



# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 27, 2010

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
BEN REYES, CITY ATTORNEY

FROM: BELINDA B. ESPINOSA, CITY MANAGER

## PLACES TO BE

- SEPTEMBER 26 – COASTAL CLEAN UP... SAVE THE DATE!

The City of Pinole in cooperation with the California Coastal Commission is once again sponsoring the annual Coastal Clean up on Saturday September 25. The volunteer event results in tons of trash and debris removal by volunteers along the San Pablo Bay. For Pinole, we will be meeting first thing in the morning at Bayfront Park. As we get closer to the date, look for more information. Please contact us for more information if you are interested in volunteering for this great event. You can contact Nancy Voisey at 724-9037.

- OCTOBER 7, 2010 – PINOLE COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

This is early notice to mark your calendars - the West Contra Costa County Chapter of the League of Women Voters will host and moderate a Candidate Forum on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 6:30 P.M. at the Pinole Senior Center. The forum is open to the public and will also be televised as a live broadcast on Pinole Community TV, Channel 26, and will be re-broadcast following the event.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

- CITY RESPONDS TO “LETTER TO THE EDITOR” ON POLICE AND FIRE COMPARISONS DATED AUGUST 18, 2010

As most of you have probably read, there was an editorial in the newspaper on Wednesday August 18, written by a Pinole citizen regarding a comparison of Police and Fire expenditures and salaries. Staff rarely responds to editorials as this is a forum for the public to express their viewpoints and everyone is entitled to participate. However, this letter to the editor did not just include a viewpoint; it included misinformation about the cost and comparison of police and fire operations which I feel needs to be addressed with the facts.

The City of Pinole is facing catastrophic financial times and we have been including articles in the Weekly Report on a regular basis about what we have been doing to “balance the budget”. Over the last year and a half, we have been forced due to State “take aways” and a severe decline in revenue sources such as sales taxes and property taxes to reduce the budget by almost \$4 million.

We have all heard about the financial times of Vallejo, Antioch, and Oakland. All cities are going through this. All cities are looking at reductions in salaries and benefits, fire station closures and eliminating both firefighters and police officers. The last thing we want to do is impact public safety, and yet we are. We have little choice since the majority of the General Fund is used towards paying for these vital services.

The Pinole City Council has had to make some very hard decisions that were not easy to say the least. These decisions had concern for the Pinole taxpayer at the core of every one of them. The “browning out” out of Fire Station 74 for the 10 shifts a month was one of the most difficult decisions we have had to make. As the law requires, we negotiated with Fire Local 1230 on the impacts and they agreed. Even this decision has no guarantee that we are out of the ballpark.

**The “browning out” of Fire Station 74 did not include laying off one firefighter. The two positions that the Fire Department lost due to budget reductions was the Assistant Chief that was a part time position and the Secretary position who chose to take advantage of an early retirement incentive package based on the City being able to eliminate the position in FY 2009-10 and a vacant Captain position in FY 2010-11 due to retirement.**

We chose not to fill it until we can figure out the long term model for fire services delivery. We are also operating with a temporary Chief (retired in December 2009) as the only administrative staff. We have reduced every department across the board and the truth is the Police and Public Works departments have taken more reductions than Fire in terms of loss of personnel.

I assure you that we will continue to work towards a long term solution for the delivery of fire services. That may mean that we will need to work together and do things differently, but fire is a core service of our City and we don't take that for granted. The Pinole Fire Department is one of the most efficient and productive departments around and it operates at the lowest possible cost.

The City Council and I along with staff have enjoyed a collaborative effort with our Fire Department and Local 1230 as well as with our surrounding partners in the fire service to try and resolve our issue. They have been with us every step of the way. We plan on continuing to do so as we progress on resolving this most difficult issue.

**Please refer to the City web site for our specific responses based on facts about this issue.**

- **2010 PINOLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS EXPO**



The 2010 Chamber of Commerce Business Expo was held on Friday August 20 adjacent to City Hall and on Pear Street. The event received a sponsorship funding from the City of Pinole under the Community Group Funding Program. This year the event was held outside and that proved to be very enjoyable for all who attended.

There was an estimated 90 different businesses represented at the event from Pinole, El Sobrante and surrounding areas. The event focused on highlighting local businesses and sharing information about services and programs.



Mayor Debbie Long, Councilmember Roy Swearingen and wife Rose, Councilmembers Virginia Fujita and Tim Banuelos and Planning Commissioner Maureen Toms



Some of the Pinole businesses included Kaiser Permanente, Bank of the West, Mechanics Bank, Bank of America, Walgreens, Crockett's Premier Auto Body, and Pinole Valley Boot Camp among many others.





Local restaurants including the New Deli, Panda, Pear Street Bistro, Kinders, La Strada, El Sol and the Contra Costa Culinary Institute provided not only great food, but free to all who attended.



Other business and civic organizations that attended included the City of Pinole (major sponsor), Pinole Chamber of Commerce, Pinole Rotary and Recycle More. For a complete list of sponsors and participants see the Pinole Chamber of Commerce website.



Mary Drazba, Redevelopment Agency  
Economic Development Manager



Public Works Director Dean Allison and  
Planning Commission Paul Sekins



Councilmember Virginia Fujita and  
Al Chavarria, Community Preservation Unit



West County Waste Management Authority  
Recycle More



Jerry and Judy Cates  
Pinole Rotary Club

Thank you to the Pinole Chamber of Commerce and all who participated in making this another great event!

- **THANKS TO THE SECRET GARDENER**

Many thanks to Pinole's "secret gardener," Edna Whitley, for her continued efforts to keep Pinole tidy. She has recently weeded the junipers along Appian Way, and then was also seen weeding and planting in Pinole Valley Park. Thank you, Edna!

- **PINOLE CREEK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Week number four of the Pinole Creek Demonstration Project is in the books. Construction has now shifted from clearing and removing vegetation to channel excavation and construction of the floodwalls.



The floodwall construction follows a process whereby a vertical slot is created by driving a steel form into the ground and then the floodwall, which is made from a plastic composite, is then vibrated into the slot. The floodwalls are approximately 2' into the ground for every 1' above ground.

The channel excavation consists of removing material along the walls of the channel to create a flat shoulder area, which will become a saltwater marsh area though the tidal cycle.

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