Yreka City Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

August 31, 2008

Stormwater Attenuation Project
Yreka Public Works Department

Have you noticed all the work in downtown Yreka this summer? The Public Works Department is close to completing a major storm drain upgrade project that will reduce flooding in the City and help improve Yreka Creek habitat for fish and wildlife.

What is it?
Referred to as the Stormwater Attenuation Project, in 2006, the City of Yreka was awarded a grant of $5 million dollars from the State Water Resources Control Board from Proposition 40 funds which was approved by California's voters. The Stormwater Attenuation Project will substantially improve the City's storm drain system and help the region achieve the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals adopted by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Klamath and Shasta Rivers.

Center Street Storm Drain Pipe Replacement

Phase 1—Floodplain Widening & Greenhorn Dredging
Phase 1 construction started last fall with excavation and widening of the floodplain along Yreka Creek north of Oberlin Road and the dredging of Greenhorn Reservoir. At Yreka Creek, the ground was excavated and reshaped to create approximately 20 acre-feet of new storm water "storage" (an acre-foot is the volume of water that would cover one acre one foot deep). If you have walked through this area, you might be able to imagine how floodwaters will now be able to spread out and flow through the newly widened areas adjacent to the creek channel. This wider floodplain is already sprouting with riparian trees and vegetation that will additionally help to absorb and slow future floodwater before it reaches downtown. A deeper Greenhorn Reservoir is a boon for our local fishing enthusiasts, but it also allows the City to use the reservoir to catch more storm runoff when necessary - again before it flows through the constricted drainage ways downtown.

Work being performed at Center Street

Excavation at Yreka Creek

Phase 2—Storm Drain Pipes
Phase 2 of the project includes replacement of existing storm drain pipes. Solid Rock Construction, working downtown, has installed larger storm drain pipe in Yreka Street and should be finished with its work along Center Street this month. These new storm drain pipes will be able to convey the runoff anticipated during a "100-year storm". Statistically, that's the size of a storm we should expect to get once every 100 years. For comparison, some experts have estimated the floods we experienced in January 2006 were from a 25-year storm. Statistics

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Stormwater Attenuation Project	1
Septemberfest	2

Important Numbers

City Hall/Water Div.
(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

Stormwater Attenuation Project

(continued from page 1)

being the strange creatures that they are, we must remember it is possible to get more than one 100-year storm in the same year! The new storm drains also have a special feature to help fish and wildlife by eliminating some of the debris that enters Yreka Creek. These drains include "hydrodynamic separators" to remove floating trash and sediments and will trap oils, gasoline, and grease that may be present in the water flow. The hydrocarbons, in particular, present a serious health hazard to endangered fish as well as to the people who enjoy Yreka Creek.

Yreka Creek Flooding - February 1890
(picture courtesy of the Siskiyou County Museum)

Phase 3—Detention Basins
Public Works is finalizing designs on Phase 3 of the project to add several detention basins in selected areas on the western edge of town. By providing a chance for storm runoff to slow down for a short period of time, these detention basins will reduce community flooding and create about another 70 acre-feet of water storage. The basins may increase surface water infiltration that could provide ground water to the creek later into the summer. Construction of the basins for the final phase of the project is anticipated during the summer in 2009.

Do Your Part
The community is also a big part of the City's storm water management efforts. The City's storm drains lead directly to the creeks, so it is important that nothing more than storm water goes into the drains. Do not pour paints, soap, or chemicals into a storm drain. Help keep drainage grates clear by removing trash and disposing of fall leaves in the trash or by composting them. We also greatly appreciate it when the community lets us know when there are problems so that we can try to address them before a problem is created during a storm.

If you have questions about the Stormwater Attenuation Project, or if you'd like to learn more about how we can be better stewards for Yreka Creek, please call Jeannette Hook, Public Works Administrative Assistant, at (530) 841-2336.

Downtown Yreka

SEPTEMBERFEST
Saturday
September 13, 2008
9 am– 4 pm

Attractions include:
- Live Music by Rock-It
- Belly Dancing & Karate Demonstrations
- Pony Rides
- Gold Panning
- Antique Appraisals
- Historic Homes Tours
- Tasty Food & Drinks

There will be a diverse assortment of vendors lining the streets of Miner & Broadway. Come check out all the great merchandise & services offered!