



**City of Morro Bay**  
595 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6200  
Online: [morro-bay.ca.us](http://morro-bay.ca.us)

# PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Scott Collins, City Manager – O: (805) 772-6206**  
**Email: [scollins@morrobayca.gov](mailto:scollins@morrobayca.gov)**

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March 23, 2020

## **City Launches COVID-19 Phone Hotline and Local Volunteer Coordination Group to Assist Most Vulnerable Residents**

Morro Bay, CA – As part of the Morro Bay Cares program and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Shelter at Home orders, beginning Monday, March 23, 2020 the City of Morro Bay has launched a COVID-19 phone hotline (805-772-6278). The hotline is being operated by City staff and a local volunteer group called Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD).

“We are incredibly fortunate to be part of such a caring community and have received numerous inquiries from residents who want to help those in greatest need here,” said Morro Bay Mayor John Heading. “We as a City Council feel it is imperative for the City to help facilitate volunteerism, especially so during these unprecedented and challenging times. We are a strong, caring community and it is through this community spirit of generosity and resiliency that we will pull through this situation together.”

The hotline has been established to assist our community members and vulnerable high-risk population with any needs they may have. The City’s VOAD volunteers will be connected to those that need assistance and are willing to assist in any way they can, including pick-up and delivery of meals, groceries, household items and medications. Those interested in volunteering can call the COVID-19 hotline at 805-772-6278 or complete the volunteer form found on the City’s website at [www.morrobayca.gov/covid19](http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19). For those that have any questions regarding the VOAD program may e-mail those questions to [VOAD@morrobayca.gov](mailto:VOAD@morrobayca.gov).

The City’s Morro Bay Cares program is offering a variety of services in addition to the COVID-19 hotline, including R.U.Ok (Are you ok?) in which you can sign up for daily wellness calls, a list of open restaurants providing meal take-out, pick-up and delivery services, and a partnership with our local Chamber of Commerce to provide resources to our local business. In addition, the City’s Morro Bay Cares program is partnering with the County of San Luis Obispo and the Food Bank of San Luis Obispo providing food to our

vulnerable population that is isolating themselves in their homes. The groceries provided by the Food Bank will include dry goods, protein, and fresh produce and will be delivered by Morro Bay volunteers. The quantities will last one individual 3-7 days.

If you would like more information on any of these programs or other general information on City programs and efforts to help curtail the spread of this disease, please visit our City COVID-19 Information Page at <http://www.morrobayca.gov/covid19>.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact City Manager, Scott Collins at [scollins@morrobayca.gov](mailto:scollins@morrobayca.gov) or by phone at 805-772-6206.