

CITY OF MORRO BAY

HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Present:	Members:	Brett Cunningham Gene Doughty Jeff Eckles Bill Luffee Dana McClish Lynn Meissen
	Absent:	Jim Phillips
	Staff:	Eric Endersby, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Vice Chair Eckles welcomed new Harbor Advisory Board member, Mr. Dana McClish, who has filled the Recreational Boating seat, and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. McClish said he has been a resident of Morro Bay for 34 years and an 18-year member of the Morro Bay Yacht Club. He said he is the president of the newly formed Morro Bay Youth Sailing Program, which is a non-profit group.

Ms. Meissen inquired about a vessel docking at the Tidelands three-hour dock overnight for three or four days and if the vessel was charged. Mr. Endersby said the Harbor Patrol tries to uphold the three-hour limit, but if a vessel has broken down and been towed there by the Coast Guard, or is too large for a slip, or the Yacht Club is full, the vessel could be allowed to stay at the Tidelands dock. He said there is a fee of a daily slip rate.

Ms. Carla Borchard, City Council, said that Congresswoman Lois Capps attended the Morro Bay Business Forum recently and expressed her concern of the PG&E Seismic testing, and is open to public contact and continuing this conversation. Senator Feinstein is also on a committee on this topic with Ms. Capps. Ms. Borchard also said Closed Sessions are continuing with several Tidelands Lease Site renewals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR
A-1 MINUTES**

Mr. Luffee moved the August 2, 2012 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

A-2 HARBOR DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

**Coast Guard Change of Command
State Park Marina Dredging
DBW Equipment Grant for Patrol Boat
F/V South East Accident at Fowler's Docks**

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 PG&E Seismic Study Update

Mr. Endersby said the California State Lands Commission certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project, with future hearings necessary and approvals needed from the California Coastal Commission, APCD, Fish and Game, and others. He said Morro Bay City Council at their Tuesday, September 4th meeting voted to approve a "strong resolution of opposition" to PG&E's proposed offshore seismic testing, and the resolution will be brought back to the September 11th meeting for approval.

Discussion by the Board on the noise levels and decibels carrying underwater; the lack of any studies on the West Coast on effects from seismic testing; the question of any alternative method of testing which is not as lethal; the abundant presence of marine life showing in Avila currently, and the need for further studies on the effects of seismic testing on marine life prior to commencement of testing.

MOTION: Mr. Doughty moved that the Harbor Advisory Board support the Morro Bay City Council's strong resolution in opposition to PG&E's seismic testing for Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The Motion was seconded by Mr. McClish and carried unanimously.

Further discussion by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Cunningham moved that the Harbor Advisory Board direct the Harbor Director to draft a letter to support the City Council resolution in opposition to PG&E's seismic testing. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

The Board recommended the following points to be included in the letter supporting the Council's resolution opposing PG&E's seismic testing:

- That other, less damaging technology is sought to accomplish the seismic imaging needs of PG&E.
- That due to the unknown effects on marine life the seismic imaging as proposed is ill advised and should not be conducted unless more studies are done to gauge the true effects on marine life.
- That should the project go forward in any form an adequate compensation/mitigation plan must be in place for fishermen and impacted individuals/businesses for damages caused by the testing. At the least, said plan must be acceptable to the Morro Bay and Port San Luis Commercial Fisherman's Organizations.

Mr. Endersby noted that there is a link on the City's website to the PG&E Seismic information on the left toolbar where the public can also choose Notify Me on this topic.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Discussion on Formation of a “Friends of the Harbor Department” Non-Profit as a Support and Fundraising Mechanism for the Department

Mr. Endersby said two models for this type of organization are already in place for the police and fire departments; he asked Mr. Luffee to present his ideas to the Board. Mr. Luffee discussed some of his thoughts with the Board on the formation of a non-profit organization to create a possible revenue mechanism for the Harbor Department.

Councilmember Borchard said the organizations formed to support other City departments have been extremely successful; however, the group cannot be formed or operated through the Harbor Department or the City itself, it must be organized and run separately by community members which could include an Ad-Hoc committee of up to three members of the Harbor Advisory Board.

Discussion by the Board. Vice Chair Eckles suggested broadcasting this idea on Channel 20 as well as recommending that the public send e-mails to Board members through the City's website at www.morro-bay.ca.us or to contact Mr. Luffee by phone at 550-9250.

MOTION: Mr. Luffee moved to form an Ad-Hoc committee of three members of the Harbor Advisory Board to explore the establishment of a “Friends of the Harbor Department” non-profit 501c organization. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Eckles asked for volunteers on the Board to form the Ad-Hoc committee. Mr. Luffee, Mr. McClish, and Ms. Meissen volunteered to be the three members of the Ad-Hoc committee.

D-2 Discussion on Future Planning Process for the Power Plant Property

Mr. Endersby said the power plant is still seeking contracts, but since once-through cooling will not be permitted, the plant will most likely cease operations in 2015. He said Mr. Eckles requested to agendaize this item and asked him to continue the discussion.

Vice Chair Eckles said the plant closure date is closer than we may realize. He met with City Attorney Rob Schultz recently to discuss this topic, and found out that a lot of work has already been done previously. In 2007 an Ad-Hoc committee established by City Council had been formed called, the Morro Bay North Embarcadero Waterfront Futures Group, or NEW Futures Group. Mr. Eckles said the report created by the group is extensive and offers multiple recommendations for the property. He said the City needs to be proactive on this, and that contingency planning is necessary. Discussion by the Board. Mr. Eckles requested that the 200-page NEW Futures document be posted on the City website.

MOTION: Mr. Eckles moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to reconvene the NEW Futures Group Ad-Hoc committee. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Oct: Lifeguard Season Review

Future: Boat Yard/Haul Out

F. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department