

City Manager's Update

April 21, 2015

Hello everyone!

I hope that this email finds you all doing great!

In an effort to provide an update of important news and notes from this past week, the following update 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 report

Monrovia Municipal Election Update

As you may be aware, the results from our most recent municipal election held this past Tuesday are still preliminary. At this point in time, it appears that we have somewhere between 800 – 900 additional ballots that must be counted before the election results can be finalized. Our fantastic City Clerk, Alice Atkins, is currently working to properly verify each of the remaining vote by mail (VBM) and provisional ballots, and we will be ready to finalize the processing and counting of the remaining ballots next Thursday, April 23, 2015.

The processing and counting of the remaining ballots will be coordinated in the Police Department Community Room, and the facility will be open to the public to allow for individuals to observe this important process. Furthermore, staff has coordinated with KGEM, who will be filming and broadcasting the entire process. The overall procedures will begin next Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 8:00 a.m., when we will start processing all of the remaining ballots. That activity will take a few hours, after which point in time, we will begin the counting process. Based on our current schedule, we anticipate that the ballots will be counted starting at 11:00 a.m., and we should have the final election results ready for review no later than 12:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to see the semi official results.

Additional background related to the VBM and provisional ballot process has also been prepared for your review and reference below.

There is understandably a flurry of discussion regarding the preliminary results from last night's count and the number of ballots still remaining. Before too much gets out there on social media and on the streets, [the City] wanted to give you a brief update and explanation of the VBM process.

The law allows the Election Official to begin processing Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots many days before the election. As we did in 2013, [the City Clerk] convened our VBM processing board on Monday to open envelopes and prepare the ballots to be counted as soon as polls closed on election day. This process occurs after all signatures have been verified, and includes ensuring the stub has been torn off, that the ballot hasn't been bent or creased, and that the ballot is marked in a way that can be accurately read by the ballot counter. Where the voter intention is clear but the ballot may be marked in a way the counter may not pick up, a blue highlighter is used so that the original marking is not obscured. Where a ballot is bent, torn, or smudged to a point that there is risk the ballot counter will pick up unintended overvotes, there is a duplication process where a new ballot is marked and serialized to correspond with the original ballot – the

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damaged or smudged ballot is put in an envelope and the duplicate ballot is counted with the other ballots. Once those ballots are processed, they are sealed in boxes (by precinct) and secured in my vault until counting. You can imagine it's time a consuming process (for 1,730 [VBM] ballots this year) and we have to cut off the mail at some point.

On Monday and Tuesday we received a larger than normal volume of mail, as well as those ballots dropped off at City Hall in person, which totaled 326 by 6pm yesterday, with a few additional turned in before 8pm. In addition, 255 VBMs were dropped off at the polls, along with 122 provisional ballots (for those who voted at the wrong precinct, didn't surrender a mail ballot, or for some other reason weren't on the roster). So as of [Tuesday] night at 10:15 p.m., we had approximately 701 ballots still to be verified, processed and counted. In the last election, this number was around 270.

In addition to this, the new law requires that VBMs received up to 3 days after the election must also be counted, so long as they are postmarked on or before election day. In today's mail I estimate we received between 125-150 ballots, with 2 days yet to go. It's hard to anticipate how many will be received by Friday. I attribute some of this last-minute volume to the fact that our mail is sorted in Santa Clarita and often takes 2 or more days to reach me.

There is still the signature verification process for the VBMs, as well as verification of the provisional ballots (to ensure they are registered properly and that they didn't vote at more than one precinct and by mail, etc.) The provisional verification process is a bit more time consuming than the VBM signature verification. Traditionally, we have a fairly low rate of challenged ballots.

I hope this overview is helpful in explaining details related to our election process, of course, please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

State Water Board Issues Draft Mandatory Water Reduction Use Guidelines, Monrovia Assigned to Tier 7 with a Water Use Reduction Mandate of 28% On Saturday, April 18, 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued their draft mandatory water use restriction guidelines. Based on the preliminary proposed regulatory framework, Monrovia is required to reduce our water consumption by 28% below 2013 usage levels.

Based on an initial review of the proposed regulations, the SWRCB has developed a tiered water use reduction framework that is based on the residential per capita gallons of water used per day (R-GPCD) between July 2014 – September 2014. Depending on the number of gallons of water used by residential customers on a per capita per day basis during the measurement period, each water provider in the State was assigned a proposed mandated water use reduction percentage of between 8% - 36%. As was mentioned above, Monrovia was assigned a water reduction percentage of 28%, as our residential customers on a per capita basis used 154.6 gallons of water between July 2014 – September 2014.

Other local water providers located along the foothills of the San Gabriel Valley have been assigned the following proposed water use reduction percentages:

- Pasadena – 28% reduction in water use

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- Sierra Madre – 32% reduction in water use
- Arcadia – 36% reduction in water use
- Cal-American (Bradbury / Duarte / San Marino / etc.) – 28% reduction in water use
- Azusa – 20% reduction in water use
- Glendora – 36% reduction in water use
- San Dimas – 32% reduction in water use
- La Verne – 32% reduction in water use
- Claremont – 36% reduction in water use

The draft regulations propose fines of up to \$10,000 per day for any agency that fails to implement these water use cuts. Furthermore, based on the schedule that has been developed by the SWRCB, they plan on implementing these water use restriction mandates on May 15, 2015. [Click here](#) to be directed to the CA State website to learn more about the drought and water conservation efforts..

Moving forward, staff is continuing to analyze the impacts that these new regulations will have on Monrovia and we will be sure to keep everyone apprised of issues related to this matter moving forward. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Friday Night Family Street Fair RFP Process Update

This week, there will be several recommendations made regarding the Friday Night Family Street Fair RFP and I wanted to provide an overview regarding this matter.

First of all, last Friday, staff was informed of a rumor circulating in the community that the Friday Night Family Street Fair was going to be terminated as of June 30, 2015. There is no truth to that report at all. Rather, as you may recall, the City has been engaged in a comprehensive review process to determine who the next operator of the event will be. Currently, there are two finalists that are being considered for the operation of the Friday Night Family Street Fair event. Those finalists include LA PartyWorks, Inc., and Family Festival Productions, Inc.

Staff reviewed our progress to date with the committee coordinating the RFP process (Committee) last Thursday, April 16, 2015. At the conclusion of that meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed that LA PartyWorks, Inc., would be the firm they would recommend for operating the Friday Night Family Street Fair event.

Based on that decision, staff made a presentation to MOTAB at a special meeting yesterday, Monday, April 20, 2015. At that MOTAB meeting, the Committee presented an overview of the RFP process and provided their recommendation regarding the operator for the Friday Night Family Street Fair event. At the conclusion of the meeting, MOTAB unanimously voted to support the committee's recommendation.

In addition, staff plans on providing an update regarding the status of the process at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. The update will include an overview of the process, the recommendation of the Committee, and the results of the discussion with MOTAB. Then, pending feedback from the City Council, an overall contract with the recommended operator will be prepared and submitted for consideration at a future meeting.

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Old Town Monrovia Recognized by American Planning Association (APA) as Inaugural Winner of the 2015 Great Places California Program

This past week, the City was notified by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association that *Old Town Monrovia* was selected as one of the three winners of the inaugural 2015 Great Places California program! Winners will be announced on the APA website, and at the California State conference in Oakland. This is a significant honor! We will be spreading the word about this news and will be sure to schedule a presentation to the City Council regarding this award at a future meeting.

316 South Myrtle Ave – Scaffolding Has Come Down!

A bit of good news to share... the long process of getting the scaffolding removed off of the sidewalk at 316 South Myrtle Avenue came to a conclusion! The scaffolding was taken down! Staff will continue to monitor the overall situation at the location to ensure that the site remains clean and that the fencing is removed sooner rather than later.

Foothill Gold Line Train Testing Has Been Moved to a Swing Shift

We were informed this week that the Foothill Gold Line train testing is being moved to a swing shift to better support the project schedule. Beginning last Friday, April 17, 2015, the probable testing hours with Metro will be 4:00 p.m. to as late as 1 a.m. The City has been told that the train testing is nearly silent with the exceptions being at the grade crossings. When the train needs to enter a crossing, LA County Sheriffs will implement vehicular and pedestrian safety measure as the crossing gates are not yet fully functioning. The Sheriff's Department will make use of their flashing lights and only use a siren if danger is eminent. The crossing bells will be disconnected and Metro's train operator will operate their low-volume buzzer designed for use in designated quite-zones.

The Foothill Gold Line staff identified that residences that could be impacted by this testing change are in Monrovia near Mayflower Avenue, Magnolia Avenue, and California Avenue. Staff was told that a construction notice was hand delivered to each residence within a 400' radius of the grade crossings.

Progress Being Made in Developing a Youth Sports Program with Plymouth Elementary

During the past week, our Community Services Department has interfaced with representatives from Plymouth Elementary School regarding implementation of the City's youth sports program on their campus. The survey that was conducted by Plymouth Elementary indicated that there was interest in the sports program, and based on our progress to date, we are well on our way to developing the overall program. Many thanks to our Community Services Department and to the Monrovia Unified School District for their hard work in developing this partnership for our youth at Plymouth Elementary!

MOTAB Concerns with Skateboarding in Old Town

At the MOTAB meeting this past week, Board Members raised concerns with staff regarding an increase in skateboarders on the sidewalks in Old Town. To address this concern, staff has coordinated with our

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Community Oriented Policing Bureau and we are working to coordinate extra patrols in Old Town after school hours. We will continue to monitor this issue moving forward and will certainly provide updates regarding the matter as they become available.

Arbor Day Event Set for April 23, 2015 at 4 p.m. at Rotary Park

Just a quick reminder... the City is coordinating an Arbor Day event to take place on April 23, 2015, at 4 p.m. at Rotary Park. Hope to see you there!

Gold Line Construction Authority Operations Campus Grant Opening Ceremony Set for 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2015

This week, the Gold Line Construction Authority notified the City that they have reworked the overall ceremony dedicating the Maintenance and Operations Campus to take place on May 23, 2015, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars – we're looking forward to seeing everyone at the event!

Older American Luncheon Award Set for Thursday, April 23, 2015

Next week, the Older American Luncheon Award will be held in the Monroe Room at the Community Center on April 23, 2015. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m., and recognition of the award recipients will start at 12:15 p.m. The event is anticipated to be completed at 1:00 p.m. The award recipients are being kept a secret until the big announcement next week.

Congress Woman Grace Napolitano Set to Host a Congressional Prayer Breakfast on May 27, 2015

We were notified last week that Congress Woman Grace Napolitano will be hosting a Congressional Prayer Breakfast event on May 27, 2015, at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. We will be sure to provide additional information regarding the event as details become available.

Electric Lawn Mower Exchange Program Being Offered by the South Coast Air Quality Management District

We were notified last week that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will begin offering their electric lawn mower exchange program again. Registration for the program is set to begin on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, and those interested in participating must pre-register at www.aqmd.gov/lawnmower. Additional information can be obtained by calling (888) 425-6247.

Seidner's & CHP Team Up for a Child Safety Seat Check-Up Event on May 2, 2015

The City was notified last week that the California Highway Patrol Baldwin Park Area office will be offering a free Child Passenger Safety (CPS) seat check-up event at Seidner's Collision Center on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

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That's it for the update this week, thanks again for all you do to change the world that is Monrovia for the better!

Until that day,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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