



November 24, 2020

Happy Thanksgiving, Morro Bay!

This holiday takes on special meaning in what has been an extraordinary year. While we have suffered as a nation, state, and local community, we have also seen people and organizations come together to help each other and keep our community safe.

With that gratitude in mind, on behalf of the entire City organization, I want to thank all those who participated in this historic election and say a very special thank you to Morro Bay voters, as all change starts locally! As you know, Measure E-20, Morro Bay's local Relief and Recovery Sales Tax Measure was on our Municipal Election ballot and requires simple majority approval. As of the most recent update from the [County Registrar](#), nearly 59% of Morro Bay voters have cast a ballot in support of Measure E-20.

We are looking forward to working with the community on the local recovery and relief priorities Measure E-20 will help the City address, including:

- ✓ Preparing for a medical or catastrophic emergency
- ✓ 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

As always, we will continue to keep you engaged and updated through our local recovery efforts and happenings in Morro Bay.

Thank You!

Scott Collins, City Manager

COVID-19 Update

Like in much of the nation and state of California, COVID-19 cases are surging in San Luis Obispo County. As a result, SLO County has moved from the red tier to the most restrictive tier (purple) in the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. To learn more about the tier system, please visit the County [website](#). The move to the purple tier means certain businesses must now shift their operations outside, including restaurants, fitness centers and houses of worship. Beyond the business restrictions, California and SLO County have issued a number of new guidelines in the wake of the surge to help contain the spread. Most important, community members are urged not to gather in large groups over the coming weeks and particularly during the holidays. No more than 3 households should get together and should, as best they can, maintain distance from members not of their household, wear masks and conduct gatherings outside. The State also updated its order on face coverings. Please do your part and wear a mask when you leave your residence and will be in close proximity to folks who aren't part of your household (while walking through the park/beach, at the grocery store, etc.), and continue to practice social distancing, and washing hands often. Your actions are saving lives!

The City continues to do its part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and address impacts of visitors to Morro Bay. City Council approved an increase in fines for illegal RV camping on City streets to \$250 for the first violation. In addition, the City launched several hero programs, to include the Mask Hero, Trash Hero, and Business Hero programs. These programs are designed to encourage good behavior from our visitors, and reward those who go above and beyond to keep our community and businesses safe. Finally, the City launched a small business grant program to help businesses that have stepped up to keep their customers and employees safe.

City Council also put a moratorium on new short-term vacation rental permits, as Council moves through the process of revising the City's Short-term Rental ("STR") ordinance. On October 27th, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 640 which will be forwarded to the California Coastal Commission for review and certification.

At its September 22, 2020 meeting, City Council expanded the Utility Discount Program ("UDP") from 10% to 25% discount on water and sewer bills for qualifying residents through June 2021. Residents who qualify for PG&E's CARE program automatically qualify for the UDP program. The program was extended to individuals who lost their job or business as a result of COVID-19. The annual rebate for qualifying home park and apartment residents was increased from \$150 to \$180 through June 2021. These programs are funded by voluntary donations and water/sewer penalties, not by the General Fund or water/sewer rates. To learn more, please call the City's Account Clerks Division at 805-772-6222.

Thank you for your efforts to stay safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. The City will continue to update the community on our [website](#).

Police

Police Calls for Service

The Morro Bay Police Department has been busy this year with increased numbers of calls for service each month compared to the previous year.

- **2020** September – October = 3012
- **2019** September – October = 1940

Total calls for service for year to date (January – October):

- **2020** = 12,496
- **2019** = 9,080

Community Policing

- **Neighborhood Cop and Community App**

The Police Department officially kicked off the Neighborhood Cop Program last month. This week the Department reached 100 residents who have registered for Neighborhood Cop Program through the community app. The Police Department has utilized department social media, news media, and informational mailers to advertise the new community program and mobile app and Officers are hard at work reaching out to the residents in their sectors to introduce themselves. Projects related to noise complaints, parking problems, and other quality of life concerns have been identified and officers are working closely with residents to address the issues.



- **Bike Patrol (electric bikes)**

The Police Department has added two electric bikes to the Bike Patrol Team. Electric bicycles or “ebikes” allow officers to utilize bicycles to engage with the community while maintaining the ability to respond to emergency calls within the city without experiencing extreme fatigue officers experience riding standard bikes. This creates a

larger area of patrol coverage and more community engagement. The community will be seeing much more patrol bike details in the near future.



- **Electronic Message Board / Radar Trailer**

To keep our community safe and informed, the Police Department has purchased an electronic message board / radar trailer program. The program uses two electronic message boards which have the capabilities to display traffic safety and other important information, display and track vehicle speeds, and collect other types of traffic data. These message boards will provide data to officers to help develop traffic enforcement plans/details and can also be shared with the community to encourage safe and courteous driving on our city streets.





A Busy Fire Season in California & San Luis Obispo County

Our Morro Bay Fire Department members have participated in California's most damaging fire season this last Spring, Summer and current Fall. With the forecasted fire weather for our County and most of Southern California, we can see fire season extending into January 2021, and anticipate mutual aid responses continuing for the next (9) weeks. We have seen the largest fires in California history in areas in the state that are hit hard with weather change, very dry vegetation, and unprecedented wind speeds and direction. Morro Bay Fire Department responded to 13 different mutual aid requests, three of those within San Luis Obispo County. The City has provided 7,575 personnel working hours, fulfilling mutual aid requests for Command Staff positions, General Staff positions, Strike Team Leaders, Engine Companies, Response Area Coverage and Fireline Paramedics; (2) Fire Engines; (2) Command vehicles; and (1) Utility Pickup.



Creek Fire, Shaver Lake

Avila Fire Incident

Pond Fire Incident

SCU Fire Complex

July Complex

CZU Complex

SLU August Coverage

North Complex West

North Complex East

Glass Fire Incident

Silverado Canyon Incident

Blue Ridge Incident

Tick Fire Incident

Creek Fire Incident

Currently all our crews are back home with Captain Subler from a 14-day Fireline Paramedic position returning this week from the Creek Fire Incident near Shaver Lake. Captain Subler's assignment was unique due to the snowstorms visiting Central California. Due to the remote location of his assignment, camp tenting was required near the fire line.



Creek Fire, Shaver Lake

The City of Morro Bay is fully reimbursed by the Department of Homeland Security and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for payroll, equipment rental, equipment repair and fuel through our California Firefighter Assistance Agreement (CFAA). In addition, our City receives an administrative fee of 21% to assist with overall costs and is usually paid before the next financial year. To date, the City will be reimbursed \$424,225 through OES.



SLO County Strike Team XSL 1471 at the North Complex East



Fire Engineer and Acting Fire Engineer Testing



Morro Bay Fire Department's staffing level requires all non-supervisory positions to perform at the Fire Engineer level. The Fire Engineer is responsible for the maintenance of the fire apparatus and equipment, operating all the equipment safely, overseeing the auto extricating equipment during vehicle traffic collisions, developing rescue systems on scene of the incident, and pump operations, and

ladder truck operations.

This week Firefighter Andrew Schechter was tested for Fire Engineer to cap off his 18-month probation training. Andrew's probation training is a systematic department led program that consists of 19 written tests, 16 performance evolutions, 32 tool presentations, and 12 presentations. Our probation training is supervised by our Training Officer, Captain Travis Hasch, and is instructed by numerous personnel throughout the Fire Department. This 18-month training program is capped off with a third party written test and a 8-hour performance test to include pumping hydraulics, water stream management, auto extrication, lifting principles, rope rescue systems, elevated hose stream management, and ladder truck operations. Last week Andrew completed his training at different locations throughout the City and we are proud to announce Andrew completed his testing and will be promoted to Fire Engineer on December 18th.



Also this week, Firefighter Kevin Hames was tested for Acting Fire Engineer. Kevin is 9 months into his probation requiring this testing. Firefighter Hames was tested on a single fire engine hydraulics, pumping and fire stream management. This test is a great opportunity to check the status of his probationary testing and allows our scheduling Captain to use Firefighter as a qualified Acting Fire Engineer when needed. We are also proud to announce Kevin completed his testing and is scheduled to complete his probation training in June 2021. Congratulations to Firefighters Andrew Schechter and Kevin Hames.



Coaching & Encouraging Safe Temporary Outdoor Dining During COVID-19

Like all businesses in Morro Bay, our restaurants are experiencing difficult times as we are re-entering the "Purple" phase requiring 100% outdoor dining. The City understands this is especially challenging in the winter months, with possible rain events and colder temperatures. The City will allow new temporary guidelines for businesses interested in utilizing rain covers and outdoor heating devices during our winter months. Permits for these temporary guidelines

are required by the Planning Department with the Fire Department reviewing the fire safety components. The Fire Department will be assisting our Community Development Department by sending out some coaches in the community to answer questions. Some of the items addressed in our temporary guidelines are:

- Shade and Rain Covers installed over an outdoor seating area
- Tent side restrictions per current COVID-19 public health restrictions
- Pedestrian path requirements
- Electric and propane heater requirements as per California Fire Code.

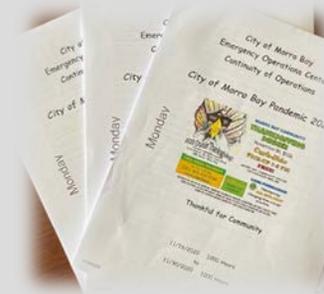
Emergency Operations Center Actions

Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been continually open (virtually) for 253 days and counting since March 16th. Our City staff and volunteers have been using our Emergency Management Plan and recently approved Pandemic Annex as a guide. The EOC is staffed with 47 City employees, community members and volunteers that produce a bi-monthly Incident Action Plan (IAP) developing objectives for the two-week operational period. This two-week plan has been key to keep our limited resources focused on serving, safeguarding, and protecting the community while returning to our way of life. In addition, our consistent communication and collaboration with the SLO County EOC and SLO County Public Health Department is key to provide accurate directions to our public and give us an opportunity to forecast and plan for our future. Our local partnership with the Chamber of Commerce has given an opportunity to listen and coach our business community for their best results during this pandemic. We have had some positive results addressing the COVID pandemic leading to having one of the lowest infection rates in our county with no mortalities caused by COVID. Below are some key objectives in our current operational period ending November 23, 2020:

- Provide for the safety of the public, city employees, businesses, community volunteers and their families.
- Maintain state of readiness to handle the increased emergency services demand resulting from phased reopening of community services, commerce, increased social gatherings and way of life.
- Continue to communicate daily with our County EOC and Public Health Department Current State Guidance Tier and any forecasted movement in the future.
- Work with our restaurant business partners how to safely sustain outdoor dining activity during our upcoming winter months.
- Develop a Contingency and Needs Plan for a possible CERT reactivation for Morro Bay Cares Program and Drive-Through influenza vaccination.



- Create new messaging to the public and workforce about the importance of safe social gatherings this holiday season; social gatherings are the top contributor to our recent high case rate.
- Develop NEW program to educate and encourage our citizens and workforce to participate in upcoming Morro Bay influenza Point of Distribution plus updated information on indoor protection during winter months and holidays.
- Prepare for Point of Distribution (POD) for a drive-through Influenza Vaccine in Morro Bay in December 2020, following our POD Action Plan and authorized training through the SLO County EMSA.
- Support COVID testing at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesday's, and Fridays 7am to 5pm weekly.
- Continue the development of a Contingency Plan for each function of the City with a possible 40% reduction of workforce.
- Collaborate with SLO County EOC, our local school district, our workforce, and our Recreation Department to support our schools off-campus reopening through educational pods, youth and adult recreational activities, and child enrichment programs.
- Monitor and comply with all FEMA and CARES Act reimbursement requirements and timelines



City partners with KSBY TV, Operation Santa Claus, and SLO Food Bank making a difference this Holiday Season.



Please stop by our Harbor Street Fire Station and bring in your unwrapped toys and non-perishable food into our Harbor Street Fire Station. Morro Bay Firefighters will be making deliveries to Santa’s workshop and the SLO Food Bank throughout November and December. While we are in this crazy Pandemic period, please feel safe when you dropped off your donations at our Fire Station. Our front lobby is isolated, and we all practice safe guidelines to keep us all protected.

The community of Morro Bay has been participating in our Season of Hope program that provides unwrapped toys and non-perishable food to the neediest families and children in Estero Bay. We have teamed up with KSBY TV, local food banks, toy agencies, fire departments, the California Highway Patrol to put together the largest community-wide food and toy drive on the Central Coast. If you able, please bring an unwrapped toy or non-perishable food to donate; lets help our neighbors. We are very proud of the donation level our of community. THANKS FOR HELPING.



The poster features the City of Morro Bay seal on the top left and the Morro Bay Fire seal on the top right. In the center, three yellow stars of increasing size lead to the text "Season of HOPE" in a serif font. Below this, a red banner with white text reads "DONATE HERE". Underneath the banner are logos for CCPN, HAVEN, IDLER'S HOME, KSBY, Tenet Health Central Coast, and PACIFIC PREMIER BANK. The bottom section contains the text: "Bring non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys to any local fire station or partner through December 11th. Our partners will work with local food banks and toy agencies to distribute them to local residents in need." At the bottom of the poster is an illustration of various items: a yellow robot, a soccer ball, a red toy boat, a jar of peanut butter, a box of noodles, a can of beans, and a bottle of ketchup.

Finance

Updates from the World of Dollars and Sense (Finance Department)

Since my last City Manager Update in September there have been some significant changes in the Finance team. Unfortunately, we have said goodbye to a number of our valued colleagues including Finance Director Jen Callaway. Jen took the position of Town Manager in Truckee and there is no doubt will bring her many skills, energy, and passion for public service to help that community. We are grateful for her time and contributions in Morro Bay.

Each member of the Finance team (**Charlee, Chloe, Sandy, Steve, Tracy and Val**) has stepped up to help the community and City staff in innumerable ways. I searched the State for an interim Finance Director to serve while we conduct the recruitment for our next permanent Finance Director. Ultimately, I asked Katie Lichtig to join the team for the 6 months or so it will take to get the new Director on board. Some of you may remember Katie from her time on the Central Coast (she was City Manager in San Luis Obispo for almost 8 years). She has helped a number of cities over her 30+ years of public service to navigate financial challenges and lead teams through good and bad times alike. I am grateful that Katie was willing to join the City team for even a short period of time. I know she will do her best to help support the Finance staff through this transition as well as lend a new perspective as we enter the City Council goal setting and budget process. If you see Katie around town please say hi!



Rock Solid Together Financial Recovery Update

We provided an update on our anticipated end of Fiscal Year 2019/20 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) in the last City Manager's Update. Since then, the Finance team worked hard to close out year-end payments and revenues. By the end of the year and into the current fiscal year, employees have sacrificed by lowering their pay. We are coming to City Council on December 8, 2020 with a first quarter update. We are still working on the detailed analysis, but it looks like our revenues continued to recover in the first quarter and we stayed on track related to expenditures. With the help from City employees, tight controls on operating expenditures, freezing vacant positions, and right-sizing staff resources to match our programmatic offerings the City is continuing to be cautious in our spending. As I write this City Manager's Update, the Governor and SLO County have taken significant steps to stop the spike in COVID-19 cases within the State. In spite of all the efforts to educate residents and visitors alike, San Luis Obispo County has returned to the Purple Tier (widespread) in the State's regulations. The Governor has instituted a safer at home order from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. for everyone except essential workers and essential business. Non-essential businesses must close at 10 p.m. The State has also issued a travel advisory requesting that travel into and within the

State be limited. This may mean that some of our revenues will decline in the coming weeks and months. We are working with the Chamber of Commerce, the County, VisitSLO and other experts on forecasting our revenues to get advice on how this might impact our budget outlook. More details to follow on December 8th.

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 received 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 will not impact the water and sewer rates.

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 process has been delayed due to COVID-19 but is anticipated to be finalized in early 2021.

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 team has also made progress on the concrete pour 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 team intends to complete much of the remaining grading on the site by January 2021 and accelerate work on underground piping and begin work on construction of other facilities on the site. See below for a photo of work on the WRF site.



The City Council awarded the construction of the pipeline/conveyance component of the WRF project to Anvil Builders, Inc. on November 10, 2020, after the City reviewed five bids, in the amount of nearly \$31.5 million. 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. The responsive bids came back significantly higher than the engineer's estimate, likely due to the uncertainty in the market from COVID-19 and efforts made by the City to limit impacts to businesses on Quintana. In addition, City Council approved several change orders to the WRF facility. These changes and the pipeline contract amount over the estimate will not impact water and sewer rates.

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 Maintenance Results for Past Four Weeks:

- **Streets**

- Large skin patch repairs made with 4 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) at intersection of Greenwood/Paula.
- Skin patch repairs made with 4 tons of HMA at 5 different locations on the 200 blk. of Andros, 1 at the 400 blk. of Jamaica, and 1 at the 3000 blk. of Panorama.
- Patch back Utility division repairs with 4 tons of HMA at the 500 blk. of Monterey, 800 blk. of Olive, 400 blk. of Morro, and the 400 blk. of Market.
- Patch Utility repairs with 1.5 tons of HMA at the Lila Keiser bike path, skin patch repair made with 1 ton of HMA at the Lila K. parking lot, large berm repair made with 1.5 tons on the 200 blk. of Palm.
- Large skin patch and berm repairs made with 4 tons of HMA on the 500 blk. of Morro.
- Vacuumed and cleaned out all required storm drains around town in preparation for the rainy season.
- Removed a portion of the sidewalk, enlarging tree well at the 2200 blk. of Main due to uplifting caused by tree roots.



- **Trees/Vegetation**

- Trim and lifted canopies on several trees around town out of the ROW's and for hazard reduction.
- Weed abatement in City tree wells, ROW's, parking lots, pedestrian paths from footbridge to Rock.
- Cleared vegetation from the bike lane along the West side of Main St. from Hwy 41 to Yerba Buena.

- **Parks**

- ***Del Mar***

- Replaced 2 corroded fittings and a pressure reducer on the backflow prevention assembly.
- Filled in concrete slab gaps in the Hilltop picnic area with mortar mix.
- Planted young Redwood tree in the Del Mar Redwood grove. We would like to thank Erica Maluski for donating this tree to the City and helping with planting it in its new home. Thank you, Erica!



- ***City Park***

- Replaced broken sink faucet at the restrooms due to vandalism.
- Power snaked sewer lateral to unclog pipe in Women's restroom.

- ***Tidelands***

- Rebuilt faulty sink faucet in Men's restroom with re-purposed parts.

- ***Lila Keiser***

- Replaced broken irrigation valve on station 20.

- ***Bayshore Bluffs***

- Filled in and compacted 6-8" pads of red rock around benches.

- ***Centennial***

- Re-rope flagpole with new cable rope and hardware.
- **Monte Young**
 - Re-installed wind screen at the West side of the tennis courts from fence repair.
- **Facilities**
 - **Public Works**
 - Moved and re-purposed office pre-hung door for security improvements. Custom cut, paint, and install all new door jamb and casing to finish rough opening.
 - Removed old shrubs on the South side of building, re-landscaped and repaired irrigation.
 - **Community Center**
 - Installed new retrofit sensor battery packs for both urinals in the Men's restroom.
 - Added and spread wood chips in parking lot landscape planters.
 - Installed carpet tiles, cove base, door closures, re-keyed and re-programmed Senior door lock, and secured the Senior roll down safety panel.
 - **MBFD**
 - Replaced and adjusted belt on ventilation fan for the SCBA room.
 - Installed new electronic igniter on stove top to replace broken one.
 - Repaired irrigation lines and sprinklers in the front of building.
 - **695 Harbor**
 - Re-programmed front door keypad entry for everyone utilizing building after security breach.
 - **714 Embarcadero**
 - Installed new LED outdoor security light fixture.
 - **Harbor Restrooms**
 - Repaired faulty coin op shower valve with new cartridge and lube solenoid parts assembly.
 - **Rock Restrooms**
 - Installed aluminum plate under hand dryer in Men's RR for cleanliness.
- **Cloisters**
 - Installed new hand dryer at restrooms to replace old broken one.
 - Replaced irrigation isolation valves on stations 31 and 35 that were leaking.
 - Replaced 7 old and cracked irrigation box lids in planter and main lawn areas.
 - Repaired broken irrigation in the parkways at the 2200 blk. of Coral.



Utility Division Update - Annual State Water Maintenance Shutdown

This year the state water shutdown occurred from October 29th through November 16th. Each year around this time the State Water is shutdown to perform treatment plant and distribution system maintenance. State Water is the primary source of drinking water for the City of Morro Bay.

During the shutdown, the City used our groundwater wells from the Morro Valley. The water from these wells was filtered and treated prior to distribution at the City's Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (BWRO) treatment plant to reduce nitrate levels and provide disinfection. During the 19 days of the shutdown the City treated a total of 17.649 million gallons with a daily average of 0.928 million gallons per day. Utility Division staff performed additional testing and hydrant flushing during this time to ensure the distributed water meet all treatment and drinking water standards.



Harbor

Harbor Patrol was challenged by some high winds reaching gusts up to 45mph in the early part of November for several days. With strong winds, the boats in the bay are always vulnerable to deteriorating tie up lines and gear blowing away. Officers made close checks of all vessels in the harbor and picked up all kinds of debris in the water.

Not long after that blow we had our first round of king tides that made for tricky boating and paddling conditions. Many assists were made to kayakers and SUPS unable to return safely to their origin and/or capsized in the swift flow of tidal water. A few folks, despite the forecast, ended up quite muddy and stuck in the back bay as the tide drained out. Harbor Patrol Reserve Officers Theis and Nicodemus (pictured) have been instrumental with their quick response and rescue skills to help folks return to safety.



All hands were needed for a missing kayaker in the evening of Saturday, November 14, from the beach just north of the Rock. A full search ensued just after dark with the Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard boats by water, trucks on the beach, MB Fire and Cal Fire searching on foot and two helicopters by air (CHP out of Paso Robles and Coast Guard out of Port Hueneme). No one was found that night and the search was suspended at 1:00 am. The missing person was found the following day safe at his home and said he had no idea he had caused any trouble by leaving his kayak on the beach unattended that night after he paddled in through the surf zone and couldn't carry the kayak back to his vehicle because it was flooded. As a reminder to all paddle craft owners, please write your contact information on your property. Special stickers just for this purpose are free to the public and can be picked up at the Harbor Department and Coast Guard Station, and can save first responders many hours of trouble (and considerable expense!), and possibly putting themselves in peril searching in treacherous conditions.

Fall has seen a change in the local fisheries. Swordfish typically show up far offshore Central California for a short period when the water conditions are right, and with those conditions some "exotic" species can be caught in our waters. The "opah" pictured is a prime example and was recently caught in swordfish gear. The opah is a very tasty fish and highly prized, with few making their way to the local markets because of their scarcity in our waters. Opah are a "regionally endothermic" (warm-blooded) fish that maintain an internal body temperature higher than the surrounding water, but not a constant warm temperature the way that mammals do. Most species of fish cannot do this.



Also with the change of seasons comes the opening of the Dungeness crab fishery in mid-November; however, the commercial opener is delayed this year over concerns for migrating whales getting entangled in the trap gear. These tasty crustaceans are caught in traps, which you can see stacked in various locations along the waterfront as fishermen prep them for the season's use. This fishery ends in June.

The Coast Guard's building expansion project is coming along well. Phase one is relocation of all the major utilities that run right underneath the Coast Guard's expanded building. These utilities are being routed out into the parking lot to avoid the building, some photos of which are attached. So far there have been no major surprises with the excavations.



The Rose's Landing lease site hotel room and public access project is nearing completion, with the upstairs having been converted from a restaurant to ten hotel rooms, and a new 10-foot wide public access walkway being added along the waterfront.

Tourism

Holidays Filled with Good Eats & Festive Decor

Like many things this year, the holidays will look different. Quality time together will go virtual, but there's still ways to make this time of year special in Morro Bay.

Thanksgiving

These Morro Bay restaurants will be open for outdoor dining and/or takeout on Thanksgiving. Call ahead to make reservations.

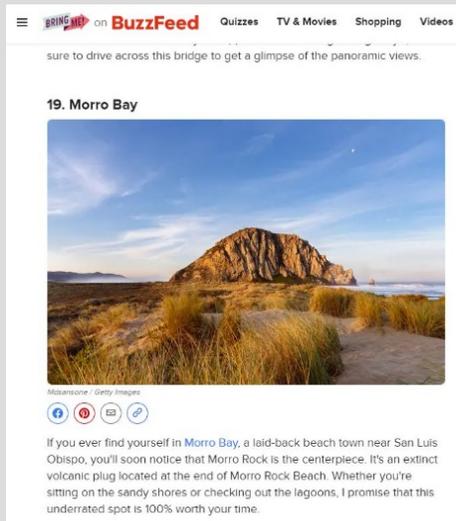
- Special Thanksgiving menu:
 - Blue Sky Bistro
 - Dorn's Café
 - Hungry Fisherman
 - Port House

- Open (some locations may have limited hours – call ahead to confirm):
 - Harbor Hut
 - La Parisienne
 - Maya Mexican Food
 - Mi Casa Mexican Restaurant
 - Sushi Japanese
 - Taco el Viejon
 - The 19th Hole

Winterfest – Spreading Holiday Cheer

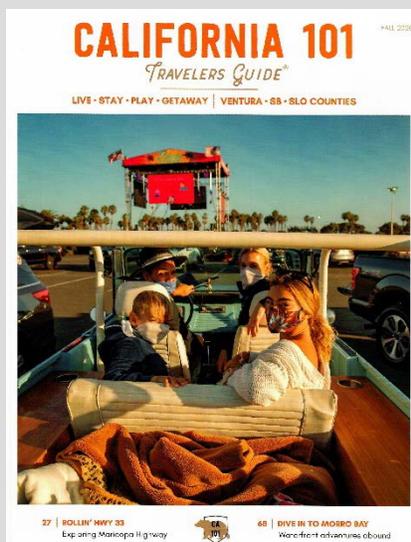
There will be no Lighted Boat Parade or Santa's House this year, but there will be festive décor around town to get you in the spirit – including lights and trees. And the Harbor Department will put up their annual giant commercial crab pot tree at the South T-Pier for some local holiday flair. The Morro Bay Police and Neighborhood Watch are teaming up for the Caroling with a Cop, to take place throughout town on December 7th, 8th, and 9th, with good social distancing in place. We will be making modifications for COVID such as seating on the trolley is limited to Santa and a few helpers only. Thanks to everyone for your much needed holiday cheer this year!! That will help us get through this tough year!

Morro Bay on BuzzFeed & in CA 101 Travelers Guide



BuzzFeed Article -

Morro Bay was listed as number 19 in BuzzFeed's "19 Stunning Places in California that Prove It's Still the Most Incredible State." The article is meant to aid readers in dreaming about a future trip with a note about current COVID restrictions and travel. [You can find the entire list here](#). Since the article's publication in mid-October, MorroBay.org has seen an increase in traffic directly from the BuzzFeed site.



California 101 Travelers Guide Feature -

Morro Bay was included in California 101 Travelers Guide Fall 2020 addition. The feature focuses on 10 local businesses across businesses segments with an emphasis of outdoor and waterfront activities. [Read the entire article here](#).

Recreation

Administration

Classes

Unfortunately, we are still not able to offer our regular activity classes; however, we are monitoring the rules and regulations that will allow us to reopen and offer our regular classes and use of sport fields.

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 is taking place this month. Monday Night Meals have a little different look but are still going strong ensuring safety of those that they serve as well as the volunteers.



Events

We are not allowing special events in the City at this time resulting in cancelling City events and not permitting others such as softball tournaments, Art in the Park, and Downtown Halloween. We will, however, continue with Thanksgiving Dinner this year but it will be pick up or delivery only! We want to extend our sincere thanks to members of the Lions Club for coordinating the event and all the organizations who help make it possible, including the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, Albertsons, AGP Video, Casa de Flores, Dorn's Restaurant, Mi Casa Restaurant, Morro Bay Police Officers and volunteers, Morro Bay Odd Fellows, and Morro Bay Maritime Museum.

Seniors

Unfortunately, the Senior Center must remain closed at this time. Some activity classes are continuing in various locations such as Tai Chi, Bocce, and Walking Group. The latest addition is the return of the SLO County Public Health's balance class.

Though closed, the Recreation Division is carrying on with the static medical equipment loan program. Surprisingly busy, this service is obviously much needed and appreciated as, on average, we receive a request or donation daily for wheelchairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs along with other requests we can't accommodate.



Aquatics Programs

Pool

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center splashed into Fall City programming! We are currently offering Lap Swim, Aqua Aerobics, & Swim Lessons (Private & Semi-Private). Lap swim and Aqua aerobic are a big hit and in high demand as a safe workout for all age groups. These programs are selling out at concert like speed and we are looking to expand hours to keep up with demand.



We are excited to be able to use this unprecedented time to not only be able to offer Sunday private and semi-private lessons but also be able to offer weekday lessons as well. This allows us to reach many more families than we have in the past with life-long, life-saving aquatic skills.



We are committed to keeping the public safe and keeping the Aquatics Center open. For more information or to make a reservation please visit our [Aquatics](#) page. Happy Fall!

Youth Sports

Sadly, still no youth sports at this time.

Youth Services

Kids' Club

We just completed our 13th week of Distance Learning support and are proud to report we have all stayed **COVID free** while “Zooming” along. We support an average of 50 students daily serving a total of 70 Estero Bay families. Our Recreation staff has been working diligently to assist each student with their classwork. We also keeping our “classrooms” COVID free by cleaning periodically throughout the day and doing a final cleaning each evening. We are ripping through the supply of paper towels as the kids must wash hands over 10 times daily.

As of November 12th, our TK and Kindergarteners have returned back to school on a hybrid model. They were estatic to return to “Real” school and happy they still get to have after school fun with Kids' Club. We were able to arrange for the school busses to transport these kids to and from Del Mar Elementary which was a huge deal for these new Kindergarteners.

We are back to working with Del Mar Elementary and the SLCUSD on the future plans for what our program will look like when school returns in January (fingers crossed).



Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee

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

Morro Bay Community Development Department Activity Update for October 2020



News: The adoption draft of the City's General Plan/Local Coastal Program is under review by the Planning Commission. Next meeting is December 1, 2020.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

Oct. 6, 2020:

3093 Beachcomber; two year time extension for new 3,041 sq. ft.

home. Action: Approved

August 18, 2020

1. 1148 Market; new 1,635 sq. ft. 2 story home with Junior accessory dwelling unit. Action: Approved

2. Review of Adoption Draft of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program. Action: Continued review to Nov. 4, 2020 meeting.

Planning Permits Received

• Use Permits	= 3
• Coastal Dev. Permits	= 4
• Sign Permits	= 2
• TUP (outdoor use)	= 1
• Parking Exception	= 3
• Parcel Map	= 1
• Minor Mod	= 1
• Variance	= 1
Total Planning Permits	= 16

Fees collected = \$34,931

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 10

Open: 1

Closed: 9

Ongoing: 4

Building Division Activity

• Permits Issued	= 27
• Valuation	= \$622,156
• Fees Received	= \$60,910
• # of Inspections	= 209
• New Building Permits	= 6