

## **City Manager's Weekly Report**

### **Mayor and Councilmembers:**

This is the weekly report for the week ending March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

#### **1. Meeting Notes**

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, with the sole agenda item being whether or not a casino use will continue to be considered at Pt. Molate. Because a large public turnout is expected at this meeting, we are making plans to use the Auditorium instead of the City Council Chambers. We will have a special meeting to consider other business items on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and will resume the regular meeting schedule beginning on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

In the meantime, enjoy the off night next Tuesday.

#### **2. City of Richmond 2011 Community Survey**

The City Council-authorized 2011 Richmond Community Survey is underway.

One of the best ways to improve Richmond's services is to ask the people that live here what they think. Within the next few weeks, questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of 3,000 Richmond households asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of city services.

The purpose of the survey is to help city officials evaluate services, measure resident satisfaction with current services, and to help plan for Richmond's future.

The results from the survey will be included in a final report available to all city officials, staff and residents. Residents can contact the city at (510) 620-2783 with questions, comments, or to obtain a survey in Spanish. If you, or someone you know, receive a survey, we would greatly appreciate it if you would complete and return it. Your input can help make the City of Richmond a better place to live, work and play.

#### **3. CPRS Award of Excellence for Facility Design**

The California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) held their 2011 Annual Awards Recognition Banquet on March 11<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento. The banquet culminated with the annual California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference where CPRS recognized agencies that displayed excellence in park planning, facility design, recreation programming, marketing activities, as well as individuals, organizations, and companies who advance the message, "Parks Make Life Better!" On behalf of the Recreation Department, Director Keith Jabari, Recreation Supervisor Kris Lofthus, and Recreation Program Coordinator for the Aquatics division Arcia Yee, attended the awards banquet to proudly receive the CPRS Award of Excellence for Facility Design for the rehabilitation of the Richmond Natatorium (The Plunge).

Although the Recreation Department has been the recipient of several awards from the CPRS District 3, this is the Department's first statewide recognition award.

4. **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**

The renovation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park is progressing toward a May 7<sup>th</sup> grand opening. The turf installation for the football/soccer field was completed this week. Parks and Landscaping staff received special training on the maintenance of the first field of this type to be owned by the city. The new restroom facility is now in place, and brick pavers have been installed around 80% of the facility. Next week's activities should include installation of over two dozen trees and surfacing the running track.

Even as a work in progress, this project merits a "windshield visit" – it looks great.

5. **Downtown Redevelopment Update**

The revitalization kickoff for the Miraflores Housing Development is this coming Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM at South 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Florida Avenue. The theme is "Honoring the Past, Creating a New Beginning."

The BART garage construction at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue is well underway, with over 700 piles driven to complete a major portion of the foundation. Vertical columns and panels are now going up. The recent rain has slowed work a bit, but construction is still scheduled for completion in spring 2012.

The Lillie Mae Jones Plaza development at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue, consisting of 26 units of affordable transitional housing, is on schedule for completion of construction in May, and a grand opening event is being planned for June or July.

The East Bay Center for the Performing Arts (EBCPA) Project at 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue is nearing completion, and EBCPA staff plans to begin moving back in during April. A soft opening is scheduled for June, and a major celebration is being planned for October.

The grand re-opening of the Carquinez Affordable Senior Housing Project (at Harbour Way and Nevin Avenue) is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. Save the date.

Kaiser Permanente plans to commence construction of their temporary parking facility at 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Macdonald Avenue (the former J.C. Penney site) on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All Nevin Avenue streetscape improvements from Harbour Way to the inter-modal BART/Amtrak/Bus station are now complete.

*(Editor's note: These are the types of projects that the State is considering getting rid of by discontinuing redevelopment agencies. I'm sympathetic to the State's financial problems, but redevelopment can be reformed on a statewide basis without ending its important and legitimate uses – especially in the City of Richmond, which has made responsible investments of its redevelopment dollars.)*

6. **Recruitment for the Subaru Project at the Port of Richmond**

Richmond's Employment & Training department staff assisted Auto Warehousing Company (AWC) in hosting four information sessions for applicants interested in applying for jobs for the recently approved Subaru project. The project is slated to create 30 new jobs, of which a minimum of 35% will be filled by qualified Richmond residents. A total of 121 residents attended the recruitment sessions, and 90 of them elected to complete an application.

The jobs being recruited for include shaggers/drivers, accessory, and rail associates. The minimum requirements for the positions include possession of a valid California Driver's License, the ability to read and write, and the ability to pass a driver's safety test at 80% or better. All three classifications are represented by the Teamsters Local Union 315, and have a pay scale range between \$11.00 and \$16.00 an hour, plus benefits.

Richmond residents who could not attend the information sessions, and who are interested in applying, can go the Port of Richmond's guard gate at 1311 Canal Boulevard and complete an application Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

7. **March 2011 Sales Tax Data**

For the third quarter in a row, every region in California experienced increases in sales tax cash receipts compared to the same quarter a year ago. Richmond increased by 12.1%, Northern California increased by 7.2% and Southern California increased by 6.0% resulting in a statewide increase of 6.5%.

The cash receipts analysis report below presents performance information for Richmond and the major regions in California by quarter, fiscal year to date and benchmark year.

**CITY OF RICHMOND**

Sales Tax Net Cash Receipts: Three Advances Plus "Clean-Up" Payment

	FISCAL YEAR TO DATE				MOST RECENT FOUR QUARTER TOTAL			
	Jul-09 thru	Jul-10 thru		%	Apr-09 thru	Apr-10 thru		%
	Mar-10	Mar-11	\$ Chg	Chg	Mar-10	Mar-11	\$ Chg	Chg
Calendar Sales Quarter >	3 Quarters	3 Quarters						
<b>CITY OF RICHMOND</b>	<b>8,752,289</b>	<b>9,813,694</b>	<b>1,061,405</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11,207,219</b>	<b>12,109,749</b>	<b>902,530</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>CONTRA COSTA CO.</b>	<b>89,238,938</b>	<b>90,848,091</b>	<b>1,609,153</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>116,534,157</b>	<b>117,351,091</b>	<b>816,934</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>S.F. BAY AREA *</b>	<b>765,405,417</b>	<b>820,590,745</b>	<b>55,185,328</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>996,035,876</b>	<b>1,056,648,319</b>	<b>60,612,443</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>NORTHERN CALIF</b>	<b>1,477,690,524</b>	<b>1,573,511,112</b>	<b>95,820,588</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1,925,290,342</b>	<b>2,025,655,595</b>	<b>100,365,253</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>SOUTHERN CALIF</b>	<b>1,983,645,627</b>	<b>2,089,781,884</b>	<b>106,136,257</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>2,611,337,703</b>	<b>2,718,011,032</b>	<b>106,673,329</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,461,336,151</b>	<b>3,663,292,996</b>	<b>201,956,845</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4,536,628,045</b>	<b>4,743,666,627</b>	<b>207,038,582</b>	<b>4.6</b>

**8. Downtown Champion**

Janet Johnson, Senior Business Assistance Officer with the Community & Economic Redevelopment Agency, has been named a "Downtown Champion" as part of the Downtown Champions Legacy Project. This program is managed by the Richmond Main Street Initiative, and the award acknowledges Janet's "hard work and vision for making significant improvements Downtown," said Richmond Main Street Initiative Executive Director Amanda Elliot.

The Richmond Main Street Initiative will present the Downtown Champions Legacy Project, with other Iron Triangle Legacy projects, at the reopening of the East Bay Center in October. Students from ArtsChange and the East Bay Center for Performing Arts will conduct interviews, which will be filmed to create visual art pieces to tell the story of Downtown Richmond. The Richmond Main Street Initiative will produce and archive a series of multi-media visual and digital presentations of residents, civic leaders and business owners who have made significant contributions downtown.

Congratulations to Janet Johnson for her significant contributions to Richmond's downtown.

**9. Recreation Highlights**

Boxing: On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Recreation Department and the Richmond Police Activities League successfully partnered to bring amateur boxing to the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. Teams from around the Bay Area, and as far away as Roseville, competed in the event. Approximately 700 spectators enjoyed 14 action-filled bouts in varying divisions.

Zumba: The Recreation Department is now hosting Zumba Fitness Classes from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, every Tuesday and Thursday at the Richmond Recreation

Complex, and from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, every Saturday at the Nevin Community Center.

Maya's Spring Music Festival: The Disabled Person's Recreation Center will be hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Maya's Spring Music Festival on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the Richmond Recreation Complex. Attendees will enjoy music, fun, and food while celebrating the talents and accomplishments of Maya's Music Therapy Fund participants.

Swim Team: On March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Aquatics division enhanced their current partnership with the Kennedy High School Athletic Department by hosting practices for the new swim team. The team practices at the Richmond Swim Center at 6:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

## 10. Public Works Updates

Facilities: The painters continue painting the interior of the Parchester Community Center. Carpenters have been assisting at several city facilities to address minor leaks and flooding.

Electrical: The re-lamping on San Pablo Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street is complete. Crews repaired the traffic controllers damaged by this week's storms on Cutting Boulevard and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, on the Richmond Parkway, and at Gate 31 at the Chevron refinery entrance.

Parks and Landscaping: Next week, crews will remove damaged play structures from Shields Reid and Atchison Village Parks. Crews will perform weed control on Barrett, Macdonald and Central Avenues' underpasses. Crews will continue with median clean up and irrigation repairs along the medians on Carlson Boulevard between Bayview Avenue and Cutting Boulevard. Weeding and pruning will be done at Kern and Burg Parks and the Richmond Parkway, and weed abatement will be done in the Hilltop Business District.

The tree trimming crew responded last week to three emergency tree removal calls as the result of this week's storms on Solano, Panama and Coalinga Avenues. Next week, the crew will work on Gilma, Grove and Parker Avenues. Park crews will complete the North Richmond Ball Field restrooms repairs.

Streets: The paving crews have been very busy addressing potholes and flooding as the result of this week's storms. This coming weekend, the paving crews will continue on storm patrols. Next week, they will be resurfacing 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Chanslor Avenue to Macdonald Boulevard.

Sand Bags: Sand bags are available at the Public Works Corporation Yard gates for this coming weekend's storms.

A very busy and wet week for Public Works crews!

11. **Community Budget Meetings**

The City is, once again, planning a number of community meetings in May to present and gather input on the City’s annual budget and long-term financial plan. The table below reflects the neighborhood council groups, meeting time, date and location of the presentations.

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>Tentative/Confirmed Date</b>
<b>Bold typeface depicts host neighborhood</b>	
RNCC General Board Meeting	Monday, May 9 – 7 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: Comm’y Services Building, 330 25 <sup>th</sup> Street, Room 1
<b>Marina Bay</b> and Point Richmond	Wednesday, May 11 – 7:30 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: Harbormaster’s Office, 1340 Marin Way South
Pullman, Cortez Stege, <b>Park Plaza</b> , Laurel Park, Parkview, and Eastshore	Thursday, May 12 – 7 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: Easter Hill Church, 3911 Cutting Boulevard
<b>Parchester Village</b>	Saturday, May 14 – 11 a.m. <i>(tentative)</i> Parchester Comm’y Center – 900 Williams Dr.
<b>Iron Triangle</b> , Santa Fe, Coronado, Atchison Village, City Center and Shields-Reid	Thursday, May 19 – 5:30 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: Nevin Comm’y Center, 598 Nevin Avenue
Belding Woods, <b>North and East</b> , Richmond Heights, Richmore Village	Thursday, May 19 – 7 p.m. <i>(tentative)</i> Location: Recreation Complex, 3230 Macdonald Avenue
Panhandle Annex, <b>Richmond Annex</b> , and Southwest Annex	Thursday, May 26 – 7 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: Annex Senior Center, 5801 Huntington
Greenridge, <b>May Valley</b> , El Sobrante Hills, Castro Heights, Greenbrier, Carriage Hills North and South	Thursday, May 26 – 8 p.m. <i>(confirmed)</i> Location: May Valley Community Center, 3530 Morningside Drive
Hilltop Bayview, <b>Hilltop Green (tentative)</b> , Fairmede Hilltop, Quail Hill and Hasford Heights	To be determined

*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!***

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