



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	April 14, 2025
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for April 14th 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:

- Pickleball: Yesterday I was able to play my first-ever game of pickleball, in the Heroes tournament (featuring police and fire departments), benefiting Stand Up Placer. Mayor Sandy Amara chose me to be her partner. While we didn't win – we were a long way from it – we had a great time!
- Ongoing Budget Development: As Finance Director Gretchen Johnson writes below, we are full swing into budget preparation at this point. While the combination of the City Council's direction to reduce personnel costs and ongoing belt tightening by our departments was successful in righting the fiscal ship to wipe out the structural deficit, we have a razor-thin margin of a surplus this year (and in future years). The City must be vigilant in expenses and, at the same time, be very aggressive in finding ways to increase revenue. We're making good headway with both, but we need to be hyper-focused on both.

Police Department:

- Helmet Drive Underway at Auburn PD: APD is collecting new bicycle helmets through April 24 to promote bike safety in our community. Drop off donations in the lobby collection box. Thank you to Vice Mayor Kelley Davis who partnered with Auburn Bike Co., Bicycle Emporium, and Victory Velo for their generous support. Your contributions are helping keep Auburn's kids safe and stylish on their rides!
- Auburn Police Honors Fallen Marysville Officer: Members of the Auburn Police Department attended the funeral for Marysville Police Officer Osmar Rodarte to honor his service and show support for the Marysville community. Officer Rodarte's dedication and sacrifice will not be forgotten, and our hearts are with his family, friends, and fellow officers during this difficult time. It was a solemn reminder of the risks law enforcement officers face every day and the strength of

unity across agencies when one of our own is lost. We thank those who attended on behalf of the department for representing Auburn with dignity and respect.

- *Update on April 15 Rally Originally Scheduled in Auburn:* APD was advised of a planned rally featuring Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. In preparation, Police department staff partnered with the event promoter, CHP, the Fire Marshal, and Public Works to assess the potential impact on the city and address safety and logistical concerns. The promoter informed us that the event will proceed as planned at a new location, Folsom Lake College. We appreciate the collaboration of all involved and thank our community for their patience and understanding as these plans evolved.

Planning/Economic Department:

- *Airport Demo's New Surface Treatment:* In the spirit of doing more with less, staff from the Community & Economic Development Department and Public Works recently received a demonstration of a new surface treatment product. This treatment can be applied by City staff and is designed to fill large cracks, like those forming on our taxiways due to heavy aircraft traffic while resurfacing the asphalt. The product is designed to remain flexible over time to prevent the cracks from reappearing after it cures.

To evaluate its effectiveness, staff applied the treatment in two high-traffic areas where the pavement is experiencing the most severe cracking. If the product holds up under the wear and tear of airport operations, it could offer significant cost savings both in application costs and for maintenance.

- *Work in the School Park:* The City still has remaining funds from the School Park Preserve ADA Accessibility Project, which will be used to repave a portion of the old park pathways. Once Placer Land Trust gives its approval, staff is prepared to give the green light to a local contractor to begin work.

The existing concrete pathways are rough, uneven, and not ADA compliant. This phase of the project will likely focus on the section from the parking lot up to the first bridge.

Finance Department:

- *Supporting financial decision-making:* Over the past several weeks, the Finance Department has continued to provide financial data, analysis, and support to other departments and the City Manager. Topics of importance include the preparation of the FY 2025-26 proposed budget and taking cautious steps to protect the projected elimination of the General Fund deficit.

As indicated in the recent Mid-Year Financial Update to Council in February, the projected surplus is small and is up against a tremendous amount of pressure due to competing priorities that should be funded. Estimating the City's future revenues against an uncertain future economic condition, and nailing down future costs of

labor, services, and supplies is paramount to the success of reaching surplus estimates.

As the preparation of the FY 2025-26 proposed budget takes shape, departments have listened to the financial data by only requesting what they need and less some. Previously deferred repairs to buildings, equipment, and infrastructure are again deferred and determining an appropriate level of staffing to move the City forward continues to evolve.

New and ongoing initiatives of the City daylight the importance of the role of Finance to regularly evaluate funding availability and communicate the risks associated with potential choices. With the fragility of the City's recent deficit-ending success, decision-making must be weighed against the risks and factors that are both within and out of the City's control. The Finance Department supports decisions that will move the City forward by generating new revenue outcomes without new ongoing expenses. The City Council can expect to receive an update on the development of the upcoming budget on May 12, 2025.

Fire Department:

- *Meeting with RCD to Discuss Chipper Program:* On March 25th, Chiefs Rogers and D'Ambrogi, along with Public Works Superintendent Matt Carducci and Engineering Technician James Taber, met with the Placer Resource Conservation District to discuss their Chipper Program and potential opportunities for work to support the City Owned Parcel Vegetation Management Plan. The Fire Department and Public Works have collaborated on the existing plan and identified various hazards. Public Works is continuing to coordinate with RCD on the possible project details, and the Fire Department is supportive of the efforts to reduce fire risk.
- *Station #3 Repairs:* On April 1st, Public Works investigated cracked tile on the interior side of an exterior wall at Station #3. Upon opening the wall, crews discovered significant dry rot. Public Works is currently soliciting bids to complete the necessary repairs. Although the damage appears to be old, recent heavy rainfall did not result in any moisture readings on the structural components. The Fire Department thanks Public Works for their ongoing efforts to address this issue.
- *Support for Local Firefighter Memorial Service:* On April 6th, members of the Auburn Fire Department and Auburn Hook & Ladder Co. #1 attended a memorial service for retired CALFIRE Firefighter and active Hook & Ladder Co. #1 member Ronny Denton. The service was well attended and included traditional fire service honors.
- *Support of Placer High Fire Technology Program:* On April 8th, C-Shift members supported Althea Canines in socializing eight puppies-in-training, helping prepare them for future roles in service, therapy, or peer support. The only requirement for participation was for Auburn Fire personnel to play with the puppies. The event, coordinated by Battalion Chief Matt McCarthy and Captain Justin Rendon, was successful and enjoyed by all.

- Continued Support of Fire Tech 1 Class: On April 9th, Captain Rendon, Engineer Lawton, and Firefighter Sloan visited the dual enrollment Fire Technology 1 class at Placer High School. The crew gave students an overview of the engine and loose equipment, but the visit was cut short when the unit responded to a medical aid. The class was dismissed prior to the crew's return, but Auburn Fire will reschedule the visit and remains committed to supporting this valuable local educational program.

Public Works Department:

- We're easing into spring and summer activities this weekend, and there's already been noticeable movement throughout the city. The Rodeo typically signals the start of a busy season. Auburn On-Demand staff also participated in the Canyon Clean-Up Day, hosted by PARC (Protect the American River Canyon).
- Construction season is in full swing. The final round of comments was sent to UPRR on April 3, incorporating all of their most recent requests. We remain confident that the project will move forward and be completed within this construction season, and expect to have the go-ahead for the project soon.

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



Sean Rabé, City Manager