

City Manager's Weekly Update

April 6, 2015

Hello everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed a tremendous Easter weekend and have had a great start to the week!

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 – I can be reached via email at ochi@ci.monrovia.ca.us!

Best regards,
Oliver

Governor Issues Executive Order Implimenting Mandatory Water Use Restrictions

Last week, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order instituting mandatory water use restrictions throughout the State. Our team has spent time analyzing the new regulations, and while we will not know the full extent of how Monrovia will be impacted until the State Water Resources Control Board develops the actual water use restriction measures later this month, we do know that we will have to institute some immediate changes to our operations.

Perhaps the most visible and immediate action we must take as a result of the Executive Order is the termination of any activity associated with watering ornamental turf on public street medians. As you are likely aware, we currently water and maintain ornamental turf on Huntington Drive and on Highway Esplanade here in Monrovia. The irrigation systems for both of those median structures were shut-off last week, and of course, the landscaping along both of those median locations will be impacted moving forward. It is important to note, however, that the City Council has authorized the development of new median landscaping plans for Huntington Drive that are based on xeriscape principles, and we anticipate that we will have those plans and specifications ready for review within the next several weeks. Furthermore, staff is analyzing other prudent water saving measures that can be implemented at City facilities, including a review of the operation of the fountain at Library Park. It is important to note that the fountain recycles water and it is not necessary to refill the fountain on a regular basis.

Moving forward, the City will likely have to develop an implementation plan via an update to our existing Water Conservation Ordinance in order to execute the provisions of the Executive Order issued by Governor Brown. Staff will continue to monitor and review this overall situation, and we will be providing a preliminary overview of these water conservation impacts at our next City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. For more information on the California drought and the Governor's Statewide Mandatory Water Reductions, visit the state website: <http://www.ca.gov/drought/>

Los Angeles News Group Has Signed a Lease to Move Their Main Offices to Monrovia

Last week, we learned that a significant new tenant that will be moving into Monrovia in the very near future. The Los Angeles News Group (LANG), which owns the Pasadena Star News and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, among a variety of other newspaper publications, executed a lease agreement to move into 33,000+ square feet of office space at 605 East Huntington Drive. Based on preliminary reports that we have received, LANG will be employing around 150-200 people at their new facility here in Monrovia. It is important to note that on a national basis regarding weekly print and online audience reach, LANG has the

City Manager's Weekly Update

8th largest weekly audience in the nation (with a weekly net audience of 2,530,989). This ranking puts LANG behind only the New York Daily News, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, New York Post, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, and Chicago Sun-Times Group. We will continue monitoring this situation moving forward, and please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Staff Analyzing Applicability of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District for Monrovia

During the past several weeks, staff has engaged in a perfunctory review of the feasibility of establishing an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) in Monrovia. This new tool, which was established on January 1, 2015 via the approval of Senate Bill 628, serves as a potential economic development and infrastructure financing device for local agencies to collaboratively finance projects that could help leverage greater private capital investment in the community. EIFD were developed as a potential mechanism to fund infrastructure projects via tax increment revenue, however, they do require that the sponsoring local entity secure the support of the other local taxing entities in order to be truly effective.

Environmental Testing Continues at the City's Water Well Site on Myrtle Ave

During the past several weeks, staff has been coordinating the City's ongoing response and investigation into the alleged discharge of wastewater at the City's main water well site on Myrtle Avenue. All of our water quality testing and analysis to date has continued to confirm the fact that the City's water meets or exceeds every State and Federal requirement for drinking water. In order to ensure that we review the issues at hand as comprehensively as possible, we have initiated additional environmental soil testing at the alleged wastewater discharge site, we have instituted new procedures to ensure this activity does not occur again, and we will certainly continue to be as thorough as possible in our overall investigation and analysis into this matter.

Structure Fire Contained at 406 South Canyon Boulevard by Monrovia Fire Department

Last Tuesday, the Monrovia Fire Department responded to an apartment structure fire at 406 South Canyon Boulevard that appears to have been caused by an exterior electrical laundry outlet catching fire. Thankfully, no one was injured as our outstanding Fire Department personnel were able to quickly contain and extinguish the blaze. The lot at 406 South Canyon Boulevard contains a house in the front and two apartments in the rear, and the situation could have gotten out of hand if not for the precision and skill of our firefighters.

There was one additional note that I wanted to share regarding the service provided by our team. Due to the property damage that occurred on the site, our Fire Department personnel handed out gift cards for the impacted residents and also contacted the Red Cross in an attempt to assist the families impacted by the fire with housing options. Just another example of the outstanding level of service provided by those of us here at the City who work to serve the people of Monrovia!

Meetings Held with ChromoLogic and CODA This Past Week

This past week, City Council representatives and staff met with two high-tech companies here in town as part of a business visit program to better understand why the firms located in Monrovia and also to explore

City Manager's Weekly Update

how the City might be able to partner with each corporation. The companies that we visited with include ChromoLogic and CODA.

ChromoLogic focuses on developing solutions to fix critical problems in both physical and biological systems. The company brings together a diverse group of professionals with backgrounds in optics, physics, engineering, biochemistry, and product commercialization. In fact, more than half of the ChromoLogic team has an advanced degree (Ph.D), and with their extensive global collaborative research network, ChromoLogic is able to leverage their in-house capabilities and provide world-class expertise toward solving some of society's most compelling technical challenges. As a testament to the success that they have achieved, for the past several years, ChromoLogic has earned a spot on Inc. Magazine's 500/5000 Fastest Growing Companies listing.

CODA is a leading provider of scalable energy storage systems that support a smarter, cleaner and more reliable electrical grid. CODA's technology products combine advanced lithium-ion cells with proven battery and temperature management systems and an integrated operating system that have been designed to meet our growing energy needs that include peak shaving, EV charging, renewable energy integration, backup power, frequency regulation, and more. Ultimately, CODA helps commercial and industrial facilities reduce costs, control energy consumption, and manage risk associated with energy use, all the while optimizing energy operations for increased scalability, reliability and security.

Fire Department Issues the Gold Line a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the M&O Yard

On March 28, 2015, the Fire Department issued the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCOO) for the Metro Maintenance and Operations Facility – Main Shop. There are still several pending matters that will need to be resolved before a Final Certificate of Occupancy is issued, however, based on the progress that has been made to date, it is anticipated that all of those items will be taken care of within the next several weeks.

Steve Baker Selected as Lucky Baldwin Scout District Distinguished Citizen

Just a quick note to let everyone know that Steve Baker has been selected to receive the Lucky Baldwin Boy Scout District Distinguished Citizen award. Our very own City Treasurer was nominated by the District Chair for the Lucky Baldwin Boy Scout District to receive this honor. Once we receive event details related to when Mr. Baker will be bestowed with the designation of Distinguished Citizen, we will be sure to share the news.

Traffic Safety Committee Set to Consider Permit Parking Only on Ridgeside Drive Between Canyon and Briarcliff

At the next Traffic Safety Committee Meeting set to take place at 4:00 p.m. on April 16, 2015, Public Works Corporate Yard, staff will be recommending that the on-street parking section of Ridgeside between Canyon and Briarcliff be converted to a "permit parking only" area. This proposed change has been requested by residents in the area who have submitted a petition for the modification. As staff has analyzed the overall situation, the current parking situation does seem to warrant the proposed on-street parking modification and we will be recommending approval of the proposed adjustment.

City Manager's Weekly Update

Dedication Ceremony for Monrovia's Gold Line Stop Tentatively Scheduled for Saturday, September 12

Based on discussions with the Gold Line Construction Authority, a dedication ceremony for the Monrovia Gold Line Station has tentatively been scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. We will be sure to provide additional details regarding the proposed event as they become available.

All City Basketball Team and Cheer Squad Celebrates with a Pizza Party

Monrovia's All-City Basketball Team and All-City Cheer Squad celebrated their efforts, their team spirit, and their sportsmanship this past Thursday, April 2, 2015, with a good old-fashioned pizza party! The event, which was hosted by our very own Council Member Spicer, took place at Monrovia Old Town Pizza Company. Another round of hearty congratulations to our All-City Basketball Team and All-City Cheer Squad for what was an undeniably great season!

28th Annual Arbor Day Ceremony Scheduled for April 23

The 28th Annual Arbor Day Ceremony is scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 23, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. in Rotary Park. The event, which is being hosted by the Youth Commission and the Teen Advisory Board, will include coordination with our Public Works team to determine the location and type of tree to be planted at the park that day. Based on preliminary discussions, staff is thinking that we might plant three Ginkgo Trees along the fence next to the Options facility where the stone pine tree was recently removed. It is also important to note that Jon Baker from the L.A. Forestry Division has been invited to attend and present the annual Arbor Day Award.

Summer Reading Program Recycle Center Display Now Up in the Library Lobby – Donated Materials Needed

In celebration of spring and Earth Day, the Library recently installed a display in the lobby that highlights our Summer Reading Program Recycle Center. This overall project aims to collect specific materials that will be reused as craft projects for this year's program theme, "Read to the Rhythm." We are hoping to collect the following donated materials:

- Clean Plastic Food Containers & Lids
- Paper Towel & Toilet Paper Rolls
- Clean Metal Food Cans
- Plastic Easter Eggs
- Shoe Boxes

If you have any of the above referenced items available for donation, please stop by the Library and drop off what you can... while you're there, be sure to check out the Library's spring themed book selection too!

Morton Bay Fig Tree in Library Park Undergoes Needed Trim

City Manager's Weekly Update

Last Friday, April 3, 2015, the Morton Bay Fig Tree in Library Park underwent a needed trimming job in order to save the large branch that is now being supported by two braces. The additional brace that the City installed earlier this year did relieve some of the downward pressure on the main branch, however, large cracks have developed along the main branch. This additional cracking is a result of end movement from the two large limbs that extend upward and outward quite a distance. When coupled with the higher than average temperatures and the lack of rain that we have experienced during the past three years, there was a real concern from our arborist that the main branch could collapse if the pruning work was not implemented. Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Play with Me Program at the Library is a Hit

This past Wednesday, April 1, 2015, our team at the Library offered the ever popular, "Play with Me Program" to over 50 children. Coordinated by our very own Rebecca Elder, this hugely popular weekly program occurs on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., and also includes an early literacy workshop opportunity for parents and caregivers who are in attendance. The "Play with Me Program" is an organized time for children ages newborn through 5 to play and learn together with their parents / caregivers while at the Library. This organized program offers play centers, including transportation, blocks, writing, dramatic play, and infant play areas. The program also features toys, art experiences, books, play time, and a circle time that incorporates stories, movements, and songs. This overall program is part of the Public Library Association's, "*Every Child Ready to Read*" initiative which recognizes parents / caregivers as a child's first and most important teacher.

Global Citizenship Program up and Running for the Month of April at the Library

For the entire month of April 2015, the Library is promoting global citizenship program in conjunction with Earth Day. Together with "Dia de los Ninos y Los Libros" and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the program serves as a global celebration of young children. Activities in the Library that have been developed in support of this program include a sequence game for children and their parents / caregivers to play, an interactive cultural map activity for children to share their experiences and articulate what they have learned about other cultures, and a book displays focusing on cultures from around the world.

That's it for this update, I hope you have a terrific remainder of the week!

Best regards,
Oliver

OLIVER CHI
City Manager

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