



From the City Manager's Desk

a weekly report from Scott Ochoa, City of Monrovia



December 1, 2006

December 5 City Council Meeting Preview/New Public Library Discussion

The major issue on the upcoming City Council agenda is the discussion of the proposed new Monrovia Public Library. Specifically, three items will be discussed: an overview of the project to this point, including the Council's discussion and review of the exterior elevations of the proposed building; an overview of the recently conducted telephone survey that will be used to gauge voters' support of a special funding measure for the construction of the new public library; and, pending the discussion on those two items, the Council's consideration of a ballot measure relating to the imposition of a special tax for the design, construction, and furnishing of the new public library.

Obviously, this is a major topic and we've cleared off much of the rest agenda in order to allow the Council the opportunity to focus the majority of its time and attention on this subject. This project has been quite a long time in discussions, and even longer in the making; and I am excited about the opportunity to present the relevant financial, operational, and architectural material to the Council for consideration. Additionally, although we are squarely focused on the future of the library, I think it is important to spend some degree of time during the meeting reflecting on how we got to where we are.

The Library project began in earnest in the mid-1990's, through a series of community visioning sessions, stakeholder meetings, and customer-driven studies that were used to determine the (then) current needs, wants, strengths and weaknesses of the Library, and what they could be in the future. In other words, if a new library was to be built, what would it need to be to help ensure its viability and relevance for years to come? From these assessments, we were able to generate a building program, a work program, and even an architectural concept of what the new building could look like.

All of this activity culminated in an aggressive lobbying program to try and secure matching grant funding from the State of California through the Library Bond Act of 2000. Over the following three years, the City Council and Library Board worked very hard to obtain a State grant. Unfortunately, Monrovia was unsuccessful in obtaining funding – as was practically every other city in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Then in the Spring of 2005, the City Council and Library Board re-grouped on this issue and determined that Monrovia must try and live within its own means and depend only upon itself for the construction of a new public library. Thus, the library project was scaled back significantly – yet still large enough to make sense operationally – and staff began a series of working sessions with the Library Board and public regarding what the next step of the Monrovia Public Library would be. The community has followed along in this project as we have brought back proposed floor plans, space allocations, and now, exterior elevations, to the Library Board and the Council.

Additionally, the telephone survey that was recently conducted included more than 500 randomly selected high propensity voters in an effort to adequately gauge how Monrovia voters felt about a new library and the cost to build it. As the data will show on Tuesday night, a significant majority of residents believe that the time has come to build a new library. Thus, if the Council were to take all of this material in consideration and decide in the affirmative, December 5 is the last day for the Council to add the question regarding a special tax to build a library onto the March General Municipal Election ballot. Again, this is a very exciting time and I'm sure we will have many people on hand who want to comment on this measure and I think this will prove a very worthwhile and interesting case study as to how local projects get done at the local level.

The balance of the meeting focuses on land use entitlements for the Redevelopment Agency's Monrovista Avenue projects, historic preservation designations, and a few other items that have been brought up in the past by the City Council, ranging from additional service hours for the community at City Hall to the implementation of an anti-graffiti program modeled on the Police Department's existing Gun Bounty Program. It will be a great meeting and I hope to see many Monrovians there.

Old Town Construction Update

Construction continues to hum along in Phase IV of the six-phase Old Town Renovation Program. As you may recall, the City was originally going to suspend construction activity through the holiday season, however, merchants in the 100 and 200 blocks (on the east-side of Myrtle Avenue) had petitioned to get the construction over with as soon as possible – even if it meant working beyond Thanksgiving and through the end of the calendar year. Construction crews have obliged and we are well underway with the reconstruction of the 100 and 200 blocks on the east side Myrtle Avenue.

At this point, the anticipated completion date for Phase IV would be December 22. At the same time, landscape crews are continuing to prepare the planter areas in Phases I and II for the landscape material that will be planted in the coming days. Thus far, we have only had one rain day and if our luck holds, we will continue to stay ahead of schedule and on budget for this important project.

At the same time, Colorado Commons excavation continues with much of the subterranean portion of the parking garage now dug. We have several more days of excavation and crews are doing their best to keep the site wet and the truckloads of dirt moist in order to keep dust down during the Santa Ana wind periods of the late afternoon. As always, if you have any questions about any of the construction activity going on in Old Town, please feel free to give me a call.

City Council Involvement Pays Off

We just received word this week from Councilman Joe Garcia that State Department of Housing & Community Development Secretary Lynne Jacobs will be touring Monrovia in early February 2007. This news is huge, considering the recent passage of the State infrastructure and housing bonds last month. By getting Secretary Jacobs to come to Monrovia and witness the significant investment that we are attracting to the community, I believe that Monrovia will become a case study or other communities and the will hopefully attract a significant amount of the competitive transit and housing resources.

Of course, this is made possible by Joe's participation with the League of California Cities, where he chairs (for the second year in a row) the Housing and Community Development Committee. Similarly, the balance of Monrovia's Council is also very much engaged in regional affairs that generate great value to the community – Mayor Pro Tem Mary Ann Lutz serves on the Regional Water Quality Control Board, advocating for cities and local control; Councilman Dan Kirby serves on the Foothill Transit Board of Directors, and was instrumental in bringing significant grant dollars to Monrovia for the upgrade of our bus stops and shelters; Councilman Tom Adams is a recognized

authority in the regional real estate industry and is actively sought out by the press and local boards of realtors for comment and advice; and Mayor Rob Hammond has for some time helped steer Monrovia closer and closer to the Gold Line's success.

Speaking of Mayor Hammond, this week he traveled to San Francisco with members of the Monrovia Unified School District and the local non-profit organization, Monrovia Reads, to accept the prestigious Golden Bell Award on behalf of the community. Obviously, collaboration and partnerships exist both within Monrovia as well as with agencies outside our borders. Great job and congratulations to the Monrovia Reads team!

Employee Recognition Event

I wanted to pass along to everyone the names and job titles of some very special Monrovia City employees. This past week, the City held its Annual Employee Recognition Event and rather than simply make awards to the three "Employees of the Year" (one for Field, one for Office, and one for Safety); this year, the employees agreed that we should do more to recognize various types of achievements throughout the organization. Thus, in addition to the Office Employee of the Year—Diane Delmatoff, the Safety Employee of the Year—Alex Perenishko, and the Field Employee of the Year—Shawn Igoe, we also had the following categories and awardees:

- Department Achievement Award: Public Works Department
- Achievement Award: Brannigan Scott
- Rookie of the Year Award: Scott Haberle
- Old Pro Award: Barbara Lynch
- Office Customer Service Award: Natalie Nocom
- Field Customer Service Award: John Ogden
- Safety Customer Service Award: Kenneth Struckus
- Community Impact Award: Thomas Loy
- Professional Development Award: Brad Dover
- Unsung Hero Award: Daniel McConnell
- Leadership Award: Sheila Spicer-Battice
- Leadership Award: Kerri Zessau
- Leadership Award: Shawn Thrasher
- Leadership Award: Buffy Bullis
- Leadership Award: Darlene Sanchez
- Hourly Employee of the Year: Robert Gonzalez
- Volunteer Employee of the Year: Don Kinch

I am very proud of each one of these deserving employees and they too should be very proud, knowing that they were selected from among a phonebook-size stack of nominations from their fellow employees. Thus, we have many, many stars on our team, but these employees – this year – this shone the brightest. Congratulations to all, and great job through 2006 by the entire Monrovia team.

Articles Attached

- **Gold is Better—Light Rail User Survey Shows Preference Over Car Use.**
- **Audit Clears COG, Conway.**
- **Gold Line Needs a Long Reach.**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Historic Preservation Meeting Recap

The following items were heard at the November 29 Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission:

- **Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract-HL-108/MA-102-311 Wildrose Avenue, Property Owners Stephen and Janet Tatarowski.** The Commission recommended approval of these two Craftsman homes built by the Tifal Brothers in 1911 and 1913. This is the ninth property on Wildrose to be nominated for historic landmark designation.



- **Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract-HL-109/MA-103-138 Poppy Avenue, Property Owners Steve & Lynn Shotrosky.** The Commission continued the landmarking of this 1924 California Bungalow. The Bungalow is worthy of landmarking based on the architectural criteria if fully restored from public view. The applicant stated he will remove the asbestos shingles and restore the redwood siding in the next few months and come back for a recommendation of approval to the City Council.



- **Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract-HL-110/MA-104-844 East Foothill Blvd., Property Owners John & Carol Faire.** The Commission recommended approval of this 1910 Craftsman house after adding restoration conditions for the river rock pilasters and trellis.



- **Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract HL-111/MA-105-328 Highland Place, Property Owner Espi Bagwell.** The Commission recommended approval of this Tudor Revival style Cotswold Cottage home built in 1927. The house is unique and meticulously restored.



- **Historic Landmark/Mills Act Contract HL-112/MA-106-121 May, Property Owners Enoch & Annette Martinez.** The Commission continued the landmarking of this simple one-story house built in 1916 as it generally felt that the house lacked the architectural criteria for an historic landmark. The Commission and Staff will determine if it meets any additional criteria in the next month.



- **Extension of Condition Request – 130 North Myrtle, Steve and Shannon Milazzo, Applicants.** The applicants purchased the home three years ago and were unable to seismically retrofit the home by the 10-year deadline. They were granted one additional year to complete the retrofit .
- **Library Review.** The proposed Library was presented to the Commission for information. Commissioners Winn and Shea were thanked for all their help on the development of the architecture for the proposed library.

Building Division Update

Seventy-five permits were issued for the month of October for a total valuation of \$2,787,448 bringing the total valuation to date to \$9,120,425. Fees collected were \$51,703.29, for a total to date of \$252,588.54.

Building inspection requests continue to increase. The Division has made a total of 3,137 inspections to date. This is an increase of 38.8% compared to last year's 2,259 at the same time. The primary reason for the increase is the issuance of 37 new single family homes. The Division has issued a total of 32 out of 47 Certificates of Occupancy for the Royal Oaks Planned Unit Development.

COMMUNITY SERVICES HAPPENINGS

RECREATION DIVISION

Hop Aboard the Holiday Bus with the Monrovia Seniors At 7 p.m. on Friday, December 15, the bus will leave the Monrovia Community Center for a fun, holiday light tour. Bus riders will enjoy hot coffee, cocoa and holiday cookies as they travel through Monrovia. This holiday home light tour will include a view of the homes that participated in the Holiday Home Happening Decorating Contest. The \$2 fee will guarantee a seat aboard the bus. You can purchase your ticket at the Monrovia Community Center and call (626) 256-8246 for additional information.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest Monrovia residents are invited to enter their homes in the Department of Community Services annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest. The contest will take place on Monday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. and applications must be received no later than noon on that day. Homes will be judged in the following categories: *Best Neighborhood Effort, Toyland Award, Best Decorated Outdoor Tree, Best Decorated Indoor Tree, Most Effective Use of Lighting, Best Traditional Display, Best Decorated Window Display, Best Outdoor Display, Children's Choice Award, Best Still Display, The Snowman Award and The Tim McKeehan Best of the Holiday Season.*

Decorations must be visible from the street. Locations of all applications and winning homes will be marked on a holiday tour map. Winning homes will receive a decorated sign to display in their yard throughout the holiday season. Winners of the contest will be recognized at the December 19 City Council meeting. Applications are available at the Monrovia Community Center, 119 W. Palm Avenue. For more information please contact 626.256.8246.

Santa Letters The holidays are just around the corner and Santa is waiting for you to write him this year. If you do, he will be glad to write you back. Letters must be received by December 18 to be answered by Christmas Eve. Send your letters to:

*"Santa Clause", c/o Monrovia Community Center
119 W. Palm Ave. Monrovia CA 91016*

For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at 626.256.8246

Santa Visits Santa has set aside time in his busy schedule to visit good little boys and girls. Santa will be thrilled to visit your home or business. Registration for Santa Visits has begun and will run through December 15. For a \$25 resident fee or \$35 non-resident fee, Santa will join your festivities for a 20 minute visit. Reservations must be made at least one week prior to scheduled visit. Sorry, no phone registrations are accepted. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Personnel responded to 66 emergency calls from 0800 hours November 15, to 0800 hours November 29. Significant incidents are as follows:

Gunshot Victim. On Friday, November 17 firefighters responded to a teenage male suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. The victim ran from the location and collapsed in a driveway on Walnut Avenue. The teen was transported to Huntington Memorial Trauma Center for treatment of his injuries.

Multiple Victim Traffic Collision. On Sunday afternoon firefighters responded to a traffic collision roll-over at the intersection of Duarte Road and Mayflower Avenue. On arrival, firefighters found an SUV on its side with a light pole down. There were two vehicles involved and a total of five patients,

including two children. Two patients were sent to L.A. County USC Trauma Center, and two were sent to Arcadia Methodist Hospital for evaluation. The solo driver of the other vehicle was evaluated at the scene, but was not transported to the hospital.

Fatal Traffic Collision. On Sunday afternoon while clearing from a roll-over traffic collision, firefighters were dispatched to a traffic collision with an occupant trapped. Upon arrival, firefighters found a compact car that had struck a parked tractor-trailer at a high rate of speed. Firefighters were faced with a complex extrication and patient that had massive blunt force injuries. The patient's condition deteriorated quickly, and he died shortly after arrival at Arcadia Methodist Hospital.

OPERATIONS

Construction of the steel building that will house department apparatus at the temporary fire station has been completed. Garage doors have been ordered and will be installed within the next few weeks.

Three mobile housing units that Fire Department personnel will use as a temporary station were delivered on Tuesday. The units will be set-up over the next two days including the installation of a power pole that will be used to run power lines to the units.

FIRE PREVENTION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

The Prevention Bureau met with the sprinkler contractors for the Colorado Commons Project. They discussed the complicated fire protection associated with this type of project. They will continue to meet as the design process continues over the next couple of weeks.

The Prevention Work Group met this week regarding the 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant. This is a grant designed around fire prevention and safety. The department is seeking grant monies to enhance the reduction of hazardous vegetation in the foothills. The Group is also looking at successful grants from other agencies and evaluating new programs to incorporate into the grant request.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

On Friday November 17, Firefighter/Paramedics Shawn Morton and Jeremy Phipps attended the Senior Health Fair at the Community Center. They provided blood pressure checks for numerous senior citizens. During the event, several seniors inquired about having smoke detectors installed. Shawn and Jeremy have completed most of those installations.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The Thanksgiving holiday was a special time, having celebrated with family and friends. Unfortunately the on-duty personnel did not get to enjoy their turkey dinner with family members because of a heavy call volume during the day, but the spirit of togetherness was evident. The Department was also excited to view the one-hour Thanksgiving special on the hit TLC television show "Take-Home-Chef" which showcased the cooking talents of Monrovia Fire Department's bravest and made instant stars of several firefighters. It was a great television show and the guys once again made the City proud (see attached letter of appreciation from the production company)!

In terms of Fire Department activities, the Department is well positioned to receive grant funding for radio interoperability upgrades that had previously been denied, the temporary fire station project is moving along nicely and our strategic plan is nearing completion.

A Los Angeles Area Fire Chief's (LAAFC) meeting was held last Monday and the topic of surplus grant funds was discussed. To date, more than \$3 million of unused Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds was available, with the agreement to purchase radio equipment for fire department interoperability. In the ensuing discussion the needs of Monrovia Fire was brought up and a request for 16 mobile and 28 portable radios, as well as necessary software to upgrade 12 existing portable radios, was made.

What is important to note is the fact that Monrovia is not considered a UASI eligible city for federal grant funding based on our location (UASI is a federal homeland security grant for major metropolitan areas, such as Los Angeles and those cities within eight miles of the host jurisdiction). It appears that our needs are substantial enough to garner support to become compatible with the other cities within the Verdugo communication system, related to radio interoperability, and surplus UASI grants funds may be used to purchase the necessary radio equipment to make Monrovia interoperable within the region. We'll keep you posted.

As described earlier, the temporary fire station project is in full swing with the Butler Building nearing completion, the temporary trailers used for living space and offices are on scene and utilities will be hooked up next week. We are still shooting for the second or third week in December to make the move, but this may be pushed back to the first of the year, depending on how smoothly things go. We'll keep you posted on this project as well.

Finally, the Department has been hard at work developing the Five-Year Strategic Plan. All three shifts went through extensive meetings to discuss several pertinent topics and solicit feedback from all members of the department. The business sector will be asked for feedback this week as a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce has been set and we will ask fellow Department Managers and City Council members to respond to a short survey in hopes of reaching as many stakeholders as possible, related to the demands and opportunities placed before this organization in the next five years.

Fire Attachment:

- **Letter of Thanks!**

ON THE POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven day period, the Police Department handled 454 calls for service resulting in 125 investigations. Following are this week's highlighted issues and events:

Traffic Collision / Driving Under the Influence. On November 23 at 1634 hours, dispatch received a call regarding a subject who had crashed his vehicle in the 1600 block of Duarte Road at Mayflower Avenue. Officers responded to the area and located the involved vehicle at Fano and Mayflower. The driver of the vehicle displayed signs of intoxication. No other vehicle was involved in the collision, and the driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Warrant Arrest. On November 23 at 8:40 p.m., an officer attempted to stop a bicyclist in the 100 block of East Evergreen. The bicyclist fled toward Myrtle and crashed into a vehicle at the red light. The suspect tried to run southbound on Myrtle but was stopped by the officer. The suspect had an outstanding warrant for a home invasion robbery in Saginaw, Michigan. Saginaw officials were willing to extradite and the suspect was arrested.

Theft from Vehicle. On November 24 at 1:21 p.m., an officer responded to the 400 block of Violet regarding this incident. On his arrival, he was told by the reporting party that her vehicle had been broken into and items taken from inside of it. There were no signs of forced entry, and only the

vehicle registration and insurance card were taken. The subject was unsure of whether she had locked the vehicle.

Fraud Incident. On November 24 at 1:28 p.m., a business in the 100 block of West Huntington reported a male subject attempting to cash four \$900 money orders that were fraudulent. Officers arrived and two subjects were detained. An employee from the business told the officers he had called the 800 number printed on the money orders, and he was told the money orders were legitimate; however, they had not yet been issued to anyone to sell. The subject was transported to the Police Station for further investigation. The subject explained that he is renting a room and had listed it on the internet. He had received several emails from a female who wants to rent it. The female told the subject she would send him money up front, in the way of money orders, for him to hold the room and to remove the add from the internet. He received the money orders and went to cash them. Apparently, the money orders have been stolen. The subject's story was verified, and he was released from detention. The investigation is continuing.

Robbery. On November 25, police received a call from a resident in the 400 block of North Grand Avenue reporting three male subjects were at her house claiming they were just robbed at gunpoint. One of the males called and reported that he and his friends were just robbed at gunpoint by three male suspects, approximately 18 years old. One of the victims was missing his wallet. The suspects had robbed the victims and fled the area. Investigation continuing.

Receiving Stolen Property / Warrant Arrest. November 25 at 7:45 p.m., the manager of a local motel reported unauthorized people in a room. An officer responded and was able to detain three of the suspects. The female suspect had an outstanding warrant for her arrest and was taken into custody. While looking through the room, officers found drugs, drug paraphernalia and two bundles of various drivers' licenses and credit cards. An investigation revealed several cards had been stolen in robberies and vehicle burglaries throughout the area. The suspects were charged with receiving stolen property.

Critical Missing Person Report. On November 27 at 4:19 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of North Myrtle Avenue on a missing person report for an 11-year-old girl. The mother called police to report her daughter overdue. The mother told officers she had grounded her daughter, and she might not be coming home for that reason. After an extensive search and investigation it was found that the juvenile had gone to the father's and was eventually returned safely.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon. On November 27 at 11:51 p.m., a subject and his wife were walking in the 600 block of King Street. They noticed a dark colored Camaro in the middle of the street. There was a male with a shaved head and tattoos speaking with the female driver. The Camaro sped off east bound on King Street. The male victim commented to his wife on how fast the vehicle was traveling. As the vehicle passed them, the male suspect brandished a black semi-automatic handgun and pointed it at the couple and threatened. The suspect then fled. Officers conducted a detailed search of the area. Investigation continuing.

Robbery. On November 28 at 10:59 p.m., a tall suspect with a thin build wearing dark clothing and brandishing a black semi-automatic handgun robbed an employee of a business in the 2600 block of South Peck Road and took cash from the register. The employee handed the suspect the coin drawer out of the register. As the suspect held the coin drawer, he fumbled with it and according to the employee inadvertently fired one round into the ceiling. The suspect dropped the coin tray and fled westbound on Jefferies Avenue out of sight. Police units established a perimeter and conducted a search with the canine unit but could not locate the suspect. Investigation continuing.

DAMAGE Taskforce. On November 29, Monrovia Special Enforcement and patrol officers, along with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department deputies, LA County Probation DISARM Unit deputies worked a DAMAGE Taskforce in the City of Monrovia. The focus of this operation was to conduct probation compliance checks and to serve arrest warrants at six locations. While conducting a compliance check and warrant service in the 1200 block of Sherman, the team arrested one subject for

possession for sale of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of narcotics paraphernalia. They also arrested a probationer for violating his conditions of probation.



ENGINEERING

Myrtle Avenue Streetscape Project Work is progressing on the eastside of Myrtle from Palm to Foothill. Monday's rain postponed the demolition work to Tuesday. Demolition and concrete removals will be completed this week; with night work beginning for the electrical and irrigation conduits either Thursday or Friday. Businesses will be accessible during construction.

Colorado Commons Project Grading and excavation are continuing. Trucks are removing and piling dirt on a daily basis and will reused the dirt for backfill against the underground parking structure walls and building foundations. Wall shoring operations are scheduled to begin late this week, and are required at the northeast corner of the parking structure. Daily inspections are being maintained and dust control is in full operation.

Railroad Depot Parking Lot The project is 95% complete. Light poles should be delivered and inspected next week.

OPERATIONS – Environmental Services – Facilities - Parks

Request by Monrovia Old Town Merchant On Monday, Parks staff received a call regarding a transient sleeping in City Lot No. 9. Staff investigated the area and found evidence of someone sleeping next to the utility vault. The view of the vault was blocked by high hedges and Parks staff cut the hedges to increase visibility. The Police Department was notified and will continue to monitor the area.

Illegal Dumping – Alleyway between Lemon and Lime Staff has been working with the residents who live adjacent to the alleyway between Lemon and Lime to mitigate ongoing illegal dumping. Information has been given to property managers regarding bulky item disposal. Staff is working with Neighborhood Services to install several "No Public Dumping Signs" in the area. For additional information on how to dispose of bulk items or household hazardous materials, please contact Environmental Services, 626-932-5553.

STREETS

Concrete Rehabilitation Areas: 524 Park Rose Ave., 400 Block of Granite St., 136 N. Madison

Miscellaneous:

- Installed power pole at temporary Fire Station 1 (Olive and Ivy)
- Cleaned oil spill from roadway in the 1600 south block of Mayflower Avenue
- Installed two parking stall tire stops in new train station parking lot to protect irrigation check valve from vehicle damage.
- Clearing of debris drain grates during Monday 11/27/2006 rain storm.

Graffiti: Removed graffiti from 23 traffic signs

UTILITIES

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Water Meters: Staff read and recorded 1,333 water meters. Customer service representatives also delivered 100 shut-off notices, completed 9 work orders, and reactivated 2 water services.

WATER PRODUCTION

Water Consumption. Last week's recorded water consumption is 48.5 million gallons; this is 9% lower than the previous week's data. Lower water usage is due to cooler weather.

New PVC Chlorination lines. Our utility construction crew installed chlorination lines for the new water aeration towers at the Well Field. The in-house installation saved a considerable amount of funds that could be used to finance other water maintenance projects.

UTILITY MAINTENANCE

Trench Shoring Safety Training. Utility crews completed a 4-hour safety training program on November 29, 2006 regarding trench shoring as part of our continued staff's education and safety training.

Water Valve Repair at Valmont Place. A defective water main line valve was discovered at the 500 block of Valmont Place during a routine valve inspection and maintenance. The inoperative water valve was replaced in the evening of the same day. Affected residents were notified prior to the emergency repair and water service was restored in less than one hour.

Sewer Main Line Maintenance. Sewer crew cleaned 11,749 feet of sewer main line and video inspected (CCTV) 85 feet of sewer line. Crew also completed 9 underground service alert's utility location requests.

Have a great weekend!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Tues., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
Thur., Dec. 7, 6 p.m.	Tree Lighting Ceremony, corner of Myrtle and Palm
Thur., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.	Holiday Parade, Myrtle Avenue
Mon., Dec. 11, 5:30 p.m.	Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, south of Huntington, west of Myrtle to Fifth, north of all southern City boundaries
Tues., Dec. 12, 5:30 p.m.	Santa Tours, east of Myrtle, north of Foothill
Weds., Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m.	Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, north of Foothill
Thurs., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m.	Santa Tours, east of Myrtle, south of Foothill, north of Duarte Road, west of east City boundaries

Fri., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m.

**Santa Tours, west of Myrtle, south of Foothill to
Huntington between Mayflower and Fifth**

Tues., Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY, CITY HALL CLOSED

CMO ATTACHMENTS:

Light rail user survey shows preference over car use

By Alison Hewitt Staff Writer
Pasadena Star-News

A recent survey of Gold Line riders should help bolster efforts to secure federal funding for the line's Pasadena-to-Montclair extension, according to the head of the agency that built the train.

The survey, released earlier this month, showed Gold Line riders are more likely to have cars and tend to have higher incomes than passengers on other MTA rail lines, said Habib Balian, CEO of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority.

A 2004 Metropolitan Transportation Authority study showed the Gold Line did have more high-income riders than the Red, Blue or Green lines. However, no data were immediately available on the number of riders with cars available to them, said an MTA spokeswoman.

As the construction authority develops an estimate of how many people would ride the proposed 25-mile, \$1.2 billion extension, it is vital to prove that those San Gabriel Valley riders are bucking trends seen elsewhere in the county, Balian said.

"The model \ needs to be able to recognize that ridership is very different in the San Gabriel Valley," Balian said.

People with cars available to them and with incomes over \$50,000 are riding the three-year-old Gold Line in larger numbers than on other MTA rail lines, he explained. He wants the Federal Transit Authority to let the construction authority add those people to its count when it predicts how many riders the Gold Line extension will attract.

The survey of the Gold Line's existing Pasadena-to-Los Angeles stretch was designed in part to convince the FTA to include those people in the count.

The construction authority is developing a ridership prediction that it hopes to have ready by spring, Balian said. If the predicted ridership isn't high enough, the extension might not qualify for federal funding.

"There was this presumption that because the San Gabriel Valley is not as dense as other parts of the county, that you wouldn't get the ridership," Balian said. "The survey shows that even though it's not as dense, there is ridership ... and using demographic information from other lines might penalize us."

But the Gold Line faces some local opposition. In Los Angeles, county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has said that the Gold Line extension is redundant because Metrolink already serves that corridor. The Gold Line also has to compete for funding against other local projects, such as the proposed Wilshire Line in Los Angeles or a Culver City-to-Santa Monica addition to the Expo Line, said construction authority member and Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard.

"Southern California is transit-deprived," Bogaard said. "The FTA has fiscal limitations, so there is something of a competition and the need to make the strongest case possible."

"The number of people who could use a car and drive to work [but ride instead]- that's dramatic," said La Verne Mayor Jon Blickenstaff, chairman of the construction authority. "That gives us reason to believe that the Gold Line will continue to be very popular."

alison.hewitt@sqvn.com (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2730

Audit clears COG, Conway

Arroyo Associates Inc. cleared of wrongdoing

By Ruby Gonzales Staff Writer
Pasadena Star-News

An audit of a contract with the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments found no wrongdoing by the agency or its chief executive's company.

The report by the Southern California Association of Governments' internal auditor was made public Monday. It concluded that work performed by Arroyo Associates Inc., owned by COG Executive Director Nicolas Conway, was in compliance.

Its accounting system was adequate to record costs under federal reimbursement programs, record-keeping was adequate to support the costs charged and labor costs were supported by timekeeping records and payroll registers, according to the report by SCAG internal auditor Richard Howard. The report will come before the SCAG audit committee on Thursday.

"The COG's staff and I are pleased that past allegations of impropriety have been proven totally unfounded and wholly without merit. This matter has finally been put to rest," Conway said.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments is a 31-member group of cities that lobbies state and federal authorities to meet the Valley's transportation, housing, air quality and solid waste disposal needs.

Although the SCAG audit is complete, a Caltrans audit of COG is not. A District Attorney's Office investigation into alleged conflict of interest is expected to be finished this week.

In 2002, the COG awarded a three-year contract to Pasadena-based Arroyo Associates to analyze regional housing and transportation trends. COG paid the \$180,000 contract and was supposed to be reimbursed by SCAG, a six-county regional planning agency that gets funding from Caltrans.

The audit, which began in March 2005, looked at billings made to SCAG by Arroyo Associates from 2002 to 2005.

SCAG Executive Director Mark Pisano said the San Gabriel Valley COG was not the only COG to be audited by the agency at that time. During the audit of the Valley COG, a billing discrepancy was noticed, SCAG officials said.

"We were being billed at a certain rate which was higher than the rate Arroyo was billing the COG. That was the discrepancy," said Wayne Moore, chief financial officer for SCAG. The amount came to \$31,000. "They explained to us that they spent more manpower hours doing work for us than what they billed us," Moore said.

SCAG officials requested information to verify that claim. Arroyo Associates felt the information was proprietary so SCAG told them to ask Caltrans if that information could be released, according to Pisano.

Conway said SCAG asked for Arroyo Associates' corporate and personal tax returns and all accounting records. The information was provided in January.

Moore said SCAG reviewed the documents and credited Arroyo with 488 hours. They applied an average rate to those hours, which ended up worth about \$36,000.

"We reconciled the difference on what was paid and what was authorized to be billed. The difference is \$4,900 but that doesn't mean we owe them \$4,900 because these are all estimates," Moore said.

SCAG still owes the COG \$131,000 for work done on the contract. Moore said the agency is holding those invoices at the request of Caltrans.

Caltrans started an audit into COG's contracting procedures in January to determine if a conflict of interest existed between the COG and Conway. The issue is whether there's been a violation of state conflict-of-interest laws.

ruby.gonzales@sgvn.com (626) 962-8811, Ext. 2718

Gold Line needs a long reach

IT comes as no surprise - and for advocates of a new paradigm in Southern California mass transit, it comes as good news - that Gold Line riders are more likely to own cars and have higher incomes than bus riders.

Nothing against non-drivers and less-affluent light-rail riders. You don't have to show your advanced diploma or country-club membership card at the ticket machine. But the fact is that one large advantage touted by light-rail proponents is the possibility of alleviating, to some small degree, freeway gridlock by gaining riders who otherwise would be in their cars.

There's no real point in plumbing the psychology of why the middle classes are reluctant to board buses here.

In Manhattan, for instance, all but the limousined classes ride the bus - and the subway - all the time. Perhaps that's because both means of transit take you where you want to go on the compact island and come along every few minutes.

Here, it seems only a DUI conviction and loss of driving privileges can pry anyone who has a car out of it.

That insurance, gasoline, the price of the vehicles themselves and their costly upkeep amount to tens of thousands of dollars a year for a family of motorists - that fiscal insanity has never succeeded in convincing us to leave the driving to the MTA.

But there's something about a train - the sense of urbanity, of mild adventure - that clicks with the middle-class mindset. So be it. And the Gold Line, which so far just extends from East Pasadena to downtown's Union Station, has slowly developed a cadre of dedicated riders.

To truly reach its potential, as we have long advocated, the Gold Line needs to be extended through the East San Gabriel Valley and beyond.

The survey released this week showing a fairly affluent ridership should be fuel for the federal funding fight that is key to building mass-transit lines. That funding comes from a limited pot, and the Gold Line will always have its enemies. Mostly it's a turf battle, and politicians in a position to influence that funding will obviously advocate for building transit in their own back yards.

But Gold Line opponent county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's argument that the light rail is redundant here because our Valley is also served by Metrolink could be bought only by someone with a very dim grasp of local geography.

The heavy-rail Metrolink, with its few stops, runs parallel with the Gold Line, sure - a dozen miles south of the foothills communities along which the extension will run. There is essentially zero redundancy between the two.

Gold Line proponents can and should take this new survey of ridership demographics to the bank that is Washington, D.C.

Build this line out to Montclair and there is no question that we will see real impact in ridding the now jam-packed Foothill (210) Freeway of thousands of cars at peak commute hours. It will be a service to the quality of our air and the quality of our lives, and it's worth fighting for.

M I K E M A T H I S P R O D U C T I O N S , I N C

13 October 2006

Chief Christopher Donovan
Chief Scott Haberle
Firefighter Ben Bagheri
Firefighter Scott Dewey
Firefighter Mike Bailey
And....ALL OF THE MONROVIA Fire Stations No. 1 & No. 2 ~

Dear Sirs,

One week ago today, all of you very kind, gracious, funny, charming and heroic gentlemen welcomed all of the colorful "Take Home Chef" crew into your home away from home and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Not only did all of you participate in creating an outstanding "Thanksgiving Special" for the series, you created a memory for our team we will always treasure.

The day was spectacular from beginning to end. We send a big thank you especially to you, Chief Haberle, for spearheading the collecting of families to the station.

As well, to you, Scott, Ben and Mike, you were terrific co-stars with Chef Curtis Stone. The ratings are going to soar and our fan club will overflow!

There are not enough words to convey our sincere appreciation for such a wonderful day which will be a memorable episode of "Take Home Chef". Please know that we simply say 'thank you' for all you have done and all that you do.

Very best and warmest regards on behalf of the cast and crew of "Take Home Chef" ~


MARK WAXMAN
Supervising Producer


JAMES MILLICAN
Line Producer


ALICIA GARGARO
Producer

87 NORTH RAYMOND AVENUE - SUITE 400 - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA - 91103
(426) 535 9868 (PHONE) - (426) 535 9066 (FACSIMILE)