landscaping that is "California friendly" are encouraged to enter our contest. The contest requires participants to submit 4 - 5 photos of their front-yard landscaping and provide water-wise tips to be shared with fellow residents to the Water Utilities counter at City Hall. Top prize is \$250 and the deadline is Monday, April 7th, 2014.

Residential Surveys and Smart Landscape Evaluations: Both the Smart Landscape Evaluation and the Residential Survey are free to Oceanside customers, and are designed to assist residential, multi-family, and business customers with identifying inefficiencies in water use, and to provide water saving opportunities. Single-family participants can expect to have technicians review indoor fixtures and evaluate the performance of their landscape irrigation system. Upon conclusion of the visit, participants will receive a list of recommendations and a proposed watering schedule. Multi-family and business customers are eligible for an outdoor audit and will receive a report outlining site specific irrigation, maintenance recommendations,

and suggestions for plant alternatives designed to reduce water waste and increase water efficiency. For more information or to enroll for this free service, call 866-883-1332.

Library

The Big Read 2014 – February 1 through March 1 - The Big Read is a community-wide reading program in which everyone enjoys and discusses the same book. This year's Big Read features the quintessential detective novel, *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. Special events this week include noir fiction discussion with author Ken Kuhlken on February 16 at 2:00 p.m. at the Mission Branch Library Community Room.

Community Events:

Feb 14 **Art After Dark: Vintage Pop. An (un) Valentine's Day avant-garde party.** 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. OMA. (760) 435-3721.

Feb 15 **Little League opening Ceremonies.** 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Martin Luther King Park.