

Be a Morro Bay Face Mask Hero **COVER YOUR FACE!**



If you're safe, we're safe too!
#RockSolidTogether



CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE, August 12, 2020

After months of community engagement through our ***Join the Conversation*** initiative, the Morro Bay City Council unanimously placed a local Relief and Recovery – one cent sales tax measure on the November ballot. If enacted, Measure E-20 could generate up to \$2 million annually available to maintain core services during these challenging times. No Measure E-20 money could be taken by the County or Sacramento.

Morro Bay is fortunate to have its own, local Police and Fire Departments. Measure E-20 funding could allow the City to maintain these services locally, which the community has identified as an important priority, rather than contract with outside agencies.

Measure E-20 also ensures out of town visitors continue to pay their fair share for using our services, roads, and beaches. Other community identified priorities Measure E-20 could help address include:

- ✓ Preparing for a medical or catastrophic emergency, by:
 - ✓ Maintaining 24/7 911 emergency response
 - ✓ Maintaining 24/7 paramedic services
 - ✓ Maintaining 24/7 police services
 - ✓ Maintaining fire protection services
- ✓ Keeping public areas healthy, safe and clean
- ✓ Protecting the financial stability of the City, its residents and businesses

Also, on the November 2020 ballot, voters will have the opportunity to decide on Morro Bay's next mayor and two city council representatives. We look forward to keeping you up to date on our Municipal Election and new voting procedures in this historic California all-mail ballot.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager

Jody Cox
Chief of Police

Steve Knuckles
Fire Chief

COVID-19 Update

Our world changed dramatically in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have modified how we live our lives, conduct business, and interact with others, all in the name of keeping ourselves and our family, friends and neighbors safe. We are so impressed with our community members and business owners for all the steps you have taken to stay safe and healthy. That includes wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds and fun activities you were accustomed to and, in some cases, shutting business doors. These sacrifices are tough, but undoubtedly have saved lives. Thank you!

The City is no exception to this change. We have been at the forefront of the public health emergency response by activating our emergency operations center and providing critical [information to the community](#). That is in addition to educating our local businesses about changes related to the State and [County Shelter at Home orders](#) and encouraging good behavior from our visitors. We have provided these new services, while also maintaining normal operations in most cases, including police and fire response, harbor patrol, park maintenance, building/plan reviews, code enforcement, etc.

Currently, the City is focused on assisting businesses with compliance with COVID-19 regulations and addressing impacts from visitors. Morro Bay Police personnel and other staff are leading the mask hero campaign to encourage more face coverings in public. The science/data is clear that wearing masks, when social distancing is not possible, can help reduce the spread of COVID-19. We have seen great results from the campaign so far and hope to see further improvement throughout the remainder of our summer.

In addition, the City has increased maintenance staff hours and the number of trash cans in the waterfront area to reduce the amount of litter resulting from a significant increase in takeout/dining out food consumption. The City is working with County on an anti-litter campaign, as this issue is affecting most of the coastline in SLO County.

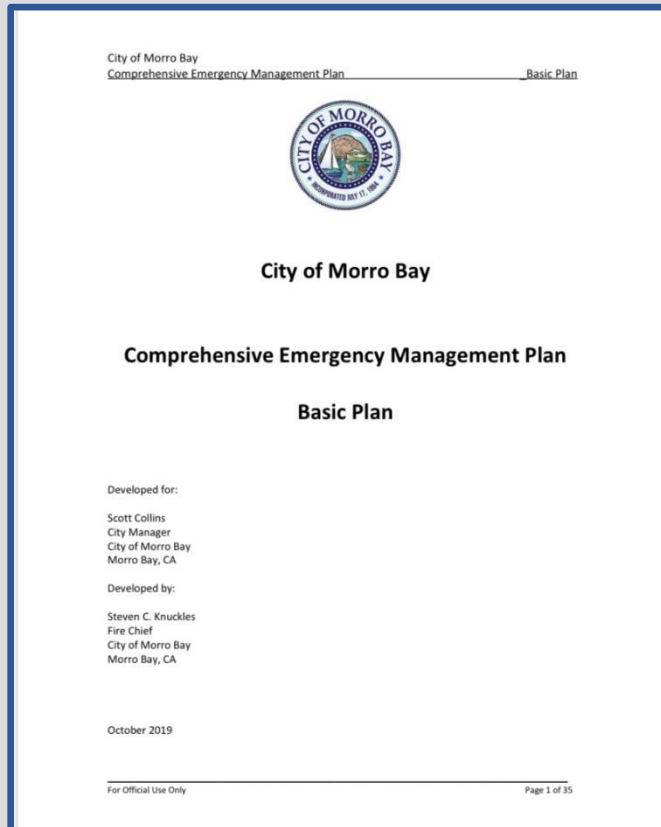
While the City has increased staff hours and trash cans/trash service and budgeted for new expenses related to COVID-19, the City significantly reduced expenses across most of the organization as a result of the pandemic's impact on our local economy and City revenues. We have responded by launching the #Rocksolidtogether comprehensive financial recovery plan. Under that plan, we have instituted staff pay cuts; froze vacant positions, travel and training; responsibly used emergency reserves; and, unfortunately, laid off 6 full-time staff and over 70 part-time staff. This has resulted in service impacts in a number of departments, and we will continue to do all we can to balance our budget and look to [revenue enhancement](#) options to avoid further service reductions.





City of Morro Bay Emergency Operations Center

Continuity of Operations, Pandemic 2020

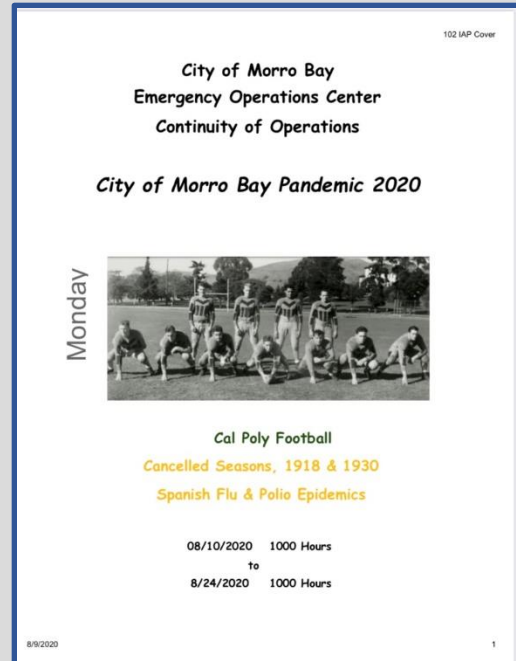


Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been open and operating since March 16, 2020, under our City's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan with our City Manager, Scott Collins, as the Emergency Services Director. The opening of our EOC supports the Emergency Declarations from our City, County of San Luis Obispo, State of California, and President. Since the third day of our EOC opening, we have been 100% virtual for the protection of City employees, City volunteers, and our families. This COVID-19 event has forced our City's Emergency Managers to reevaluate the processes and plans in our EOC function. As social distancing continues to be the norm, it can be challenging and dangerous to congregate in a physical EOC as part of a pandemic plan.

Morro Bay's EOC has five main functions to meet the needs of our public, employees, volunteers, and continuity of operations -- command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance. Our main goal is to work with our regional partners ensuring our management actions and efforts will be focused on serving, safeguarding, and protecting the community of Morro Bay while returning to our way of life safely. The management of our response to the needs of our employees and citizens has been administered through Incident Action Plans (IAP) that are based of the Incident Command System (ICS) that meets the requirements of California Office of Emergency Services (OES), Homeland Security, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). All City employees and many volunteers in our community are playing key roles during our pandemic responses. Under California Government Code, all City employees and volunteers are Disaster Service Workers (DSW) that allows them to perform functions that are outside their normal daily duties. Many of our workforce are continuing the daily duties in the field, offices or from home using video conference technology that will allow them to switch gears and provide high priority safety services to help our community members. We could not do what we do without the dedicated work of many in our workforce, volunteers, and community.

We have 45 City employees and community volunteers staffing the management function of our EOC. Our EOC management team meets multiple times throughout the week via Zoom or conference call to remain fluid with the consistent changes occurring through our Governor, San Luis Obispo County EOC, and our County Public Health Officer. Operational periods are established with our current operational period starting 8.10.2020 and finishing on 8.24.2020. The current guidelines and objectives developed by our EOC team is:

- Provide for the safety for our public, City employees, community volunteers and their families
- Maintain a State of Readiness of EMS services
- Collaborate with our regional and state partners
- Continue our Morro Bay Face Mask Hero program to educate and encourage our citizens, visitors, businesses the importance of face masks.
- Maintain public order of our business industry guidance's through coaching and enforcement through our Morro Bay citywide code enforcement team
- Continue to explore new ideas and physical changes in our community to enhance social distancing.
- Collaborate and reach out to our local school district to support our schools partial opening, youth recreation, and child enrichment programs.
- Publish Morro Bay's Contingency Plan for point of distribution testing, vaccinations, and continuity of operations this Fall, Winter, and Spring.
- Continue to evaluate our effectiveness of public messaging.
- Provide aerial photographs during peak times at high density areas in the community to monitor and evaluate social distancing.
- Seek alternative community testing with our regional partners to determine the impact of COVID-19 in our community.
- Support our Morro Bay Connects Program to provide needed help to our vulnerable population.
- Comply with FEMA reimbursement requirements and timelines by maintaining accurate financial documentation.



We can only imagine EOC and its operational tasks will need to be performed for many more months into the future. Our EOC will continue to plan and manage the tactical operations of our resources to address the safety of our community and a safe return to our way of life. During times like these we see the gifts each of us brings to make our lives better in Morro Bay.



Morro Bay Fire Department Mutual Aid Responses

Morro Bay Fire Department personnel has responded mutual aid to two wildland fires in San Luis Obispo County and to a wildland fire near Caldwell, California. Our Office of Emergency Service (OES) engine responded with a crew of 4 as part of a County Strike Team to the Avila Fire on June 15th. Our fire crews experienced fire behavior and weather never seen on the California coast while performing their structure defense and fire line perimeter control. Our Fire Chief worked at the Incident Command Post in Pismo Beach assisting the Command Staff with evacuation and repopulation planning. A lot of lessons have been learned with a tremendous amount of success in firefighting tactics and strategy. Our fire crews received great evaluations on their performance and the experience they have gained is invaluable.



Captain Paramedic, Michael Talmadge, responded mutual aid on July 8th as a Fireline Paramedic to the July Complex Fire in Modoc County. The July Complex Fire was California's biggest wildfire of 2020 fire season so far. Captain Talmadge was given a fire division to provide for medical and trauma emergencies on the fire line. The July Complex Fire has over

1,490 personnel, 99 engines, 21 dozers, 29 water tenders, 12 helicopters and has burned 80,859 acres, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Michael returned after 7-days of service.



Recently, our OES engine responded mutual aid with a crew of 4 firefighters to the Pond Fire near Creston, California. Our fire crew worked 4 days performing fire perimeter control in a fire division adjacent to community of Pozo. Fire Chief Knuckles responded as a member our local County Incident Management Team to assist the Command Staff for 5 days. The fire burned 1,962 acres and destroyed one residence and multiple outbuildings that prompted evacuation. The size of the Pond Fire was limited by the aggressive fire prevention measures supported by our County Fire Safe Council for the last 3 years.

All three mutual aid responses are part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement that provides reimbursements for personnel and equipment to the responding Fire Departments plus an Administrative Reimbursement. #MutualAidWorks



Be Prepared When Your Electrical Power Goes Out

Our community's electrical power has been off during significant events in our community such as flooding, earthquakes, and winter storms. As we have seen in the recent years, California wildfires has grown causing major destruction to many communities. The community of Morro Bay is not in a high hazard wildfire location, but we will be affected by any large conflagration within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Monterey Counties.



To reduce the risk of wildfires, PG&E has developed a Community Wildfire Safety Program. One component of this program, called Public Safety Power Shutoff, involves proactively turning off electricity if extreme fire danger conditions exist.

Should conditions allow, PG&E will notify customers in advance of a power shutoff. Additionally, customers who are part of the PG&E Medical Baseline Program may receive advanced notification. For more information about PG&E's Medical Baseline Program, please visit PG&E's website (www.pge.com) to download an application or call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

If you feel that a power outage could adversely affect your health, or you rely on powered medical equipment, we urge you to plan ahead. Even if local emergency planners initiate evacuations based on power outages, we encourage you to stay with friends and family outside of the affected area.

If you plan to stay at your home:

- Ensure you have a battery powered radio so you can receive emergency information.
- Consider purchasing a generator and back up batteries for your medical equipment and devices.
- Have emergency food and water supplies for several days.

You can visit <https://prepareforpowerdown.com> for general information about the program, as well as more detailed information regarding power planning for electricity and battery dependent assistive technology and medical devices.

Please call (805) 781-5011 if you have any further questions about PG&E's Public Safety Power Shutoff Program. If you have questions on what you can do to prepare yourself for any power shutoff, give us a call at the Fire Department, 805-772-6242.

Public Works

Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Program Update

The City is making progress on all components of the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project, with construction started on the advanced treatment facility, bids nearly due for the pipeline/conveyance system, advance study moving forward on the injection well system, and staff working with the state government to complete agreements for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) grant and low-interest loan funding. The City has experienced increased costs on the overall project as a result of project modifications as well as unanticipated issues that delayed initial construction of the WRF facility. However, those issues have been resolved and the overall project cost increase from \$126M to \$130M does not impact water and sewer rates in Morro Bay.

WRF Funding Update

The City received approvals for a loan amount of \$61M from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) low-interest loan program. That loan was locked in with a near historic low interest rate of under 0.9%, which will save the City and community \$800,000 to \$900,000 a year in debt costs compared to a conventional loan. That allows the City to maintain water and sewer rates that are on par or lower than our neighboring communities.

City staff are working with CWSRF staff to secure an additional low-interest loan and \$5 million grant to help further reduce the debt. The WIFIA and CWSRF loans and grant also help pay for the potable reuse portion of the project. The CWSRF loan and grant are anticipated to be finalized by the end for 2020.

Design/Construction Update

The design build (DB) team of Filanc/Black and Veatch broke ground on the advanced water treatment facility component on the project in mid-March 2020. The new treatment facility under development is located on South Bay Blvd near Highway 1. That site was chosen because it is removed from coastal hazards and flooding and it has greater neighborhood compatibility compared to alternative sites. The DB team has moved a considerable amount of dirt and dealt with a slide near the southwestern portion of the construction site. The current phase of construction work includes pouring the concrete for the two major water-bearing structures and installing various pipelines that connect the WRF to the rest of the City's new sewer system.

The City will open bids for the pipeline/conveyance component of the project on August 12th. The pipeline/conveyance component serves three main purposes. First, it transports raw

wastewater from the sewer system to the WRF for treatment. Second, it conveys treated wastewater from the WRF to the City's existing ocean outfall for disposal. Third, it sends purified water from the WRF to the groundwater injection wells. The pipeline will run from the existing WWTP site along portions of Main Street and then up Quintana and out to the new advanced wastewater treatment facility. The City selected this route as the other options (east of Highway 1) were far more expensive in terms of construction costs and infeasible due to technical and environmental constraints. The City is working with business owners along Quintana regarding traffic access during construction.

Lastly, the City team is completing studies on the injection well system. The injection well system will be used to augment groundwater and create a new potable water supply for the community. The City completed a feasibility study in 2017 that identified two sites (one west of Highway 1 and the other east of Highway 1) that met the minimum criteria for groundwater injection. Following completion of the feasibility study, the City evaluated the effects of injection on systemic nitrogen and salinity issues in the Morro groundwater basin. This study showed that long-term injection will improve existing water quality and help protect it from seawater intrusion. After performing field work and additional groundwater modeling in 2019/2020, the City recently completed an additional study that further refined the injection process and confirmed that the injection location west of Highway 1 is superior. The next steps for this aspect of the project entails injection testing west of Highway 1 necessary to confirm the design criteria for the wells so that the design process can be completed and this portion of the project can be put out to bid for construction.

Consolidated Maintenance Update - Top Results for the Last Four Weeks

- **Streets**
 - Filled several potholes and void areas around town with Cold Mix Asphalt.
 - Ground down several lifted asphalt areas along the pathway North of the MBHS due to tree roots.
 - Mounted "Cover Your Face!" signs around town per Covid-19 Pandemic.



- **Trees/Vegetation**
 - Staff and local contractor crews cut back and cleared all vegetation and trees from the SB Blvd. bike lanes.
 - Trim and lifted canopies on several trees around town out of the ROW's and for hazard reduction.
 - Weed abatement along bike and pedestrian paths, boardwalks, open fields, facilities, and parking lots.
- **Rock Parking Lot**
 - Replaced broken Stop signpost at crosswalk and broken No Parking signpost near lifeguard tower 1.
- **Rock RR**
 - Installed new sensors and flush actuators with pushbutton overrides in both Men's and Woman's RR.
- **Cloisters**
 - Tear out old landscape throughout entire Coral St. median, plant 700 new plants and install irrigation.
 - Transplant and repurpose some good plants from the median project to nearby park planters.



Photos: New plants in Cloisters and vegetation cleanup on South Bay Blvd.

- **Tidelands Pocket Park**
 - Based and paved back 4.5 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt in voids around perimeter of new concrete.
 - Installed 3 tons of rip rap rock at base of spillway and drainpipe areas.

- Bored and sleeved through concrete curb to add irrigation to planters from hillside.
- **City Park**
 - Power snaked and cleared sewer pipe clogs from both Men's and Woman's RR.
- **Harbor RR**
 - Rebuilt faulty push button actuator and flush valve in Men's RR for proper operation.
- **Community Center**
 - Installed security teller door, window and lobby countertop finished with polyurethane.
 - Cut large hedge down to half its size in rear of building at the BBQ area and trimmed back to shape.
- **Public Works**
 - Installed a second security teller window and two lobby countertops finished with polyurethane.
- **MBPD**
 - Power snaked and cleared sewer pipe clog that affected Men's shower and RR areas.

Utilities Division Update

Congratulations to Utility Division Manager Joe Mueller for receiving the "Advanced Water Treatment Operator Grade 4" certification. It is a new certification created expressly for water reclamation facilities that produce potable water. Grade 4 is the highest certification currently available and Joe is just one of three individuals in the state to achieve this certification.

Police

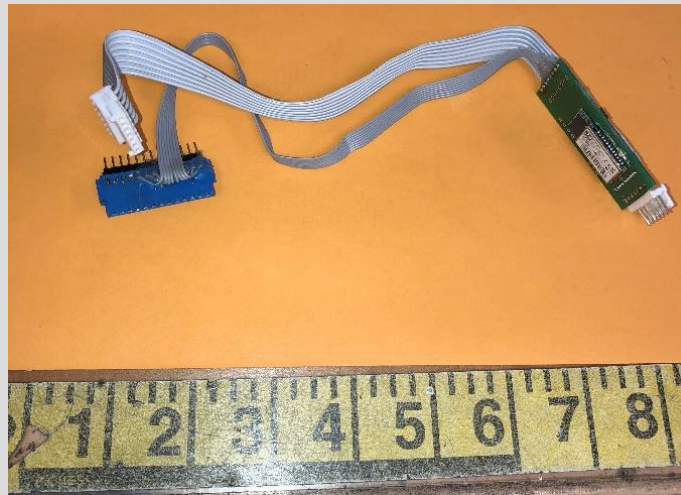
Officer Gene Stuart receives award

On July 15th, School Resource Officer Gene Stuart received the Distinguished Service Award presented by the International Footprint Association of California Central Coast Chapter 73, in recognition of his outstanding service and professionalism to our community. Officer Stuart was nominated as the July recipient for this award in recognition of his outstanding service to the community as the department's drone coordinator/pilot. Over the past year, Officer Stuart has conducted UAS (drone) operations at several San Luis Obispo County and City locations. Operations have included homicide investigations, major crime scene documentation, protests, UAS (drone) presentations, and special enforcement details.



Sinclair Gas Pump Skimmers

On July 23rd, officers were contacted by a San Luis Obispo County Weights & Measures employee who discovered an unauthorized credit card skimming operation at Sinclair Gasoline. Eight skimming devices were recovered from within several gas pumps at the business. A check was conducted at all other gasoline stations within the city of Morro Bay. No other skimming devices were located. An investigation is being conducted into the placement of the skimmers and also the connection to the documented fraud cases from the card data collected. The Police Department has received over 20 complaints by victims of reported credit card fraud.



Increased patrol on Beaches and Embarcadero

Since Memorial Day Weekend, the police department has increased our presence on the Embarcadero and the Beaches as a result of the increase in visitors to Morro Bay. Special detail officers and volunteers have been scheduled to provide an increased presence to the Embarcadero and the Beaches to deter crime and promote social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. These extra patrol officers and details will continue through September.

New Morro Bay Police Officers

Dustin Silva Bio

Dustin comes to Morro Bay out of Kern County. He is a California native and was raised in the Tehachapi area. After high school, Dustin served in the U.S. Navy for four years serving aboard the U.S.S. George Washington. Dustin decided to continue his public service by attending the Kern County Law Enforcement Academy, graduating in 2007 and working for Kern County Sheriff's Department until joining Morro Bay PD. Dustin is



considered a rare commodity, which is finding a seasoned, experienced lateral officer (with a highly qualified background) that is willing to make a transitional move during some of the most difficult times we have seen in law enforcement. Not just the COVID-19 issues we are dealing with, but the general state of law enforcement in our society. With over 13 years of experience,

Dustin has worked as a Court Bailiff, as a patrol deputy in McFarland, Delano and Lamont substations (some of which can be pretty rough areas of Kern Co.), he has worked as a SWAT Operator, and worked several years in specialized Narcotic Investigation's before moving to a more family friendly environment in Transportation and Court assignments. During his background Dustin was described as hard-working, loyal, having good judgement and critical decision-making skills, his co-workers described him as a great communicator, having great instincts and leadership abilities, a strong command presence, and being compassionate while maintaining excellent situational awareness. These are the special traits and characteristics we look for in selecting officers for the City of Morro Bay and we believe Dustin will be a great "fit" for our PD team and our community. Please help welcome him to Morro Bay.

Jason Ta Bio

Jason comes to us from San Jose, CA. Jason has been pursuing his goal of becoming a police officer since high school and had strong family support entering into this profession during some of the most trying times we have seen. After High School Jason continued his education graduating with a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies in 2018 as a Deans Scholar. Jason completed his POST Academy Training graduating from Fresno City College in August of last year. Jason has worked in the private



security industry for the last 4-5 years and his experience in the security industry will serve him well. Jason volunteered a short time with San Jose PD in Truancy Abatement and Burglary Suppression and has volunteered the past few years with groups like COPS Care Cancer Foundation and M.A.D.D., so his commitment to community service is well noted and something we definitely seek out in Morro Bay. We are pleased to add Jason to our MBPD Team.

William Alex Gillespie Bio

Alex is originally from the Fresno area. After graduating High School, Alex joined the US Merchant Marine Academy and later completed his bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation in 2009. Alex attended the Fresno City College Police Academy and, after graduating, spent a year with the Fresno Police Department. Alex received high praises from his former employers; he was described as an exceptionally hard worker, quick learner with outstanding Ethics and Integrity which are key qualities we look for in a peace officer candidate. Please join us in welcoming Alex to the Morro Bay Team.

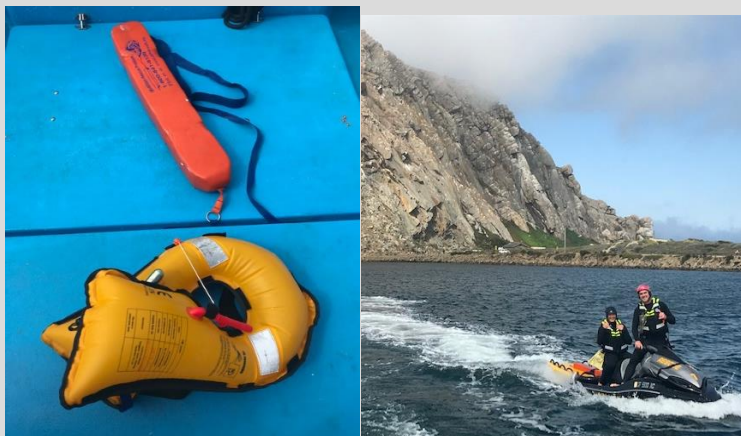


Harbor

Amidst the pandemic, the summer months on the waterfront have remained busy. In fact, we have seen above average crowds. Our Beach Lifeguards count the number of beach patrons each day and for the last five Saturdays we had an average of 891 people on the beach per day and 105 public safety lectures. In comparison with past years on the same five Saturdays we had the following beach counts: 2019 = 638 people and 2017 = 643 people per day. Many thanks to our Lifeguards for all the time spent watching the water. Harbor Patrol has maintained the chalk lines in the Rock parking lot this summer making a huge difference in access for the public and emergency services. We appreciate the public parking in an organized fashion and not driving over the lines.

The Launch Ramp has a new pay parking machine and has seen some very busy days. Fees to park a boat trailer this year are \$6/day. The new machine now accepts credit cards and can integrate with other pay platforms in the future like apple pay. The Boat Storage Lot by the Maritime Museum is managed by the Harbor Department and was expanded last month due to popular demand. There is a total of 35 spots and people on the waitlist to store their boats there.

Some noteworthy emergency calls have been capsized kayakers both in the bay and off Montana de Oro. One in particular was a famous Chinese Kayak Fisherman who didn't speak English and was producing a YouTube fishing show. He capsized in rough conditions near Point Buchon and was difficult for rescuers to find due to his camouflage wetsuit and low profile in the water. Luckily the Rescue Watercraft operated by Reserve Harbor Patrolman Dax Theis (pictured) spotted the angler in the water wearing an inflatable life jacket (pictured) and transported him to the Harbor Patrol Boat 3864 to transfer him to Spooners Cove while treating him for hypothermia, sea sickness and sea water ingestion. That same day Reserve HPO Theis's wife had her water break and the two of them made it to the hospital to welcome a new baby girl, Auzora Theis, to the world! Harbor Patrol has transported MB Fire Paramedics multiple times out to sport fishing boats offshore for medical emergencies at sea. This teamwork has provided a great service to the public.



A 'near sinking' of a large steel boat (pictured) off the Inn at Morro Bay kept Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard out until midnight to make sure a pollution disaster didn't occur. The vessel sprung a leak in its hull and was sitting very low in the water when the public reported it. Thanks to the quick response of Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard, the boat was salvaged and the owner is now in process of removing all hazardous waste.

The end of an Era for the Cayucos Abalone Farm saw its kelp cutter "Ocean Rose" (pictured) demolished at the launch ramp recently. The farm has closed after 30 years of growing red abalone and the property is for sale. More than 60 tons of kelp per week was cut and fed to the abalone by this boat.



Harbor Patrol by the numbers for July 2020: Emergency Responses = 20, Calls for service = 157, Assist other agency = 69, Enforcement contacts = 69, Maintenance actions = 199.

City Clerk



November 3, 2020 General Election

The candidate filing period for the November 3, 2020 Election closed on 5:00 pm Friday, August 7th. The Election Code provides that if all incumbents do not file by the August 7th deadline, non-incumbent candidates have until Wednesday, August 12th to complete the required paperwork. At this time, the following individuals have qualified for the November election:

Mayor (the filing period for this office has closed)

John Headding

John Weiss

Council Member (the filing period for this office has been extended to Wed., Aug 12th at 5:00pm

Laurel Barton

Robert “Red” Davis

Richard Sadowski

Information and public review documents for the City of Morro Bay Municipal Election are available on the City’s 2020 Election [webpage](#).

Voter Registration and new Voting opportunities

Based on Governor Newsom’s Executive Orders and new legislation for the November Presidential Election, every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail. In addition, Vote By Mail Ballot Drop Boxes will be available prior to and on election day, and Voter Service Centers will be open October 31 – November 3 for in-person voting. Voters can return their VBM Ballots by mail, deliver ballots to a VBM drop box, or vote in person at a Voter Service Center.

The Notice of Proposed Voter Service Center and Vote by Mail Ballot Drop Box locations was published on August 6th by the San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder’s Office. Public comment regarding the proposed locations listed below for the City of Morro Bay can be submitted to elections@co.slo.ca.us through August 16th.

- (1) Vote by Mail Drop Box to be located at Morro Bay Library, 625 Harbor Street
- (1) Voter Service Center to be located at Morro Bay Community Center, 1001 Kennedy Way

Important! To ensure you receive a voter information guide and VBM ballot, register to vote or, if registered, check your voter status and address at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/>.

Residents are encouraged to follow the San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder’s Office on Facebook and visit the San Luis Obispo County Clerk’s webpage <http://slovote.com/November2020> for updates.

Recreation

Recreation Services

Recreation Services is looking quite a bit different these days in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our business model has been turned upside down overnight and continues to transform as more changes occur.

Our office manned the City’s COVID-19 Hotline, assisted those in receiving food, medication, and other basic needs by way of Morro Bay Cares. Our staff was also instrumental in

supporting the volunteer efforts known as VOAD – once our volunteers were unable to continue to run the program, Recreation Services took over.

Aquatics Programs

Pool

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center is open for City programming! We are currently offering Lap Swim, Aqua Aerobics, & Swim Lessons (Private & Semi-Private Only). Due to high demand we are looking to expand our hours and programming. We are committed to keeping the public safe and keeping the Aquatics Center open. We have adjusted our operating procedures to provide reservations and contactless payment system. For more information or to make a reservation please visit our [Aquatics](#) page.



Junior Lifeguards

The 2020 Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard season wrapped up Friday August 7 after four 2-week long sessions and a total of 260 participants throughout the summer. Safety is always the number one concern as JGs learn how to safely navigate the dynamic marine environment. Knowledge of self rescue and preventative lifeguarding top the list of the information we hope spreads throughout our community. Keep an eye out for the bright red MBJG uniform participants wear around town, they are in training to recognize a medical emergency and call for EMS support. The Estero Bay is a great location for junior lifeguards to develop skills; in this the JGs of today will one day patrol our City beaches as the certified USLA Ocean Lifeguards of tomorrow. We hope to see new and old participants in the 2021 MBJG season, be on the lookout for more information coming Spring 2021.



Youth Services

Emergency Child Care

During the month of May, Youth Services provided Emergency Childcare for essential workers. We averaged 15 - 20 children a day, assisted in distance learning, and offered enrichment opportunities to children of essential worker parents. We relocated our CA state licensed program to the Morro Bay Community Center because our previous location at Del Mar Elementary School was closed in March due to COVID-19.

Kids' Camp

Our 2020 program was put on hold due to COVID-19. To support the families in need of childcare during the summer we created a new Summer C.A.R.E. (Childcare and Recreational Enrichment) program. The program, held at Morro Bay Community Center, was offered to children 4-12 years old and ran for the two months of summer break. Staff offered crafts and games that went along with a daily theme. Strict COVID-19 safety and health protocols were followed daily.

Kids' Club

2020/2021 will look different this year due to COVID-19 school closures. See flyer below for details.

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES

KIDS' CLUB CHILDREN'S CENTER

Kids' Club Children's Center is a school support enrichment program for Del Mar Elementary students in Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade. We have modeled our childcare program to support the academics while also including enrichment.



MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7:00 AM-5:30 PM
**CURRENT LOCATION: MORRO BAY
COMMUNITY CENTER**

Kids' Club Children's Center is licensed by the State of California
Community Care Licensing #401710899

Program Information:

We offer care to TK-5th grade students.
We accept families on a priority system.
Essential workers will be first priority. Space is Limited.
(Check with us for details)

1 Full Day (7-5:30pm) @ \$40 daily rate
5 Full Days Week \$175
1 Half Day (7-12:30pm) @ \$30 daily rate
5 Half Days Week \$125

(Subsidized Care Accepted and Scholarships
Available.)

Visit www.morrobayca.gov for more information, or email
agallardo@morrobayca.gov
The program is held at Morro Bay Community Center, 1001
Kennedy Way, Morro Bay
(805)772-6278

Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee

Rockies Teen Center has remained closed since March 13th, 2020.

Seniors

Due to the closure of the MB Senior Center, Recreation staff has taken on the task of loaning out static medical equipment to those in need. Surprisingly, we have been very busy with this program loaning out and checking in wheelchairs and walkers almost daily.

A handful of MBSCI Board members have been busy updating the very outdated Senior Center office. With a new safety window installed, which required a bit of office clean out, it seemed like the time for a fresh coat of paint and new blinds! The Board has also been working on a grant to garner funds to replace the carpeting throughout the Center. Thank you to Sandra, Bev, Rich and Bruce!

Events

In an effort to generate revenue to save jobs, our 51st Annual Brian Waterbury Rock to Pier Run was offered as a virtual run. With a usual pack of over 1000 participants, this year's COVID event drew 250 virtual racers! We hope to be back next summer with a fresh and improved 52nd!

Youth Sports

Sadly, after all of the preparation, registration, purchasing of equipment and uniforms, youth Futsal and Girls Softball were cancelled. As we continue to monitor the directions from the State and County, we are looking forward to safely bringing back our youth sports programs.

Facilities

Facilities are currently being used to serve our community through non-profits and County and Federal Governments. The Veteran's Memorial Building has been hosting events such as Census Enumeration Training and COVID-19 testing. Our site has been the most popular site for pop-up COVID-19 testing which will be taking place again in September. Monday Night Meals have a little different look but is still going strong ensuring safety of those that they serve as well as the volunteers.



Karen Sweeny

We want to say a special good-bye to a very important person in this department. After 17 years of dedication, love, and ensuring our kids stay safe and out of trouble, Karen Sweeny retired from Recreation Services on July 15th. Over the years, she has provided programs and events that will continue to touch many lives that include Junior Life Guards, Brian Waterbury Rock 2 Pier Run, youth soccer and basketball, and adult softball, to name a few. We wish Karen the very best as she moves forward in this new chapter of life. Stop by to say hi to Karen at San Luis Sports Therapy, across the street from City Hall, where she is now putting her two Kinesiology degrees to real use!



Tourism

Updated Restaurant Lists

Photo Courtesy of The Galley Seafood Grill & Bar, Morro Bay



The Tourism Department has created helpful documents listing open Morro Bay restaurants and grocery stores. These documents are continuously being updated as business operations change and can be accessed on the City of Morro Bay's website or via the links below.

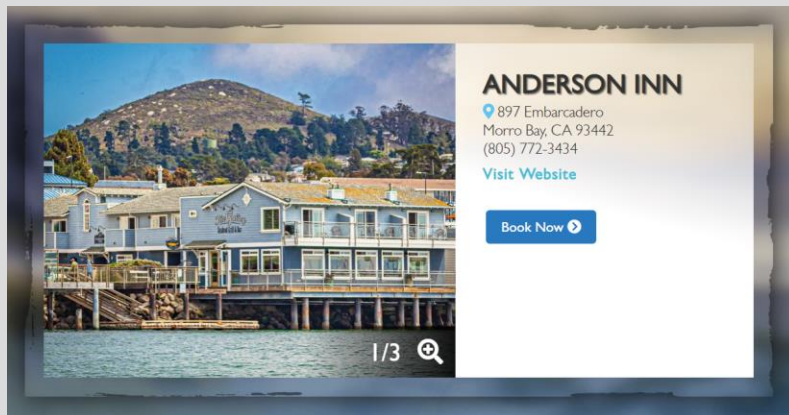
- [Open Restaurants](#)
- [Groceries & Markets](#)

Future Visitor Questions

With the Visitor Center closed as a result of COVID-19, Tourism is fielding an increased number of questions and requests from future visitors. This includes providing updates and general information as people start to dream and plan future trips. At the same time, this is a great opportunity to educate future visitors about best practices and how to stay up to date with Morro Bay.

- **Nearly 300 inquiries from May - July**

Streamlining MorroBay.org



Working with our website support team, we've streamlined [MorroBay.org's](#) booking capabilities. The website was using an intermediary landing page which visitors had to click through to book. Now the website exclusively uses direct links to each lodging property's booking page. This will increase

referrals and favor direct bookings. When it is appropriate to promote tourism to Morro Bay our website is equipped to serve our lodging properties better. And as a visitor it means less clicks to access rates, availability, and to book.

The Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) Advisory Board will meet next on Thursday, August 20th, and will discuss important topics including the TBID Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget, recommendations from the Tourism Stakeholder Group (which looked holistically at the tourism function in light of all the changes to the hospitality/tourism industry resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic) and review recommendations from the Short-term Vacation Rental (STR) Committee regarding proposed revisions to the City's STR ordinance. Information about the proposed STR ordinance can be found [here](#).

Community Development



News: 1. The City's Short-Term Rental Ordinance is scheduled for Review by the Planning Commission on August 18, 2020.

2. The City is taking a request to City Council on August 11th to expand the Temp. Use Permit and Blanket Encroachment Permit programs to allow additional business sectors to operate outdoors.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

July 7, 2020: Review of Draft Housing Element. The PC reviewed a majority of the Housing Element and provided comment and direction for changes. ACTION: continued to next meeting

July 21, 2020

PC continued review of the Housing Element and provided additional comment and direction on changes and recommended approval of the document to Council

Planning Permits Received

• Use Permits	= 1
• Coastal Dev. Permits	= 2
• Sign Permits	= 1
• TUP (outdoor use)	= 9
Total Planning Permits	= 13

Fees collected = \$12,318

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 28

Closed: 10

Ongoing: 25

Building Division Activity

• Permits Issued	= 30
• Valuation	= \$1,049,422
• Fees Received	= \$54,228
• # of Inspections	= 167
• New Building Permits	= 12