



CITY OF MORRO BAY

CITY HALL

595 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442

July 14, 2015

The Honorable Dodie Harman
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Presiding Judge Harman,

The City of Morro Bay is in receipt of the grand jury report titled *Morro Bay Municipal Code Enforcement: Band-Aid, or Process?* (the "Report"). That report confirmed the steps the City had already begun to take were appropriate. Although we are not responding in a point-by-point manner to the issues the Report raises, the below provides a complete response to those points and meets the spirit and intent of the Penal Code. The actions taken and to be taken by the City, as described below, were the result of the City Council exercising its local authority to govern the community of Morro Bay as the Council determines most appropriate, after considering applicable legal, financial and practical considerations.

While over some years code enforcement in Morro Bay has been neglected, new leadership in the City is serious about markedly improving the quality of life in the community through a more effective code enforcement program. It should be noted during the Fiscal Year 2014 - 2015 budget process a code enforcement position was proposed however Council elected to invest in a City assessment by an independent firm to evaluate the City as a whole. This City Assessment served as valuable tool for our community and the City Council to identify needs and concerns and take appropriate action. In fact, on February 18 of this year the Council adopted seventy-three specific Fiscal Year 2015-2016 objectives. Objective 4-d is titled "Code Enforcement" and reads: "Bring a proposal for a proactive code enforcement program to Council for decision and immediate implementation." A copy of those adopted objectives is attached.

The findings in the Report are not inconsistent with the Council's own observations. Those observations served as the driving rationale for adopting that above-noted code enforcement objective, and the action the City Council has subsequently taken. The City Council has already acted on our Code Enforcement objective and, as a result, the City staff is in the process of implementing a proactive community enhancement/code enforcement program. Specifically:

- The City of Morro Bay 2015-2016 Budget, adopted on June 9, 2015, allocated \$100,000 to hire one or more code enforcement officers. Staff anticipates advertising for those positions this month.

- Staff is currently developing a thoughtful, proactive code enforcement system and process. The preparatory phase for implementation is in progress and includes staff training, community information and technology emplacement. A complete staff briefing on our code enforcement system is currently scheduled for the Council agenda for September 22, 2015, with the goal of the proactive system going live on October 1st.
- The adopted budget includes funding for code management software that will be synchronized with our website to allow seamless and transparent receipt, processing and disposition of code enforcement concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Report. In addition, we appreciate a fundamental goal of the San Luis Obispo Civil Grand Jury is to provide input to assist local decision-makers with reviewing constituents' legitimate concerns, as we work to make our jurisdictions better places to live, work and visit.

Respectfully,



Jamie L. Irons, Mayor

C: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury