

# CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

December 17, 2010

This week a meeting was held with Olympic National Park Superintendent Karen Gustin to discuss some of the preliminary plans for the large event set for September 2011 to recognize the start-up of the Elwha Dam Removal and Restoration project. The National Park Service expects a large crowd for the official ceremony and for the other activities being planned for the weekend of September 16. In January, regular meetings of the organizing committee will begin and I will keep you posted on progress and plans.

This week I also wanted to let you know that Nathan and I met with Jim Jones and Ross Tyler from the County to discuss optional sites for the entryway monument on the east side of the City. They offered several new site options near Deer Park Road that may work, including one site actually owned by the County. Our consultants are evaluating these optional locations and we should have a report and recommendation for the Council to consider after the first of the year.

One of the projects included in the Economic Development Fund for 2011 is a retail market analysis for Port Angeles. As you know, over the past several years we have been somewhat frustrated by the lack of retail growth in the community. While a new super Walmart and several new retailers opened in 2010, overall our retail sector has not experienced a great deal of positive growth due to a number of factors. A retail market analysis will help assess what retail goods and products are missing from our local economy and how Port Angeles can be in a better position to compete for retail growth. I know that there is a real sensitivity to using outside consultants at this time, but this is an important study. It can be used immediately to guide decisions related to land use, zoning, parking regulations, code enforcement, utility extensions, and many other City actions which may help us recruit new retailers over the next several years.

Have a great weekend.

***- Kent Myers***