



Photo: Seal Lions taking a snooze break on the deck

February 11, 2018

Happy Sunday to you! Did you know that next week is National Kindness Week, with February 17 as the official day of observation? According to the ancient Greek story teller Aesop, “no act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

That truth still holds today. Perhaps one of the most important facets of kindness is generosity. And, by all accounts, Morro Bay is a kind and generous community beyond measure. You can see this generosity on display in the large number of volunteer organizations, both formal and informal, as well as individuals, who provide their financial resources and time to ensure that the community looks beautiful, to assist the City on important community priorities, and to provide support to those with lesser means who may be struggling in life. This bounty of generosity is part of what makes Morro Bay such a unique and wonderful place to live, work and play.

The spirit of kindness is also on display within the City of Morro Bay. Staff are motivated to make sure the community is well taken care of everyday. We derive satisfaction in knowing that this important work helps improve your life, and that of your family, neighbors and friends.

In this issue of the City Manager Update, you will learn about forthcoming improvements in the Harbor (made possible because of community donations!), catch up on the work of the Consolidated Maintenance team which maintains the City’s parks and facilities, and say goodbye to a great employee in the Finance Department, while receiving other important City updates.

As always, I encourage community members to reach out to me to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns. My direct phone number is 805-772-6206, and my email address is scollins@morrobayca.gov.

Public Works

Consolidated Maintenance

Crews have been busy so far in 2018. They have fielded over 100 requests and are diligently working to get to all of them. Here's a rundown of the progress to date:

Monthly Request Summary by District				
The number of requests entered, in progress, closed, and escalated for the previous month.				
Request Type	Requests	In Progress	Closed	Escalations
District:				
Maintenance Request	21	0	18	2
Poor Property Maintenance	15	4	8	1
Public Restroom Issue	9	0	8	0
Water Issue	7	0	7	0
Street Cleaning/Sweeping	7	0	6	1
Tree Pruning/Trimming	7	0	6	0
Sign or Banner-Missing or Damaged	5	0	5	1
Bike Path Issues	4	0	4	0
Tree Removal Request	4	0	4	0
Pothole/Sinkhole	4	0	3	0
Storm Drain Issue	3	0	3	0
Banner Install or Remove Request	3	0	2	0
Custodial Request	2	0	1	0
Graffiti - City Property	3	0	1	3
Parking in Excess of 72 Hours	1	0	1	0
Public Building Issue	1	0	1	0
Sewer Issue	2	0	1	0
Storage of Boat or RV in Roadway	1	0	1	0
Commercial Slips/Docks	1	0	0	1
Curb Painting Request	1	0	0	0
Curb Repair	2	0	0	1
Parks & Recreation Department	2	0	0	0
Paving Request	1	0	0	0
Police Department	1	0	0	0
Sidewalk Issue	1	0	0	0
Transit	1	0	0	0
Tree Replacement	1	0	0	0
Waterfront Other	1	0	0	1
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In addition to core duties, staff has been working diligently on the restroom renovation at Del Mar Park. This construction is being performed by Consolidated Maintenance staff. It is proving to be a wonderful team building and educational experience, as well as a tremendously

efficient use of City resources. This project will be completed at 15-20% of the Engineering estimate for outsourced construction.



Harbor

Dead otters

Sorry to lead with a sad story, but Harbor staff have assisted California Fish and Wildlife personnel recover two dead sea otters over the past week. One was shark-bit, while the other apparently succumbed to Valley Fever. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for sea otters to be bitten by Great White sharks and left to die.

Eelgrass

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is gearing-up for another round of eelgrass planting in their continued efforts at eelgrass restoration in our bay. They are teaming up with Cal Poly in this latest effort. The NEP and Cal Poly in recent years have been studying why the eelgrass in Morro Bay has been in steady decline, although we are not alone as other estuaries are experiencing similar die-offs. There does appear to be a modest gain in eelgrass growth in the northern part of the bay, and it is from these areas that eelgrass shoots will be taken and transplanted to previously eelgrass vegetated areas of the bay.



Dredge demobilization complete (as can be)

Dredge contractor Ahtna Design-Build completed the last of their work – removal of stranded dredge pipe on the sandspit – and have completely demobilized from Morro Bay.

Unfortunately, there still remains approximately 150 feet of buried pipeline on the sandspit buried too deep in the sand and too far out in the surf to recover, so it has been left in place. Should it resurface, Ahtna will be required by the Corps of Engineers to come and remove it. It is on the State Parks portion of the sandspit.

Plover Fencing will be going up Monday Feb 26

It's that time of year again—Snowy Plovers will be nesting and laying eggs on the sand spit and on the beach area North of Morro Rock soon. Plovers are a threatened species and are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. State Parks and the City of Morro Bay annually erect fencing to protect the Snowy Plover's nesting habitat. This is especially critical for the Plovers as their nests are so well camouflaged that they could be easily destroyed. When visiting the beaches please obey the posted signs, stay out of designated nesting areas and keep dogs on leashes at all times.

Sealion dock

Ending with a happy story, the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department are currently undertaking a fundraising drive for the rebuild of the City's Floating Dock in the anchorage area (built in 1985), which is often completely submerged by the weight of numerous California Sea Lions. The dock, originally built to serve transient vessels, is visited daily by kayakers and sightseeing tours as one of the "go to" places to observe the animals basking lazily or barking at one another. With an average male weighing around 600 pounds, the dock is beginning to give in to the stresses of its unintended purpose.

The Harbor Department is rebuilding this dock for continued safe accommodation of our furry marine friends, with an estimated cost of approximately \$10,000 for materials alone. Donations are flying through the door, with \$20,000 raised so far! We want to thank the community for the huge response we have received. Those donors of \$1,000 or more will be given credit on a small sign at the dock when it's rebuilt.



Finance

We are sad to say Monique Lomeli, our front counter extraordinaire, will be leaving us to serve as Deputy City Clerk for the City of Palm Springs. We will miss Monique greatly as she seamlessly transitioned from the Utility Clerk position to the Business License/TOT clerk and has trained new staff. We will not only miss Monique for her knowledge and skill set but her customer service approach, consistency and fairness along with her positive attitude. We know Monique will be a great asset to the City of Palm Springs and wish her all the best on her new adventure. If you would like to stop by and wish Monique well her last day with us will be Friday, February 16th.

OpenGov (Financial Transparency Portal)

We have completed negotiations with OpenGov on contract language and will begin working directly with our customer service representative beginning next week. OpenGov deployment updates will continue via the City Manager's newsletter, so the Council, Community and City staff can be up to date on where we are in the process.

Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget

We are kicking-off the Fiscal Year 2018/19 budget season by holding all employee meetings next week. Our goal is to have an inclusive budget process, engaging all employees to collaborate in developing a proposed budget that is balanced and continues to provide a full range of services to the community. The City will also use information gleaned from the public through the 2018 Goals and Objectives retreat that took place on February 2 to help inform budget recommendations for City Council. You can send your ideas with regard to City priorities to goals@morrobayca.gov.

Recreation

Senior Services

Last month, Recreation Services along with Morro Bay Active Adults.... 55+ hosted an inaugural event – the 55+ Health and Wellness Faire. This free event held in the MB Community Center had over 35 local vendors (including MBPD) and over 150 participants.

Through the hard work of MBRSD and MBAA... 55+, our partnership with Cuesta College continues to provide free Emeritus college classes to our residents. Increasing to nine classes offered this spring, college instructors host classes that include art, history, cooking, law, and mythology. Over 100 Morro Bay residents are participating in classes this spring!



Youth Services

Youth Services has been busy planning events and volunteering. Take advantage of our “Parent’s Date Night Out!” and leave your children in the capable hands of our talented Kid’s Club staff while you enjoy a few hours out on the town. That event takes place on Friday, February 16 from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Morro Bay Community Center.

Our Teen Action Committee has been out helping the community – first, by volunteering at the annual Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner; and then, by distributing posters around the Estero Bay promoting our annual Dixon’s Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.



Community Pool

The first month of community use of the Morro Bay High School pool has been very successful! Staff is working with MBHS and San Luis Coastal United School District to set use hours for the remainder of 2018; however, once set there will still be some cancellations due to holidays, high school athletic events and other district uses.

Recently, we received a generous donation of \$500 from a member of our swimming community – Mr. Lawrence Weitzen – for the purchase of a timing clock used by those who lap swim.



Sports

Recently, Recreation Services received a check from the Bay-Osos Kiwanis Club donating \$600 towards our very successful Youth Basketball program. These funds will be used to help offset the costs of our participant awards.



Fire

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) gives Morro Bay a New Engine.

Morro Bay's OES Engine 274 was returned to Sacramento after 18 years of service to our community and the State. It is replaced by a new engine, OES Engine 388. The Morro Bay Fire Department participates in a partnership with OES for the last 23 years to improve our regional fire and rescue responses. The Morro Bay Fire Department participates in a Strike Team composed within our County and responds to wildland fires, campaign fires, and rescue incidents throughout our region and State. The City is fully reimbursed for our increased payroll expenses plus and administration fee of 22%. In return, our City can use the OES engine to enhance our firefighting capability in our community which assists our Fire ISO rating for

each home and business owner. More importantly, the training and experience our Firefighters gain will be brought back to Morro Bay and used when significant events occur in and around our community.

For the last 18 years, OES 274 has responded and participated in large fires from Northern Nevada to the California Mexican border. In our County, OES 274 has responded to multiple fires in Northern San Luis Obispo County. In addition to fires, OES 274 has responded with a Morro Bay crew to rescue events such as the San Simeon Earthquake in 2003.

Our new OES 388 is currently at our Bonita Street Fire Station getting outfitted with State and City equipment. You will see our Firefighters soon in our streets training on OES 388 getting familiar with its capabilities and equipment. OES 388 is schedule to be in service within three weeks.



Unique Partnership with California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The California Dept. of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), in cooperation with the Morro Bay Fire Department and the Air Pollution Control District, have announced plans to conduct prescribed pile burns of diseased, dead and downed Monterey pines in the Black Hill area of Morro Bay State Park. Air Curtain burning will start if weather conditions are good on Monday February 12, 2018, and should be complete within two weeks. Air Curtain Incinerators will be used to remove the large diameter of dead and downed pines.

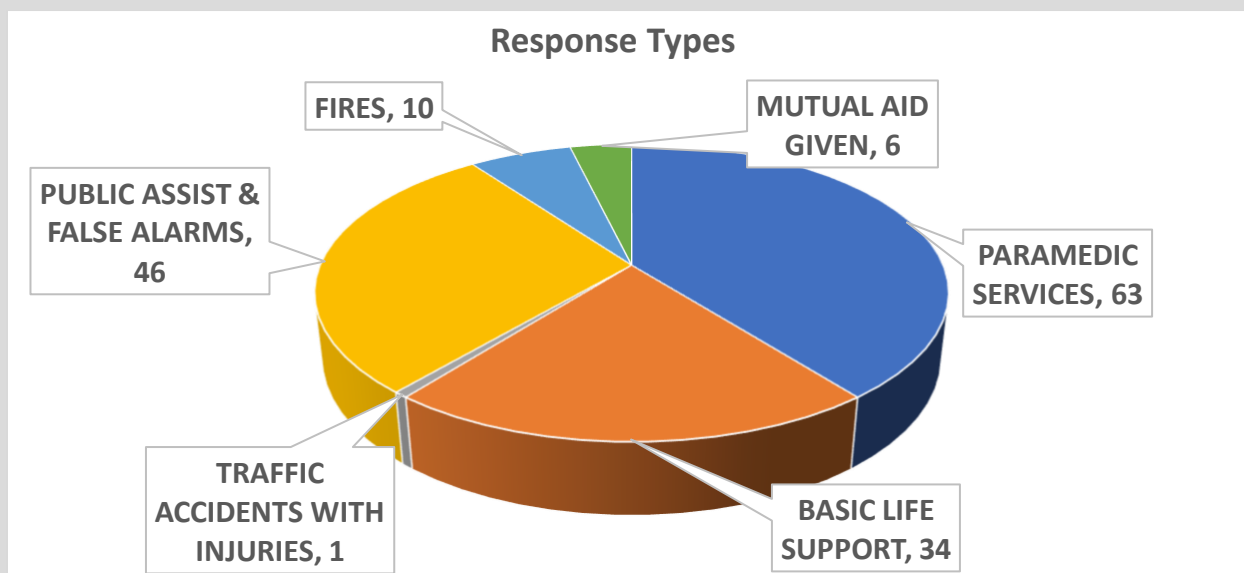
This burn project is part of the Hazard Fuel Reduction and Prescribed Fire Program for vegetation management, fuel load reduction and structure protection to numerous residences and businesses in Morro Bay. Monterey pines are experiencing major die-offs due to pine pitch canker disease and prolonged years of drought. 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.

Please note that these burns are planned and coordinated with the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District and the California Air Resources Board to minimize the smoke impacts in our community. The burn is dependent on weather and air quality conditions that are favorable for smoke dispersal. If the conditions are not as desired, the burns will be rescheduled. The Morro Bay Fire Department will post updated information via Facebook, Twitter, and City Website. For more information regarding air quality and related issues, please go to the APCD website at: www.slocleanair.org or call (805) 781-4390.



The Fire Department Responded to 160 Emergency Incidents in January 2018



Administration

The City will be accepting applications to fill vacancies on two of the City's Advisory Boards until Friday, February 23rd. If you have a passion for promoting a healthy lifestyle through sports and activities, please consider applying for the Recreation & Parks Commission ("RPC"). The RPC meets on the third Thursday of odd-numbered months at 6:00 p.m. in the Vets Hall.

Those who have a strong interest in being the conduit between the Council and community as the City develops its new water reclamation facility should consider applying to fill vacancies on the Water Reclamation Facility Citizens Advisory Committee ("WRFCAC"). The WRFCAC meets the first Tuesday of the month, as needed, at 3:00 p.m. in the Vets Hall. More information on this and other City advisory bodies can be found on the City website <http://morrobayca.gov/268/Boards-Committees-Commissions>. If you have questions about how to apply, please contact the City Clerk at (805) 772-6205.

Thank you again for taking time to read this and previous updates. We hope you find it useful and encourage you to share your thoughts about how to improve this communication moving forward.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager