

Mayor and Councilmembers:

This is the weekly report for the week ending July 13th, 2012.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next meeting of the Richmond City Council is Tuesday, July 17th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:30 PM, and with the regular agenda at 6:30 PM. As a reminder, the City Council will also meet on July 24th and July 31st before starting its August hiatus.

2. **Wastewater Program Manager Chad Davisson is Leaving the City Organization**

Chad Davisson, the City's Wastewater Program Manager, is leaving employment with the City of Richmond effective August 3, 2012, to accept a position with the City of San Mateo. Chad has indicated that his work with Richmond "has been the most satisfying and rewarding period of (his) 25-year career in the public sector." From my perspective, Chad has been a significant asset to the City in dealing with very complex issues regarding the City's wastewater programs, and he will be greatly missed. Over the next several weeks, he and I will be discussing ways in which to keep the wastewater programs and projects in Richmond moving forward after his departure.

I'm sure that you join me in wishing Chad, with deep appreciation, the very best in his new position.

3. **City of Richmond Receives \$456,000 Grant to prepare a South Richmond Specific Plan**

On June 27th, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) officially awarded the City of Richmond a \$496,000 Priority Development Area (PDA) Planning Program Grant to prepare a South Richmond Specific Plan ("Plan"). The Plan will help implement the City's vision to transform a currently underutilized industrial waterfront into a revitalized, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented district anchored by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Second Campus. The grant proposal was prepared by Richmond's Planning and Building Services Department.

The Plan will cover the General Plan 2030 "Change Areas 15 and 16" (see the Land Use section of the adopted General Plan at www.cityofrichmondgeneralplan.org for maps of these areas), and the scope includes the preparation of an accompanying Environmental Impact Report for the Plan.

For more information regarding this project, please contact Lina Velasco, Senior Planner at (510) 620-6841 or via email at Lina_Velasco@ci.richmond.ca.us.

4. **Employment & Training's YouthWORKS Program Receives a \$75,000 Grant From the S.D Bechtel Foundation**

The Youth**WORKS** Division of the Employment & Training Department has received, for a second year, a \$75,000 grant from the Bechtel Foundation to support a year around effort by the after-school Academic Program, coordinated by Straight Talk on Prison (STOP) and its Executive Director, Pedro Lespier. The second year of funding represents a \$25,000 (50%) increase over last year's funding.

The S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation primarily supports the development of future leaders in the business community. Thanks to the efforts of their Program Manager, Robert Joseph, they have expanded that priority to address the development of future leaders in troubled communities. YouthWORKS represents the most ethnically diverse, at-risk community that they have ever funded.

One of the requirements of the funding is to implement a service based community learning program. YouthWORKS has partnered with the National Park Service, and their education coordinator, Ranger Matt Holmes, to assist with the development of the service learning component. The classroom based portion of the service learning component is implemented by STOP, with curricula based on the National Crime Prevention Council's Community**WORKS** program. Ranger Holmes has initiated and nurtured the transition from classroom to worksite and has succeeded in creating the kind of relationships that are needed to bridge program and community.

Both Ranger Holmes and Mr. Lespier have devoted the majority of their Saturdays since January to working with the youth on the edible garden and bioswale projects on the Richmond Greenway, built planter boxes for the Maritime Children's Academy and assisted with staffing such City sponsored events such as the Compost/Fruit Tree Give-Away, the grand opening of the Rosie the Riveter WWII Homefront Headquarters and, most recently Juneteenth. All in all, they have been responsible for coordinating and providing over 1,000 hours of volunteer labor throughout the community since January 2012.

In the upcoming year, Mr. Lespier will be implementing an accredited course he has designed related to urban agricultural science, and YouthWorks is working with the school district to ensure that program participants receive high school credit for this after-school program.

Other outcomes of the Academic Program for the 2011/2012 year include 14 out of 14 high school seniors receiving their full diplomas – the first 100% year since the inception of the program four years ago.



Academic Program Participants at Lassen National Park, June 2012



Academic Program Participants at Maritime Center, May 2012

5. **Public Workshop on LBNL's Richmond Bay Campus**

The public will have an opportunity to hear from representatives from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and UC Berkeley about the proposed LBNL second campus at the Richmond Bay Campus Community Workshop on Thursday, July 26th, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Richmond Auditorium.

The Richmond Bay Campus of LBNL will have deep and far-reaching impacts in the Richmond community, and the public's involvement in offering thoughts and ideas throughout the planning process is critical to delivering a successful project.

Please RSVP for the community workshop:
www.richmondbaycampus.eventbrite.com so that staff can effectively plan for the estimated attendance.

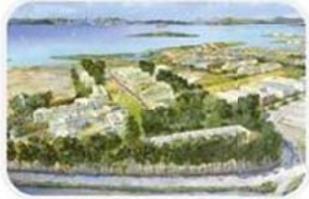
**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
in partnership with UC Berkeley**

**Richmond Bay Campus
Community Workshop**

July 26, 2012
Richmond Memorial Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA

7:00pm-8:30pm
Doors open at 6:30pm

Come hear from LBNL & UCB about the proposed project, join a discussion and offer your thoughts and ideas!



Please RSVP: richmondbaycampus.eventbrite.com
www.richmond.ca.us/lbnl



6. City Residents Receive Essential Language Skills from LEAP

During the summer, the Richmond Library’s LEAP (Literacy for Every Adult Person) program is one of the few places where adults can continue to learn and improve their English skills. Although Catholic Charities, The Latina Center and the Adult School are nearby resources, the need for English Language classes remains strong, with consistent enrollment in all LEAP programs. Currently LEAP offers English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Nevin Center and at the main LEAP site.

LEAP’s Program Manager Sherry Drobner described for me how she and veteran teacher Hilaria Wright can attest to the need for this program and the success of their students. Sherry recounted how, while she and Hilaria were doing program planning, Hilaria described the experience of several of her students:

- Elena, just 18 years old, came to the United States from El Salvador 5 months ago, and joined LEAP three months ago. Although a graduate from high school in her home land, her degree will not help her with her long term career goal—nursing. Elena is learning English and is planning to take the GED Spanish (offered through our partnership with the Multicultural Institute of Berkeley) so she can continue to go to college and fulfill her goal. Is she learning? According to Hilaria, Elena reported that she can now walk on the street, see the signs and know what they mean.
- Maria, from Mexico, who started LEAP three weeks ago, spoke no English. During class last week, Maria read a page from a book. When Hilaria exclaimed, “You can read”, Maria, responded, “Yes, but I don’t know what it means!” Hilaria assured her, “That comes next.” Most

definitely, reading comprehension is a skill taught to both English and non-English speakers at LEAP.

LEAP's ESL program serves adults from all over the world. In addition to our paid staff, we have dedicated tutors who meet weekly with individual students. We also welcome City staff to become volunteers and work with our ESL learners.

7. **Toys at the Library**

The Bayview Branch Library at 5100 Hartnett Avenue has children's toys available for checkout with your Richmond Public Library card.

Toys provide a fun, enriching way to help your young child to learn faster and develop their cognitive and motor skills. Most of the toys in this collection are for ages 3 to 6, with a few suitable for older and younger children. Toys are checked out one at a time, and may be kept up to four weeks. All toys will be sanitized and inspected between borrowings.



8. **Video – The City of Richmond Partners with Contra Costa College to Create Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Career Pathways in Richmond**

We invite you to view the City of Richmond's [video](#) highlighting the Contra Costa College's [Center for Science Excellence \(CSE\)](#). CSE provides support for financially and academically underrepresented students majoring in biological, computer and physical science, technology, mathematics or engineering (STEM fields) at the college. CSE partners with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) to provide funding and LBNL research opportunities to CSE students.

The City of Richmond will continue to partner with Contra Costa College and LBNL to maximize opportunities for creating STEM career pathways in Richmond.



9. **United Heckathorn Technical Assistance Workshop**

On July 9, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosted a Technical Assistance Community Workshop for the United Heckathorn Superfund Site in the Richmond Inner Harbor. You can view more information about the technical assistance program at www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc. Community members are invited to apply for educational and technical assistance to better understand and become involved in the United Heckathorn cleanup process. The EPA's technical assistance consultant is Krissy Russell-Hedstrom from Skeo Solutions and can be contacted at krissy@skeo.com. You can view more workshop [photos](#) by using this link.



10. **Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan Open House**

On July 12, 2012, Contra Costa County hosted a Climate Action Plan Open House at the Richmond Council Chambers to receive community input on preparation of the County's Climate Action Plan. Supervisor John Gioia provided an overview of the County's Climate Action Plan. During the open house, community members indicated support for various actions under topics including energy, land use and transportation, water, solid waste, agriculture, and public

health through a dot exercise. Other open houses were hosted in Oakley and Rodeo. The County's draft Climate Action Plan is expected to be released in the fall. You can view open house [photos](#) by using this link.



11. **Via Verdi Sinkhole Project Update**

The project to repair the Via Verdi sinkhole is continuing, and the El Portal road closure is ongoing.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention best management practices continue to be implemented throughout the construction site, in accordance with State of California requirements. These are monitored daily by the on-site biologist.

The hillside terrace excavation at the corner of El Portal Drive and Via Verdi is complete. El Portal Drive is being excavated within the construction site boundary.

The existing open channel has been dewatered in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game permit requirements. On-site biologists monitored the dewatering process. The open channel bed is being prepared for installation of the new concrete culvert.

Temporary shoring -- beams and lagging with tie-backs -- is being installed at various locations along the alignment of the culvert, in order to protect existing buildings and structures near the construction site. The shoring at the upstream open channel headwall location is complete; the shoring near the intersection of Via Verdi and El Portal Drive is currently being erected; the downstream shoring at the culvert endwall will be installed in the near future.

Utility companies have completed the temporary relocation of their utility lines, ensuring that the residents of the Sobrante Glen neighborhood will receive uninterrupted utility service throughout the duration of the culvert replacement construction project.



Culvert Headwall area: The culvert headwall area has been dewatered and shoring has been installed to protect the Creek View Condominiums property, visible in the background.



Hillside terrace: The hillside terrace at the intersection of Via Verdi and El Portal Drive has been excavated.

12. **Public Works Updates**

Facilities Maintenance Division: The electrical shop repaired the traffic signal at 23rd Street and Nevin Avenue, installed and removed the power pedestals at Nicholl Park for the dedication of the tennis courts, and continued with the re-lamping of street lights around the City.

Parks and Landscaping Division: Parks crews are preparing Shields Reid Park for the upcoming music festival, performing vegetation management in the El Sobrante area, completed weed abatement in some areas of Point Richmond and along Richmond Parkway and Parr Boulevard, and landscape maintenance along the Bay Trail and Civic Center Plaza.

The Tree Crew trimmed and pruned Sycamore trees along Barrett Avenue from Harbour Way to 7th Street and continued with the tree pruning along Hilltop Drive and Interstate 80.

Streets Division: Pavement Maintenance paved Barrett Avenue from Harbour Way to 7th Street.



Barrett Avenue Paving

Regularly scheduled commercial and residential street sweeping routes for the second Monday through Friday are May Valley, Vista View, Clinton Hill I-IV and East Richmond Neighborhood Council areas.

* * * * *

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about these or any other items of interest to you.

Have a great week!

You can sign up to receive the City Manager's weekly report and other information from the City of Richmond by visiting:

www.ci.richmond.ca.us/list.aspx