



City of Corning

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THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER JOHN L. BREWER, AICP
DATE: JANUARY 17, 2014

JLB

CITY MANAGER:

Sales Tax Meeting with HdL:

I met with Howard Longballa of HdL on Wednesday to discuss our 3rd quarter 2013 Sales Tax revenues. Overall the figures look good. Comparing the figures with the same quarter from 2012 is deceiving though, since that's when we'd received our previously misallocated sales tax (\$210,000 or so). With two quarters in for the fiscal year (FY 2013-2014), and a "True Up Backfill" (Triple Flip) payment, it looks like we'll exceed our projected Sales Tax/Triple Flip Budget projection of \$2,650,000. Additionally, the "trend" line they project continues to be positive in the short term.

Martini Plaza & Parks:

Public Works completed removing the ivy along the alley fence to improve visibility.

Public Works Director Patrick Walker will contact Dick Poisson regarding the security camera matter. Public Works mechanic Chris Demo is working to install wrought iron "windows" and gates to secure the "porch" areas outside the restrooms.

Mike Fitzpatrick and Jody Burgess are putting the finishing touches on the new Parks Ordinance that'll address not only smoking and drinking at Martini Plaza, but also reiterate the rules for the new Skate and Bike Park. They're conversing with our Insurance provider York Risk Services, Inc. to make sure our liability coverage provides adequate protection regarding injuries to skateboarders and bicyclists alike.

We discussed the issues that arose Tuesday night at the City Council meeting regarding Martini Plaza. Due to the weight of the concrete picnic tables, removing them for graffiti removal could damage landscaping, sidewalks and irrigation lines. For that reason, on site refurbishment of the tables might be a better option. Doing that work may necessitate temporary closure of the plaza.

Staff thought constructing a second fence, parallel and south of the existing alley fence might create a "no-man's land" area between fences that will collect trash and debris. Staff did discuss positioning a new wrought iron fence with gates immediately behind the Solano Street sidewalk that could be locked nightly. However, that would fundamentally change the appearance and feel of the open plaza and interrupt the view of the decorative fountain from Solano Street.

PG & E Gas Main Leaks & Repairs:

See the attached report presented by Joe Wilson of PG & E.

Computer Virus Protection:

Computer Logistics; our computer service consultant/provider has recommended we purchase a "Barracuda" filter device that'll improve virus protection for City Hall and Police Department work stations. We've prepared a staff report that'll be presented at the January 28th City Council meeting. The new hardware purchase and professional installation will cost just over \$2,800. The equipment will be located within the Police Department.

Computer Switching Device:

We had a malfunction of the computer internet switching device at the Finance Department on Tuesday. We had to immediately replace the device to keep the work stations operating. Note the old device was at its capacity. Its replacement adds some capacity should we need to add work stations. Cost was about \$900. We have some funds built into our annual budget so we can immediately react to these type of events.

City Hall Sign Refacing:

The internally illuminated sign on the east side of City Hall is quite faded and includes the old City Logo. It's time to refresh and update the sign with the current City Logo. The task will be paid from the Building Maintenance account.

Garbage Collection Rate Increase Notices:

We have prepared notices of the proposed Garbage Collection Rate Increase (just under 1% proposed) and mailed them to the customers. If approved, the residential rate would increase from \$21.17 to \$21.38. The rate increase hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2014.

CITY CLERK:**Tire/E-Waste Collection Event:**

The Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency will conduct a Passenger Tire Collection Event from 8 a.m. to noon on January 18th at the Corning Park & Ride (northeast corner of Third & Solano St.). No more than 9 passenger car or light truck tires per visit accepted and tires must be off the rims. No large truck/equipment/off-road tires (17" or larger). No oil/paint/batteries/appliances will be accepted.

Televisions, computer monitors and equipment, microwaves, DVD/VCR players, cell phones and other small electronic waste will be accepted free of charge also. There is no quantity collection limit on the e-waste. This free passenger tire recycling event is paid for by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**Water Leaks:**

Public Works Crews have been working on water leaks again. This latest one is on Fig Lane. The majority of these leaks have consisted of small holes in the service line and crews have been able to install clamps to stop the water leaks.

Martini Plaza:

Public Works was asked to see if it is possible to remove the tables at Martini Plaza to sandblast the graffiti off. These benches were actually installed prior to landscape installation at the Park. The tables weigh approximately 1,800 pounds each. This make the benches almost impossible to move in their current locations. In the upcoming weeks public works will need to close the park on various days to sandblast and recoat the benches.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:**Patrol:**

In addition to responding to 180 calls for service, a total of 34 officer reports were taken and there were 138 officer-initiated incidents. Officers made 12 misdemeanor and 3 felony arrests, 65 traffic stops and issued 33 citations of which 18 were misdemeanors, 4 were felony, 4 were infractions, 5 were parking-related and 1 was unclassified during the period of January 8 through January 15, 2014.

Dear Mr. Brewer,

As promised here is some information that you can cut and paste into the newsletter. This was prepared with the assistance of our external communications group and gas operations team and should answer any questions that might arise.

Again, I appreciate your assistance and support as we have worked to address and correct this problem. Please feel free to share this information with the Council and of course, please call if you have any questions.

Thanks

Joe Wilson

Local Government Relations

Report for the City Council Newsletter

On January 7, 2013 at approximately 10:30 a.m. and again on January 13, 2013 at approximately 8 a.m., Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) experienced two gas over-pressure events at a gas regulator station located at Hoag Road and Mary Avenue in Corning. PG&E took swift action to quickly address the issues and to reduce and mitigate any impacts to the safety and reliability of our natural gas system in Corning. PG&E immediately brought in additional crews and equipment from throughout Northern California. This rapid response allowed us to quickly survey the entire town and to identify and repair all Grade 1 leaks. There were no employee or public safety incidents while we surveyed for and repaired Grade 1 leaks.

The maximum allowable pressure (MAOP) for the Corning regulator station is 60 pounds per square inch (psi). In the first incident, the pressure at the regulator station increased to above 60 psi for about an hour and 4 minutes, reaching a peak of 67 psi. On the second incident, pressure increased above 60 psi for about nine minutes, reaching a peak of 89 psi before returning to its normal operating pressure. Initial indications show the cause of the over-pressure incidents to be from fluids within our larger gas pipelines that serve the Corning gas regulator station. The filters and other protective devices within the gas regulator station were unable to handle the total volume of liquid in the pipeline, causing the pressure to rise above the MAOP.

Immediately following both events, PG&E took the following actions:

Leak Survey

We initiated system leak surveys in the area. PG&E performs leak surveys by two methods. Our traditional method of leak survey is to have trained leak surveyors physically walk along gas mains with leak detection equipment and grade individual leaks when they encounter a gas reading. This method of leak survey can require a significant amount of time, especially with a city the size of Corning.

A second method of leak survey is to use PG&E's state-of-the-art technology, called Picarro, which is a super-sensitive and accurate gas leak detection analyzer that is mounted on a car so our workers can drive through neighborhoods and find gas leaks in real time. This system is 1,000 times more sensitive than traditional leak detection methods. The vehicle allows PG&E to survey large areas in a short amount of time and can detect trace amount of gas in the area. As it drives, the

system detects and records locations where there is an indication of a potential gas leak. We then send leak surveyors out to each of these locations to investigate and grade each indication.

For both incidents we used our Picarro technology to conduct leak surveys in Corning so we could quickly and accurately identify any leaks. The Picarro unit was driven for more than eight hours for each incident to survey Corning.

Leak Survey Results

The leak survey for the first incident identified 4 Grade 1 leaks which we immediately repaired by Jan. 8 when the leak survey was completed. The leaks were in Corning located at:

- 500 block of Edith Avenue
- 800 block of Fifth Street
- 1600 block of Fig Lane
- Corner of Fig Lane and Houghton Avenue

The leak survey for the second incident identified 5 Grade 1 leaks which we immediately repaired on Jan. 14. The leaks were located at:

- Solano Avenue at Old Highway 99 West in Corning
- 1600 block of Marguerite Avenue (4 leaks)

While we repaired the leak at Solano Avenue and Old Highway 99 traffic was reduced to a single lane for westbound traffic and access to and egress to Interstate 5 remained open. PG&E's traffic controls at the intersection helped to move traffic along more quickly. There was little impact to traffic and zero impact to customers' gas service.

All gas leak indications are graded based on a number of factors, including the amount of gas present, the proximity to structures, whether the below ground leak is covered wall-to-wall by concrete or other permanent covering, and whether or not the leak is above- or below-ground. PG&E personnel classify leaks into four grades based on the severity and location of the leak, the hazard the gas leak presents to persons or property, and the likelihood that the leak will become more serious within a specified amount of time.

- Grade 1 leaks (also referred to as "hazardous" leaks) represent existing or probable hazards to persons or property and require immediate repair or continuous action until conditions are no longer hazardous.

- Grade 2+ leaks fall below Grade 1 criteria and above Grade 2 criteria. These leaks are non-hazardous to persons or property at the time of detection, but still require a scheduled priority repair within 90 days or less.

- Grade 2 leaks are non-hazardous to persons or property at the time of detection, but still require a scheduled repair because they present probable future hazards. Grade 2 leaks must be repaired within 15 months, and rechecked every six months until repaired.

- Grade 3 leaks are non-hazardous at the time of detection and can reasonably be expected to remain non-hazardous. They are re-surveyed and monitored annually, or no later than 15 months, but historically not scheduled for repair.

Additionally, we also have a grade "0" leak, which is a previously graded leak that is determined to no longer be leaking.

Root Cause Analysis

The Corning substation has two gas regulator systems so that one can operate and provide gas service to Corning and the other can be a stand by or backup. This way, we can perform maintenance on one while the other continues to serve customers. Immediately after the first incident, PG&E shut down the in-service gas regulator at the station and switched gas to the other gas regulator system. We drained the fluids on the first and after ensuring that no more fluids remained and no more were coming into the station, we resumed usual operations.

Immediately following the second incident PG&E took steps to take the entire gas regulator station off-line to inspect and rebuild it. As part of our inspection, we are seeking to determine the source of fluid. We are currently awaiting analysis from an outside lab to identify the liquid so we can determine the source and how the liquid got into our gas system.

Actions on Regulator Station

While we are rebuilding the regulator station we are also installing a new moisture separator. In the meantime, to keep pressures stable we are feeding the system by using compressed natural gas and liquid natural gas systems that are currently stationed on Solano Avenue across from El Paso Avenue. Once the separator is installed, there is little likelihood that liquids will affect this regulator station.

PG&E is committed to protecting our customers' privacy.

To learn more, please visit <http://www.pge.com/about/company/privacy/customer/>