



## MEMORANDUM

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| <b>TO:</b>      | Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council               |
| <b>FROM:</b>    | Sean Rabé, City Manager                                       |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | February 9, 2026  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b> | City Manager Report for the February 9th 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:**

#### Strategic Planning Session

The City Council and Department Heads met last week for our initial strategic planning session, with facilitator Scott Winters. The half-day meeting was meant as a way to bring an alignment between the Council and Staff on issues that should be prioritized and those that are not as high on the priority list. We will come back in March to wrap up the strategic planning session with a strategic plan document to be presented to the City Council at a later date.

#### City Manager / Police Chief Joint Training

Police Chief Bryan Morrison and City Manager Sean Rabé attended a joint training recently, focusing on leadership, governance, and effective collaboration between city administration and law enforcement. Their participation supports continued alignment and best practices in serving the community and was a great way to build on an already well-established working relationship.

### **Planning Department:**

#### Interagency Coordination and Wildfire Regulations

The Building Division staff will participate in the Fire Prevention Officers meeting this Wednesday. One of the key discussion topics Building will bring to the table is the recently implemented, more stringent setback requirements within Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) districts. The Building Official will advocate for approaches that meet the intent of state fire safety standards while continuing to support responsible construction and housing development in Auburn.

#### Armstrong Manufacturing Expansion

Groundbreaking and initial inspections have commenced for the Armstrong Manufacturing expansion of their existing facilities located on Earhart Avenue near the Airport. The new 9,000 square foot metal building is designed for receiving, processing, and storing raw metal materials.

## **Economic Development:**

### Town Hall

The City of Auburn Economic Development Commission will host a public Town Hall tomorrow at 5:30pm, focused on helping residents better understand where their money goes when they spend locally. The discussion will explore how dollars spent on goods and services in Auburn circulate through the local economy compared to money spent online or outside the area, how much of that spending goes to taxes, and how those tax revenues are ultimately distributed. In addition to providing transparency, the Town Hall will actively solicit ideas and suggestions from attendees on ways to increase local investment, attract visitors, and incentivize spending within Auburn. Community members are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and share their perspectives on strengthening Auburn's local economy.

### RFQ for Design and Marketing Assistance

The City's Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for on-call graphic design and marketing assistance has generated significant interest. Next week, the City will post a formal response to the more than dozen inquiries received to date and looks forward to continued engagement as the process moves forward. The City hopes this early interest translates into a strong pool of applicants ahead of the March 5, 2026 submission deadline.

## **Finance Department:**

### New Laws Effecting Finance

*GASB Requirements* - The Finance Department is adjusting to the latest legislation and requirements implemented by other governmental agencies. Over the past year, Finance has complied with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statements 87, 96, and 101. These statements reshape the way the City calculates, monitors and reports leases, IT SaaS subscriptions, and compensated employee absences. The purpose of these statements is to strengthen financial transparency of the City's assets, liabilities, and net financial position to inform stakeholders (i.e. the taxpayers, public officials, and investors). During the current year, Finance is evaluating GASB #104 specific to capital assets.

*IRS Legislation* – Effective 2026, employers are now required to report certain eligible overtime on employee W2's to serve as a tax deduction for employees. The Finance and Human Resources Departments have partnered to ensure our understanding of "eligible" and develop tracking and calculations to comply. Currently, the City's payroll vendor has not developed a solution, so the responsibility is solely with the City to solve. This legislation is temporary with a sunset date of December 2028.

### Upcoming Financial Presentation

At the February 23, 2026 City Council meeting, the FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Financial Update will be presented. The efforts staff has taken to this point has included updating revenue and expenditure projections through June 30, 2026 while incorporating all department head feedback on new, reduced, or eliminated costs. Staff is already reporting the General Fund continues with a surplus balance. Other City Funds are still being evaluated but with

no causes for concern. The Mid-Year update will include a summary of the latest projections, budget adjustments, and multi-year general fund forecast.

### **Fire Department:**

#### 174th Annual Roll Call Dinner

The Auburn Fire Department joined the Auburn Hook and Ladder Co. #1 at their 174th Annual Roll Call Dinner on February 6th at St. Joseph's Church. The event brought together nearly 75 guests, including past and present AFD members, fire service professionals, and local leaders. Firefighter Buck Sims was honored as Firefighter of the Year, and Firefighter Jeff Costa was introduced during the presentation. The Auburn Hook and Ladder Company also recognized Bill McKenzie as Member of the Year and Foothill Firearms as Business of the Year for their contributions to the Company.

#### Firefighter of the Year Buck Sims

The Auburn Fire Department Command Staff selected Firefighter Buck Sims as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year in recognition of his contributions to the organization. Firefighter Sims has served as a full-time firefighter since 2016 and plays an important role in equipment inventory and asset management, the department's drone program, technical rescue and extrication operations, ladder testing, and pre-fire planning. He was instrumental in implementing the department's regionally interoperable SCBA program, coordinates annual SCBA flow and fit testing, oversees PPE replacement, and led annual pump testing efforts in collaboration with Joint Operations Agreement agencies. Firefighter Sims holds State Fire Marshal certifications as a Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator and Company Officer and consistently demonstrates compassion in service to the Auburn community.

### **Police Department:**

#### Promotions and New Appointments

We're excited to share some great updates within the Auburn Police Department as Ranier Neri was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant, Kristie Jewell was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Records & Dispatch Supervisor, and Kimberly Aranda was promoted from Community Service Officer to Police Officer. We also welcome Brian Bowman, who has joined the department as a new Reserve Police Officer. Congratulations to all on these well-deserved accomplishments!

#### Sierra College DUI Symposium

Reserve Officer Monelo and CEO Keim attended the DUI Symposium at Sierra College, supporting continued education and collaboration around DUI awareness and prevention.

#### MADD Vigil

Lt. Huey, Lt. Neri, and Reserve Officer Bergenstock attended the Mothers Against Drunk Driving vigil to stand in solidarity with victims and families impacted by impaired driving. Their presence reflects our department's ongoing commitment to DUI awareness, prevention, and community support.

**Public Works Department:**

On Friday, Public Works and Wastewater Treatment staff were honored with both Small Plant of the Year and Collection System of the Year awards, for the 12th consecutive year. This achievement reflects the tremendous effort and expertise staff dedicate to operating, upgrading, and maintaining the City's wastewater collection system, portions of which are more than a century old. It also speaks to the City Council's continued commitment to modernizing our infrastructure and ensuring the City remains ahead of the evolving regulations set forth by the California State Water Resources Control Board. Our Public Works and Wastewater teams are highly dedicated professionals, committed each day to preserving, enhancing, and restoring water quality for the community we serve.

**Human Resources:**Current Recruitments

- Police Officer – Ongoing (Lateral/Academy Graduate)
- Bus Driver I – Ongoing (Part-time)
- Police Officer Reserve – Level I – Ongoing (Part-time)

**February Work Anniversaries:**

We appreciate your dedication, passion, and hard work in strengthening our community and inspiring those around you. This February we recognize these outstanding employees for reaching their milestones:

**Ranier Neri** – 5 years of service

**Kimberly Aranda** – 2 years of service

**Mengil Deane** – 11 years of service

**Tia Klumpp** – 3 years of service

**Stephen Benham (PT)** – 7 years of service

Thank you all for your continued contributions! You make the City of Auburn a better place every day!

QUESTIONS? Please contact me at the phone number below or by email at [srabe@auburn.ca.gov](mailto:srabe@auburn.ca.gov).



Sean Rabé, City Manager