



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM:	Sean Rabé, City Manager
DATE:	May 12, 2025
SUBJECT:	City Manager Report for May 12th 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:

- *Celebrating Municipal Clerks Week*: Last week was Municipal Clerks Week and, since we didn't have a Council meeting, I wanted to take a few moments to thank our AMAZING City Clerk Amy Lind for all she does. Amy has worked for Auburn for 16 years and has been our City Clerk since 2017. She recently completed her Master Municipal Clerk certification and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the California Municipal Clerks Association and serves as their Director of Networking.

Amy does a great job with all things City Hall – City Council meetings, committees, agendas, social media, public record requests and everything in between. She is an indispensable part of Team Auburn!

Police Department:

- *Officer Qualifications and Training*: The Auburn Police Department recently held firearms qualifications at the range for both current staff and retired officers, highlighting the department's ongoing commitment to safety, proficiency, and camaraderie. These range days are not only essential for maintaining POST standards and ensuring that officers are prepared for duty, but they also serve as a valuable opportunity to reconnect with retired personnel who proudly served the community. This inclusive approach reinforces the department's dedication to professional development and honors the legacy of those who helped shape the agency. By training side-by-side, current and former officers strengthen the bond that defines the Auburn PD family.
- *Blue envelope*: The Auburn Police Department would like to highlight the Blue Envelope Program. In partnership with law enforcement agencies across Placer County, this initiative helps support neurodiverse individuals during interactions with police. The blue envelope holds key documents and a card explaining the

individual's needs, helping officers recognize when extra patience or support may be helpful. It's a simple tool that can make a big difference. To learn more or request a blue envelope, please visit the City of Auburn website under Police Services or contact the Auburn Police Department.

Planning/Economic Department:

- *Auburn Airport Enriching Youth*: On Thursday, May 5, 2025, the Auburn Airport welcomed 52 first- sixth grade students from St. Joseph Catholic School for an exciting and educational field trip. With the help of Auburn Aviation Association volunteers, the students toured six key stops, including the CHP and Placer County Sheriff's Air Operations hangars, Sky Trails, Mach 5 Aviation, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Niello Hangar. Over three hours, they explored aircraft maintenance, flight training, search and rescue, and aviation careers, with the highlight being hands-on time in the new Auburn Aviation Association flight simulator. The day was filled with learning, excitement, and inspiration, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for aviation and the airport's role in the community.
- *Rowing in the Same Direction*: Last week, staff attended the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce's Spring Into Action Chamber Summit, which brought together business representatives from Old Town and Downtown Auburn to discuss key issues impacting the local business community. Things like workforce development, marketing and physical improvements to the city were all in play. The concerns raised during the meeting were documented by Chamber CEO Michele Tuggle and will serve as the foundation for a follow-up meeting focused on identifying actionable solutions.

Finance Department:

- *Investments and Choices*: The Finance Department has worked closely with the City Treasurer over the past year to ensure the City's cash investments are in the highest yielding interest accounts possible for government agencies.

With our investment choices being restricted to Government Code Section 53601, our choices are limited but our taxpayer dollars are very safe. About this time last year, the City had most of its funds in a Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) administered by the California State Treasurer, and in the Placer County Pool of Investments administered by the County Treasurer.

In July 2024, the City Treasurer and Finance Director, with City Council's concurrence, opened a California Asset Management Plan (CAMP) administered by a California Joint Powers Authority with specialized investments through PFM Asset Management, LLC. CAMP has a history of yielding a slightly better rate of return than LAIF. Nearly all of the City's cash that is available for investment has been transferred to CAMP, where it is currently yielding 4.45-4.61% as compared to last year's opening rate of 5.43%. CAMP continues to outperform LAIF and the Finance Department monitors monthly to ensure the City's cash is in the best possible investment vehicle.

Last fiscal year, the City's investment earnings were approximately \$653,000. This fiscal year, we're on track for a similar investment earnings total of \$635,000. The annual total is a little less due to the volatility of the market, and though we are utilizing the best investment choice available to the City, the amount earned depends on the interest rate which continually changes throughout the year, beyond our control.

The amount of earnings we receive is also based on the amount of cash we have invested, and if we use reserves or make large one-time payments early in the fiscal year, the amount of cash that is invested will be less. Looking at the budget, these interest earnings are shared across all the City's operating funds based on the size of the fund, so only a portion of these earnings is a General Fund revenue. In the FY 2025-26 proposed budget that is currently being drafted, we are estimating \$300,000 in interest earnings for the General Fund next year. The choices made during the budget development and adoption process will further inform this estimate, but ultimately, the economy and market conditions will determine what we can achieve.

Fire Department:

- ***Major Injury Vehicle Accident:*** On April 28th at approximately 3:20 pm, the Auburn Fire Department responded to a reported single vehicle accident on Auburn Folsom Road near Sunrise Ridge Circle. Battalion Chief McCarthy, Captain Murphy, Engineer Rea, and Firefighter Steil arrived to find a single vehicle rollover with one occupant. The driver had been ejected and sustained major injuries. Auburn Fire personnel assisted AMR with patient care and packaging for transport. The patient was transported Code 3 to Sutter Roseville Medical Center with Firefighter Steil accompanying the paramedic crew. This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of wearing seat belts.
- ***Automatic Aid to CALFIRE/Placer County Fire for Water Rescue:*** On May 2nd at approximately 5:00 pm, Engine 1282, with Captain Rendon, Engineer Lawton, and Firefighter Sloan, responded automatic aid to CALFIRE/Placer County Fire for a reported swift water rescue at the American River Confluence. Upon arrival, fire crews located a kayaker in the water. Auburn Fire provided shore-based support to CALFIRE/Placer County's Swift Water Rescue Team. One kayaker was safely removed from the water; however, the second individual remains missing as of May 9th. This incident serves as a reminder to avoid swift, cold water: stay out and stay alive.
- ***Auburn Fire Department – Wildfire Preparedness Day:*** On May 3rd, the Auburn Fire Department supported two Firewise Communities during their annual Wildfire Preparedness Day events. Chiefs McCarthy and D'Ambrogi attended the Olive Orchard Firewise Community event, where UC Cooperative Extension led a community workshop and neighborhood walk focused on home hardening, defensible space, and evacuation readiness. Auburn Fire provided additional information on the importance of Zone 0 and the impact it has on wildfire safety.

Chief McCarthy, Captain Rendon, Engineer Lawton, and Firefighter Sloan attended the Grand Oaks Firewise Community event. They fielded questions from residents regarding home hardening and defensible space strategies. Auburn Fire was pleased to support both communities with their community-based preparedness events.

- *Hook & Ladder Co. #1 – Charlie Yue Memorial Parking Lot Dedication*: On May 3rd, Chief Rogers and members of Auburn Hook & Ladder Co. #1 attended the dedication ceremony for the Charlie Yue Memorial Parking Lot and Plaque. The event was organized by the Placer County Historical Society and the City's historian and was well attended by family, friends, and community members. The Yue family's legacy spans six generations of Auburn residents. Charlie's three sons and two grandsons served in the Auburn Fire Department. His grandson, Retired Captain Herb Yue, and great-grandson Dustin Yue spoke on behalf of the family during the ceremony. The dedication was followed by a fundraiser and presentation at the Native Sons Building on Commercial Street. The presentation covered the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the Gold Country and the railroad, and highlighted the Old Town Auburn Joss House, which was rebuilt by Charlie Yue in 1920.
- *Automatic Aid to Newcastle Fire for Vegetation Fire on I-80*: On May 5th at approximately 10:00 pm, Auburn Fire responded automatic aid to Newcastle Fire for a reported vegetation fire along eastbound I-80 between Newcastle and Auburn. Battalion Chief Jelle, Captain Murphy, Engineer Rea, and Firefighter Steil arrived to find three spot fires alongside the freeway. Auburn Fire assisted with extinguishment and mop-up operations. The fire burned an area approximately one acre. With grass beginning to cure, Placer County is quickly approaching fire season. Please be fire safe.

Public Works Department:

- *Union Pacific Encroachment Permit Update*: Last Wednesday, Union Pacific confirmed that the utility encroachment permit application is still under review. The City submitted responses to their previous comments on April 3rd. Given Union Pacific's typical 8-week review period, we expect a response within the next two weeks, fingers crossed.
- *High Street and Elm Avenue Paving Work*: A small paving project is scheduled in the coming weeks to repair the turn pocket at the corner of High Street and Elm Avenue. This work aims to address rutting and an uneven driving surface. While High Street has experienced considerable activity over the past year, it's critical to complete necessary underground infrastructure improvements before finalizing surface treatment plans, which are currently in development.

- *Aeolia Avenue Wastewater Line Rebid*: Last Friday, staff hosted a pre-bid meeting for the rebid of the Aeolia Avenue wastewater line project. The project was re-advertised after the original low bidder failed to submit all required documents, and the next lowest bid came in approximately \$300,000 higher, well above the expected cost for a project of this scope. The new bid period closes this Friday, and Council will likely see a recommendation for award at the next meeting.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean Rabé".

Sean Rabé, City Manager