



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2021
TO: Public Works & Facilities Committee
FROM: Chantell O'Neal, Assistant Director; Engineering
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Receive Report and Discuss Activities in Support of the Mendocino Progressive Alliance Stop Litter Project**

ISSUE:

At the City Council meeting on September 26, 2016, members of the Progressive Alliance Center Mendocino made a presentation on their Project Stop Butts. The group requested the City's assistance with their campaign. The Council forwarded the matter to the Public Works and Facilities Committee for further consideration and possible direction. In November of 2016, Committee discussed the pros and cons of ash can placement in the Central Business District, an awareness program, and the "Adopt-A-Street" program to assist with improving the quantity of litter in town.

The City is regulated by the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit as part of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This general permit regulates potential pollution causing activities and establishes goals and programs for how compliance is gained. Below is a list of the activities the City actively and regularly engages in, in efforts to manage trash and other storm water pollution from entering the water ways in compliance with the MS4.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

- *City Street Sweeper Program.* Schedule described on homepage of the City's website, once per month in each grid and then weekly in downtown. A new street sweeper was put into action in 2018 and the quantity of swept material increased substantially with the new equipment.
- *Annual Storm Drain Cleanout.* Each year in the fall prior to the first rain of the season, Public Works Maintenance crews visit and clean every drain in town. This annual

cleaning is timed to maximize effectiveness of the cleanout and minimize debris going to the waterway.

- *Adopt-A-Street.* Adopt a Street Program launched in early 2017. The program had eleven volunteers (either individual or groups) as on 2019. The City requests volunteers complete a liability waiver and then provides all the supplies necessary for their collection activities including; trash grabbers, buckets, gloves, and safety vest. With the onset of the COVID pandemic, this understandably came to a stall or halt with no new volunteers in the last year. However, the City plans to re-launch and advertise the program again now that the shelter in place orders are lifted.
- *Smoking Prohibition.* The Fort Bragg Municipal Code (FBMC) prohibits smoking: in public places whether on public or private property, parks, within 20 feet of the entrance of a building in the downtown, etc. Signs are placed at regular intervals throughout the Central Business District (CBD) where this ordinance applies. Per FBMC Section 16.12.040, J, "The accumulation of ... litter or debris in vestibules, doorways, or the adjoining sidewalks of commercial or industrial buildings"; is prohibited, and the property owner or business owner is responsible for the visual aesthetic of the sidewalk.
 - Swept material should be collected and disposed of, not swept into the street or gutter.
 - Sweeping material out of the gutter in front of businesses (and homes) would additionally go a long way toward reduced debris in the storm drains.
 - Additional education/campaign might be useful for this partnership.
- *Litter Clean-up Events.* The City annually hosts Coastal Clean-Up Day, a statewide event where we contribute through advertising, staff time, material distribution, etc. Additionally, the City partnered with MendoRecycle and was performing monthly clean-ups of illegal dumping, encampments, and graffiti abatement on public lands. The partner agency was providing receptacles and a clean-up crew at no cost to the City, but due to COVID restrictions this program is not currently operating.
- *New Trash Receptacles.* The City began a plan to replace the old trash receptacles with the new MaxR trash/recycling street side bins made of 100% recycled plastics in 2018. City staff unsuccessfully applied for a grant for a total of 50 cans. Due to cost and lack of dedicated funding source, only 10 new cans were purchased and used to replace the cans in the worst condition. We are still in progress of slowly removing and installing new cans on a case-by-case basis as they become unserviceable and the plan includes as installing cans in new locations as well.
 - Trash can waste has increased drastically (particularly in the CBD), staff associates these increases with the increasing waste management fees causing people to dump private waste in cans and also COVID creating a significantly increased quantity of take-out containers due to limited indoor dining.
- *Storm Drain Trash Capture.* In 2017 the City received notice from the State Water Board (Water Code Section 13383 Order), requiring all Small MS4's to detail a strategic plan to capture 100% of trash runoff from priority land use areas using state certified trash capture devices by December 2030. The City's trash capture device project is included

in the 2018 Coastal Mendocino County Storm Water Resources Plan. Additionally, staff has tried unsuccessfully twice (IRWM and Prop 1) to obtain funds to meet the unfunded state trash capture mandate. The current estimated cost of the trash capture devices is \$1,500,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

City programs already address a significant part of the problem, however, should additional activities be desired, staff would like recommendations and strategies for resource allocation and priorities.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Mendocino Progressive Alliance Letters from April 2021
2. Adopt-A-Street Roll out Report of March 8, 2017
3. Committee Report November 09, 2016
4. Report, "A City with Few Ifs or Ands, Yet Plenty of BUTTS!" from City Council September 26, 2016

NOTIFICATIONS:

1. Rod Jones; Mendocino Progressive Alliance rodjones@mcn.org