



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	February 24, 2025
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for February 24 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:

- *Energy Savings Contract Update:* As Council knows, the City has been working through the Energy Savings Contract (ESCO) with Schneider Electric, which the City contracted with last year. The ESCO provides for a cost-efficient way for the City to provide upgrades to various City facility components like lighting and HVAC, and also provides for the implementation of solar at various City facilities. The projects in the ESCO are paid for through the energy savings generated by those projects.
Concurrently with Schneider working through the design phase of the project, City Staff has engaged a financial consultant to review the project's financials, including the cash flow analysis. Staff hopes to bring that analysis and design to Council within the next few meetings.

Police Department:

- The demonstration on Presidents Day, Monday, February 17th, took place in front of the historic courthouse and drew a crowd of approximately 250-300 individuals. The event lasted for three hours, during which both participants and opposers remained peaceful, demonstrating their commitment to expressing their views respectfully. A special thank you goes out to our dedicated staff and to Chief Morrison, Sergeant Almeida, and Officer Hatcher for their swift response and additional support throughout the event.
- The Auburn Police Department has upgraded its body-worn cameras to the latest Axon models, enhancing officer safety and transparency. Staff participated in training last week to ensure proper use and functionality of the new devices, which will now be worn in the field. This important upgrade was made possible through grant funding, allowing the department to continue its commitment to accountability and community trust.
- A 4-year-old child was injured after being struck by a vehicle in Old Town Auburn on Wednesday afternoon. Auburn Police, Auburn Fire, and AMR responded to

Sacramento Street, where the child had walked into the road and was hit. The child was transported to Sutter Roseville Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. No alcohol or narcotics were suspected, and the driver cooperated fully. The child's condition was last reported as stable.

Planning/Economic Department:

- The Community and Economic Development Department is inviting the community to participate in two upcoming workshops as part of the "Envision Auburn 2045: Which Way Auburn?" initiative. These workshops will provide an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts, ideas, and vision for Auburn's future as the city updates its General Plan.

The first event will take place on Wednesday, March 5th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Rose Room at Auburn City Hall. The second workshop will be held on Saturday, March 15th, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, also in the Rose Room at City Hall.

These workshops are part of a series of public engagement efforts aimed at gathering input from Auburn residents, as well as unincorporated area residents, to help shape the long-term direction of the city. Topics of discussion will include key areas such as land use, transportation, housing, economic development, sustainability, and growth.

We encourage all to come out and share their ideas for how Auburn can grow and evolve over the next two decades. This is an important opportunity to influence the future of our city, and we want to hear from everyone. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend one or both workshops to provide valuable input on Auburn's future growth and development.

For more information, visit the city's website or contact the Community and Economic Development Director.

Finance Department:

- *Mid-Year Financial Update News:* This week Council will receive an update on the FY 2024-25 budget as of the 2nd quarter of the fiscal year (i.e. mid-year) that takes revenues and expenditures incurred through December 2024, updated budget requests from departments and updated revenue trends, to produce the first year-end FY 2024-25 projection for the General Fund. The City's other funds such as Airport and Sewer Enterprises, and Special Revenue Funds will be included though not an area of intense focus as the General Fund continues to be. It's been a year since the discovery of a structure budget deficit in the General Fund and several strategic steps taken by City leadership in cooperation with City Council have occurred. A hiring freeze in April 2024, budget reductions and reallocation of one-time funding solutions as of July 2024, and in October 2024 a resolution for labor cost reductions of \$1.1 million in the General Fund needed by June 30, 2025. In parallel, a timely opportunity to address the City's history of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) limitations resulted in the voter passage of Measure F to increase TOT taxes and expand the collection to short-term rentals, are resulting in more ongoing

revenue for the City. The Mid-Year Financial Update will report the positive news that these efforts are achieving the desired target to close the budget deficit on an ongoing basis. Closing the budget gap is step one; however, the City requires an ongoing surplus to address deferred priorities such as labor, replenishment of reserves to policy levels, stormwater, building and equipment maintenance. With a small surplus now projected in the multi-year financial forecast for the General Fund, City leadership and City Council have their work cut out for them to prioritize how best to allocate this resource for the fiscal sustainability of the future.

Fire Department:

- *Auburn Fire Department – Baltimore Ravine Pre-Project Site Visit:* On February 20th, the Auburn Fire Department, White Oak Land Management, Mason, Bruce & Girard, and the United Auburn Indian Community, conducted a pre-project site walk for Phase I of the Baltimore Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Project. Following the site walk, the Fire Department issued a Notice to Proceed, authorizing White Oak Land Management to begin work. Depending on weather, crews will start along the western edge of the project near I-80 on March 3rd.
- *Auburn Fire Department – Placer High School Career Day:* Battalion Chief McCarthy connected with nearly 100 juniors and seniors during Placer High School's 2025 Career Fair on February 19th. He provided insights into fire service careers, outlining essential steps such as attending a fire academy, obtaining EMT certification, enrolling in fire-related college courses, maintaining physical fitness, and graduating high school. The event, which ran from 9:30am to 1:00pm, offered students valuable guidance on pursuing careers in emergency services, as well as other fields.
- *Auburn Hook and Ladder Co. #1 – 173rd Annual Roll Call Dinner:* The Auburn Fire Department joined the Auburn Hook and Ladder Co. #1 at their 173rd Annual Roll Call Dinner on February 21st at the Elks Lodge. The event brought together nearly 80 guests, including past and present AFD members, fire service professionals, and local leaders. Captain James Murphy was honored as Firefighter of the Year, while Engineers Neil Bennett and Aaron Rea received service pins for 15 and 10 years of service, respectively. Also introduced during the presentations were Battalion Chief Matt McCarthy and Captain Justin Rendon. The Hook and Ladder Co. recognized Warren Hubbard as Member of the Year and Edelweiss 2 (Old Town) as Business of the Year for their contributions to the Company.

Public Works Department:

- On February 7th, City staff, along with Caltrans staff, received a response from UPRR regarding the pending encroachment permit. UPRR requested three additional follow-up items, which we have since provided. Caltrans' surveyors have also been on-site to fulfill the additional request. We continue to push this project forward, ensuring that any delays are not due to a lack of effort from the City or Caltrans. We remain confident in meeting the construction season deadlines.

- On Friday, February 11th, staff visited the wastewater treatment plant in Redding, CA. This facility has taken a proactive approach to solids disposal. Certain materials commonly found in solids may eventually prevent landfill disposal, prompting staff to explore potential solutions. Over the next few months, several informational presentations will be provided to the council to ensure that when the time comes to select a course of action, both staff and council will have the necessary information to make an informed decision.

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