

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending November 4th, 2011.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next meeting of the Richmond City Council is on Tuesday, November 15th. Enjoy the week off.

2. **The Port of Richmond Welcomes Subaru**

This Monday, November 7th, at approximately 2:30 PM, the first shipment of Subaru vehicles will arrive at the Port of Richmond. As you may recall, the Port entered into an agreement with Subaru to be its west coast port of entry at the Point Portrero Marine Terminal, where an 84-rail car-capacity facility was completed last year to handle Honda vehicles.

This is another significant milestone for the Port that will generate both revenues for the City of Richmond and jobs for the local economy. It also reinforces the Port's position as one of the premier auto-handling facilities on the west coast. The Port of Richmond specializes in petroleum and liquid bulk cargo as well as dry bulk and break-bulk goods. With the recent rehabilitation of the Point Potero Marine Terminal, the Port can provide automobile processing for as many as 200,000 Honda and Subaru vehicles annually.

3. **The Port of Richmond Also Welcomes the *USS Iowa***

The Port of Richmond is also temporarily hosting the *USS Iowa* (BB-61) on the battleship's final trek to become an interactive museum at the Port of Los Angeles. The *USS Iowa* is berthed at Terminal 3, across the channel from the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

The Navy first launched the *Iowa* in 1942, and it subsequently served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets during World War II. The ship ferried President Roosevelt to Casablanca, Morocco on the first leg of the journey to meet with Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill at the Tehran Conference to discuss the allies' final strategy to end the war. Interestingly, the ship was fitted with a bathtub specifically for President Roosevelt due to his paralysis from polio. The Navy decommissioned the *Iowa* in 1990 and anchored the ship in the National Defense Reserve Fleet in Suisun Bay.

In September, the Navy awarded the *USS Iowa* to the Pacific Battleship Center, a nonprofit group that is responsible for transforming the vessel into a museum. In order to prepare the *Iowa* for the voyage, the Pacific Battleship Center sought a Bay Area location for temporary berthing. Due to the ship's size of 887 feet long, 108 feet wide, and draw of 37 feet, a large facility was necessary. Pacific Battleship Center selected the Port of

Richmond's Terminal 3 for temporary berthing due to the accommodations available. The Port will receive berthing fees from Pacific Battleship Center during the *Iowa's* stay.

The USS *Iowa* is scheduled to depart for Los Angeles in late January 2012. The Port of Richmond anticipates that visitors will be allowed deck tours of the vessel at the end of November or early December.

USS *Iowa* towed into the Inner Harbor on Friday, October 28th,



with the SS Red Oak Victory Ship and Whirley Crane in the foreground. The area was previously Henry J Kaiser's Shipyard Number 3, which constructed more than 700 ships during World War II.

4. **Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice – “Plan for a Sustainable and Livable Richmond for All”**

This past Thursday, November 3rd, approximately 175 federal and local agency representatives, community organizations, and community members gathered in the Richmond Auditorium for a day long convening of the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice (EJ). The program included a bus tour, speakers, and interactive sessions addressing environmental justice, jobs, food, equitable communities, and more.

Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Supervisor John Gioia, Dr. Henry Clark, and Jared Blumenfeld, US EPA Administration Region 9, welcomed the convening participants. Keynote speakers included Lisa Garcia, US EPA Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice, and Tony B. Iton, M.D., J.D. MPH, Senior Vice President for Healthy Communities at The California Endowment.

The EJ IWG is comprised of 15 federal agencies and several White House Offices. The group guides, supports, and enhances federal environmental justice and community-based activities. This was the first IWG convening to take place in EPA Region 9 (Pacific Southwest). (View [event photos](#) and download [event materials](#) by following these links.)

Special thanks go to all event participants, federal officials, and event sponsors: EPA, Richmond Community Foundation, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, City of Richmond and East Bay Center for Performing Arts. The Planning committee included Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative, City of Richmond Community Housing Development Corporation, Contra Costa County Health Services, EPA, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Holland & Knight, Richmond Community Foundation, Rubicon Programs, Urban Habitat, West County Toxics Coalition, in corporation with Congressman George Miller's Office, Supervisor John Gioia's Office, and Mayor McLaughlin.



5. **LEAP Selected as Partner in National Research Project**

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) just announced their new National Leadership Grant awards for 2011-12. The Richmond Library's Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP), as a partner with Portland State University, will be included in the research project, Tutor-Facilitated Digital Literacy Acquisition in Hard-to-Serve Populations. This project will conduct in-depth research on the digital literacy acquisition process in our Broadband Technology Opportunities Program project. It will mine and analyze system-collected data from students' and tutors' interactions with Learner Web as they go through the process. The grant project will also conduct in-depth interviews and focus groups with some of the students and tutors at LEAP.

6. **City of Richmond Hosts the American Public Works Association Northern California Chapter Conference**

The City of Richmond's Public Works and Engineering Departments are hosting their first American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter Conference on November 8th and 9th, at the Richmond Auditorium. The APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. Chartered in 1938, APWA is the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world with over 25,000 members. The association currently consists of 67 chapters throughout North America, of which the Northern California Chapter is one.

7. **Stormwater Program: Trash Assessment on Garrity Creek**

On Saturday, October 29th, five staff members of the Watershed project assisted city staff and two student volunteers in performing a trash assessment on Garrity Creek just north of the Hilltop Mall. The effort pulled 60 pounds of trash out of a 100 yard stretch of creek that receives trash from the east side of Hilltop Mall. Plastic containers from fast food or convenience items comprised half of the trash collected. Polystyrene foam pieces not identifiable as foodware made up another 20%, and plastic bags an additional 15% of the collected items.

Information on the types and percentages found in trash assessments along creeks and shorelines will assist the city in its short-term trash reduction plan to meet stormwater permit requirements.

8. **Halloween Highlights from the Recreation Department**

The Disabled People's Recreation Center (DPRC) held a Halloween party for the Therapeutic Interactive Recreation Program on Wednesday, October 26th. Those involved contributed candy for *trick or treat* bags, and staff provided finger food. In addition, music, games, and dancing made for a successful party.

The Pt. Richmond Community Center's staff and participants were thrilled to participate in the *trick or treat* parade where students from Washington Elementary School went from business to business collecting treats. The annual event is sponsored by local merchants who provide a safe environment for the children to have fun and show off their costumes.

9. **Annual Sewer Pipeline Repair and Rehabilitation Projects**

The City and Veolia continued work on the 2011/2012 annual sewer pipeline repair and rehabilitation project. A summary of work in progress is listed below:

| Installed 8" Mainlines | Preliminary Work Began for Installation of 8" Mainlines | Point Repair Work | Work Locations Scheduled for Next Week |
|---|---|---|--|
| Ohio Avenue from S. 33 rd Street to S. 42 nd Street | Wall Avenue from S. 42 nd Street to S. 49 th Street | Hellings Avenue @ 18 th Street | Ohio Avenue between S. 37 th and S. 42 nd Streets |
| Wall Avenue from S. 35 th Street to S. 39 th Street | S. 47 th Street from Wall Avenue to Florida Avenue | Esmond Avenue West of 17 th Street | Rheem Avenue between 23 rd and 36 th Streets |
| Waller Avenue from S. 35 th Street to S. 39 th Street | Ohio Avenue from end to S. 45 th Street | Lincoln Avenue @ 9 th Street | Florida Avenue, Ohio Avenue, and Center Avenue between S. 37 th Street and Carlson Boulevard |
| S. 35 th Street from Wall Avenue to Florida Avenue | S. 45 th from Center to End | Dunn Avenue @ 13 th Street | S. 29 th Street and S. 35 th Street from Florida Avenue to Ohio Avenue |
| | Center Avenue from S. 39 th to S. 41 st Streets | Humboldt Street North of Cliff Lane | Gaynor Avenue from 23 rd to 24 th Streets |
| | Florida Avenue from S. 39 th to S. 41 st Streets | | 26 th Street from Roosevelt Avenue to Grant Avenue |
| | | | Grant Avenue from 27 th to 28 th Streets |
| | | | McBryde Avenue East of Lassen Street |
| | | | Garvin Avenue West of Humboldt Street |
| | | | Esmond Avenue @ 24 th Street, 33 rd Street and 30 th Street @ Clinton, Amador Street and Humboldt Street @ McBryde Avenue |

Any questions related to the ongoing 2011/2012 annual sewer repair and rehabilitation projects may be directed to Mr. Fadi Alabbas at (925) 323-8937. Those interested may also follow our daily Twitter updates at www.twitter.com/CoR_Engineering.

10. **Pavement Rehabilitation**

Chrisp Company, a striping subcontractor for Ghilotti Brothers, Inc., has installed pedestrian crosswalks, arrows, railroad crossing, stop bars, speed signage, shared road bike symbols and other pavement markings on the following streets:

35th Street (Stop Bar)
37th Street (Arrows and Pedestrian Crossing)
39th Street (Stop Bar)
Barrett Avenue (Pedestrian Crossing and Bike Symbols)
Bissell Avenue (Stop Bar and Pedestrian Crossing)
Dunn Avenue (Stop Bar)
Huntington Avenue (Stop Bar)
Lincoln Avenue (Stop Bar)
May Road (Various Markings)
Pierce Street (Stop Bar)
Richmond Parkway (Railroad Crossing)
West Nevin (Bike Symbols)
Wall Avenue (Stop Bar)

Pavement marking work will continue on the following streets for this week:

23rd Street
Canal Boulevard
Garrard Boulevard
Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond Parkway

11. **Public Works Updates**

Parks and Landscaping Division: During the past several weeks, crews completed vegetation abatement from the medians on the Richmond Parkway from Parr Boulevard to Gertrude Avenue; performed landscape rehabilitation on Robert H. Miller and Blume Drives; repaired the irrigation leak at the Valley View soccer field; continued work on the Bay Trail landscape rehabilitation project; prepared the 33rd Street entrance to the Greenway for the support Groundwork Richmond event to be held on November 5th; the tree maintenance crew removed various trees throughout the city, as well as multiple trees on Arno Court and Huntington Avenue; and completed mulching tree wells at John F. Kennedy Park.

Next week, crews will continue the weed abatement and vegetation management on the Richmond Parkway between the Giant Road overpass and Hilltop Drive; install a drinking fountain at the Nicholl Park tennis courts; and will continue working on the rehabilitation project in the center medians of Robert H. Miller and Blume Drives.

Facilities Maintenance Division: During the past two weeks, electricians performed light replacements throughout the city and continued providing support for the repairs of the Point Molate high voltage transformers that provide power to the Point Molate wastewater treatment plant.

Carpenters created a concrete pad for the new shed that will be placed at the May Valley Community Center and completed cutouts for the Halloween Festival event held at the Shields-Reid Community Center.



Concrete Slab at May Valley Community Center

Painters completed the partition walls in the Resource Room at the Richmond Art Center and completed touch-up painting at the Richmond Auditorium for the upcoming American Public Works Association (APWA) Northern California Chapter Conference.

Engineers repaired and serviced heating units at the Hilltop District Park's trailer field office; rebuilt back flows and made repairs to the boilers at 440 Civic Center Plaza and the Richmond Museum; and replaced two faucets at the Senior Center. The utility workers have been cleaning the carpets at 440 and 450 Civic Center Plaza.

Streets Division: During the past two weeks, paving crews completed paving Coach Court, Cutter Lane and Carriage Drive to the end at Carriage Hills North. Next week, crews will be resurfacing Wilson Avenue from Barrett to Macdonald Avenues, and 46th Street from Nevin to Barrett Avenues.

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