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**Civic Center**  
**From page A1**

The workshop included details about planned development but did not reveal hard figures on how much the project will cost to individual homeowners and how long construction will take — two questions that came up repeatedly during the two-hour meeting.

“It was in the paper, I think, anywhere for the three tiers, from

\$9,000 to \$25,000. Are those accurate figures?” asked Paige Jacobs, who is considering buying a condo in the area affected by the second phase of the treatment plant project.

Project Manager Steve Clary, who works for the city-contracted firm RMC, said those numbers seemed to be within the normal scope for this type of project, but did not suggest that the prices for Malibu homeowners would necessarily fall in that scope.

“We’ve not calculated that in detail,” Clary said, when asked about the hookup costs for individual homes. “I must say, I don’t want to try to pull a number from memory that I would get wrong.”

“Is it possible that it could be something like \$50,000?” asked Jacobs.

“There will be more information about assessment district formation and costs as those phases move forward,” answered Senior Planner Bonnie Blue.

Officials said residential estimates have not been made because current plans only cover Phase 1 of construction — the building of pump stations and sewer lines to mainly serve commercial centers in the Civic Center.

Under a development prohibition placed on the City of Malibu in 2011 by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the city is required to build a centralized wastewater treatment system in the Civic Center by November 2015. However, the city is nine months behind on its construction timeline.

The agreement also stipulates homeowners living within the Civic Center prohibition area must connect to the system by 2019 and phase out their septic systems.

When asked for the timeline of residential costs, Clary said the second phase may not begin until close to 2020, meaning costs may not be forthcoming for up to five years.



Julie Ellerton / TMT

The city is planning to construct a wastewater treatment plant in the Civic Center, across the street from Webster Elementary School and Our Lady of Malibu Catholic Church. Story poles, pictured above, delineate the size of the structures to be built.

**What good will the system do?**

The final speaker at the meeting, Steve Uhring, struck a common chord with those gathered in the audience. “We’re spending a ton of money,” said Uhring, “nowhere in the EIR [Environmental Impact Report] does it say ‘this is what this is going to do for us.’”

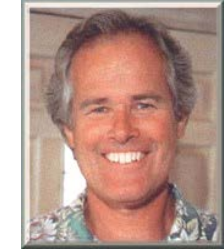
“Are we just spending money to spend money?” he asked, drawing applause from those gathered.

Clary responded that the sewer project will monitor water quality in the area and added that the reusable treated water will be returned to the community free of charge.

“Everyone who contributes flow will have access to the treated flow on the return,” he said.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Report are available now by going to City Hall, Malibu Library or on the city’s website. Comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted in writing between now and July 28, with a public forum on the draft EIR scheduled for the Planning Commission meeting on July 21.

The final EIR is tentatively scheduled to be released in October 2014.



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**PARADISE COVE - Malibu**

**#61: BEACH LEVEL-CUSTOM REMODEL:** 2+1.5, dry-walled thruout, wood flrs, mstr w/sitting area leads to big new deck & slight ocn vu. Sunny porch. Just a few steps from the sand. The perfect beach cottage. \$ 375,000

**#31: WHITEWATER OCEAN VIEWS:** 150 yards to the sand! Total custom, 2 bdrm + 1bath beach home. High ceilings, tile and wood floors, decks, grass yard. \$ 675,000



**IN ESCROW - PARADISE COVE**

#24	Listed at \$295,000	#68	Listed at \$399,000	#155	Not Listed
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**SOLD 2014 - PARADISE COVE**

#240	\$1,250,000	#66	\$505,000	#21	\$278,000
#260	\$1,095,000	#70	\$500,000		
190	\$ 650,000	#49	\$375,000		

**POINT DUME CLUB MANUFACTURED HOMES - Malibu**

**#191: MUST SEE!** 2 bdrm +2 bath home with ocean and mountain views, in move-in condition. Bamboo and travertine, French doors to deck. Master bedroom with spa. Fully landscaped, big yard. \$ 655,000

**#242: UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS:** Ocean, sunset and mountain views. Custom 2+2.5, apx 1,850 sf, wd flrs. Bonus sun rms & ofc area. Open ktchn, stone & tile bthrms w/spa tubs, steam shower, sauna. 2 view patios, pvt back patio. \$ 983,000



**IN ESCROW - POINT DUME CLUB**

#279	Listed at \$ 650,000	#118	Listed at \$325,000
#190	Listed at \$1,395,000 (Buyer)		

**SOLD 2014 - POINT DUME CLUB**

#153	\$2,100,000	#280	\$475,000	#286	\$362,000
#235	\$ 540,000	# 84	\$385,000	# 83	\$240,000

**SEMINOLE SPRINGS MANUFACTURED HOMES - Agoura Hills**

Resident Owned Park - Ask for Bracken Carter

**IN ESCROW - SEMINOLE SPRINGS**

#73	Listed at \$235,000	#124	Listed at \$272,000
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**SOLD 2014 - SEMINOLE SPRINGS**

#115	\$310,000	# 81	\$240,000	# 88	\$208,000
#175	\$279,000	#121	\$230,000		
#111	\$276,000	# 63	\$225,000		

**Starfish**

**From page A1**

in which an organism’s tissue wastes away. The crisis has wiped out starfish, or sea-stars, along most of the west coast over the past year.

As a result, it could be quite a while before Malibu residents or tourists see big starfish again in the tidepools at Leo Carrillo State Beach, Point Dume and other rocky outcroppings along the shore.

Scientists are working quickly to figure out what’s causing the starfish to waste away into a pile of “goo,” as one called it, but there seems to be no cure in sight.

Carol Blanchette, research biologist at UC Santa Barbara’s Marine Science Institute, is monitoring intertidal sea-stars all across Southern California, including the sites in Malibu.

“We’ve lost most of the sea-stars at most sites across Southern

California, including Malibu, but we’re seeing some juvenile stars at several sites,” she wrote in an email. “I’m at a conference in Oregon now discussing what might be causing the disease, but we still don’t know what the pathogen is, and we don’t know much about the role of environmental stress.”

The disease, dubbed “sea-star wasting syndrome,” is the most extensive sea-star wasting event on record, covering a larger geographic area and affecting more species of starfish than any other such event. Sea-stars afflicted with the disease become soft, develop lesions, start losing limbs and fall apart. Some describe them as “melting...turning to slime.” Starfish generally have the ability to grow new arms, but not in these cases.

“Wasting syndrome has been

known for decades, but usually occurs in small numbers in southern California, and is linked to warmer ocean temperatures, which is not the case this time,” Pete Raimondi, leader of the Pacific Rocky Intertidal Monitoring Program told the Orange County Register last month. “The disease is typically isolated to one or two starfish among hundreds in a rocky tide pool. And even in bad cases, it rarely stretches beyond a single population. The extent of this is unprecedented.”

The disease has worked its way down the coast, first wiping out large colonies of starfish in Northern California, entering Southern California by November. Studies show that starfish in the rocky intertidal zones (tidepools), are just as hard hit as those living on the ocean floor.

The spread has even reached the state’s aquariums, with die-offs reported in both Monterey Bay Aquarium and Long Beach’s Aquarium of the Pacific.

A UC Santa Cruz statement issued in May said, “One of the top priorities is to confirm that an infectious agent is involved. DNA sequencing to identify possible viruses or bacteria is underway at Cornell University... [In addition], there’s no evidence that links the current wasting event to the ongoing disaster at the Fukushima nuclear facility in Japan.”

PBS News Hour reported just last week that scientists now believe a pathogen spreads through the water and by physical contact, since starfish often clump together. Another theory is that the pathogen is in mussels and clams that starfish consume.

With scientists predicting an El Niño event this year, Raimondi fears that the warmer ocean water could cause a pathogen to become more virulent and kill off more starfish.

At this point, scientists at least hope to make the best of a bad situation – they’ll either be able to study the ability of starfish to recover from the massive die-off, or else learn what effect the disappearance of starfish have on ocean and intertidal ecosystems.

Sea-stars are an apex predator in the intertidal zone.

“Voracious eaters and a key-stone species. Losing a predator like that is bound to have some pretty serious ecological consequences and...we’re quite certain it’s going to have an impact,” said Blanchette.



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