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Is a Pathway Possible Through Downtown?

• Financial Statements

Pavroll & Journal Entries

By Cathy Tyson



friendly, relaxed group con-

Atemplated the possibility of

having a bike and pedestrian

pathway through the heart of

downtown Lafayette at a recent

workshop. At issue is the

EBMUD Aqueduct right-of-way

land that runs behind the Veter-

ans Hall, continues between

highway 24 and Safeway and

feasibility study funded by a Cal-

Trans Community Planning

Grant to determine the viability

of constructing a pathway that

would address topography con-

cerns and challenging intersec-

tion crossings and in the process

provide a safe functional path-

way for walkers and cyclists and

that is compliant with the Amer-

icans with Disabilities Act. The

City of Lafayette hired consult-

ant Alta Planning + Design along

with Mark Thomas and Com-

pany and Fehr & Peers to com-

plete the study, but is also

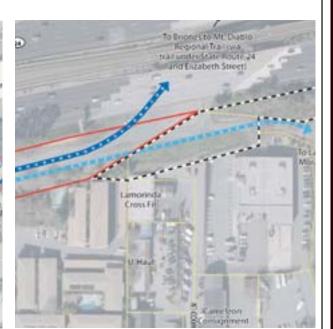
partnering with stakeholders Cal-

Trans, EBMUD, the East Bay

Regional Park District and

The workshop was part of a

ends at Brown Avenue.



Segment 1 Segment 4

"What is possible, what would it cost and why is it im-

portant," said Project Manager Ian Moore of Alta Planning + Design, referring to the goal of the study. Participants at the Decem-

ber 1 workshop were asked how they would use the site - for recreation or commuting, on foot or on bicycle, along with other topics on each of the four sections of pathway. So far there are a lot of questions, but only some answers. In the near future, Moore anticipates quantifying options, and identifying potential sources of funding.

The EBMUD easement is wide, but includes a very large, very old water pipe that serves the community and beyond. This, coupled with some steep slopes, make for significant structural limitations. Add to that several intersections that would be challenging to cross without a traffic signal or in one instance, a bridge, contribute to the project's complexity.

One of the first issues is determining what type of pathway see how to contribute.

is appropriate for the sections of the proposed path; choices include Class 1 Bike Path, Multi-Purpose Trail and Park/Open Space trail (see illustration). Each has benefits, limitations and differing costs of construction.

Image courtesy Ian Moore, Alta Planning + Design

"This is great - doing a study to determine real costs and opportunities," said Townsend, East Bay Regional Park District Trails Development Program Manager, adding, "It's a challenging project with undetermined utility."

Commenting on the usefulness of what will likely be an expensive (even if government funded) project, one participant, an avid bicyclist, questioned if this is the best use of money could Concord put it to better use, or if it should go toward paying down the deficit.

Look for a final report with specifics in the fall of 2011. All of the documents produced to available are www.lafayettepathway.com City staff want to hear from you about the project – check the website to

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Fire Chief Warns of **Possible Fire Station Closures**

... continued from page A1

Calling a parcel tax "crucial to the survival of the District," Louder explained the dire financial straights of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD). Funded primarily through property tax assessments, due to the decline of the housing market that revenue has decreased by almost 12% since 2007. Having already cut back on administrative expenses, the largest portion of the budget, 85%, is salaries and benefits. "The only methodology available to achieve savings and balance the budget is to further reduce personnel costs,"

noted a county staff report. Although no final decisions were made at the recent workshop, the chief did single out several stations for possible closure: Lafayette Station 16 (Los Arabis), Martinez Station 12 and Concord Stations 22

and 6. In his presentation to the County Board of Supervisors, Louder described the criteria for identifying fire station closure: Hazards and risks to the community are on the top of the list. This includes wildland/urban interface, refineries and chemical plants, railroads and freeways along with high rise and commercial buildings. However other considerations are also taken into account, like the probability of fire, call volume and the ability of surrounding stations to absorb calls.

Although it sounds rather odd, the District is already planning to close half of a Walnut Creek station by January 1. That station has two crews of three firefighters at all times. Pending Board approval, staffing will go down to a single crew.

Sewmow! Winter Break Camps

Supervisors decided to hire a polling firm to gauge interest in a possible parcel tax to avoid service reductions. While its clear Lafayette residents value their fire stations it's unclear if the balance of county residents in these tough economic times will feel the same way.

Despite \$6 million in reduced expenditures by managing vacancies, controlling overtime, deferring raises, eliminating 15 positions and more - the District will deplete its reserve account in fiscal year 2011-2012.

Adding to already ugly budget picture is an additional \$6 million pension payment due next year as well as already agreed upon 2.5 percent raises in July, 2011 and January 2012 for firefighters that were deferred from the prior fiscal year.

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Lafayette Gallery

Lafayette City Offices

Lafayette Chamber

- Absolute Center
- Blue Heron Graphics **Brecht Construction**
- David Selvig

Clocks Etc.!

- Construction D&D security
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- & Nelson
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