

The Habitat working group consisting of the FORA Board and administrative committees has met on a nearly weekly basis for the past month to determine the way ahead regarding habitat management on former Fort Ord properties. The group received a presentation about the potential costs to jurisdictions should they use the Habitat Management Plan instead of the HCP. Staff's belief is that the vast set of assumptions used in the modeling have not been vetted with the regulatory agencies. Their accuracy is questionable at best. It appears clear that any substantive work on HCP/HMP will take longer than FORA has left in its mandate. So an interim JPA appears to be the best way to continue the work. The group also reviewed a memo produced by outside council concerning potential litigation threats based on various scenarios to potentially certify the Habitat Conservation Plan EIR and approve the HCP as a project. The most viable course of action appears to be having the FORA Board certify the EIR, then leave the approval of the project, in whatever form it ultimately takes, to the interim-JPA. The group reviewed the draft interim-JPA agreement prepared by FORA staff. There was broad agreement that permittees' legal counsels should review the agreement, that language should be added concerning an escrow account and disposition of the \$17M in the habitat endowment. The goal is for the FORA board to consider the agreement in March and our City Council to consider the agreement in March or April. The next meeting of the Habitat working group will focus on the cost of a phased HCP. The group broadly agrees on the need for the FORA board to adopt the environmental documents when ready. The permittees agreed to develop an interim-JPA, for consideration by respective Councils that would be limited in authority to receiving and holding funds in an escrow account and developing the way forward. This way forward could entail a reduced scope and phased HCP or some other mechanism as determined by the JPA.

The FORA admin committee met last Wednesday to discuss the agreement between FORA and Seaside to nominate Seaside to the U.S. Army as the successor agency to FORA. The committee reviewed the agreement addressing concerns mainly from Marina and the County. The agreement was approved by the FORA board this month. The agreement prevented the loss of local land use jurisdictions controlling the transfer of remaining former-Army property to local land use jurisdictions.

Staff met several times with FORA staff concerning the South Boundary Road project. We are working to establish an escrow account with Fidelity National Title to receive and hold the funds from FORA to complete the project. We are also reviewing the Whitson Engineering contract with FORA staff. Both items are expected to be brought to the FORA board in March for action before being brought to City Council for consideration in March or April.

Staff spoke with both the McKellar-McGowan and Borelli development teams about the way ahead. Staff will finalize a letter to both outlining a structured due-diligence period of 60 days, leading to draft exclusive negotiating agreements from each team. Staff will bring the draft agreements to Council for discussion and guidance when ready.

Public Works repaired vandalism damage to the volleyball net in the park and removed some deadfall from our walkway easements. Last week saw the return of Seaside Pony League

teams for practice on the ballfield. A very welcome sight! Public Works installed a new drinking fountain with bottle filling station at the park. Ron also removed the Lions head for refurbishment and to repair the plumbing. Public Works planted beautiful new flowers in both of the City's monument signs, patched several pot holes on South Boundary Road, and cleared brush from our walk way easements.

The Planning Commission met to discuss the sign ordinance. Chair Donaldson did excellent preparatory work and led a good discussion with public input and commissioner views. Staff will draft a revision for the next Planning Commission meeting for continued discussion and ultimately presentation to the City Council.

Staff met with the Monterey Regional Waste Management District and representatives from Greenwaste. The cost based readjustment is completed and there will be no increase this year for Del Rey Oaks customers. Rates will adjust on July 1st and though we don't have those rates yet, they will likely be based on CPI. Great news for our customers!

Area City Manager's met to discuss a response to the revised Growth Forecast and Water Demand document from the Water Management District. It is clear that this review will require expertise not resident on our staffs, but is vital to our Housing Element and any future growth. Managers responded to the Water Management District Manager's request for review of the revised Growth Forecast and Water Demand document by suggesting that an independent third party analyze the document, that it be shared with the Seaside Basin Watermaster, State Water Board and CPUC for review. The response was shared with Council.

I attended the League of Cities City Managers Department Conference last week. There were many helpful discussions about PERS unfunded liabilities, homelessness, and public outreach and communication. HCD presented regarding housing. There is a strong continued push from the State level to address housing stock throughout the State. The City will continue to apply for grants to support future housing element updates, and associated ordinance updates.

The AMBAG Planning Directors Forum was held last week. AMBAG provided guidance to Cities concerning State grant programs to support planning and housing. The City will apply for a \$60,000 grant ahead of the July deadline, and compete for regional grant funds that will be distributed by AMBAG and several other regional COGs.

Our regional risk management pool held its quarterly meeting last week. We discussed cyber attack coverage, which we are increasing as a group, at a very marginal cost to each agency. This will provide us replacement coverage for servers and work stations in the event of an attack that renders them useless.

Chief and I attended a City Manager-Police Chief Conference in San Luis Obispo Thursday and Friday of last week. It was an excellent opportunity to see best practices for emergency operations planning.

Staff attended the Monterey Regional Parks District workshop on FORTAG Wednesday and spoke during public comment.

Council will hold its next Strategic Planning session on Tuesday March 3rd from 8:30 to 3.

The next Coffee with the City Manager is March 10th at 6pm at City Hall. Please come and share your thoughts about the City.

Finally, we are starting to pull together the Spring edition of the Acorn. Look for it in early to mid April.