



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	November 18, 2024
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for November 18th City Council Meeting

Mayor and Council Members,

The following report provides an update on some of the major activities City Staff has been working on recently:

City Manager's Department:

- Placer Business Alliance Washington DC Summit: I attended the Placer Business Alliance Washington DC Summit this past week, along with elected officials and staff from nearly every city and Town, several other agencies in the county and Placer County itself. This is the second such summit I have participated in. We were able to hear directly from other agencies about some of the challenges they face through multiple speaker panels and were able to engage with staff and elected officials on a wide variety of topics. We also heard from several Federal Government lobbyists and organizations about a number of topics, including housing, wildfire preparedness and the potential impacts of the new Federal Administration on state and local governments. I served on the City Manager panel, which reflected on some of the previous panels throughout the summit. Council Member Alice Dowdin Calvillo attended on behalf of Pioneer Energy and spoke on a panel regarding utility development in Placer County. The Summit has been a great learning event that provides new perspectives on what makes Placer County great, and provides connections to other organizations that I would not otherwise be able to make.

City Clerk:

- State of the City: Please join us this Thursday, November 21st for an update on Auburn's progress and future plans. Reception begins at 5:00 PM & program begins at 6:00 PM.
- New Community Calendar: Check out our website for our comprehensive calendar featuring all upcoming events in the City of Auburn.
- City Council Schedule Update: There will be no City Council meeting next Monday, November 25th, in observance of the holiday week.

- *Festival of Lights Parade*: Keep an eye out for the City of Auburn's float in this year's Festival of Lights Parade on December 7th at 5:30 PM.

Police Department:

- *2024 Placer Law Enforcement Awards*: Auburn Police Department was honored at the Placer Law Enforcement Agencies Awards Dinner, celebrating the dedication and heroism of its officers and volunteers. Sergeant Joe Almeida and Officer Jarod Collins, along with Officer Bryce Bandilla, received the 2024 Lifesaving Award for their remarkable actions in the line of duty. Lead Volunteer Steffie Shaffer was recognized with the 2024 Volunteer Recognition of Service Award for her invaluable contributions. Interim Chief Ted Stec, alongside Lieutenants Bryan Morrison and Tucker Huey, presented the awards.
- *DUI Prevention Presentation for Placer High School Students*: The Auburn Police Department recently collaborated with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Granite Wellness Centers to deliver a DUI prevention presentation for juniors and seniors at Placer High School. The presentation aimed to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired driving by using interactive tools, including a DUI cart and impairment-simulating goggles. Students experienced the challenges of navigating the DUI cart while wearing the goggles, which mimicked the effects of intoxication, providing a powerful, hands-on understanding of how alcohol and drugs impair coordination and judgment. This engaging approach highlighted the serious risks associated with impaired driving and encouraged students to make safe choices.
- *Veterans Day Parade in Auburn a Success Despite Heavy Rain*: The Veterans Day Parade in Auburn on November 11, 2024, took place despite heavy rain and was a success. The community showed strong support for the event, with organizers, parade participants, and residents attending, many of whom braved the weather with rain jackets and umbrellas. The parade served as a meaningful way to honor veterans, and the turnout highlighted the community's commitment to recognizing those who served.
- *Pancake Breakfast*: The Auburn Police Officers' Association (APOA) will be assisting with a Pancake Breakfast Drive-Thru hosted by the Auburn Jeep Club in support of the Placer County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy. Join us on Saturday, November 23, at Auburn City Hall from 7:00 to 10:00 AM to pick up a breakfast plate for \$10. All proceeds will benefit the chaplains who provide essential services to our Officers and community. Drive through, enjoy a delicious breakfast, and show your support.

Planning/Economic Department:

- *School Park Preserve - ADA Park Lift*: The ADA-compliant lift for the new multi-use area (pickleball courts) at School Park Preserve has passed inspection by the State Fire Marshal and is technically operable. However, staff is awaiting training on how to properly use the lift before it is officially opened to the public. The lift will improve accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges.

- *New Indoor Sports Training Facility (Heavy Hitters)*: The old Ace Hardware warehouse, located across from the County Library on Nevada St., has been repurposed into an indoor sports training facility. The new business, named Heavy Hitters, will feature both baseball batting cages and golf training equipment, including simulators, a putting green, and practice rooms. The owners are working with Building staff to finalize their tenant improvements, and they hope to open by the end of the month.
- *Airport Runway Maintenance*: The Auburn Airport has undergone several days of runway maintenance, including crack sealing and repainting of runway markers. A pilot recently reported that the runway markings were so bright white, they were visible from as far as two miles away, which suggests significant improvements in visibility/safety for pilots.
- *County Land Use Proposal - Expansion of Beautiful Minds Facility*: There is a proposal for an expansion of the Beautiful Minds facility near the Auburn Airport, which includes new buildings for outpatient care and a 24-room in-patient extended care facility. The property shares a fence line with the airport, which raises concerns regarding compatibility with ongoing airport operations, particularly helicopter activities during emergency operations. City staff have voiced concerns to the County about the potential noise impact on patients, especially given that the facility will serve individuals with mental health issues. There are also broader safety concerns about having such a care facility located so close to the airport, particularly with the airport's high activity levels.

Finance Department:

- *Nearing the End of an Audit*: For the past month, the Finance department has been working closely with our new external auditors, Eide Bailly LLP, to provide documentation and support for a variety of FY 2023-24 financial transactions. The effort has been a marathon for the staff due to much of the institutional knowledge having left with prior employees, making historical research that more difficult. Many of the audit requests require intimate knowledge and ability to retrieve documentation for matters that originated years ago but are still active today, such as the City's pension obligation bonds and the Auburn redevelopment project area bond. Though cumbersome, having new auditors this year has shown to be an excellent opportunity for the finance department to organize old records, verify accounting practices, and ensure financial reporting is adhering to the latest Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requirements. One of the GASB changes that occurred in 2021 is applicable to the City's custodial funds. Custodial funds are funds held on behalf of others, with a good example being our downtown and old town business association districts. The City collects a business district fee for business licenses issued in these areas and remits all funds received to the districts for their needs. The City has a handful of custodial funds but some will shift to being reported as a special revenue fund. Special revenue funds require an annual budget and if the City has any influence over a currently reported custodial fund, there is a chance the fund needs to be reclassified. Reporting changes do not

impact the City's financial condition, as it's merely moving from one financial report to another, however; compliance with GASB is crucial for the City's overall financial condition as it impacts the City's ability to obtain debt through its credit rating and avoid penalties with other governmental agencies who rely on our financial reports. Though this is only the tip of the iceberg with audit activities, the end is near for the completion of the FY 2023-24 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and audit findings. Now and through the month of December, the remaining audit items are scheduled to be completed. An area of key focus will be the final year-over-year deficit amount for the General Fund as of June 30, 2024. The FY 2023-24 deficit total will be incorporated into the FY 2024-25 mid-year financial update scheduled for February 2025.

Fire Department:

- *Old Town Auburn Safe Trick-or-Treating:* On October 31st, Captain James Murphy, Engineer Aaron Rea, and Firefighter Nate Steil participated in Old Town Auburn's annual Safe Trick-or-Treating event. They handed out candy to trick-or-treaters, contributing to a fun community event.
- *Auburn Union School District Site Safety Plan:* Battalion Chief D'Ambrogi recently assisted the Auburn Union School District in reviewing its 2024-2025 Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Since January 1, 2019, California law has required schools to develop safety plans in consultation with fire departments and other first responders. This plan is shared with local first responder agencies to enhance emergency preparedness.
- *Foresthill Fire District Fire Apparatus Engineer Assessment Center:* On November 5th and 6th, Battalion Chief Jelle supported the Foresthill Fire Protection District's Fire Apparatus Engineer assessment center. This two-day process evaluated 10 candidates and included various hands-on skills and a structured interview panel. Chief Jelle was requested to assist due to his familiarity with the district as a former employee. Supporting neighboring agencies with assessment centers is common practice in the fire service, ensuring a well-rounded evaluation of candidates.
- *Lincoln Fire Department Battalion Chief Assessment Center:* On November 12th, Chief D'Ambrogi assisted the City of Lincoln Fire Department with their internal Battalion Chief assessment center. He aided in evaluating four candidates who were tasked with completing a presentation, shift meeting, and counseling session. Chief D'Ambrogi's support and expertise have been instrumental in regional assessment processes, strengthening our regional fire service partnerships.
- *Veterans Day Parade:* Battalion Chief McCarthy, Captain Justin Rendon, Engineer Alex Lawton, and Firefighter Zachary Sloan represented the Auburn Fire Department in the 2024 Veterans Day Parade. Although initially dispatched to a structure fire in the Placer Hills Fire Protection District, they were able to attend the parade after Placer Hills resources handled the incident.
- *Crew Returns from the Mountain Incident:* Captain James Murphy, Engineer Aaron Rea, and Firefighter Nate Steil returned to Auburn on November 11th after assisting

with the Mountain Incident in Ventura County. Their strike team traveled nearly 1,300 miles while deployed, and they assisted with containment efforts. Coverage in Auburn was maintained with off-duty personnel filling in during the deployment.

Public Works Department:

- *Public Works Addresses Storm Drainage & Overgrowth*: Staff has officially launched our previously mentioned initiative aimed at mapping, characterizing, and maintaining the City's storm drainage system. Through this process, we've identified significant overgrowth along many of the tree-lined streets, which is obstructing pathways. While our team will address any overgrowth within the public right-of-way, we'll also be communicating with residents about the importance of trimming trees on their property to prevent damage. Some branches are causing issues with our equipment, and given the City's recent investment in a VAC-COM cleaning truck—and a new street sweeper arriving soon—it's essential to take steps to safeguard this valuable equipment.
- *Aeolia Sewer Line Project Nears Design Completion*: Aeolia sewer line project has reached 60% design completion. Our staff is collaborating closely with the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) to ensure the design meets their standards and to resolve any potential issues associated with this joint effort. The final design is expected by the end of the month and will be submitted to the water board for approval. Although there are areas where minimum separation cannot be achieved, both City and PCWA staff are confident that the project will place this area in a more compliant state without regulatory complications.
- *Addressing Drivability Issues on Maidu Drive Project*: For those who have recently driven along the newly completed section of Maidu Drive, we are aware of some drivability issues and are actively working with the contractor to resolve them. No payments have been issued for this project thus far, and we are committed to ensuring the final product meets the City's standards. We are currently addressing items on the project's punch list and expect all issues to be resolved satisfactorily.

QUESTIONS? Please contact me at the phone number below or by email at srabe@auburn.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Rabé".

Sean Rabé, City Manager