



City Manager's Update

June 18, 2021

The City, like much of the state of California, is experiencing a new phase of the pandemic, where restrictions are lessening, more of the economy is opening up, and pre-pandemic lives are reemerging. We so appreciate the amazing efforts of our community to stay safe during the pandemic and seize the opportunity to become vaccinated against the virus. That effort has allowed us to not only re-open our facilities but also provide services that we couldn't during the past year, including youth sports and active adult activities. Details about reopening of City offices and recreational programs is provided in this update. We hope to see you all again soon as City Hall and other offices open to the public once more.

In addition to re-opening our facilities, the City will be launching an effort very soon to review and revise [the City Council goals](#). City Council will be seeking input from the community ahead of making any changes or revisions to the goals. The purpose of this outreach is to understand the main priorities, concerns, dreams, and needs of our residents and businesses have and how those can be met. The City will gather community input through the various City Advisory Boards and Commissions, through an online community survey and through a community forum. With regard to the survey, staff encourage community members to sign up for the Polco online survey tool now, so that when the goal survey goes live in July, you'll be notified by email. If you have not used the survey too before, please visit <https://polco.us/morrobay> and click "create account." All Polco survey responses are kept anonymous. The community forum will likely be held in late August or September. More information to come. We hope you participate in this important process to make sure your voice is heard and that your local government is responsive to your needs!

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager

COVID-19 Update



We continue to operate our Emergency Operations Center to support the Emergency Declarations from our City, County, State, and President. We continue to function under a two-week operational period with your EOC staff meeting twice weekly. Our City staff and volunteers continues to work closely with San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department, our County's EOC, helping our workforce, volunteers, and citizens reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The Governor lifted the "Blueprint for a Safer Economy" on June 15, 2021. Several important restrictions remain in place, including requirements for mask wearing indoors for those not currently fully vaccinated. Visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/safely-reopening/> to learn more.

Our Public Works team is leading the FEMA reimbursement process and a recent the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") will bring much needed assistance to our community. FEMA will reimburse the City for our year plus effort to limit COVID-19 spread in our community (up to about \$90,000 in eligible expenses). ARPA funds will also provide (\$2.5 million) to the City to offset revenue losses experienced from the pandemic.

Our EOC staff develops and communicates a new Incident Action Plan (IAP) every two weeks to keep us aligned with our County's collaborative partners and to ensure our actions and efforts are focused on serving, safeguarding, and protecting our community, City employees, and volunteers while we are returning to our way of life. Our EOC staff comprises of our City staff, business representatives, and community volunteers.

City Hall, the Shasta building (Community Development and Public Works) and the Harbor Office will open on Monday, June 21st with modified hours Monday through Thursday (8am to 12pm). The Police and Fire administration buildings will remain open during normal business hours. The Community Center and Senior Center will open on July 6th. Staff is also working closely with AGP to be able to provide for hybrid in-person/virtual City Council and advisory body meetings beginning, as early as September 2021. A lot will be involved in making the re-opening successful, including having sufficient staffing and technology in place. Per state regulations, non-vaccinated community members will be required to wear a mask inside City offices. We appreciate the community's continued patience as we navigate the re-opening process.

Police

Police Operations

- **Personnel Update**

- The department welcomed our newest member, Police Officer Kevin McCool, who completed the hiring process in May and was officially sworn in June 1st. Officer McCool brings seven years of law enforcement experience to the department. Welcome Officer Kevin McCool!



- **Summer Staffing**

- Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the department's summer staffing initiative. Additional officers will be on duty during weekends and holidays throughout the summer.

- **Fireworks Enforcement**

- The Morro Bay Police Department will be actively enforcing local firework regulations. Only Safe and Sane fireworks are allowed in the City of Morro Bay. Illegal use or possession of unauthorized fireworks will result in a \$1,000 fine.

Police Department Community Engagement

- **Coffee with A Cop**

- As we ease from some of the COVID restrictions the department is eager to begin our Coffee with a Cop and Neighborhood Watch events again. The department is currently setting dates and locations for Coffee with a Cop. We will make an announcement later in June regarding upcoming Coffee with a Cop events.



- **National Night Out**
 - We are looking forward to this year's National Night Out Event schedule on August 3, 2021. Details and location of the event will be provided later in June.

- **Elder Abuse and Fraud Presentation**
 - The department will be conducting an Elder Abuse and Fraud presentation for the residents at Casa De Flores in June. The department will be holding numerous webinars and presentations throughout the year. We will post information regarding upcoming webinars and presentations on our social media and department mobile app.

Training and Development

- **Morro Bay Police Department Completes P.O.S.T. Team Building Workshop**
 - Chief Cox held an abbreviated Team Building Workshop for department staff who were unable to attend the original workshop. The eight-hour session was held in Morro Bay and covered team building, leadership, and creation of the department action plan. The Action Plan is now complete and will be used to aid in the creation of the department's strategic plan.



Harbor

Harbor Patrol statistics for May 2021 were 8 emergency responses, 87 calls for service, 26 assists of other agencies, 20 enforcement contacts, 10 weather warnings, and no hazardous bar warning. Of note during this time for the Harbor Patrol were a boat trailer stuck off of the edge of the launch ramp's concrete slab, a sick passenger aboard a popular sportfishing vessel, an electric boat rental that lost power in the bay, a possible boat fire near the House of JuJu restaurant (a false alarm), and a missing 14-year-old with autism at the Rock (safely located and reunited with their family).

Over May 22-28, the Harbor Patrol recognized National Safe Boating Week, during which the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducted free vessel safety checks at local harbor launch ramps and included a vessel examiner interviewing vessel operators and inspections for required safety equipment. This was the time to learn about fire extinguishers, distress signal flares, life jackers, and more.

Coast Guard Change of Command

It is time for the current Chief of Coast Guard Station Morro Bay, Senior Chief Ryan S. Widdows, to move on to his next command. The Change of Command Ceremony took place at the Station Morro Bay on June 4, 2021, at 10:00 am. Senior Chief Widdows was relieved by Chief Benjamin D. Snider. We wish to thank Senior Chief Widdows for his excellent service in Morro Bay, wish him farewell, and welcome Chief Snider.



Morro Rock Parking

The Harbor Department, with the help of Consolidate Maintenance and D. Garcia Jr. Excavating, placed the concrete pilings acquired from Associated Pacific Constructors to replace the long parking rows the Harbor Department has been chalking the past year, because continuing to chalk is not sustainable from a personnel and cost standpoint. These pilings should make a good, temporary nautical-themed fix to keep the Rock parking organized.



Lifeguards on the Beach

Starting May 29, Beach Lifeguards began staffing for the Memorial Day weekend, and then went to seven-day per-week duty on June 7, seven-day a week coverage will continue through the Labor Day weekend, after which they will go back to weekends-only through early October. Beachgoers are reminded to always swim near a Lifeguard, and don't hesitate to ask your local guards for the latest beach and other information.



Harbor Dredging

The Army Corps of Engineers dredge ship YAQUINA arrived for her annual harbor dredging in

May. Dredging was concentrated in the harbor entrance to ensure our harbor is safely passable during winter months and high surf, in addition to some interior dredging from the entrance to about the Target Rock. Two crew changes took place at the North T-Pier during her visit, as well as two fuelings at the fuel dock. The YAQUINA departed for points north on June 2.

Harbor Boat

On May 6, Port San Luis Harbor delivered our new 26-foot Radon patrol boat. It was put into temporary test service, now out of the water and to begin prepping for repowering and major retrofitting. The Morro Bay Swap Meet is scheduled for June 26, 2021, and proceeds will go to several organizations including Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department which is fundraising to help pay for needed upgrades to the patrol boat.



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 on the advanced treatment facility and the pipeline/conveyance system components of the project underway, 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 will experience increased costs on the overall project as a result of project modifications as well as unanticipated issues that delayed initial construction of the pipeline. These issues were discussed during the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget discussions. At this time, it is projected that the total WRF budget will be approximately \$145 million (with several million in contingency), compared to the original projected budget in 2018 of \$126 million. Despite these

proposed increases, however, water and sewer rates for Morro Bay customers will not be impacted.

WRF Funding Update

The City received approvals for a loan amount of \$61 million 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 and California State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) staff have nearly completed the process to secure the City and its rate payers an additional \$61 million low-interest loan and \$5 million grant. The WIFIA and CWSRF loans and grant significantly reduce the total debt paid on the WRF project and will also help pay for the potable reuse portion of the project. Potable reuse will become increasingly necessary as the State appears to be headed into another prolonged drought. The CWSRF loan and grant process has been delayed due to COVID-19 but is anticipated be reviewed by City Council during the June 22, 2021 Special Council meeting.

The City also applied for a federal grant of up to \$20 million through the Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI "WaterSmart" program. This is a very competitive program, but the WRF innovative aspects make it a strong competitor for a funding award.

Pipeline/Conveyance System Construction Update

The City signed a contract with Anvil, Inc. to construct the pipeline/conveyance system to connect to the advanced treatment plant, outfall, and indirect potable reuse injection systems.



The \$31.5 million contract includes construction of two wastewater pipelines, one pipeline for the water treatment process discharge, and one purified water pipeline. The four pipelines will be constructed in segments on Atascadero Road, Main Street, Quintana Road and South Bay Boulevard. The construction will include trenching, tunneling, pipe installation, soil backfilling and off hauling, and road restoration, as well as construction of support infrastructure including two new lift stations.

In March, crews began pipeline construction on Quintana Road moving southeast from La Loma to South Bay Boulevard. Crews will also begin work at Main Street and Quintana Road moving southeast along Quintana Road on May 10th and work their way toward the Roundabout over the next several months. Construction is scheduled on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Weekend or night work may be scheduled, as needed, but neighboring properties will be informed in advance of schedule changes. The schedule calls for the majority of construction activities to be completed by December 2021/early 2022. To learn more about the construction status, please visit the WRF website at <https://morrobaywrf.com>, and click the “construction information” button. Should you have any questions or concerns, please either email wrfinfo@morrobayca.gov or call 1-877-667-7622.



Consolidated Maintenance Update

City Council recently approved an additional \$25,000 in spending (from the Tourism Fund and General Fund) to hire more part-time maintenance staff for restroom cleaning and trash service in the waterfront and beach areas during the peak visitor season (April – October). Two new members were hired to fill out these positions in April, and they are focusing their time on the most impacted areas Friday – Sunday of each week. Staff continues to modify the approach to trash pickup and appreciate all the amazing volunteers that help each week in picking up litter. We love our #trashheroes!

Past four weeks of Maintenance Service

- **Streets/Misc.**
 - 4 tons of HMA skin patch repairs made in various locations on Island and Panorama Streets.
 - Removed 2 large asphalt panels from the public parking lot at the 1200 blk. of the Embarcadero. Brought in base and compacted to assist for finish paving.
 - Hung 12 new Central Coast Clean campaign banners on the Embarcadero.
 - Pressure washed and scrubbed large amounts of graffiti off foot bridge, Teen Center, and Harbor walk near Coleman and Cerritos Peak.



- **Parks**
 - ***Coleman***
 - Locate and disconnect both water and sewer lines to building in preparation for building demolition.
 - ***Centennial***
 - Replaced damaged redwood deck board and ledger on large top deck landing.
 - ***Lila Keiser***
 - Power snaked and cleared main line sewer clog in restrooms.
 - ***Bayshore Bluff***
 - Installed and graded 14 tons of red rock on the West walking path.
 - Cut out broken concrete on walking path, formed and re-pour new.
- **Facilities**
 - ***MBCC***
 - Installed new door closure in the studio to meet ADA standards.
 - Installed (2) 120v circuits with surface mount conduit in Senior Center office.
 - ***Vets Hall***
 - After re-roof, Maintenance staff re-mounted wire, mounts, racks, and 96 solar panels back on roof to power back 3 inverters.
 - Made and installed non penetration mount for flagpole light on roof. Painted mount, repaired LED light, and installed new auto on photocell.
 - Installed new service electrical outlet to existing circuit on roof.
 - ***Dunes Rental***
 - Replaced both bathtub faucet stems due to one breaking and replaced handles for correct ones.
 - ***Rock RR's***

-Maintenance staff assisted Harbor Dep. as concrete pilings were strategically placed to organize public parking. This configuration also reduces congestion and facilitates emergency access.

-Pulled faulty toilet, soaked in CLR and backflushed. Re-mounted with proper operation.



Administration/Finance

Fiscal Year 2021/22 Proposed Budget

We would like to thank Interim Finance Director Katie Lichtig and her staff for the excellent work in putting together a complex budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22. To learn more about the proposed FY2021/22 budget which City Council will review for approval on June 22, please click [here](#).

Katie will be leaving the City of Morro Bay following presentation of the Budget to City Council. We greatly appreciate all her hard work stepping in to help the City following the departure of Jen Callaway to the Town of Truckee in October 2020. We wish Katie a wonderful and happy retirement!

New Assistant City Manager

Sarah Johnson-Rios, the new Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Director starts her tenure with the City of Morro Bay on Wednesday, June 23. Part of her duties include overseeing finance functions as the Chief Financial Officer. Sarah joins us from the City of Paso Robles where she served as Assistant City Manager for the past two years. To learn more about Sarah, please visit [here](#). We look forward to having her come aboard!



Sarah Johnson-Rios

Fireworks in Morro Bay



Everyone looks forward to having fun over the Fourth of July, and Fireworks can be awe-inspiring and immensely entertaining when properly handled. The Morro Bay Fire Department wants to make sure its community and visitors know how to stay safe while enjoying the holiday and want to remind everyone about firework safety and the permitted and prohibited use of fireworks. The City of Morro Bay Municipal Code 14.08.090 permits the use of “Safe and Sane” fireworks on private property only within the City limits. Fireworks are

not permitted on public property such as our streets, parking lots, our parks, or our beaches. All uses of “Illegal fireworks” are prohibited within our City which include bottle rockets, aerial shells, firecrackers, and sky lanterns.

Fire Marshal, Matt Vierra states “a great rule of thumb to quickly determine if a fire work is illegal is, if it goes up in the air, darts across the ground or move on the ground in an uncontrollable manner and explodes”, it is dangerous and illegal. The California Health and Safety Code, Section 12505, defines “illegal fireworks,” as fireworks that does not have the State Fire Marshal’s “Safe and Sane” seal placed on it as per Morro Bay Municipal Code 14.08.090, any use of illegal fireworks in Morro Bay or improper use of “Safe and Sane” fireworks in Morro Bay will result in a \$1,000 citation including first time offenses. If your celebrations for the 4th of July include the use of “Safe and Sane” fireworks, Morro Bay Fire Department has the following tips:



- ✓ Always have an adult present.
- ✓ Use of “Safe and Sane” outdoors only.
- ✓ Never use fireworks near dry grass.
- ✓ Light one at a time and keep a safe distance.
- ✓ Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- ✓ Have a bucket of water and a hose close by.
- ✓ Never attempt to re-light or fix fireworks.
- ✓ Never carry fireworks in your pockets.
- ✓ Only use State Fire Marshal approved fireworks.

Members of the Morro Bay Fire, Harbor, and Police Departments will be working with our community ensuring public safety during this year's July 4th weekend celebration with officers, firefighters, and harbor personnel patrolling citywide. We are hopeful everyone will be safe with lawful fireworks and will comply with the provisions of the municipal code and have a safe fun-filled July 4th celebration.

Recreation

Facilities

Requests for park and facility use are on the rise as the County lifts restrictions. Facilities are still being used to serve our community through non-profits and County, State, and Federal Governments. The Veteran's Memorial Building continues to host COVID-19 testing and our site has been the most popular site for pop-up COVID-19 testing which will continue to take place through May 2021. 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. Use of Lila Keiser Park is happening with our local Little League taking the mound along with an adult softball tournament happening in June.



Events

We are slowly allowing events to return to the City. Weddings are the biggest thing now with about a dozen on the books for this year. We look forward to other outdoor events coming back such as the Friends of the Harbor Dept. Marine Swap Meet, Project Surf Camp, surf contests, etc.

Seniors

Best news of the year as the Senior Center plans to open on Tuesday, July 6! The hours will be abbreviated for the first few weeks but should open full time soon after.

The process has begun to reinstate all the exercise classes as well as the activities that we offered pre pandemic. We are also excited that Cuesta College has agreed to continue holding Emeritus classes in the Community Center and we should have a full load of courses for the Fall Semester. These classes are hugely popular and attract hundreds of seniors to the Center each week.

Plans are in the works to have a big Welcome Back party in mid-August where we will showcase all available senior activities as well as enjoying live music and seeing old friends.



Seniors enjoying Balance class outside during the Pandemic

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. We anticipate bringing back classes sometime in late July.

Aquatics Programs

Pool

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center is splashing into Summer! We are excited to announce that with COVID restriction changes on the horizon we have the green light to launch Group Lessons! We will continue to keep groups small but hope to service more of the community this way. Private and semi-private lessons will still be available. We also are partnering up with MBHS Aquatics to bring back Youth Water Polo and Swim! Adult Programs will remain the same – we are currently offering Lap Swim, Master’s Swim, and Aqua Aerobics – which are a big hit and in high demand as a safe workout. These programs are selling out in minutes!



Recreation Services' Junior Lifeguard Program partnered with Harbor Department to train our beach guards in First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (California Title 22)



Morro Bay Recreation Services partnered with San Luis Coastal Unified School District and Morro Bay High School to offer Lifeguard training as a part of their Career Technical Education program in Public Service this past month. This program certified 9 new Lifeguards! This invaluable training will not only benefit the participants, our aquatics program and the high school but are an asset to the community! This is a groundbreaking advancement in aquatics as there has been a Lifeguard shortage locally as well as nationwide. Congratulation to our participants for rocking the course and demonstrating a high level of professionalism and leadership!

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.

Youth Sports

This 2021 Girls' Softball Season we partnered with San Luis Obispo Girls' Softball Association to offer a quality softball program for our community.

Morro Bay Recreation is proud to bring back our popular Junior Lifeguards Program! Even with an increase in fees and in the number of children we can serve this summer, the program sold out in minutes. We wrapped up training our LG staff along with Harbor staff in USLA lifeguarding skills. Our volunteer JG Bootcamp begins June 14 followed by our regular beach program session A starting June 21.

Plans are underway to hire staff to prepare us for fall soccer and winter basketball. Youth Soccer Registration opened June 7th. Sign up TODAY!



REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

2021 ESTERO BAY 2021
YOUTH SOCCER

REGISTRATION ONLINE AT
[HTTP://APM.ACTIVECOMMUNITIES.COM/MORROBAY](http://APM.ACTIVECOMMUNITIES.COM/MORROBAY)

REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL
JULY 30TH, 2021

*\$25 LATE FEE FOR ANY REGISTRATIONS AFTER 7/30
*NO REFUNDS AFTER 7/30
SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Boys & Girls
ages
4-14

Cost:
\$125 (\$5 MB
Resident Discount)
Includes a team jersey, shorts,
socks, soccer ball, and CYSA
Registration.

IMPORTANT DATES:
PRACTICE BEGINS
AUGUST 23
SEASON RUNS
SEPTEMBER 11 -
NOVEMBER 6

Volunteer
Coaches
always
needed!

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 ~ (805)772-6278
City website: www.morrobayca.gov • Sports website: www.leaguelineup.com/mbsports

Youth Services

Kids' Club

Kids' Club finished the 2020/2021 school year on June 9th. We were sad to say goodbye but looking forward to the Summer and no Zooming!



**LAST DAYS OF
SCHOOL!**
2020/2021

Kids' Camp begins June 21st, we have a schedule full of swimming, local field trips, and lots of Summer fun! Currently our program is full, but we hope to be able to take families off our waitlist later this Summer. We hired on 11 new Summer Camp Counselors and finished two days of training, we are all looking forward to a Summer full of Fun and Adventure!

Morro Bay Recreation's
Kids' Camp
Children & Recreational Enrichment
for Children 6-12 yrs. old

Located at Del Mar Elementary Campus
501 Sequoia
Morro Bay

**Join us for a Summer
of Fun & Adventure!**

For registration information
please call Angelica
(805)772-6279
or email agallardo@morrobayca.gov

**Registration Opens
May 10th!**

Registration Packets will be available
at Kids' Club
Room J25 on campus
or can be emailed out.

Prices:

Full Week \$175
4 days \$150
3 Days \$120
2 Days \$85

Daily Rate \$45
***\$50 Registration Fee**
Scholarships Available through CPEB

**June 21
to Aug. 13
2021**

We will be closed 7/5
for Independence Day (observed).

Hours: 7:00 am -5:30 pm

Morro Bay Community Development Department Activity Update for May 2021



News: City Council completed their review of the City's General Plan/Local Coastal Program update on May 25, 2021. The document has been forwarded to the Coastal Commission for review and certification.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

May 4, 2021: 1. 939 Pacific, 844 sf two story addition (374 sf ground floor and 470 sf second floor) to an existing home. ACTION: Approved

2. 1840 Main: 2-year Time extension for a Sonic restaurant. Action: Approved

May 18, 2021:

1. 429 Tulare; 560 sf addition to an existing residence (111 sf to first floor, and 249 sf to second floor. ACTION: Approved and subsequently appealed to City Council

2. Review of annual water report and recommendation to Council of water equivalency units for FY 2021-22. Action: recommendation for approval forwarded to City Council

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permits = 1
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 4
- Parking Exception = 1
- Total Planning Permits = 22

Fees collected = \$13,893

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 9

Closed: 6

Ongoing: 7

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 23
- Valuation = \$1,251,798
- Fees Received = \$124,746
- # of Inspections = 120
- New Building Permits = 13