

## MORRO BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY GRANT RECEIVED FOR DERELICT VESSEL ABATEMENT

The City of Morro Bay applied for a Restoration Grant from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) in December for Derelict Vessel Abatement. The MBNEP awarded the grant to the City in March and the City Council authorized the grant at their March 9, 2009 meeting. The grant will provide up to \$75,000 in funds to assist with removal/abatement of derelict vessels. The grant is aimed at dealing with larger commercial vessels which do not qualify for the Department of Boating and Waterways Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund.

Some of the larger, abandoned and/or derelict commercial fishing vessels are very costly to deal with as there is no longer a functional boat yard capable of hauling out vessels over 35 feet in Morro Bay. The City will be working on identifying suitable vessels for the program and will work towards finding the most environmentally acceptable means of disposal.

Depending on the size and material of the vessel, demolition options could range from offshore disposal to towing the vessel to a major haul out facility for on shore demolition and disposal.

The partnership between the City and the MBNEP has worked towards removal of vessels in the Windy Cove area and removal of several other derelict vessels in the harbor. This new grant will provide much needed capital to address some of the larger vessels posing potential threats to the environment and to navigation.

An environmentally sound boat yard in Morro Bay capable of hauling out vessels greater than 35', would provide the City with greater flexibility and economy in dealing with these types of vessels. Such a facility would allow boaters to repair and work on their boats with minimal environmental impact and is desperately needed in Morro Bay Harbor. The City is currently working on a stimulus grant application for this project.

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## DERELICT VESSEL DEMOLITION—MARCH 2009

The City received an Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) in December 2008. Negranti and Sons Construction was recently awarded a bid for a derelict vessel grant demolition project. A total of six vessels were destroyed in March by Negranti and Sons. The project included demolition of 6 abandoned/derelict vessels: 3 unidentified derelict vessels abandoned on City property and 3 vessels acquired through the lien sale process ranging in size from 15 to 50 feet.

Negranti and Sons began the demolition on March 9 and completed the project on March 10, 2009.



With some of the remaining funds, the City contracted with Coastal Tree Experts who removed 3 downed trees from the harbor located at the base of Bayshore Bluffs that are posing a hazard to navigation.

The City will be reimbursed from the DBW for costs associated with the derelict vessel and tree removal.

## HARBOR PATROL STATISTICS

The information below covers Harbor Patrol activities from 11/1/08 through 2/28/09.

|              | Bay<br>Patrol | Land<br>Patrol | Emergency<br>Response | Service<br>Calls | Enforcement<br>Contact | Training  | Maintenance<br>Action | Weather<br>Advisory | Hazardous<br>Bar |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Nov. 08      | 46            | 59             | 12                    | 109              | 29                     | 19        | 46                    | 18                  | 3                |
| Dec. 08      | 49            | 70             | 9                     | 93               | 30                     | 7         | 42                    | 18                  | 2                |
| Jan. 09      | 57            | 69             | 7                     | 98               | 25                     | 12        | 53                    | 12                  | 0                |
| Feb. 09      | 45            | 71             | 8                     | 90               | 28                     | 26        | 63                    | 15                  | 6                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>197</b>    | <b>269</b>     | <b>36</b>             | <b>390</b>       | <b>112</b>             | <b>64</b> | <b>204</b>            | <b>63</b>           | <b>11</b>        |

Following is a summary of the categories:

**Bay Patrol:** Routine patrol of the Morro Bay Harbor while underway in a patrol boat.

**Land Patrol:** Routine patrol of the Morro Bay Harbor and Harbor Facilities while underway in a vehicle.

**Emergency Response:** Any response to a situation where there is potential threat to safety, life, pollution, vessels and/or equipment.

**Service Calls:** Response to requests for assistance that are not deemed an emergency.

**Enforcement Contact:** Situations where enforcement issues are dealt with including warnings and issuance of citations under the Morro Bay Municipal Code.

**Training:** Attendance of personnel at training exercises, equipment training, first aid training, etc.

**Maintenance Action:** Maintenance of any Harbor facilities.

**Weather Advisory:** The weather advisory denotes days that there were some type of weather advisory issued for the Morro Bay area by the National Weather Service, ranging from Small Craft to Storm Advisories.

**Hazardous Bar:** The Hazardous Bar includes any day or portion of any day when the Morro Bay Harbor Entrance Hazardous Bar Warning is posted.

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**HARBOR PATROL TRAINING:** Chuck Rawlinson of Depth Perceptions, put on a training session for all Harbor Patrol Officers regarding rescue situations involving dive accident victims. The training was held on February 25, 2009 and all Harbor Patrol Officers participated, along with personnel from the City Fire Department.

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**LIVEBOARD ORDINANCE REVIEW:** The Harbor Advisory Board formed a standing Sub-Committee to review the City's Liveboard Ordinance. The Sub-Committee met from October 2008 through March 2009 to review the Liveboard Ordinance and the Harbor Department Policy on Enforcement.

The Harbor Advisory Board will review the Sub-Committee's recommendations at the April 2, 2009 meeting and make a recommendation to the City Council. Any change to an Ordinance requires a minimum of 2 public meetings at the City Council level.

## REVIEW OF HARBOR FEES AND LAUNCH RAMP PARKING FEE PROPOSAL

The City reviews the Master Fee Schedule each year and typically adjusts fees according to changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This year's change in CPI was 3.5%. In addition to the normal adjustment, the City Council specifically requested that the Harbor review their fees in relation to other Central Coast harbors and recommend other adjustments to Harbor Fees to the City Council in April. The Harbor Advisory Board reviewed this item at their March 5, 2009 meeting and recommended all fees be adjusted by the CPI until such time as the harbor services are upgraded. The liveaboard application/inspection fee will also be reviewed to determine true costs associated with the application and inspection.

In conjunction with discussion of Harbor Fees, a proposal to charge for vessel parking at the Tidelands Launch Ramp was discussed at the March 5, 2009 Harbor Advisory Board meeting. The Harbor Advisory Board recommended that the City Council institute a parking fee of \$1.00/hour with a maximum of \$10.00/day for trailer boat spaces only at the Launch Ramp and that the parking be regulated through the use of an automated machine. Review of Harbor Fees is on the tentative agenda for the April 27, 2009 City Council Meeting.

The City Council will review the entire Master Fee Schedule in June, 2009. City Council agendas are available for review on-line at: <http://www.morro-bay.ca.us>

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## City of Morro Bay Beach Lifeguard Academy

The City of Morro Bay will be conducting its first United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) certified Ocean Lifeguard Academy training session for summer beach lifeguards and junior lifeguard instructors the first two weekends in May. In order to conduct its own Academy, the City was recently approved as a USLA-certified lifeguard agency. The Academy traditionally attended by Morro Bay recruits and held by Pismo Beach/Cal Fire is no longer available to outside agencies. Although holding our own Academy will mean more work for City of Morro Bay personnel, it is a necessary step that in the long run will give the City more control in training its own personnel under local conditions.

The Academy is a 40-hour course over two weekends being held on May 1-3 and May 8-10, 2009, and is being jointly taught by City of Morro Bay (Harbor and Recreation & Parks Departments) and San Luis Obispo County Parks personnel (Cayucos lifeguards).

The Academy covers everything from an overview of professional lifeguarding, to rescues and rescue techniques, communications, personal safety, and documentation. There are classroom as well as hands-on dynamic water and boat instruction sessions. Training sites will alternate between Morro Bay and Cayucos.

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## Summer Junior Lifeguard Program:

Registration for all Junior Lifeguard Sessions and testing for first time participants will be Saturday, May 9th between 9 and 11 AM at Hardie Pool in Cayucos. After that date registration will be on a space available basis. The Junior Lifeguard Program for kids ages 10-16 is very popular, so sign up early. Session one runs from June 22—July 10, 2009. Session two from July 20—August 7, 2009.

**For details and information call 772-6278 or look on-line at: <http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/tidesspring09.pdf>**

**NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM:****Implementation Committee:**

The next Implementation Committee meeting will be held May 7, 2009 in the Community Center Multi-Purpose Room from noon—2:00 PM.

Information on grants and all aspects of the NEP can be found at their web site: [www.mbnep.org](http://www.mbnep.org)

**CITY COUNCIL:** Agendas are available for review at City Hall and the Morro Bay Library, Mill's Stationery, and are posted at City Hall.

**HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD:** The 5/7/09 Harbor Advisory Board meeting will cover: Liveaboard Subcommittee Report, Harbor Fees and LCP Policies regarding properties South of Tidelands Park and Whether Commercial Vessels are Prohibited by City Policy.

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**ON-LINE CALENDAR OF  
COMMERCIAL FISHING  
RELATED EVENTS**

There is a new on-line calendar of California Commercial Fishing related events located at: [www.fishcalendar.net](http://www.fishcalendar.net)

Agendas are available for review at the Harbor Office, City Hall, Morro Bay Library and Mill's Stationery. Harbor Advisory Board meetings are held in the Morro Bay Veterans Hall starting at 7:00 PM.

Harbor Advisory Board and City Council agendas and minutes are also available for review on-line at: [www.morro-bay.ca.us](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tall Ship Lynx:** April 2—19, 2009, Morro Bay Harbor educational 122 foot War of 1812 tall ship replica.

**Blessing of the Fleet:** April 19, 2009 Starting at the North T-Pier and proceeding South - BBQ follows.

**Morro Bay Kite Festival:** April 25, 2009, at the City Beach adjacent to Morro Rock.

**Morro Bay Parade:** April 25, 2009—Morro Bay Boulevard

**Western Surfing Association Surf Contest:** April 26, 2009 at Morro Rock—Information: <http://www.surfwsa.org/schedule.html>

**Cruisin Car Show:** May 1-3, 2009 Downtown Morro Bay—Information: <http://www.morrobaycarshow.org/>

**Art in the Park:** May 23-25, 2009

**Miracle Miles for Kids 10k:** The Family Care Network's 6th annual Miracle Miles for Kids 10K Walk/Run—On the beach from Morro Bay to Cayucos Pier. Information: <http://mm4k.com/>

**Morro Bay Music Festival:** June 6, 2009 at Pacific and Embarcadero. Information: <http://www.mbmusicfest.com/>

**FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ABOVE EVENTS CONTACT THE MORRO BAY CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AT 772-4467 OR CHECK THEIR WEB SITE AT <http://www.morrobay.org>**

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