



PACIFIC GROVE WEEKLY SUMMARY

February 20, 2015

CITY COUNCIL

Major actions taken by the Council at its regular meeting on February 18, 2015 include:

- ❖ Approved a contract with PMC group to prepare an environmental report analyzing Cal-Am's proposed demolition of the Cal-Am valve house at 260 Sinex Avenue, alternatives to the proposal, the environmental impacts of the options, and possible mitigations.
- ❖ Allocated 0.106 acre feet of water per year to the proposed Beach House Deli, if the proposed Deli is granted a permit by the Coastal Commission and receives a building permit.
- ❖ Held first reading of a revised solid waste ordinance, bringing the City's current ordinance up to date.
- ❖ Held first reading of a revised sidewalk encroachment ordinance, bringing the City's current ordinance up to date.
- ❖ Approved an ordinance authorizing the Design-Build method for the City's Local Water Project, due to go out for proposals in the next few months. (A request for qualifications has now been issued and is on the City's website.)
- ❖ Held first reading of an ordinance that would increase most parking limits in the downtown area to three hours. Before second reading, staff will survey businesses.
- ❖ Received the five-year fiscal forecast and conducted initial discussions on revenue options for FY 2015-6.
- ❖ Directed the City Manager to form a committee to address the structures and duties of the Architectural Review Board and the Historic Resources Committee.
- ❖ Approved a contract with the Lilley Planning Group to provide part-time current planning services, as a preferable alternative to hiring a full-time position.

The agenda reports and supporting documents for all of these actions are on the City's website, at <http://www.cityofpacificgrove.org>. Details of the actions taken will also be available, upon completion and adoption of the meeting minutes, which will also be posted on the website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Urban Search and Rescue Training. On February 10 - 11, 2015, the Monterey Fire Department attended Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training in the Pinnacles National Park along with other Monterey County USAR members (North County Fire Protection District and Monterey County Regional Fire District). The "low angle rope rescue" training enhanced skills for rescues that take place over the side of a hill. Monterey Fire USAR responds to numerous situations involving natural disasters, structural collapse, transportation incidents, and confined space rescue. Confined space situations would involve limited or restricted means of entry or exit; is large enough for a person to enter to perform tasks; is not designed or configured for continuous occupancy and has the potential for significant hazard to be present. Due to our location, the Monterey Fire USAR team assists in the rescue of hikers in Big Sur and Ventana Wilderness including rope rescue down cliffs and dangerous ravines. The Monterey County USAR team maintains training and education in various types of rescue scenarios in order to be prepared for

incidents no matter the size. The below photo is the USAR Truck housed at the Airport Fire Station.



LAW/POLICE DEPARTMENT

Weekly Highlights. Attached you will find Chief Myers' Weekly Police Report for the week of February 13, 2015 to February 19, 2015, with the Year-to-Date Monthly Highlights.

MUSEUM

On Saturday the Museum will officially open its new, semi-permanent exhibit, "Asking the Baskets," featuring Native Californian baskets and a wonderful interactive display. Be sure to come by the Museum and check it out! On Saturday, Feb. 28, be sure to stop by the Museum anytime between 11 and 3 for our February Science Saturday: Cool Cats, where we'll explore everything to do with mountain lions and bobcats. Admission is always free on Science Saturdays. On March 5, the Museum will host biologist Sean Hayes for a special lecture on California steelhead. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. Cost is \$5 and free for Museum members.



PUBLIC WORKS

This week Public Works has been working on the turnouts along Ocean View and Sunset Blvd. After the last winter storm the decomposed granite, that the turnouts are comprised off, became rutted and filled with potholes. The crews have hauled over 100 tons of DG to the turnouts and have been resurfacing them this week. Please see attached picture.



Bird Proof Trash Cans. The City has also completed the manufacturing and installation of the second round of bird proof trash can lids to be placed throughout the City. The City installed 26 new lids back in the summer months of 2014, and now we will be installing additional lids to help combat the gull problem. Please see attached picture.





The Gull Project

Pacific Grove is home to the Western and California Gulls.

While gulls are native to a myriad of coastal environments, unnatural overbreeding has a negative impact on our local community. Common problems include, noise from gulls, unhealthy mess from gull droppings, and damage to property.

Our goal at Pacific Grove City Hall is to efficiently and effectively eliminate the local gull overpopulation and infestation in order to achieve a healthy balance. The city needs your help!



Relevant City Regulations

Pacific Grove Municipal Code §10.10.010
Prohibits the feeding of wildlife.

Pacific Grove Municipal Code §9.16.030
Prohibits the accumulation of rubbish.

Please contact the City Code Compliance Officer via email:
tschaeffer@cityofpacificgrove.org if you see gulls feeding on trash or someone feeding gulls.

Please contact the City Animal Control Officer via email:
econti-yeo@cityofpacificgrove.org if you identify a nest with eggs.

300 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, 93950
www.cityofpacificgrove.org

City of Pacific Grove Gull Project

*Aiming to Protect the Local
Gull Population*

City of Pacific Grove

831 648 3116

About Gulls found in Pacific Grove

The Western Gull

Adults are marked with a solid dark gray color on its back and wings, with black on the wingtips. The head is white in the breeding season, and has brown streaking in the non-breeding season. It is a large dark-backed gull of the Pacific Coast that is roughly 22-26 inches (56-66 cm) in length with a 50-57 inch (127-145 cm) wingspan. The bill is yellow with a red spot near the tip of the lower mandible, and the feet and legs are pink. The Western Gull is a “four-year gull,” in that it takes four years to reach adult plumage.

The California Gull

Adults have white heads and a yellow bill. The neck and under parts are also white. The gull's back and wings are dark gray. The legs and feet are a greenish-yellow color. Breeding and nesting time frames for California Gulls is usually in May to July. The California Gull is also a “four-year gull,” in that it takes four years for them to reach adult plumage. California Gulls have a life expectancy of up to 24 years.

Gulls are extremely protective of their newborns. Newborn gulls do not leave the nest (or the immediate area) until they are able to fly and find their own food. For this reason, it is important to destroy nests before eggs are present.

Effective tactics to control Gulls

The best defense is prevention by making building rooftops and general building areas gull proof. Employ the following measures that deter gulls:

- Keep building rooftops and grounds clean of debris and garbage.
- Gulls are scavengers looking for an easy meal. Don't let them find free food in your yard or building area.
- Bird spikes: Spikes prevent gulls from landing. Such spikes also make it difficult to roost, forcing them to move somewhere else.
- Bird wires: Long metal wires that have springs placed on each end. When the gulls sit on them, the springs make the wire seem unstable, and the gulls quickly leave.
- Bird nets: Designed to cover larger areas such as the entire roof. If installed correctly, bird nets are invisible from a distance.
- Electrical track or tape: A bird deterrent system that is low profile (hard to see from the ground) and used to prevent birds from landing or nesting in (or on) the areas where you don't want them.
- Other: There are very few things that gulls fear. What they do fear includes: raptors such as hawks, falcons, owls, and dogs. Sometimes plastic or fabricated owls or hawks on display may work as a deterrent.

Current City Approach

The City of Pacific Grove will be utilizing a three step system to discourage gulls from congregating in the downtown. The gulls that seasonally inhabit nests on rooftops of the multi-story buildings have become a nuisance and a health hazard to residents and visitors alike. The goal is to disperse the gull population over a wider area so that the impact of droppings is not focused in areas with the highest concentration of pedestrians and outdoor diners.

Step 1:

Encourage building owners of downtown properties to clear rooftops of gull nests or nesting materials.

Step 2:

Fly raptors overhead to further disturb the gulls into seeking new, natural locations to build their nests.

Step 3:

Repeat the raptor flyover in mid-summer to deter “loafer” gulls that frequent restaurants and unsecured garbage.

The City's intent is not to harm any gulls or to reduce their ability to reproduce, but to disperse the nests over a much wider area and, if possible, to natural nesting places closer to open water.



PLASTIC BAG BAN

Effective March 1, 2015

BANNED

single-use plastic
carry out bags



10¢ CHARGE

recyclable paper bag



NO CHARGE

- WIC, SNAP and CalFresh
- Small paper bags for:
 - Greeting Cards
 - Prescriptions
- Plastic bags for:
 - Produce
 - Meat
 - Bulk Items
 - Wet Items



AVOID THE CHARGE: BRING YOUR OWN BAG



<http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/plasticbagban>

DINE OUT WITH FRIENDS
Victorian Corner Restaurant
541 Lighthouse Avenue, PG
All Day, February 25



**A portion of your check will be donated to
support the PG Library
sponsored by the Friends of the PG Library**