



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

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COUNCIL COMMITTEE ITEM SUMMARY REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 9, 2016
TO: Public Works & Facilities Committee
FROM: Tom Varga, Director of Public Works
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Receive Report and Consider Options for Support of the Stop Butts 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.

SUMMARY:

In September, members of the Progressive Alliance did a field survey of a small part of downtown and picked up a significant number of cigarette butts. Their investigation illustrated the importance of litter prevention in our downtown. It is not only unsightly, but can contribute to storm water pollution.

The City has in place a substantial program of litter pick up that includes cigarette butts with all the other trash found along our streets. Street sweepers work their way through downtown weekly. This is reinforced with special storm drain cleaning efforts in the fall before the start of the rainy season. The residents from the Mendocino Coast Hospitality House regularly sweep through downtown to pick up litter.

Just as important is to prevent dropping cigarette butts from becoming litter in the first place. The Fort Bragg Municipal Code 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. The City appreciates the efforts of those businesses that discourage smoking in or near their establishments; it is especially appreciated when they take the extra effort to clean up after those that do not always follow the rules.

Litter control efforts extend beyond the limits of downtown. The recent coastal clean-up day is an annual event that pays special attention to the needs of our beaches. Furthermore, our Noyo Beach receives additional litter pick up attention by the Mac DOG organization and the high school's Interact Club. Next spring, the City anticipates rolling out an Adopt-A-Street program to bolster all of these efforts.

The City is willing to collaborate with interested people and groups in the community in keeping our town clean and attractive. This can range from formal large scale clean-ups all the way down to the simple act of picking up a bit of litter left by some careless person. With an already significant commitment of staff, time, and money to litter control, including cigarette butts, the City would gratefully appreciate volunteer efforts to extend the reach of our limited public resources.

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and consider the report provided by the Progressive Alliance Center Mendocino regarding issues involving cigarette butt litter in Fort Bragg. City programs already address a significant part of the problem. However, additional assistance would be valuable and appreciated. If a group of volunteers, including members of the Progressive Alliance Center Mendocino, wish to propose a program to collect cigarette butts, the City can work with them to help dispose the collected waste material.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Report, "A City with Few Ifs or Ands, Yet Plenty of BUTTS!"