

City Manager's Weekly Report

This is the weekly report for the two weeks ending October 28th, 2011.

1. **Meeting Notes**

The next meeting of the Richmond City Council will be on Tuesday, November 1st beginning with a Closed Session at 5:00 PM, and with the regular agenda scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM.

2. **Standard & Poor's Affirms City's Credit Rating**

After completing their annual review, Standard & Poor's Credit Corporation ("S&P") has affirmed the City's long-term credit rating at the "A+" category, and also assigned their highest rating of "SP-1+" to the City's upcoming Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note ("TRAN"). The affirmation of the long-term rating represents S&P's view of the City's financial position as strong, citing in their formal report the City's record of maintaining a strong-to-very-strong financial position, strong management policies and practices, which include monthly reporting of investment results, and procedures for mid-year budget adjustments.

The short-term rating is based on the City's strong underlying general credit characteristics, structural provisions of the TRAN, and strong debt service coverage.

S&P's full report can be found on the City's website at:

<http://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=1954>

3. **2010-11 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note**

On a related *note* (pun intended), this past Thursday, October 27th, the City sold \$7.65 million of its 2011-12 Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRAN) at cost of .55 %. The City has now issued TRANs in the last three years, all at "SP-1+", the highest credit rating possible from Standard & Poor's. The proceeds of the note will be used to finance the City's operating cash needs for fiscal year 2011-12.

4. **Richmond Receives Two 2011 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards**

The Richmond Memorial Civic Center Rehabilitation Project, a \$103 million LEED Gold revitalization project, and the Richmond Plunge have each been selected to receive the *2011 Governor's Historic Preservation Award*. Both of these projects acknowledge the City of Richmond's achievement in preserving California's heritage. This award is the only official preservation award that is presented by the State of California, making it a unique and prestigious achievement for the City of Richmond, and especially remarkable that the community has received two such project awards.

The award for the Richmond Municipal Natatorium (“the Plunge”) honors the hard work and vision by the Save the Richmond Plunge Trust and Richmond Friends of Recreation. The project was nominated by Todd Jersey, the project architect.

The Richmond Memorial Civic Center was originally designed by renowned architect Timothy L. Pflueger in the late 1940’s, as the first modern civic center of its time. Since its renovation in 2009, the Richmond Memorial Civic Center Rehabilitation Project has received several awards in recognition of its green and preservation efforts. The most notable of these awards include: The Association of Bay Area Governments’ *Urban Design Award 2010*; the California Preservation Foundation’s *Preservation Design Award 2010*; and the Richmond Historic Preservation Commission’s *Historic Preservation Award*. The project has also been recognized nationally by the US Green Building Council at GreenBuild 2009, and received the Design-Build Institute of America, Western Pacific Region’s *Rehabilitation/Renovation/Restoration Design-Build Award 2010*. The nomination was jointly prepared and submitted by the Planning and Building Services Department and the Richmond Community Redevelopment Agency.

The presentation of both these preservation awards will take place on Thursday, November 17th, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, in Sacramento at the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park.

5. **Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice: “Plan for a Sustainable and Livable Richmond for All” – November 3, 2011**

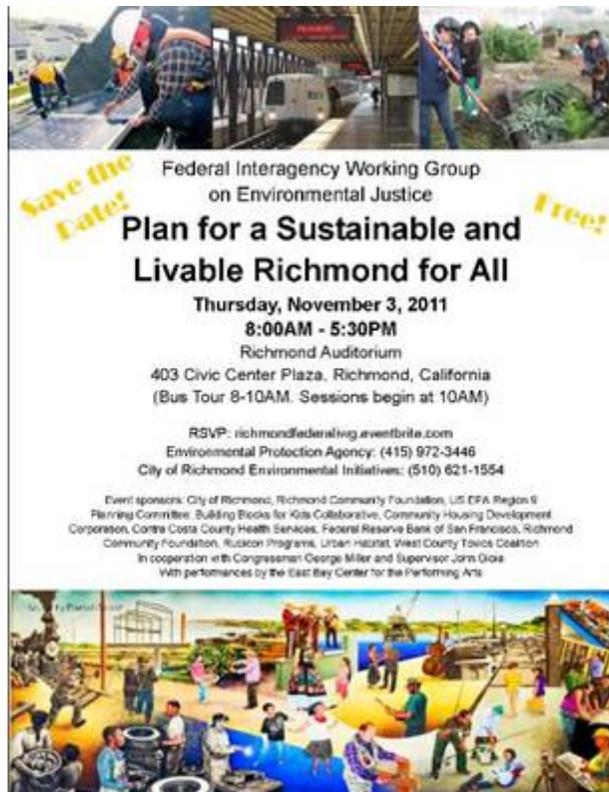
The City of Richmond is partnering with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a number of organizations and agencies to host the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice: “Plan for a Sustainable and Livable Richmond for All” in Richmond, California on Thursday, November 3 from 8:00 AM -5:30 PM in the Richmond Auditorium. A bus tour will take place from 8:00 AM -10:00 AM with sessions beginning at 10:00 AM.

This convening will focus on jobs to secure strong, healthy, and sustainable, equitable communities. Session topics include a healthy and revitalized Richmond, approaches to job creation, transportation justice, achieving equitable communities, food financing, and green jobs. Event hosts include Building Blocks for Kids Collaborative, Community Housing Development Corporation, Contra Costa County Health Services, Federal Reserve, Richmond Community Foundation, Rubicon Programs, Urban Habitat, and West County Toxics Coalition in collaboration with Congressman George Miller and Supervisor John Gioia. Performances will be provided by the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at <http://richmondfederaliwg.eventbrite.com> or by calling Richmond Environmental Initiatives at (510) 621-1554.

The EJ IWG is comprised of 15 federal agencies with the goal of guiding, supporting, and enhancing federal environmental justice and community-based activities. This will be the first EJ IWG convening in EPA Region 9. Learn more about the EPA's EJ IWG:

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/index.html>.



6. Richmond Inner Harbor Regional Emergency Operations Center Training Exercise

On Tuesday, October 18th and Wednesday, October 19th, the 2011 Richmond Inner Harbor Regional Exercise was held in the City Hall complex. This annual joint Command Post exercise is conducted to evaluate the capabilities and effectiveness of a Unified Command response to a worst-case oil spill in the San Francisco Bay, in compliance with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90). The training and subsequent drill focuses on interaction between industry and government in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP), Area Contingency Plan (ACP), and facility response plans. It provides an opportunity for federal, state, county, city and non-governmental agencies to improve preparedness, identify lessons learned, share best practices and practice command and control in a structured framework.

There were approximately 145 participants who worked closely together in developing an incident action plan for the simulated disaster's next operational period. The City of Richmond had representatives from Finance, Planning and Building, Information Technology, Public Works, Police, Fire and Office of Emergency Services involved in the two day event. This is the second year in a row that the City of Richmond has hosted the exercise.

7. **City of Richmond Annual Charitable Giving Campaign is Launched**

The City of Richmond's 2011 employees' charitable giving campaign, known as "The Heart of the City of Richmond" is now underway. The purpose of the campaign is to encourage employees to make a contribution – no matter the size, to charities and, especially, to local Richmond charities. Last year, City employees raised \$33,255, and this year's goal is to raise \$35,000. This year's campaign will run November 1st to November 30th.

Theresa Austin, the Executive Secretary in the Finance Department, is once again serving as the Campaign Coordinator as she has in prior years. This is not a small task and Theresa deserves recognition for stepping forward to add this to her already busy schedule.

8. **Richmond Library Bookmobile Sets New Attendance Record**

In September of 2011, 469 library cards were issued to new and returning students on the Richmond Library Bookmobile. The Bookmobile staff did not think they could get any busier. According to the Bookmobile Librarian and Library Assistant, attendance from the first of October through the 26th was 10,644 people. This tops last year's October attendance figures by more than 1,000 attendees. The good news is that the month is not over yet, and the Bookmobile still has books to lend to our enthusiastic patrons. Last fiscal year the city circulated 47,047 books from our mobile library. The Bookmobile's weekly route includes twenty stops at schools and day cares and covers all areas of the city from Olinda Elementary School to Catholic Charities at Verde Elementary School.

9. **Richmond's Literacy Project a Model for California**

The City of Richmond's Literacy for Every Adult (LEAP) program, along with the Pacific Library Partnership, Portland State University and the California State Library will be collaborating over the next year to expand the successful *Learner Web* project to other library literacy programs in Southern and Northern California. *Learner Web* is a web-based learning support system for adults who want to accomplish specific goals such as improving basic reading and writing skills. The California State Library awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for the effort to go forward, with LEAP in the role as convener and coordinator for the project. Portland State University will provide training to LEAP to build its capacity as a regional administrator of the *Learner Web*. LEAP and Portland State University will work with the library sites to involve hundreds of new adult learners in accessing literacy instruction through technology and volunteer support. The Pacific Library Partnership will serve as fiscal agent for the project.

LEAP recently reported a quarterly total of almost 600 students based on data collected for the period of July through September of 2011. The number reflects the addition of a new GED Spanish program, offered through a partnership with

the Multicultural Institute of Berkeley, and the Computer Literacy program established through a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant with Portland State University.

10. **RichmondBUILD and Contra Costa College Receives Leadership Award at 2011 Green Community College Summit**

RichmondBUILD and Contra Costa College have been selected as the *2011 Green Community College Summit Leadership Award* recipients in the curriculum category. The award recognizes the collaborative efforts between RichmondBUILD and Contra Costa College in designing curriculum that strengthens program content and creates a pathway for careers in the green building industry. Sal Vaca, Employment & Training Director, and Dr. McKinley Williams, President of Contra Costa College, were joined by lead staff from RichmondBUILD and Contra Costa College in accepting the Leadership Award.

11. **Employment & Training's YouthWORKS Program Awarded \$50,000 from Stephen Bechtel Fund**

The YouthWORKS program was awarded \$50,000 from the Stephen Bechtel Fund to support the implementation of the Community Works program, a service-learning, civic responsibility, and leadership curriculum specifically tailored for at-risk youth. In partnership with Straight Talk On Prison (STOP), the Community Works program is modeled from a National Crime Prevention Council curriculum and will serve 50 Richmond youth, ages 14 to 18, with academic support, California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)/GED preparation, civic-engagement and leadership development.

The award was based in part on the past performance of a very similar and successful program operated by YouthWORKS that achieved:

- 85 youth enrolled in the academic program
- 93% of the participants ranked the program as “excellent” or “very good”
- 15% increase in average daily attendance at their home school
- Increase of the average Grade Point Average from 1.5 to 2.56 after three months of participation
- 68% pass rate on the Language Arts portion of the CAHSEE
- 71% pass rate on the Math portion of the CAHSEE
- 26 out of 29 seniors in the program received high school diplomas (90%)

12. **Climate Action Plan Community Meeting Update**

The City's Environmental Initiatives Division hosted a Climate Action Plan Community Meeting on Monday, October 24th in the Richmond Auditorium. Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, the City Manager, and representatives from Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Urban Habitat, and Contra Costa County Health Services provided presentations on climate change, the City of Richmond's climate efforts to date, public health impacts, and considering equity in climate action planning. Community members provided comments during the

comment period and participated in a prioritization exercise. Community input received at the meeting will help create the framework for the Climate Action Plan and the criteria that will be used to select a consultant to assist the City in development of the plan.



13. California Youth Energy Services and East Bay Green Job Corps

The City's Environmental Initiatives Division and the Department of Employment and Training in partnership with the non-profit Rising Sun Energy Center are wrapping up a successful year with two local youth employment programs: East Bay Green Job Corps and the California Youth Energy Services. Both programs hire and train local youth to provide free in-home energy education and hardware installation to Richmond homeowners and renters.

The Richmond programs demonstrated high success in 2011 by providing employment and training to 19 youth, ages 15-24, and providing 311 Richmond households with energy saving hardware and information.

Energy Specialists installed the following materials in Richmond homes at no cost:

- 2,107 Compact fluorescent lamps
- 470 Efficient-flow showerheads & aerators
- 46 Retractable clotheslines
- 45 CFL torchiere lamps
- 139 Powerstrips

Of the households served in Richmond:

- 66% were renters
- 90% were low-moderate income households
- 21% were primarily non-English speaking

The installation of these measures resulted in an annual reduction of 103,776 kWh, 2,481 therms, and 536 gallons of water per minute, thereby reducing 84

metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere. This is equivalent to one of the following CO2 greenhouse gas emissions:

- CO2 emissions from 9,417 gallons of gasoline
- CO2 emissions from 195 barrels of oil consumed
- Carbon sequestered annually from 18 acres of pine or fir forests



14. **Lighting Upgrades at Shields Reid Community Center**

The Environmental Initiatives Division recently facilitated the repair and upgrade of lighting at the Shields Reid community center. The lighting upgrades will save the City an estimated \$1,240.89 per year in electricity costs and will reduce the City's yearly carbon footprint by 5,114 lbs of CO2.

Photos of the before and after of the multipurpose room in the Shields Reid community center can be seen below.





15. **R3 Free Solar Installation Workshop**

On October 19th, the Environmental Initiatives Division hosted a sign-up event where income-qualifying homeowners had the option to enroll for free weatherization services and a free solar installation to save on energy costs through the City's Richmond Recovery Rebates (R³) program. The R³ program is funded by the Department of Energy and works in conjunction with the Single-family Affordable Solar Homes program administered by the non-profit GRID Alternatives (www.gridalternatives.org/).

Presentations were given by weatherization service provider Quality Conservation Services (www.qualityconservationservices.com) and the non profit solar installer Grid Alternatives. Residents were encouraged to bring necessary documents to enroll in programs at the event. For more information on R³ and the City's other energy programs, please visit www.richmondenvironment.org or call 620-5502.



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

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

<u>Installed 8" Mainlines</u>	<u>Preliminary Work Began for Installation of 8" Mainlines</u>	<u>Replacement of Manholes</u>	<u>Point Repair Work</u>	<u>Work Locations Scheduled for Next Week</u>
35 th Street from Florida Avenue north to Ohio Avenue	Wall Avenue	Rheem Avenue at 23 rd Street	Barrett Avenue and 29 th Street	39 th Street between Waller and Ohio Avenues
Center Avenue	Waller Avenue	Rheem Avenue at 26 th Street	Barrett Avenue and Dimm Street	47 th Street from Wall Avenue north to Florida Avenue
Ohio Avenue west of 37 th Street	35 th Street from Wall Avenue north to Florida Avenue		Florida Avenue and 27 th Street	Wall Avenue from 41 st to 49 th Streets
			Humboldt Street and Cliff Lane	
			Nevin Avenue and 36 th Street	
			Wall Avenue and 36 th Street	

Those interested in following this work can catch the City of Richmond Engineering Department daily Twitter updates at www.twitter.com/CoR_Engineering.

17. **Carlson Boulevard Improvements**

The final section of Carlson Boulevard, at the Huntington Avenue intersection, has now been lowered and paved. In the process, a number of very shallow traffic signal conduits had to be removed; therefore, the rewiring of that signal will take place next week to bring that intersection back to service. During that time the contractor will be making various concrete repairs and getting ready for final paving the first week in November.

18. **Pavement Rehabilitation Program**

Ghilotti Bros. Inc. has completed the pavement striping layouts on all slurry-sealed streets. Crosswalks, railroad crossing markings, and most traffic arrows have been placed at the following locations: (1) Cutting Boulevard between Hoffman and Canal Boulevards, and (2) Marina Bay Parkway between Cutting and Meeker Boulevards. The contractor has started with the crosswalks and traffic arrows on Carlson Boulevard.

19. **Public Works Updates**

Parks and Landscaping Division: During the past several weeks, crews completed mulching vegetation from medians on Rydin Road and tree wells at Nicholl Park; performed infield diamond maintenance at Nicholl, Tiller and

Wendell Parks; prepared Shields-Reid Park for the North Richmond Green festival; prepared Nevin Park for the basketball tournament; prepared 34th Street at Esmond Avenue for Arbor Day; and completed turf renovation and irrigation repair work at the North Richmond ball field. All these events took place on October 22nd.



Bay Trail in the Marina District



North Richmond ball field



Robert H. Miller Drive

This past week, crews completed planting forty trees as part of the Arbor Day Planting Event; irrigation repairs and landscape planting on Esplanade Drive in the Marina; mulching vegetation from medians along Cutting Boulevard from 23rd Street to Carlson Boulevard; weed abatement on the Richmond Parkway center median from Parr Boulevard to Gertrude Avenue; and replacing damaged bleacher boards at Nicholl Park. Next week, crews will continue the median landscaping replacement project on Robert H. Miller and Blume Drives; weed abatement and vegetation management on the Richmond Parkway from the Giant Road overpass to Hilltop Drive; and the rehabilitation of the Marina Bay Trail.



Facilities Maintenance Division: During the past two weeks, electricians repaired a knocked down traffic signal on Macdonald Avenue and 37th Street; 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.

Electricians also completed the installation of the Hilltop District pylon sign new flood lights; continued providing support for the repairs of the Point Molate high voltage transformers that provide power to the Point Molate wastewater treatment plant; relamping Cutting Boulevard, and replaced wire due to wire theft on Bayside Drive.

Carpenters are remodeling the Art Center's Board Room and the utility section is currently cleaning carpets at the Civic Center Plaza Complex. They also installed three new operable windows at the Senior Center and continued working on partition walls at the Art Center's Board Room.

Painters pressure washed and painted the old Hilltop Mall Richmond Police Department trailer (now converted to the Hilltop District Park's trailer field office).

Engineers replaced damaged restroom fixtures in the Auditorium; reconnected water supply and sewer service to the new Hilltop District Park's trailer field office, and repaired a major AC system breakdown at the 450 Civic Center Plaza's Server Room. The utility section cleaned the carpet at the Richmond Dispatch Center.

Streets Division: During the past two weeks, paving crews completed paving Nevin Avenue from 46th Street to Carlston Street. They also completed resurfacing Coach Drive at Carriage Hills North. Next week, crews will be resurfacing Cutter Lane in the same neighborhood.

20. **Recreation Highlights**

Tennis: The Youth Tennis Center received 16 new rackets and several pairs of shoes, valued at \$1,500, from Mr. Don Hightower, President of the Tennis Warehouse. The Tennis Center was selected due to the exemplary performances by many of the students during various United States Tennis Association/Northern California Junior Tennis Tournaments.

The shoes will be given to participants in the after-school tennis program and the rackets will be used by the intermediate and advanced players participating in tournaments.

Community Basketball: A Call to Action, "Tri Every Angle to Reach Every Angle," (a 3-on-3 Community Basketball Tournament) was held at Nevin Park and the Community Center on Saturday, October 22nd. The program featured free breakfast and lunch, live music, raffles and other family activities.

Halloween: The Recreation Department's annual Hauntatorium will be held at the Richmond Auditorium on Friday, October 28th, and Saturday, October 29th, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM, with a Sunday matinee on October 30th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tickets will be \$5.

The Disabled People's Recreation Center and the Friends of Disabled Children co-sponsored their annual Halloween Dance on Friday, October 21st, at the Disabled People's Recreation Center. The multi-purpose room was decorated with a cemetery scene, and over 60 participants, plus their attendees, were dressed in amazing costumes. They enjoyed music, treats, and the biggest hit was the spider that continuously dropped from the ceiling above the dancers.

Garage Sale: On Saturday, October 15th, the Disabled People's Recreation Center and the Friends of Disabled Children co-sponsored the 6th Annual Garage Sale in El Cerrito. Donations from various donors contributed to a successful and prosperous event.

Camping: Three youth from the Nevin Center went on an overnight camping trip on October 22nd and 23rd, with 17 other youth from Oakland, Concord, Hayward, and the East Bay Regional Park District. The aim of the camp was to connect youth to nature through photography. The Udall Foundation gave each youth a camera to use for the trip, and they visited Mount Tamalpais State Park, Muir Woods, Rosie the Riveter SS Red Oak Victory Ship, Chabot Regional Park, Jack London Aquatic Center for kayaking and a closing ceremony.

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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