

The Friday Letter: December 11, 2015

Sunset Center Campus Plan:

The Sunset Center Campus Plan Leadership Group met on Wednesday. The group noted that a more detailed understanding of the program needs and program options for both the Monterey Museum of Art and the Library is required before proceeding further in the Master Planning process.

Beach Fires Hearing at the Coastal Commission:

In a 12/8/15 letter to the Coastal Commission, City staff formally requested a continuance of the Beach Fire Management Pilot Program discussion to a future Coastal Commission meeting. While a continuance was requested, the City also requested that the Commission provide direction to their staff on the suitability of a propane-only option for beach fires, with the hope that a more supportive staff recommendation will result when this item returns to the Coastal Commission.

At today's meeting the Coastal Commission voted 5-4 not to approve staff recommendations for a coastal development permit. The expectation is that the City staff will work with the Coastal Commission staff to refine and provide additional information on a propane pilot program. Upon implementing a revised pilot program, the city will need to submit a new Coastal Development application which will be heard at a later date by the Coastal Commission.

Beach Security:

We have cancelled all beach security patrols until spring. Our numbers indicate very few users/violators. Police patrol will continue to conduct periodic patrol checks for illegal fires and slope cutting while the moratorium is still in effect.

CPUC Resolution Resolves Appeal of PG&E:

On December 8, 2015 the CPUC granted Pacific Gas and Electric Company's request to dismiss their appeal regarding the March 3rd 2014 incident. The request was affirmed and the penalty assessment by the Safety Enforcement Division (SED) was also affirmed which means PG&E will be required to pay the citation fine amount of \$10,850,000 in full within 30 days to the State Treasury.

Finance RFP:

City staff held a pre-proposal conference on Dec 10 to answer questions pertaining to the finance system RFP. Several possible proposers expressed concern regarding the compressed schedule. Accordingly, the proposal due date has been extended by one week to Jan 15. However, staff still intends to bring a recommendation forward to Council in March.

Carmel Beach:

This past week- Carmel Beach has experienced both High Tides and large waves. We have had periods of time where the waves have been up to the retaining walls south of 10th. As a result of the Friday wave activity and high tide the stairwells south of 12th have been closed by Public Works. These stairwells will be reopened on Monday when Public Works Crews can assess the damage done from the wave activity.

As beautiful as it is to view the waves and take pictures. Please use caution when venturing close to the water in order to get a better view. Waves vary in size and they are unpredictable. The high tides and high surf create dangerous situation quickly. Use caution as you venture to the beach and don't turn your back on the ocean. Even walking on the beach can be dangerous as large waves push the water much farther up the beach than we are accustomed to.

A High Surf advisory is in effect until Saturday Morning, meaning continued high waves and dangerous situations.