



AGENCY:	City Council
MEETING DATE:	May 26, 2015
DEPARTMENT:	Admin/Police
PRESENTED BY:	L. Ruffing

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES AT NOYO BEACH DURING 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS SHOW AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

ISSUE:

For many years, an Independence Day Fireworks display has been held in Fort Bragg on the Saturday evening of the 4th of July weekend. Spectators gather at Pomo Bluffs Park, along the Noyo Bridge, at Noyo Beach, and at other nearby locations to view the pyrotechnics. In recent years, the revelry at Noyo Beach has become more and more hazardous, with escalating incidents relating to the consumption of alcohol and hazardous conditions relating to the illegal discharge of fireworks. The Fort Bragg Police Department has concerns about public safety and has recommended that precautionary measures be taken to reduce the potential for accidents and injuries at Noyo Beach. This matter is brought forward to the Council for discussion and direction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Police Department has recommended that controlled access be established to Noyo Beach and that actions be taken to prevent fireworks and alcohol from being carried onto the beach. If the Council concurs, a resolution will be brought on June 8th to establish the new protocols and City staff will work to get the word out about enforcement of the ban on alcohol and fireworks at Noyo Beach.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. No action. Under this alternative, no changes would be made to the Police Department's operations plan with regard to Noyo Beach.
2. Provide direction to staff. Based on the Council's discussion and direction, staff will prepare a resolution for Council consideration on June 8th.

ANALYSIS:

In order to effectively enforce a ban on fireworks and alcohol on Noyo Beach during the fireworks event, law enforcement officers would need to inspect bags and coolers and, if prohibited items are found, tell the individual(s) to either take the prohibited items back to their vehicle and return to the event, to leave the event, or to discard the items at the checkpoint.

The purpose of the inspections would be to maintain public safety, not to enforce any criminal laws.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City incurs considerable costs related to the provision of public safety services over the 4th of July weekend. In addition, each year mutual aid is requested from other law enforcement agencies. Adding a checkpoint at Noyo Beach may result in increased personnel costs, but by creating a safer environment, it would reduce the potential risk of accidents and injuries.

IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:

If the Council is supportive of this action, a resolution will be brought back at the June 8th meeting to document the safety concerns and establish the rationale for limited searches at the Noyo Beach access point. The City would also get the word out to the public that special measures will be implemented at Noyo Beach to prevent alcohol and fireworks on the beach.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. None

NOTIFICATION:

1. None

City Clerk's Office Use Only

Agency Action ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ Approved as Amended

Resolution No.: _____ Ordinance No.: _____

Moved by: _____ Seconded by: _____

Vote: _____

☐ Deferred/Continued to meeting of: _____

☐ Referred to: _____