

Equalization Basin Project

By Dan Stegink

"It's a mess," said Pacifica City Manager Kevin Woodhouse when asked about the stalled equalization basin project in Linda Mar. He joined Wastewater Manager Louis Sun, six other city employees, and 37 residents of Balboa Street, Arguello Street, and the immediate surrounding area at the Community Center Monday night.

Residents complained of cracked sidewalks, sinking foundations, cracked walls, and repeated water and gas main breaks.

Woodhouse said that "before" surveys would be compared with "after" surveys by the city, and that repair work to properties would begin after the project was complete, and would contain a one-year warranty.

Problems with contractor SMCI are not solely related to its startup status, as the city-provided soil sample surveys performed by the city during the bid process of the project have shown some contentions with the contractor.

The project on Balboa is expected to finish within three months, at which point the Arguello phase begins.

One resident who attended stated, "I've had a 136,000-pound excavator outside my window since November...is that even allowed on our streets?"

Many residents expressed frustration about workers clogging neighborhood streets for months with their personal vehicles, and asked that contractor employee personal vehicles be parked on public lots such as the Caltrans park-and-ride lot on Linda Mar to minimize disruptions.

Woodhouse sympathized, stating that the city got four to five bids on the project and accepted the low bid, as required by law.