

# YREKA CITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 31, 2009

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- BOB KING** 1
- DOG LICENSES** 1
- BROWNFIELDS** 2
- UTILITY USER TAX** 2

**Important Numbers**

**City Hall/  
Water Division  
(530) 841-2386**

**Fire Department  
(530) 841-2383**

**Police Department  
(530) 841-2300**

**Public Works  
(530) 841-2370**

**Senior Program  
(530) 841-2365**

**Elected Officials**

**Tom Amaral  
Mayor**

**Jim Griffin  
Mayor Pro Tempore**

**Rory McNeil  
Councilmember**

**David Simmen  
Councilmember**

**Jason Darrow  
Councilmember**

**Liz Casson  
City Clerk**

**Michael Pavlik  
City Treasurer**

**BOB KING RETIRED!!**

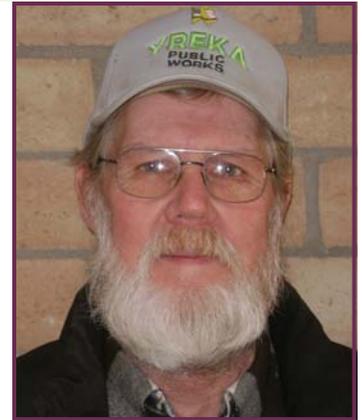
Bob King, Maintenance Manager in the Department of Public Works, retired in December, after 37 years of service with the City of Yreka.

Bob started working for the City in September 1972 as a Maintenance Worker II, and was promoted to a Maintenance Worker III about 5 years later. In 1995, he was promoted to Maintenance Specialist where his main responsibilities were maintaining the traffic-related facilities such as street lights, signs, pavement striping, and other electrical facilities. He was next promoted to Maintenance Manager in November of

2003. In this position, he was the leader of the Maintenance Division in Public Works and responsible for maintenance of the streets, sewers, water distribution lines, storm drains, parks, buildings, traffic facilities, and the landfill.

“Bob has done an excellent job as Maintenance Manager. He was a key employee in our Department that I worked closely with everyday. I will miss his knowledge, experience, honesty, integrity and commitment to the City.” stated Steve Neill, Director of Public Works.

Bob said, “I have seen a lot of changes in the City and a



lot of changes of people in the various positions during my career. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had to advance through the organization. I will miss the variety of work I have been involved with through the years and the people that I have worked with.”

**DOG LICENSE RATE INCREASE**



Dog License Rate Increase (4-yr Plan)	Altered	Unaltered
2007/2008	\$5.00	\$10.00
Year One: 2008/2009	\$10.00	\$20.00
<b>CURRENT - Year Two: 2009/2010</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
Year Three: 2010/2011	\$20.00	\$40.00
Year Four: 2011/2012	\$25.00	\$50.00

In accordance with our dog license rate increase plan (see chart), dog license fees will be going up again for 2010. The new fees will be \$15.00 for altered dogs and \$30.00 for unaltered dogs. To assist dog owners who are on fixed incomes, the City has established a Community Service Fee Waiver. This waiver is granted to parties who have performed 3 hours of community service for an altered dog and 6 hours for an unaltered dog. Please contact Lysandra at City Hall for more information. Animal Control is an important service that is beneficial to the entire community. These rate increases will only provide 25% of what it costs to operate a kennel, respond to an average of 3 calls for service per day, and reunite lost dogs with their owners.

## BROWNFIELDS GRANT

The City of Yreka applied for and was awarded a grant of \$400,000 to inventory and prioritize brownfields, conduct environmental site assessments for hazardous substances and petroleum contamination, conduct cleanup planning, and support outreach activities. The funds will be used to evaluate potential brownfield sites such as old gas stations or sites that used petroleum products, old dry cleaners, or other businesses that used chemicals as part of their operations.

A brownfield site is real property where the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfield sites in order to reduce health threats, create jobs, and preserve green space.

The City has contracted with the Siskiyou County Economic Development Council to manage this program. Property owners who are interested in having their commercial or industrial property evaluated in this voluntary program should contact SCEDC Program Manager Monique Dixon at (530) 842-1638. The grant funds will be used to complete environmental assessments, assist property owners with clean-up planning, and provide training and outreach to community stakeholders.

## UTILITY USER TAX



In order to address persistent general fund shortfalls for police, fire, and parks, the City Council is reviewing a potential ballot measure for consideration by city voters at the next regular election which is June 8, 2010. Under consideration is a Utility User Tax (UUT) which would create a UUT for either cell

phone usage or cell phone usage limited to transient cell phone tower access. The City does not currently have a UUT. A UUT is a tax on utilities such as gas, electricity, telephone, water or cable television. The UUT is collected by the utility and paid to the City. Typical UUTs are a percentage of the charges made by the utility user to the service provider (such as 5% of the bill). Many cities have established this tax for cell phone providers. It is not yet known if transient cell phone tower access can be a source of revenue, such as the transient occupancy tax. The City Council authorized a study to see if the tax would create a reasonable source of revenue for the City. In a recent statewide election, 10 of 13 UUT measures passed in California.



Pictured from left: Jeff Scott, Director Waste Programs, EPA Region 9; Keith Takata, Director Superfund Programs, Jason Darrow, Yreka City Councilman; Monique Dixon, SCEDC Program Manager; and Laura Yoshii, Acting Regional Administrator, EPA Region 9, all very pleased with a \$400,000 grant award to the City of Yreka.

**Fact:** Did you know that none of your water and sewer utility bill payments go to the general fund? Those receipts must be used to pay for the water and sewer system operations and improvements.

**Fact:** Did you know much of the cost of this newsletter is charged to grants as a part of community outreach requirements? None of your water and sewer utility bill payments are used for the production cost of the City of Yreka's monthly newsletter.