

# City Manager's Update

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Hello Monrovians!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this last week, the following report has been prepared. As always, please feel free to let me know if you have a question about any of the items contained in this update – I can be reached via email at [ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us)!

And of course... all the best to you and yours as we continue through this week!

Best regards,  
Oliver

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## **QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

*Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.*

– Albert Einstein

## **STATION SQUARE PARK DEDICATION EVENT**

We had a terrific turnout this past Saturday, January 23, 2016, to dedicate Station Square Park! Under overcast skies, an estimated 600 people joined us for the grand opening event, and there were so many positive comments from the event participants about the overall park dedication event. Many thanks to the entire team at the Community Services Division for the terrific work in helping us celebrate the park that the Public Works Division helped build! The live entertainment provided by the Delgado Brothers was a hit, and those in attendance loved the arts & crafts for children, the Canyon Park snake display, the giveaways, and especially the free trackless train rides!



# City Manager's Update



# City Manager's Update



## **ADDITIONAL EWMP INFORMATION**

Last week, the City received some additional feedback regarding the proposed implementation of the Rio Hondo / San Gabriel River Watershed EWMP Work Plan (EWMP), which includes the cities of Arcadia, Azusa, Bradbury, Duarte, Monrovia, and Sierra Madre, along with the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Pursuant to the draft EWMP, the identified projects associated with coming into compliance with our MS4 Permit total \$1.4 billion for our overall EWMP group, and \$231.1 million for the City of Monrovia (please note the revised costs for Monrovia as we incorrectly identified Monrovia's share as \$214.15 million last week). In addition, we were forwarded an article this week penned by State Senator Bob Huff regarding the costs associated with implementing EWMPs across LA County.

Based on the draft EWMP, the City of Monrovia would be financially responsible for the following specific projects (and project implementation completion timelines):

- **Completing construction of 68 lane miles of Green Streets by 2028**
  - Estimated Capital Cost: \$174.385 million
  - Estimated Ongoing Annual O&M Cost: \$1,743,856 / year
  
- **Completing construction of the Recreation Park Project by 2020**
  - Estimated Capital Cost: \$10.251 million
  - Estimated Ongoing Annual O&M Cost: \$125,205 / year

# City Manager's Update

- **Completing construction of the Royal Oaks Trail Project by 2023**
  - Monrovia's Share of Estimated Capital Cost: \$16.278 million
  - Monrovia's Share of Estimated Ongoing Annual O&M Cost: \$153,251 / year
  
- **Completing construction of the Eisenhower Park Project by 2024**
  - Monrovia's Share of Estimated Capital Cost: \$6.813 million
  - Monrovia's Share of Estimated Ongoing Annual O&M Cost: \$83,372 / year
  
- **Completing construction of the Lucinda Garcia Park Project 2024**
  - Estimated Capital Cost: \$23.323 million
  - Estimated Ongoing Annual O&M Cost: \$285,270 / year

In summary, the proposed EWMP currently outlines that Monrovia will work towards implementing all of the above referenced projects at a total cost of \$231.1 million, with annual ongoing maintenance costs estimated at \$3.1 million / year.

Furthermore, it is important to note that based on the current implementation schedule, we are required to have our first project completed in four years by 2020, and all of the identified projects would need to be implemented by 2028. Of course, at this point in time, we have no identified funding source for either the capital costs or the ongoing maintenance costs associated with these projects.

As we consider the overall issues related to the EWMP, we also feel that it is relevant to articulate that our EWMP group has collectively already spent over \$3.1 million on consultant fees and storm water monitoring costs associated with our EWMP projects.

Given this overall scenario, it is unrealistic to expect that our EWMP group will be able to comply with the implementation schedule that the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) is requesting. We have been doing everything possible within the constraints of financial reality to meet the expectations of the Water Board, however, we have been told that should we be unable to meet the timelines, the Water Board will likely issue us a Notice of Violation (NOV) with fines of up to \$10,000 / day for being in noncompliance.

We will continue to work on managing this process, and will of course be certain to keep everyone apprised of our progress moving forward.

## **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT MONROVIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Earlier this year, the City and the School District established a School Resources Officer (SRO) program in an effort to enhance our overall community oriented policing programs. Last week, we received some feedback from Assistant Principal Scott Iler of Monrovia High School. In his comments, Assistant Principal Iler shares a pretty powerful story about the impact that the SRO program is having on our school campus, and specifically, how effective a job Police Officer James Ruano is doing while serving as the SRO. Among the observations shared with the City was this assessment of the program:

# City Manager's Update

*What James is doing on our campus is tearing down walls and preconceived notions about law enforcement officers. He is aware of the negative media attention given police offices and he answers kids' questions head on and from a humanistic point of view.*

Kudos to Officer Ruano for the tremendous job he is doing in representing not only the City of Monrovia, but also the law enforcement profession in general. We will continue to monitor and assess the impact that the overall program is having here in our community, however, as the feedback illustrates, the overall SRO program certainly has been making a positive impact here in Monrovia.

## **MONROVIA FEATURED BY THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Last week, the Office of Historic Preservation published their *Preservation Matters* newsletter, and within this most recent edition was an article featuring Monrovia's historic preservation efforts. Entitled, "Monrovia: Preserving Big in a Small City," the story shares details regarding the work that has been accomplished during the past twenty years and highlights the efforts being taken now to update our historic preservation practices. A copy of the newsletter can be accessed on the City's website at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/page/historic-preservation>

## **PASADENA STAR NEWS HIGHLIGHTS CASE SOLVED BY OUR VERY OWN DETECTIVE CHAD HARVEY**

There was a recent article published by the Pasadena Star News regarding an embezzlement case that occurred at the Monrovia-based Mask-Off Company, Inc. Elizabeth Huacuja, who embezzled nearly \$1 million from the company, was sentenced to 16 months in prison. Most of the article deals with details related to the case, however, within the article, a company spokesperson lauded our very own Detective Chad Harvey for his work on the case.

Behind the scenes, it is important to note that Detective Harvey worked incredibly hard on this complex case over multiple years. The crime was first reported in October 2011, and Detective Harvey coordinated the issuance of 20 search warrants to determine the full extent of the embezzlement. With his efforts, the Major Fraud Division at the District Attorney's Office had an easy time filing charges and prosecuting the case, and as the attached article illustrates, the resolution of the matter certainly brought a final sense of closure for the victims involved. Great job by our team, and special thanks to Detective Harvey for all of his efforts on this case!

# City Manager's Update



## NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY / HISTORIC PRESERVATION OUTREACH MEETINGS

As you may recall, based on concerns about the potential impact of new development on the character of Monrovia's neighborhoods, the City has been engaged in an extensive review of our current development regulations. Over the past year, numerous community meetings, commission deliberations, and City Council assessments have been coordinated to discuss concerns related to new development.

# City Manager's Update

With the input received, City staff has developed an outline of proposed modifications to our development standards. However, prior to presenting the proposed adjustments to the Planning Commission and City Council, a series of community meetings have been scheduled to review the proposed adjustments. This week, we have two additional outreach meetings that will be held pursuant to the following schedule:

- **Thursday, January 28, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.** – MOHPG Meeting at the Monrovia Public Library in the Community Room
- **Monday, February 1, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.** – General Community Meeting / MAP at the Monrovia Public Library in the Community Room

Following these outreach meeting sessions, we plan on presenting our proposals – along with an overview of the feedback received on those proposals – in a series of Study Session meetings with the City Council and the Planning Commission pursuant to the following schedule:

- **Tuesday, February 2, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.** – City Council Study Session at City Hall
- **Wednesday, February 10, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.** – Planning Commission Study Session at City Hall

Once we have completed those discussions, our plan is to coordinate the formal consideration and public hearings regarding the proposed development standard adjustments pursuant to the following tentative schedule:

- Formal Planning Commission Review – March 9, 2016
- City Council, First Reading – April 5, 2016
- City Council, Second Reading – April 19, 2016
- Effective date of new development standards – May 19, 2016 (Construction Moratorium Repeal Date)

Additional information about the process, the issues, and the moratoria are available on the City's website at the following address:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/communitydevelopment/page/moritoria-demolition-and-construction>

## **SCAG ELECTED OFFICIALS BRIEFING REGARDING THE 2016-2040 RTP / SCS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MONROVIA ON JANUARY 26, 2016**

Recently, the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Council approved the release of the 2016 – 2040 Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (Plan) for public review and comment. The Plan's Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was also

# City Manager's Update

approved for release. The decisions came after nearly a year of discussions on critical issues and various components of the Plan at meetings of the board and SCAG's three policy committees.

Both the Plan and PEIR are in a 60-day public review and comment period, which ends February 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. The Plan and its appendices are now available for download as PDFs online at the following web address:

<http://scagrtpscs.net/Pages/Draft2016RTPSCS.aspx>

## **MONROVIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SET TO HOST THEIR ANNUAL AWARDS GALA ON JANUARY 29, 2016**

Just a reminder that the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce is inviting the community to attend their premier Awards Gala & Membership Dinner, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 29, 2016, at the Courtyard Marriott (700 West Huntington Drive). The event, which is themed, "An Evening with the Stars," will have a social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m., with dinner being served at 7:00 p.m. At the event, the recipients of the Monrovia Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards will be recognized, including:

- The Iris Award, Janet Wall
- The Monroe Award, BMW Monrovia
- The Dick Lord Award, Alfredo Mejia (CIBA Real Estate)
- Military Service and Stewardship Award, Hector Elizalde

To register for the event, please visit the following website:

<http://tinyurl.com/go8db5o>

## **PARK MASTER PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT MEETING BEING COORDINATED TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 30, 2016, AND FEBRUARY 6, 2016**

The City of Monrovia would like to invite community members to attend the Monrovia and Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment meeting. We have scheduled two workshops, which will be held on:

- Saturday, January 30, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Library Community Room (321 S. Myrtle Avenue)
- Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Fire Station 102 (2055 S. Myrtle Avenue)

The City has recently completed an inventory of existing parks, recreation facilities, and open space, including an assessment of what kind of shape those facilities are in. The next step in the assessment process involves hearing from the community regarding what you would like to see in our parks. A few of the topics that will be discussed at the workshops include:

# City Manager's Update

- The current state of our park and recreation facilities, and open space areas
- Which parks are in need of repair or expansion?
- What type of recreation is most needed?
- Where do we need new parks or recreation facilities?

Working together, the City hopes to create a list of park priorities for our Monrovia. Please note... a continental breakfast will be provided at both meetings, so please make plans to participate! For more information, please contact the Monrovia Public Services Department at (626) 256-8246.



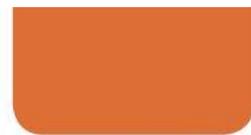
## CREATE THE FUTURE OF YOUR PARKS!

Does your family play basketball or soccer? Like to visit playgrounds? Tennis anyone? Or just want to take a hike? Parks are critical for healthy, thriving communities.

We've taken stock of what we have - the existing parks, recreation facilities and open space - and what kind of shape they're in. Now we need to know what *you* want.

- Where do we need new parks, recreation facilities or open space?
- Which parks need repair or expansion?
- What type of recreation is most needed?

What will make your family and your neighborhood healthy, happy and participating in physical exercise? Come to our workshop. Together, we will create a list of park priorities for our community.



## COME TO OUR COMMUNITY MEETING!

**Saturday, January 30**  
Library Community Room  
321 S. Myrtle Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016

**Saturday, February 6**  
Fire Station 102  
2055 S. Myrtle Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016

9:00 - 11:00 am

**Contact: Lisa Hansberger**  
(626) 256-8230  
lhansberger@ci.monrovia.ca.us

**This is your chance to direct park funding for the next decade.**

[www.cityofmonrovia.org](http://www.cityofmonrovia.org)



# City Manager's Update

## **BICYCLE MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

On Wednesday, February 3, 2016, the City will be hosting a Community Open House Workshop to discuss our Bicycle Master Plan. The workshop will be hosted at the Monrovia Community Center (119 West Palm Avenue) and the meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. However, there will also be a pre-workshop bicycle ride, and for those interested in participating, meet at 5:00 p.m. at the bicycle rack in Library Park. Please see the attached flyer for additional information.



**MONROVIA BICYCLE MASTER PLAN**

**Community Open House Workshop**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Monrovia Community Center**  
119 W. Palm Avenue | Monrovia, CA 91016

The City of Monrovia is working on a Bicycle Master Plan to make riding a bicycle safer and more enjoyable, and we want to hear from you!

- How can we improve bicycling conditions in the City so you can safely and comfortably ride to school, work, and shopping?
- What improvements would you like to see to popular cycling routes?
- How can we make better connections to regional destinations, such as neighboring cities and the San Gabriel River Trail?

**Pre-Workshop Bicycle Ride**

- Meet at 5:00 pm at the bicycle rack in Library Park across from the Community Center.
- Ride departs at 5:15 pm and will return by 5:50 pm.
- Slow, easy ride. Families welcome!
- Helmets required for anyone under 18 years old.

For more information, contact Sean Sullivan, Management Analyst, at [ssullivan@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:ssullivan@ci.monrovia.ca.us) or 626-932-5522.

Please take the short Bicycle Plan Survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonroviaBikePlan](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MonroviaBikePlan)

# City Manager's Update

## **FINAL EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS EVENT HOSTED BY THE CITY ON JANUARY 21, 2016**

Our final El Niño Community Preparedness event took place on January 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room. The event was a huge success, and in fact, Congress Member Grace Napolitano and State Senator Carol Liu both participated in the actual event, which featured an overview discussion that was led by the Monrovia Fire Department, the Monrovia Public Works Division, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, and the National Weather Service.



In addition, if you missed out on the three workshops that the City held, we have also established an El Niño Preparedness webpage which contains much of the information covered at the meetings. That website can be accessed at:

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/fire/page/el-ni%C3%B1o-preparedness>

# City Manager's Update

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT SEMI-WEEKLY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT**

The most recent Police Department semi-weekly neighborhood watch report for the period January 18 – 20, 2016 has been uploaded to our website at the link below for your review and reference. During the past seven-day period, the Monrovia Police Department handled 357 service events, resulting in 69 total investigations.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/police/page/semi-weekly-report>

That's it for this update, thanks so much for taking the time to read this report and I do hope you have a wonderful rest of the week!

Best regards,  
Oliver

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**OLIVER CHI**  
**City Manager**  
City of Monrovia  
415 South Ivy Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016  
Office: (626) 932-5501