



Photo: Lifeguard training in Morro Bay.

May 14, 2018

Happy Monday Morro Bay!

I have had the great pleasure of serving as the City Manager for six months now. I wasn't exactly sure what to expect when I moved my family here from Santa Cruz in late 2017, though I had an idea that this place was special.

During my time here, I have observed the ingenuity, uniqueness, generosity and kindness that extends across the entire community. I have witnessed the community come together to help solve its more pressing challenges with a keen sense of commitment and civility. And I have seen the passion and dedication of the City's employees on display daily, as they work hard to keep us safe, while preserving the high quality of life here.

It's quite clear to me that Morro Bay is a one of a kind place, and that I am extremely

fortunate to work with City Council, staff and the community every day.

Thank you to everyone that has either met with me, called or emailed with suggestions. Those discussions have been invaluable. They have helped me better understand our community's needs and desires as well as formulate ideas to help us address some of our bigger challenges and opportunities. I still have a lot to learn and I greatly appreciate your continued engagement.

This update includes new information on the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), a brief summary of the Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget proceedings, a request from the Fire Department, and host of other City updates. If you would like to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, please reach out to me either by phone, 805-772-6206, or email scollins@morrobayca.gov.

Public Works

Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Update

The WRF project is reaching some very important milestones with regard to environmental review, permitting, external funding and cost estimates. As such, members of the community are encouraged to stay informed and get engaged and participate in upcoming meetings.

City Manager Appoints Blue Ribbon Commission

The City Manager appointed a Blue Ribbon Commission, consisting of four Morro Bay residents with extensive business and finance experience, to review costs and potential rate increases associated with the WRF project. They will conduct an independent evaluation and provide a report and recommendation to the City Manager, which will be shared directly with the WRF Citizen Advisory Committee (WRFCAC), City Council and community. They have already begun their work to help ensure the community gets the best possible cost and rates for the project.

Public Forum (April 25, 2018)

City Council hosted a public forum on April 25, 2018, to provide the community with an update on the project and answer questions from the community. City staff and a representative from the Regional Water Quality Control Board provided information on the project, and the League of Women Voters moderated the question and answer segment. Some of the major takeaways from the forum include:

- The community is very concerned about the costs of the project and anticipated rate increases. The project costs and rates will be determined later in May or June.
- Related to rates, community members asked about the Utility Discount Program, which Council will consider expanding this year.
- The Prop. 218 process, which sets water and sewer rates, will be initiated later this year if rate increases are required to fund the project.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board, which governs water quality in California, is in the process of issuing a Time Schedule Order that will require the City to construct a new waste water/reclamation facility within five years to avoid fines. The facility must be built inland, as the California Coastal Commission denied the City's permit in 2013 to construct a new facility near the current location.

The meeting can be viewed on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kG_VmpY9Or4

Draft Environmental Report Released

The City released the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) at the end of March. The Draft EIR provides the public and pertinent agencies with information about the potential effects on the local and regional environment associated with the proposed WRF project. Community members are encouraged to read the report, which can be found online on the WRF website at <http://morrobaywrf.com>. The City is soliciting comments from the public about the Draft EIR, which will be received through May 18, 2018. Written comments should be sent to:

Rob Livick, P.E.
Public Works Director
City of Morro Bay
955 Shasta Avenue, Morro Bay, CA 93442
rlivick@morrobayca.gov

Upcoming WRF public meetings and other important dates

- May 16, 2018, 3:00p.m. Morro Bay Library – Community Meeting
 - o Project update and question and answer
- May 18, 2018 – Public comments due on the Draft EIR.

For more information about the WRF project, please visit: <http://morrobaywrf.com>.

Water and Waste Water Services

Preparations have already begun for the annual State water shut down by training additional staff in the proper and safe operation of the City brackish water treatment plant. The City's primary water supply is State water which is piped to us already treated and ready for use. Annually the system is shut down of maintenance at which time the City must rely entirely on our local wells and treatment plant. This shut down typically occurs in October each year and lasts between 30 and 60 days.



This week, an outside contractor (Dukes Root Control) was in town performing foaming root control in 23,000 feet of our sewer collection system. The control of root intrusion into the

system is an important part of the management and maintenance of the collection system to prevent stoppages and reduce the risk of sewer overflows.



Consolidated Maintenance

Staff installed a colorful bike rack at Centennial Parkway near the Trolley stop.



The improved restrooms at Del Mar are complete and open for business. A grand opening is set for Tuesday, May 15 at 12 noon.



Finance

Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget

City Council reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget (July 2018 – June 2019) on May 8th and 9th. Staff presented information on the various City funds and went into detail on the City departmental budgets. This year's budget looks to be balanced, thanks in part to a strong local and regional economy which is boosting revenues such as sales tax and transient occupancy tax, as well as efforts to reduce the number management positions in favor of front line positions. While the next budget year looks favorable, the City is facing significant challenges in trying to meet increased CalPERS pension payments over the next 5 – 10 years. With that in mind, City Council will review the 10-year financial forecast at its May 22 meeting. Council will adopt the budget in June. You can review the proposed FY 2018/2019 Budget at: <https://ca-morrobay2.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/11774/Proposed-FY-2018-19-Budget-050118>

Harbor

Coast Guard Change of Command

Big news on the waterfront is the Coast Guard Change of Command ceremony today, May 11. Senior Chief Jay Nilles will be relieved by Chief Tim Crochet. Senior Chief Nilles arrived for his tour of duty in Morro Bay in 2015 and is leaving a year early because he's promoted above Station Morro Bay's billet ranking and is needed elsewhere. He will be moving on to run Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River, near Florence on the Central Oregon coast. Siuslaw is another heavy-weather breaking bar entrance with motor lifeboats. Chief Crochet's last billet was

Station Lorain, Ohio, on Lake Erie where he was the Officer in Charge. Welcome Tim, and farewell Jay.

New Sea Lion Dock

The new Sea Lion dock was installed to rave reviews by its patrons, although it appears we may have to add more flotation. The donation credit signs will be going up soon, and a dedication ceremony conducted next week for the donors that made this project possible. We wish to thank everyone who graciously donated, and thanks to Harbor Patrolman Jeremiah Jacobs who spearheaded the project. A pair of pedestal-mounted viewing binoculars for public use will be installed soon on the overlook pier between the Anderson Inn and Hofbrau restaurant.



Coast Rescue Drill

On April 26, a multi-agency surf and coast rescue drill was held at the Abalone Farm above Cayucos. Personnel from many agencies trained on aquatic and coastal search and rescue, including helicopter operations with CHP Air-70. These annual drills help keep the skills of our maritime first responders honed, and everyone familiar with each other's personnel, equipment and operating procedures. Special thanks to the Abalone Farm for allowing this drill operate from their property.



Safe Boating Day

At the May 8 City Council meeting, the Council proclaimed May 19, 2018 as “Morro Bay Safe Boating Day,” while May 19-25 is 2018’s National Safe Boating Week. On the 19th, tours of first-responder vessels from the Coast Guard, County Sheriff and Harbor Patrol will be given at the Harbor Patrol docks, in addition to giving boating safety lectures and handing out safety and other literature. While that is occurring, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be giving free vessel safety checks at the public launch ramp. In addition, at the launch ramp on the 19th the Auxiliary will be having a DBW-sponsored life jacket trade-in event, where you can bring in your old and unserviceable life jacket in to get a new one for free.

Lifesaving Association Training Academy

The 2018 United States Lifesaving Association training academy conducted by the Morro Bay Harbor and Recreation departments kicks-off this Friday evening and through the next two weekends. 16 new hire cadets from the City of Morro Bay for the Beach Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard programs, in addition to San Luis Obispo County’s Cayucos Beach Lifeguard recruits, will be put through their paces and taught the ways of the professional Lifeguard – “Lifeguards for Life!” This Saturday and Sunday will be at Cayucos Pier, while next Saturday and Sunday will be here in Morro Bay. A combination of lectures, classroom training, physical challenges and

training drills will get our new recruits trained and ready for this summer's season. Look for them out on the beach and cheer them on!



Fire

Morro Bay Firefighters prepare for Fire Season

Our City's and County's wet winter created a sizable crop of new growth grass, but don't let the wet weather fool you as the abundant grass dries into fuel-ripe tinder. Already this year, California Fire Departments has responded to more than 950 wildfires that have burned over 5,800 acres. You will see our Firefighters throughout town training on mandated performance evolutions and training. This year's training will add an additional 30 hours of training to prepare our team for this year's season that will guarantee to bring extreme weather, dead and dying trees, and challenging fire behavior in our community and state. If you see our firefighters dragging hose up black hill or simulating structure protection evolutions in our neighborhoods, please be careful as you drive by.

To stay informed about your local Fire Department's action, follow

www.twitter.com/MorroBayFire

To help prepare your family, home, and property in advance of a fire, download Cal Fire Ready for Wildfire app for free at your app store.

This app includes easy-to-follow checklists for maintaining defensible space, hardening your home, creating a wildfire action plan, assembling an emergency supply kit, and evacuation information. Also, you can get signed-up custom wildfire alerts when an incident is reported in your area.



Help our Firefighters prepare for Fire Season by clearing weeds

It's that time of the year again, and residents of Morro Bay are encouraged to get an early start on weed abatement. The Morro Bay Fire Department mission, through its Weed and Vegetation Abatement program, is to eliminate vegetative growth and/or refuse which may constitute a fire or life and safety hazard. The weather in April and May varies greatly from year to year and rain can be common after property owners have cut their parcels. "However, it is important to the overall safety of our community that property owners maintain their weeds/seasonal grass to 4" in length, year-round so we can prevent small fires from becoming large. The Fire Department will start inspecting all properties in Morro Bay starting June 15th.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE FOR APRIL 2018



Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

April 3, 2018: 701 Embarcadero: 2 new internally illuminated signs Action: continued with direction change sign type from internally illuminated.

458 Dunes: remodel addition (618 sq.ft.) to an existing residence. Action: Approved

1149 West: Request to remove condition prohibiting gated driveway. Action: Denied

April 17, 2018

1001 Front: Establishment of a 48 sq.ft. kiosk for Virg's Landing. Action: Approved

Planning Permits Received Jan. 2018

- Conditional Use Permit = 6
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 4
- Permit Amendment = 1

Total = 11

Fees collected = \$8,051.00

Code Enforcement Activity

- 24 cases initiated
- 18 cases resolved
- 26 total pending cases

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 34
- Valuation = \$444,445
- Fees Received = \$16,607
- # of Inspections = 155
- New Permits = 20

Tourism

A primary goal of the Tourism department is to help increase business during shoulder season (Sept-May) for the destination. In doing this, we make a point to invest in shoulder season activities since Morro Bay already has a strong summer season. This time of the year is really geared to helping shoulder events such as Kite Festival, Yard Sale or Crusin' Morro Bay with General Fund Grants. The article below is a great example of a featured story in [Coastal Living](#) that promotes "spring" in Morro Bay. Thanks to local Morro Bay photographer Hunter Kilpatrick we have an amazing library of photos to use for media requests.

COASTAL LIVING®

The Best Little Beach Towns To Visit in Spring



9 of 10 Hunter Kilpatrick Photography

Morro Bay, California

Let's go fly a kite! Seriously, it's breezy out, and we all could use a little respite of joy-filled kite flying, couldn't we? Combine that with a scenic beach town like [Morro Bay](#), and the serotonin levels will soar, especially the last weekend of April at the annual [Morro Bay Kite Festival](#). The kites here are next level, and the professional skills on display are too—but amateurs and happy observers abound as well. Some professional kite-flyers say the best kite-flying wind on earth is right here. There's also ocean-side golfing, sailing, kayaking, and biking in this seaside village on the Central Coast.

The other way we help build the shoulder season is through hosting top caliber journalists from a variety of publications and media outlets. Last weekend we hosted the SLOCAL Spring Culinary Media Tour. The group represents some of the top-tier media outlets nationwide including; Men's Journal, USA Today, Forbes Travel Guide, Food & Wine, Zagat, Shape, BBC Travel, Sunset Magazine, Travel & Leisure, National Geographic Traveler and more. SLOCAL choosing Morro Bay to be one of two locations in the county to host this group speaks volumes for our community, residents and for the Inn at Morro Bay where they were housed. This group of amazing writers kayaked our bay, toured our oyster farms and ate more local seafood at Dockside than you could imagine! Their final stop was breakfast on the beautiful bluff at Dorn's overlooking our quaint fishing village.

We are extremely careful when selecting top journalists and we set itineraries to guide them through our community. We want to ensure they represent all things Morro Bay and know how pristine and quaint our small fishing village is. We want them to leave understanding how important the natural surroundings of Estero Bay are to our way of life.





On Thursday May 8th, Visit San Luis Obispo County had their annual Tourism Exchange and during the lunch of 300+ distinguished guests Bud Anderson was honored with the Lifetime Tourism Luminary award. Bud's wife Rita and son Jeff accepted the award on his behalf. The Anderson name and brand is a large part of Morro Bay and the City of San Luis Obispo where the original Anderson Hotel was started. His three kids, Rodger, Mollie and Jeff continue his legacy with running the Inn and Galley Restaurant. If you care to read more on the Anderson Family and how they came to SLO County here are two great stories.

How the Anderson's came to SLO County:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/photos-from-the-vault/article39504309.html>

Bud and the Anderson Inn:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article39491049.html>

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