



City Manager's Update

January 30, 2020

Happy Thursday and I hope everyone's New Year is off to a good start!

2020 is shaping up to be a very busy and eventful year. The Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) construction is primed to break ground within the next month or so, the Short-term Vacation Rental Policy Community Committee is nearing completion of its work to deliver policy recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council, the City will begin installation of new wayfinding signage in town, Morro Bay Rock surf break will play host to pro surfers in March with the World Surf League Tour, and two cannabis retail shops plan to open by mid-year. In addition, progress has been made in getting dog beach north of Morro Bay transferred into City ownership so that it can remain a dog beach for our residents and visitors in perpetuity (with no City revenues required for the transfer of ownership). The City will also pave roads in need of attention and re-stripe crosswalks in heavy traffic areas. Finally, the City will be working hard, and seeking your opinions, on how best to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

We hope these efforts will help improve the quality of life of our residents and visitors, and build upon the successes from last year. 2019 saw the City achieve high marks in a couple areas, with the City winning recognition for its FY2019/20 Budget and being recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Thank you for taking time to read the Update and staying engaged in the work of your City government.

-Scott Collins, City Manager

City Goals – Communication and Community Engagement



City Council adopted four major [goals](#) and numerous action items for the City for 2019 and 2020. In last month's [edition](#) of the Update, the City Manager discussed the City's current efforts to address the short-term and long-term sustainability of the City's most visited area: the Harbor/waterfront.

City Council has made it a goal over the past several years to improve communication and engagement with the community. "Communication" means the traditional one-way sharing of information from the City to the community, such as posting updates to the City website, issuing press releases to the media and sending out newsletters through the water bill. "Engagement," on the other hand, is defined as the more dynamic two-way interaction, where the City and the community exchange information in both directions, through things like surveys, town hall forums, and office hours. Both forms—communication and engagement—are critical to ensuring the City is transparent and held accountable by the public and that the community is afforded meaningful opportunities to provide valuable input into City programs, budgets, and policy decision-making. This is an area that by definition can never be perfected and should always be seen as an area for improvement.

In the past year, the City has launched several initiatives and efforts to improve communication and engagement. Teaming up with the survey firm Polco, the City now regularly surveys the community on important topics, such as City goals, vaping/tobacco regulations, vacation rental policy and City budget. You can participate on Polco by visiting <https://polco.us/morrobay> and clicking "sign-up." The City is also investing resources to improve the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) website <http://morrobaywrf.com/> and will begin the process of redesigning the City's website to help make it easier to obtain information. In addition, staff has been using the water bill to disseminate key information and get public opinion on important topics through surveys. Finally, the City is using several community committees to develop recommendations on City policies, such as vacation rentals and Harbor lease management.

These are just a sampling of the ways the City is striving to better communicate and learn from our community. Improved communication and engagement lead to a better-informed community and more accountable City government, as well as decision-making by the City that reflects the needs and desires of our residents and businesses.

If you have other ideas about how the City can improve its communication and engagement offerings, please send your ideas to the City Manager or City Council.

Budget Recognition: The City has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2019/20 Operating and Capital Budget. This is the first time the City has submitted the adopted budget for consideration of this award and we are thrilled to have been recognized for City's budget document. Staff in all Departments, including the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee, contributed to expanding the City's budget document to meet best practices in budgeting, per the GFOA. Receipt of this award is a significant achievement, especially for a City of our size and staffing levels, and it reflects the Council and staff's commitment to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. In order to receive the award, the City's budget had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation which assess how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device. The city was rated "proficient" in the four categories mentioned above, including fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories. While presented to the Finance Department, this is truly a citywide award as all of the City Departments and large number of City staff are involved in developing the City budget document and associated statistics.



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**City of Morro Bay
California**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2019

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director

In addition, for the second year in a row the City was awarded the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) Operating Budget Excellence Award, also for the FY 2019-20. This further reflects the City's commitment to meeting the highest standards for our community.



CSMFO Conference: January 29-31st the five members of the City' Finance Team will be attending the California Society of Municipal Finance Officer's annual conference in Anaheim. We were fortunate to receive three scholarships for our three front counter Account Clerk's to attend the scholarship at no cost. This is an excellent opportunity for the staff to attend the conference and we are grateful for the scholarships and team building opportunities that this presents.

Police

Homicide

On Saturday Jan. 25th, 2020 at approx. 15:49 hours, officers were dispatched to the storage facility located at 1111 Allesandro for a reported disturbance. While responding, officers were advised that the disturbance had escalated into a physical altercation and one of the subjects had sustained unknown injuries. Upon arrival, officers located the victim (V) laying on the ground on the driveway area between two storage buildings and noted he had sustained a possible stab wound to his upper left chest area. (V) was transported to Sierra Vista hospital where he passed. The suspect (S) was located on scene and was identified by four witnesses who were in the area during the altercation. Two of the witnesses had been visiting the (V) at his storage unit immediately prior to the (V) going to talk to the (S). They indicate they did not observe the actual altercation, however, stayed on scene and helped render aid.

Two additional witnesses were located in the adjacent driveway area in a separate storage unit area and heard the commotion. They also immediately responded to the area of the altercation and observed the (V) on the ground and observed (S) closing his storage unit and walking away. All four witnesses were interviewed on scene.

MBPD Detectives and SLO Sheriff's Office Crime Lab processed the crime scene and MBPD later obtained a search warrant for (S) storage unit. During a search of the unit the weapon used in the crime was recovered. (S) was interviewed and admits to stabbing (V), however, claims self-defense. Additional follow-up, interviews and search warrant for phone communications is pending. Our thoughts go out to the victim and family members. This is the first homicide in Morro Bay since 2016.

Suspects Found for Robbery at "Check Into Cash"

After a two month investigation with witness/victim/suspect interviews and several warrants written, Detective Gruich submitted the robbery case for filing on January 10th. Two suspects were identified as being responsible for the robbery. Detective Gruich continues to work closely with the District Attorney's Office who has indicated a felony case filing will be received by the end of this week.

New Police Officer Completes Training

On January 19th, Officer Jerrod Place completed his 10 week, lateral, field training and is now working patrol as a solo officer. During his training it became clear Officer Place enjoys reaching out to the community and takes pride in being a part of Morro Bay.

Drones

On January 15th, Commander Amy Watkins and Senior Officer Gene Stuart presented Morro Bay Police Department's Unmanned Aerial Systems (drone) program at the California Police Chiefs Technology Summit in Redlands, CA. The Morro Bay Police Department was chosen by the Technology Committee of California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) to represent small

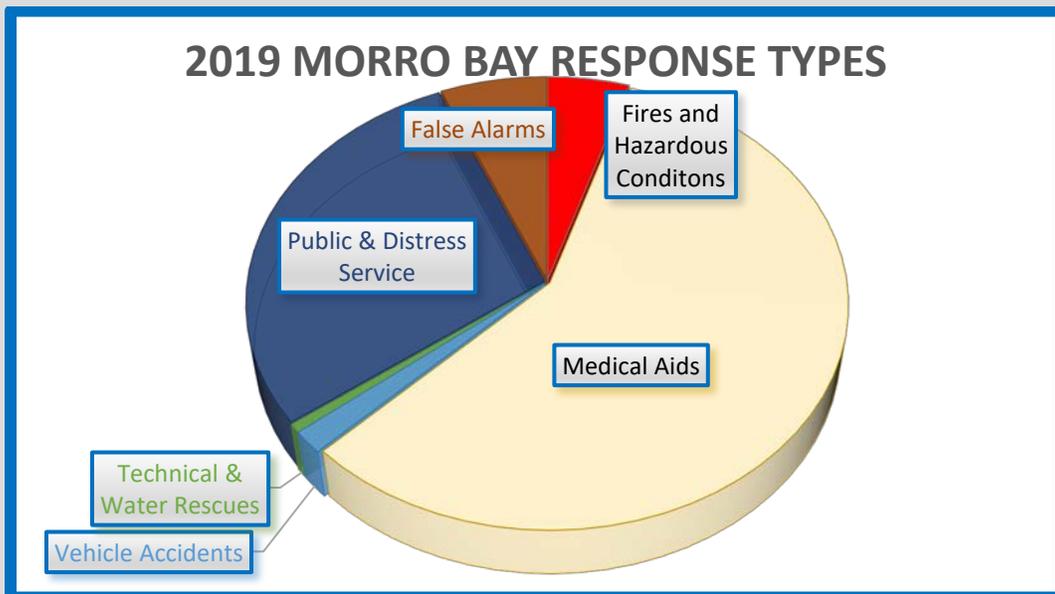
police agencies who are currently operating drones within their police operations. The presentation included how the program was initiated, implemented and the benefits of the UAS program to the community of Morro Bay as well as the County of San Luis Obispo, as we are the only department in the county with a UAS program. Morro Bay was joined on the panel by Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Chula Vista Police Department. Commander Watkins and Senior Officer Stuart highlighted the benefits of the UAS as a force multiplier while showcasing the beauty of Morro Bay.



Fire



Morro Bay Fire Department's Responses in 2019



Type of Incident	Number
Medical Aid Paramedic Services	1,128
Fires & Hazardous Conditions	96
Vehicle Accidents	32
Technical & Water Rescues	12
Public & Distress Services	569
False Alarms	125
Total Incidents	1,973

Morro Bay's unique partnership with California Department of Parks and Recreation



In partnership with the California State Parks and the Air Pollution Control District, Morro Bay's Hazard Fuel Reduction on Black Hill has continued through this week. Crews are conducting prescribed burning of piles of diseased, dead and downed Monterey pines in the Black Hill area of Morro Bay State Park.

This burn project is part of the Hazard Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Program for vegetation management, fuel load reduction and structure protection to numerous residences and businesses in Morro Bay. Monterey pines are experiencing major die-offs due to pine pitch canker disease and prolonged years of drought. Burn pile operations will be conducted to maintain defensible space on areas adjacent to neighborhoods and park facilities per Morro Bay Fire Department permit conditions. This treatment will greatly reduce dead, downed and diseased fuels in the wildland-urban interface, decrease potential for wildfires, enhance the health of the native plant communities, encourage increased species composition, restore essential nutrients to the soil, and aid in the control of pine pitch canker. Burning will not occur if a burn ban is in effect or if the weather or brush conditions are not conducive to burning.



This partnership with State, County and Morro Bay are a great example how we work together making our community safer from catastrophic fires and enhance the health of our local park and forest.

Public Works

Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Program Update

The City is making progress on several fronts regarding the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) program, including nearing completion of design for the advanced treatment facility, permitting the overall program, and working with the federal government to complete the loan agreement for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding. However, the City has experienced some unanticipated issues that have delayed initial construction of the WRF facility. The WRF update below is by in large the same as what was provided in the November 2019 City Manager Update.

WRF Design/Construction and Funding Update

At the January 14, 2020 Council meeting, City Council authorized the City to receive loans from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) low-interest loan program. Receipt of the WIFIA loan, up to the amount of \$61M, or 49% of the project's projected total cost, will save the City and community up to \$28M in debt costs compared to a conventional loan.

The WIFIA loan, in combination with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loan and grant will help keep the overall water and sewer rates down as low as possible by significantly reducing the debt on the loans compared to a traditional loan program. The loans and SRF grant also help pay for the potable reuse portion of the project. The project's start date has been delayed as the EPA works through the federal environmental requirements, with an anticipated construction start date in Feb/March of this year. There will be a financial impact resulting from the delayed start of the project, though the amount is unknown at this time. City staff are doing everything they can to limit the financial impact resulting from the delayed start of the project.

WRF Permitting

After receiving approval of its Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the WRF program by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), City staff has been focused on satisfying CCC conditions to obtain the CDP, completing federal agency review of the project, and preparing the purchase agreements for the South Bay Blvd. property for the treatment plant. The City received the [Coastal Development Permit](#) on Thursday, November 14, 2019, for the first stage of the project (initial construction of the treatment facility on South Bay Blvd). The City has also completed the purchase of property and right of entry access to the South Bay Blvd site.

Consolidated Maintenance Update - Top Results for the Last Four Weeks

- **Streets**
 - Excavated a 22'x 60'x 4" deep temporarily based in street section on the 400 blk. of Jamaica.

Prepped, compacted and assisted contracted crew to pave back 32 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt with their street paving equipment.

- Repair/replaced asphalt berm on the 200 blk. of Driftwood and 400 blk of Piney with 4 tons of HMA.
- Installed new thermal plastic white lines on 2 Embarcadero crosswalks.
- Filled several potholes around town with Cold Mix Asphalt.
- Removed large amounts of debris and silt from Kern/Mesa and Kern/Pacific before street sweeper.
- Replaced faded stop sign at South/Shasta. Replaced stop signpost at Shasta/Marina due to vandalism.
- Added van accessible signs to the ADA parking stalls at the 300 and 400 blk. of the Embarcadero.
- Replaced 3 old trash receptacles with new aggregate ones at Centennial, Mariner and Tidelands parks.
- Removed graffiti from several locations around town and documented with MBPD.
- Changed holiday banners out to standard MB banners on the Embarcadero. Installed Bird Festival banners throughout MB Blvd. for the event, removed after event.
- Fabricated and installed new base for pole channelizer at the Morro Creek bridge to detour traffic.



Thermal plastic coating installed at crosswalk in the Embarcadero

- **Trees/Vegetation**
 - Trimmed and lifted canopies on various trees around town out of the ROW and for hazard reduction.
 - Cut back intrusive ice plant off gutter line on the 400 blk. of Piney.
- **Lila Keiser Park**
 - Repaired irrigation water line leak on station 1 and faulty solenoid on station 5, east ballfield.

- Replaced horseshoe pit backstop posts, wood and painted.
- **Tidelands Park**
 - Replaced push button assembly for flush valve in Men's restroom. Also replaced faulty sensor faucet.
 - Poured concrete and installed memorial plaque along walkway.
- **Centennial Park**
 - Removed Santa's house from Centennial open area and placed it back into storage.
 - Picked up and hauled off large pile of green waste created by volunteers.
- **Public Works**
 - Cut and install new fascia board around the entire building in preparation for new roof and gutter.
 - Disconnected and removed 54 solar panels, mounting rails, electrical and hardware for new roof install. After re-roof, remounted and assembled all solar panels back on-line.
 - Installed electrical and LED light fixture for rear parking lot.
 - Adjusted and refastened front side door jamb. Door was sticking making it hard to open and close.
- **714 Embarcadero Property**
 - Replaced gas line for upgrade at wall heater unit.
- **Community Center**
 - Added van accessible signage to ADA parking stall in lot.
 - Cut back large overgrown hedge in rear of building against property line.
 - Adjusted and remounted electrical limit switch for operable wall for proper closer operation.
- **MBPD**
 - Converted a fluorescent light fixture to a non-ballast LED retrofit in Detectives office.
- **Teen Center**
 - Inspected and replaced 5 bulbs in outdoor light fixtures.
- **Facilities**
 - Disassembled and removed 8 lighted Christmas trees at City facilities and properties.
- **Cloisters**
 - Cut back shrubs in the median on Coral behind Cloisters sign for hazard reduction.
 - Replaced faulty timer switch in hand dryer at restrooms for proper operation.
 - Primed and painted over graffiti on Men's restroom door at park.
 - Trimmed back shrubs on both sides of pathway between Indigo and Azure.
 - Pressure washed off graffiti from the outside restroom wall.
- **Rock**
 - Blocked up and leveled out small Harbor sea train container next to restroom.

- Installed 6 memorial plaques in benches at the Rock and Target Rock viewing areas.
- **Del Mar Park**
 - Hauled off export material from dog park and hauled in float rock for new leach pit built by volunteers of the dog park.
- **City Park**
 - Primed and painted over graffiti on both interior Men's and Women's restroom doors.
- **Bayshore Bluffs Park**
 - Trimmed and thinned out Melaleuca trees throughout park.
- **Mariner Park**
 - Trimmed back and sculptured trees and bushes throughout park.



Reinstalled solar panels after roofing the Public Works Building.

Harbor

Harbor Patrol Calls for Service

Over the last 30 days, the Harbor Patrol has responded to 8 emergency calls, 27 enforcement contacts and had 88 calls for service. Winter weather and stronger tidal flow have made for a bit more difficult recreational boating. One mayday call came in that turned into a multi-agency search of a boat offshore in unknown location. The operator of the boat turned out to be under the influence and was unable to safely navigate his boat back into Morro Bay. After

he was towed into the harbor, enforcement efforts from the US Coast Guard and Morro Bay Police had the boat and operator detained at the North T Pier.

Waterfront Leases

Also from a statistical standpoint, the department is currently in various states of approval on two new ground master leases, one new building lease and four new subleases. Although these administrative functions sound simple, they are quite complicated and time-consuming.

Officer Training

Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer Dax Theis recently completed two important training sessions down in Marina Del Rey, put on by the Division of Boating and Waterways and hosted by Los Angeles County Lifeguards. These classes were Marine Firefighting and Rescue Boat operations and will add to Dax's already excellent maritime credentials.

Thank you, Sheri!

On the personnel front, part-time Administrative Assistant Sheri Charette has left the Harbor Department for other opportunities, after joining our team just over a year ago in a lateral move from the Recreation Department. Her positive and can-do attitude will be missed. Until we figure out how to move into the future from a personnel standpoint, your patience is requested of our department while we continue to handle the same workload with less personnel.

Sandspit Update – Emergency Phone Replaced

If you have been out to the sandspit lately, you will notice that the sandspit emergency phone has changed from its original ~18-inch yellow piling-like configuration to a new style much like the roadside call boxes you see on California's highways. This is because it was made by the same company. This change was made because the original phone, which was over 15 years old, was getting quite rusty and the electronic hardware becoming obsolete, and the change to a simpler, more robust system was the logical thing to do. And it was considerably less expensive. This important piece of the City's public safety infrastructure was funded entirely by the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department through their members and donations.



New Emergency Call Box on the Sandspit

Tourism

Adding Vacation Rentals into the Tourism Business Improvement District



With the inclusion of Morro Bay Vacation Rentals into the Morro Bay Tourism Business Improvement District starting January 2020, Morro Bay Tourism is integrating Vacation Rentals into the morrobay.org website. All VRs will be included unless they opt-out.

Every rental will receive a letter in which the property can opt-out of the website listing by **February 28th**. If you have any questions, please reach out! Adding Vacation Rentals to the booking engine is one of the things TBID will be doing at no-cost for Vacation Rental owners.

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events:

Big, Bad & Ugly

Date: February 15th

Estero Bay Surf Club proudly invites you to the famous 30th annual [Big, Bad and Ugly Surf Invitational](#). “The Ugly” is one of the most challenging surfing events in the Coalition of Surfing Clubs’ schedule. Come watch the fun.



SLO CAL Open at Morro Rock

Date: February 27 – March 1

With miles of wide-open, unspoiled, sandy beaches offering awesome surf breaks – Morro Bay is a popular place to catch a wave. Watch up and coming surfers from around the world compete at the iconic Morro Rock during this [World Surf League event!](#)

Recreation Services

Special Events

Recreation Services hosted our second annual Breakfast with Santa along with the help of volunteers from the Morro Bay and Cayucos' Lions groups as well as the Active Adults.



Seniors

January has been an exciting month for the Senior Center as we resumed full open hours and the Cuesta Emeritus Classes began. This semester we are offering nine classes throughout the week which is our largest ever as well as making our Center the most popular in the County! The first class to meet was Life Story and the number of students wanting to join the class overflowed the room. If that is any indication of the interest this semester the Senior Center is going to be one busy place through the rest of the winter and spring.

The real highlight of the month will be our third annual 55+ Health and Wellness Faire being held on Saturday, January 25th, from 9-Noon at the Community Center. With over 25 vendors presenting great information and nutritious foods being offered we are expecting over 200 attendees.

MBAA 55+ continues to thrive as they have seen their membership explode to well over 800 members. What is most striking about that figure is 250 new members have joined in the past 12 months.



**First Holiday Party co-sponsored with Recreation Services, MBAA 55+ and 39+ Dance
Great food, music, dancing and few sing-a-longs as well.**

Aquatics Programs

Pool

Our current pool schedule is MWF 5:30 am -7:45 am and M-F, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Sundays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm for lap swim. We are offering 2 aqua aerobics classes: Shallow water on Monday. Wednesday, Friday from 6:45 am to 7:45 am and Deep water on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. Private and semiprivate swim lessons are available on an appointment basis.

On January 4 our pool staff had an in-service to review emergency action plans, CPR, water rescues and tried out the new CJ backboard. On January 18 and 19, 10 of our lifeguards completed their lifeguard training recertifications which included water rescues, First Aid for Safety Personnel and CPR for the Professional Rescuer. On January 24-26, two of our lifeguards will be taking the Instructor class.

Junior Lifeguards

2020 Morro Bay Junior Lifeguards registration will begin on March 30, 2020 at 8:30 am. Junior Waterman is open to boys and girls ages 12 and older and is required to be a volunteer. Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard Session 1 will be from June 22-July 10 and is open to boys and girls ages 9 and up. Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard Session 2 will be from July 20-August 7 and is open to boys and girls ages 9 and up. Swim tests are required for everyone and will be held at Morro Bay High School Pool on Sunday May 3 and Sunday May 17 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Those unable to make those dates please contact Karen Sweeny at 805-772-6281 or ksweeny@morrobayca.gov for an alternate date.



Sports

Estero Bay Youth Basketball practices are under way with games beginning January 10 and 11. We have 260 boys and girls in grades 2nd through 8th grade playing. Thank you to our amazing sponsors: Lambright Electric; Red and Gail Davis; Morro Bay Active Adults; Ranch WiFi; Dorfman Kinesiology; Swallowcreek Ranch; Miner's Ace, Bay Osos Kiwanis, Community

Foundation of Estero Bay and Phantom Nation. The season will end with the Kiwanis End of Season BB Tournament.



Estero Bay Girls Softball League registration is open through January 31, 2020. This program is open to girls ages 5-14. The 6 & Under girls play t-ball/coach pitch, the 8 & under girls play girl/coach pitch, the 10 & under, 12 & under and 14 & under play Fastpitch. Games are held on weeknights and Saturdays may be played in Los Osos, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Templeton and Paso Robles.

**ESTERO BAY GIRLS
SOFTBALL REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN**
AGES 5-14 YEARS

Morro Bay Recreation Services
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay
www.morrobayca.gov (805)772-6278

USA
SOFTBALL

Spring Adult Softball

Registration for the 2020 Spring Adult Softball will begin on January 27. This league has 3 nights of play: Monday-Coed; Tuesday-Masters; and Thursday-Men's. You can register as a team, or new this season, register as an individual and we will place you on a team.

2020 MORRO BAY SPRING ADULT SOFTBALL

Coed--Monday
Masters--
Tuesday
Men's--
Thursday

Registration
Jan 27-Mar 6
Cost:
\$550/team
\$50/individual
8 games + EOS
tournament

Managers Meetings
Wednesday March 11
Coed 6:00 pm
Masters' 6:30 pm
Men's 7:00 pm
Morro Bay Community Center

Morro Bay Recreation Services
1001 Kennedy Way
Morro Bay, CA 93442
www.leaguelineup.com/mbssports
805-772-6278

A minimum of four (4) teams are required in each division in order to form a league. In the event that there are insufficient teams within a particular division or league, the Recreation Services Sports Division reserves the right to:

- Cancel the division or league and refund all fees, or
- Move stronger teams up or weaker teams down from the nearest division in order to form a league, or
- Consolidate divisions or leagues with rule restrictions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CHRIS @805-772-6281

Esterro Bay Youth Futsal registration will begin on February 24 with the season beginning the week of April 13. Futsal is a noncompetitive indoor soccer game open to boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade.



Youth Services

- Youth Services:

- Youth Services hosted a Holiday Hangout winter edition for SLCUSD winter break.



- Youth Services will be offering a Parent's Night Out opportunity for families this February. Register today!



- Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee
 - Rockies Teen Center is open Monday through Friday 3:00-7:00PM, for all 6th – 12th graders.

Community Development

News: On December 30, 2019, the City received notice from the State Department of Housing and Community Development that the City was successful in its SB 2 Planning grant application and will receive up to \$160,000 in grant funds to develop policy to facilitate the construction of affordable housing.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

Dec. 3, 2019: 450 Oahu: Appeal of a Admin. Coastal Development Permit for conversion of a garage to an Accessory Dwelling Unit. ACTION: continued

Dec. 17, 2019

450 Oahu: Appeal of an Administrative Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for conversion of a garage to an Accessory Dwelling Unit. ACTION: Appeal Denied

1078 Monterey – CDP and Conditional Use Permit for construction of a 526 square foot managers unit within the Harborview Mobile Home Park. ACTION: Approved

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permits = 6
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 6
- Parking Exception = 1
- Min./Maj. Mods = 2
- Total Planning Permits = 15

Fees collected = \$25,583

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 5

Closed: 6

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 24
- Valuation = \$418,780
- Fees Received = \$24,027
- # of Inspections = 367
- New Building Permits = 31