

THE MORNING AFTER

*Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of November 4, 2010*

Volume 4, No. 14

November 5, 2010

Council Approves Ross Climate Action Plan

The Council approved the Town's first Climate Action Plan, a strategy document that lays out options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the community and government operations. The plan quantifies a number of ways the Town could achieve its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020.

Last year, the Town inventoried its 2005 greenhouse gas emissions and found that the majority of community emissions (48%) comes from energy use in residential buildings. The plan contains several measures that could reduce community emissions by up to 8% through energy efficiency retrofits, green building practices, and installation of more solar energy systems. Transportation accounts for another 42% of community emissions, and the plan addresses these emissions through programs to increase biking, walking, transit use and ridesharing. The development of on-site workforce housing would also contribute to greenhouse gas reductions by decreasing emissions from commuting.

The Climate Action Plan details a number of measures the Town can take to reduce government operations emissions, from completing recommended lighting retrofits in Town buildings and purchasing Energy Star-rated computer equipment, to replacing streetlights with LED lamps and police patrol cars with more efficient vehicles. Emissions from the vehicle fleet are the Town's greatest source of greenhouse gasses (38%), and recommended programs, including replacing a Town vehicle with an electric car, could reduce government operations emissions by up to 13%.



Waste contributes almost 4% of community and government emissions through the release of methane gas during the decomposition of organic material in landfills. The plan contains programs to reduce waste emissions by home and curbside composting of food and green waste and by encouraging waste and wastewater service providers to create electricity from methane gas.

The Council asked staff to promote the new Climate Action Plan and help to educate residents on ways they can reduce their carbon footprints. The plan is currently available on the Town's website [here](#) and will soon find a new home on a webpage devoted to sustainability issues. Staff will also begin work on "low-hanging" programs and monitor funding opportunities to implement the more costly recommended actions.

The Town plans to re-inventory greenhouse gas emissions in two years to measure its progress on achieving its reduction goal.

New Green Building Code Goes Into Effect in January

The Council introduced an ordinance to adopt eight new State building codes, which go into effect on January 1, 2011. One of these codes, the California Green Building Code, is the first statewide green building code in the country. The code, known as CALGreen, applies both to residential construction three stories or less and non-residential buildings. CALGreen requirements include reducing indoor water consumption by 20%, reducing outdoor water use for landscaping, diverting 50% of construction debris from landfills, and installing low pollutant-emitting materials. The plumbing provisions of CALGreen will

not become effective until July 1, 2011, to ensure that enough of the required product (fixtures, showerheads and toilets) will be available to meet market demand.

The Council agreed with staff's recommendation to postpone adding more restrictive green building requirements until the community and the building industry become used to the new code. Options for strengthening the green building code include adding requirements for additions and alterations and mandating additional reductions in energy use.



It is widely expected that CALGreen will increase its requirements for the 2013 building code revision cycle and will require remodels and additions to meet green building code regulations at that time. In addition, the State is expected to ratchet up requirements over time so that all new buildings must be zero net energy by 2020.



Mayor Chris Martin's Report

Mel Jarjoura has announced his decision to retire in early January. Mr. Jarjoura has been with the Town for 11 years and has served as the Public Works Director/Building Official for over nine years. He has served the community with dedication, distinction and proper civility. During this past year, he administered an unprecedented amount of construction activity and public improvements, including the replacement of the Lagunitas Bridge. We are grateful for his service and wish him well in the future. At the December meeting, the General Government Committee will make a recommendation related to filling the position of Public Works Director.

Though the proposed homeless shelter at St. John's Church has been removed from the November 4th agenda, I must clarify an issue related to it. The applicant for the shelter, the Rev. Rankin-Williams and I share the first name, Chris. Unfortunately, this has created confusion in the community since emails are circulating, stating "Chris is asking for you to support the homeless shelter." As other Council members, I have not predetermined my position concerning the proposed shelter, and will only make my decision after all submittals and public testimony are completed. To prevent further misunderstandings, please try to use surnames when disseminating information.

The Lagunitas Bridge project is scheduled to be completed by November 30th. As we can all attest to, this project was a significant inconvenience to the community and to our emergency and safety personnel. The bridge closure and construction also happened to coincide with the San Francisco Giants' torturous August, which amplified the pain factor for many of us. In recognition of this and also the historical significance of this occasion, the Town has asked Chief of Protocol Roseanna Lourdeaux to organize a worthy celebration of the bridge opening. Since it will occur on the actual day the barricades are removed and passage is allowed, residents, merchants and Town Staff will receive an email announcement of the event the day before it is scheduled to open. It promises to be a memorable event.

RPOA Report

Ross Property Owners Association representative Diane Rudden reported that an error had been made in the latest edition of the RPOA newsletter. Town Chief of Protocol Roseanna Lourdeaux has not stepped down, but will remain in the position until her term ends in February 2011. RPOA regrets the mistake and will be sending postcards to all RPOA newsletter recipients correcting the error.

Housing Element Adopted

The Council adopted the Town of Ross Housing Element 2009-2014, which will now be submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for certification. The housing element plans for the development of the Town's fair share of the regional housing need. Ross was assigned a housing need allocation of 27 new housing units over a seven-year period. The Town has relied on a mix of second units, guesthouses, mixed use units in the commercial area, and employee housing at the Marin Art & Garden Center and The Branson School to fulfill its requirement for moderate and lower income housing. Eight new single family homes are expected to be built during the planning period. The Town

must ensure the underlying zoning and development standards will facilitate development of a variety of housing types affordable to various income levels.



Council Member Carla Small's Public Works Report

Although, a few punch line items still need to be addressed, the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. pedestrian pathway has for the most part been completed.

Weather permitting, Ghilotti Brothers will complete the pavement striping next week. The double yellow line was striped with thermo plastic and the white fog line will be done next week. There are additional issues to address regarding available parking, parking on the pathway, needed signage, and tree planting.

The Lagunitas Bridge replacement project is on schedule for completion on November 30th. There is one area on the north bank of the bridge that has been treated with compacted soil, covered in jute and hydroseeded. David Anderson from URS and Town Hydrologist Matt Smeltzer are reviewing the conditions to determine if any additional work is needed to stabilize the bank prior to the Army Corps of Engineers project scheduled for 2013 or 2014. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 2010 at 8 a.m. David Anderson will also review the plans for Sylvan Lane and asphalt sidewalks.

The Frederick Allen Park improvements are moving along. The tennis courts are being resurfaced and so far they have put down the first four layers of slip sheeting. Weather has delayed the process. The well drilling is finished and the pump will soon be installed. They have also looked at the Ross Common pumping system for replacement under the school construction.

The entire Ross Post Office lobby and service area will be painted this fall and we hope to reinstate post office painting in the 2011-12 budget.

Council member Rick Strauss and I will hold in the near future a 6 p.m. special public works meeting for downtown businesses to give input on downtown parking, zones and timing. We would also like to have a tree committee representative attend the monthly Public Works meetings if possible.

Public Works is making a recommendation to commit nine parking spaces for 15-minute, postal parking and four spaces for Post Office employees. The three spaces in the front of the building would remain and six spaces would be designated in the back parking lot followed by 4 spaces for postal employees. A resolution will be on the December Council Meeting.

Public Works is recommending all sidewalk improvements to specify ADA truncated domes to be charcoal grey-colored when placed in concrete and brick red when placed in asphalt. Finally, the temporary pathway for Ross Recreation is being handled by the school construction project.

Council Meetings Scheduled for 2011

The Council voted to schedule monthly meetings on the following Thursday nights in 2011: January 13, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8. Council meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of the month, however, due to Spring Break, the April Council meeting will be held on the first Thursday in April. The August meeting will be held only if necessary.



Board of Directors Requirements Amended for Ross Rec Committee

The Council approved the Ross Recreation Board of Directors and granted the Board's request to amend the agency's bylaws to allow a range of nine to twelve members to serve on the Ross Park and Recreation Committee. Presently, eleven of the twelve-member committee must be Ross School District residents. The Board's request stated that a large majority of Ross Rec program participants comes from outside the Ross School district, and the broadened residency requirement would ensure better representation and improved services to those communities.



Council Designates COPS Funding Plan

The Council agreed to continue funding one police officer position with Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) funding. The Town expects to receive \$100,000 in COPS funding this year as the recently approved 2010-2011 state budget provided a one-year extension of the COPS program. The state has provided supplemental funding to local communities through the COPS program since 1996 to enhance local public safety services.

Gutierrez Promoted to Fire Engineer

Apprentice firefighter Michael Gutierrez was promoted to Fire Engineer after serving two years in the Ross Fire Department. Chief Tom Vallee said Gutierrez is one of the hardest working firefighters in the department and had earned his promotion. Fire Department staff and Fire Engineer Gutierrez's family and friends were on hand to celebrate his promotion.



Fire Engineer Michael Gutierrez



*Senior Planner
Elise Semonian*

Planning Application Scoreboard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. At St. John's Episcopal Church's request, the use permit application for a temporary homeless shelter for up to 35 homeless men as part of the Marin County Rotating Emergency Shelter program has been continued. St. John's Rector Chris Rankin-Williams said he and St. John's Vestry hope to engage in additional discussions with neighbors and the community with the goal of reaching greater consensus on the issue before the application is brought to the Council for action

For more information on each planning application, you can view staff reports [here](#). The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the December Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Approved	Denied	Continued
14 Lagunitas Road	St. John's Episcopal Church			X
39 Fernhill Avenue	The Branson School and the Ross School	X		
20 Upper Road West	Clifford and Adriana Booth			X

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, at 8:00 a.m. The December Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. Agendas and staff reports are posted in advance of the meetings on the Town's website. All meetings are held at Town Hall unless indicated otherwise.

The Morning After is published following each regular Council meeting by the Town of Ross and is written by Project Planner Christine O'Rourke, edited by Town Manager Gary Broad with support from Administrative Manager Linda Lopez, and reviewed by the Ross mayor prior to publication. The newsletter is not an official record of the meeting's proceedings and does not cover all agenda items. No portion of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced or reprinted without advance written permission from the Town of Ross.