

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the week ending April 30th, 2010.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4th, beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, followed by the regular City Council meeting agenda scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM.

2. **ABAG Recognizes Richmond Project at Summit**

The City of Richmond was honored a week ago Thursday in Oakland by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) at its General Assembly and Regional Summit. In particular, ABAG honored the City with a *Growing Smarter Together Award* in the *Building a Better Bay Area Urban Design Award* category for the Richmond Memorial Civic Center Revitalization Project. Mayor Gayle McLaughlin accepted the award on behalf of the City. Also attending were Councilmembers Jim Rogers, Tom Butt and Maria Viramontes, Planning Commissioners Virginia Finlay, Sheryl Lane and Carol Teltschick-Fall, City Manager Bill Lindsay, Planning Director Richard Mitchell and Community & Economic Development Director Steve Duran. Mayor McLaughlin and Councilmembers Viramontes and Butt served as City Council liaisons to the Civic Center Project throughout the design and construction.

The one-day summit was focused on strategies for sustainable growth for the Bay Area. Councilmember Rogers is the City's delegate to ABAG and also attended the business meeting Thursday.

3. **Arrival of the *Frontier Ace* and *Polaris Ace* at the Port of Richmond**

On Tuesday, April 20th, the Port of Richmond welcomed the first of two ships into the new Honda Port of Entry. On Tuesday, the *Frontier Ace* arrived, carrying 2,900 vehicles, followed later in the week by the *Polaris Ace*, with an additional 900 cars. The Port's contract with American Honda Motors and AutoWarehousing (AWC) will provide \$88 million in revenue over the next 15 years, as well as 200 family-wage jobs.



Representatives from the City, American Honda Motors and AutoWarehousing welcome the *Frontier Ace*.



The first car

4. **Finance Committee Budget Meetings**

During the past two weeks, the City Council Finance Committee and City staff attended the first two of seven scheduled community budget meetings, the first at the May Valley Community Center (El Sobrante) and the second at the Point Richmond Community Center. At the most recent meeting in Point Richmond, attendees raised questions regarding payment of property tax assessments on foreclosed property, sales tax on marijuana dispensaries, utility users' tax ballot measures, and what sacrifices have been made in the upcoming budget.

Listed below are the remaining dates and locations of Finance Committee budget meetings. The proposed FY 2010-11 budget is being printed and distributed this weekend.

May 12 7:30 pm Harbor Master's Office
1340 Marina Way South

May 20 5:30 pm Nevin Community Center
598 Nevin Ave.

May 27 7:15 pm Annex Senior Center
5801 Huntington Ave.

May 27 8:00 pm Sojourner Truth Church
2621 Shane Dr.

5. **Miraflores Housing EIR Plan Receives LEED-ND Gold Certification**

The Miraflores Housing Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Plan has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification for the Congress for the New Urbanism and the US Green Building Council under the new Neighborhood Development program, LEED-ND. This is a significant accomplishment, as there are currently just 68 certified LEED-ND projects in the world and less than 40 certified at Gold or higher. Redevelopment Agency and Planning staff members continue to work with the developers and stakeholders as this project moves forward through the environmental remediation phase.

6. **Employment & Training Visit by Congressman Miller and Assistant Labor Secretary**

The RichmondBUILD Green Career Training Academy will have a site visit by Congressman George Miller and Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labor, Jane Oates, at 9:00 AM Monday morning at the RichmondBUILD Crafts facility, 500 23rd street, at the corner of Barrett and 23rd Street. Congressman Miller and Secretary Oates will have an opportunity to view a solar panel installation, as well as a demonstration of the elements of a home energy audit and retrofit.

7. **Richmond YouthWORKS Receives Grant to Assist At-Risk Youth**

The Richmond YouthWORKS program has learned that they are the recipient of one of six statewide \$500,000 grants to prevent at-risk and in-risk youth from dropping out of high school and assist them to succeed academically. The YouthWORKS Division was contacted for assistance on the grant by Supervisor John Gioia's office and the Contra Costa Workforce Investment Board (WIB). With the assistance of the Glen Price Group, the Supervisor and the WIB, a successful application was submitted to serve 200 West County youth with a meaningful, career path work experience (100 from the City of Richmond and 100 from the remainder of West County) combined with an academic program that emphasizes science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) curriculum. While the grant will not pay any wages for this year's SYEP, the measurable outcomes it will produce will relate to the work experience, as well as employment placement, academic achievement and academic retention.

8. **1.1. Million Signatures Submitted to Qualify Ballot Measure that Protects Local City and Redevelopment Funds**

Led by the League of California Cities, the coalition formed to pass the *Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act of 2010* has begun submitting to counties over 1.1 million signatures collected to qualify the initiative for the November statewide ballot. This number virtually assures that the measure will have the required 694,354 valid signatures to qualify a constitutional amendment for the ballot. Counties will now begin the process of validating the signatures and turning in their results to the Secretary of State. The deadline for the Secretary of State to certify measures for the November ballot is June 24th.

After formal qualification of the initiative, attention must turn to educating voters about the measure to protect funding for vital local services on which they rely. California voters have overwhelmingly passed measures in previous elections to restrict state raids of local government funds, as well as to dedicate gasoline taxes to transportation and public transit improvements and services. There is every reason to believe voters can be convinced to support this measure as well, particularly in light of cutbacks in local police and fire, parks, libraries, street and road repair, public transit and other local services.

As you will recall, the City Council passed a resolution in support of this initiative measure by unanimous vote.

9. **Public Works Updates**

- The Public Works crews will continue monitoring the Via Verdi sinkhole for proper traffic and pedestrian conditions, erosion control, weather conditions, etc., during the current soils investigation process and future repair construction design phases.
- The Public Works crews will provide support with the closure and clean-up of 23rd Street for the Cinco de Mayo celebration this coming weekend.
- Next week, Public Works will resurface Robert Miller Drive from Hilltop Drive to Hilltop Mall Road.

10. **Website Update**

The City's new website outreach tool is a mail-able postcard of the City's redesigned website which includes the website address. The postcard is available in the City Manager's office and front lobby. It has also been distributed at Neighborhood Council meetings.



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- Mar. 31 [Print Richmond Neighborhood Council](#)
- Apr. 3 [The 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt](#)
- Apr. 5 [Richmond Menlo Neighborhood Council](#)



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