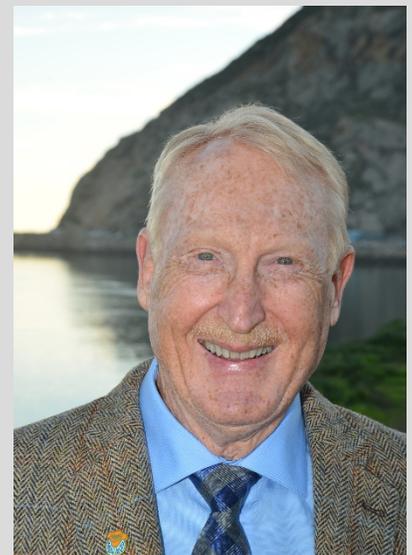




August 6, 2021

City Councilmember Robert “Red” Davis passed away peacefully at his residence in late July. His family and the community and City mourn his passing, given his kindness, thoughtful approach to governing, and for always listening to different viewpoints in the community. He touched the lives of so many here. We encourage community members to attend the celebration of his life event on Monday, August 9th at 10:00am at Morro Bay’s Cloisters Park. In honor of Red and his lifelong love of bicycling, members of the community who are able, are encouraged to ride their bike to the event. Parking is also available at the park and at Spencer’s Fresh Market. To learn more about the event, please review the [press release](#). In the meantime, please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this tough time.



The City is in the process of reviewing and revising [the City Council goals](#). City Council is currently seeking input from the community through the Polco online poll. If you have not used the survey tool before, please visit <https://polco.us/morrobay> and click “create account.” All Polco survey responses are kept anonymous. The City will host community input sessions on August 24 and September 28. 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! Thank you for reviewing this update and please reach out to me should you have questions, concerns, or ideas to share.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins, City Manager
scollins@morrobayca.gov
805-772-6206

COVID-19 Update

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.

City Hall, the Shasta building (Community Development and Public Works) and the Harbor Office are opened 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 are open Monday – Friday 8am to 1pm. 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 with our phased re-opening.

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.

That being said, COVID-19 cases are on the rise across the nation, the State and within SLO County. Most of the cases of COVID-19 are related to the Delta variant, which is spreading faster than previous strains of the virus. It is particularly impacting unvaccinated individuals. As a result, SLO County and cities within the region, including Morro Bay, are encouraging members of the community to take advantage of vaccines. The vaccines are safe, effective and free for all members of the community ages 12 and up. All three COVID-19 vaccines effectively prevent severe illness, hospitalization and death.

With the variant circulating in our region, its important for everyone to do their part to stop the spread. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending that everyone, including vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in most indoor settings as well as crowded outdoor settings. Stay at home if you feel sick. Get tested even if you have mild upper respiratory symptoms, such as sniffles or sneezing. If you test positive, please isolate following CDC guidelines. If exposed to anyone with known or suspected COVID-19, please quarantine.

Most importantly, get vaccinated if you haven't done so already. Learn more at <https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/covid19.aspx>. Thanks for doing your part to stay safe and healthy!

Police

Police Operations

- **Personnel Update**

- The end of July we congratulated Sergeant Dale Cullum on his retirement and Senior Officer Gene Stuart on his promotion to Sergeant. Sergeant Cullum retired from law enforcement after a very successful 27 years, the last 11 years were spent protecting the citizens of Morro Bay. Sergeant Gene Stuart steps into the sergeant role and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to help guide the department into the future. Congratulations to both Dale and Gene on their milestones.



- Officer Daniel Palumbo (in photo below with Chief Cox) and Officer Kevin McCool (in uniform) will be completing their field training program early next month. Daniel and Kevin have already made a positive impact on the department and the community with participation in several community events and their work during a recent fatal traffic collision. Daniel and Kevin will be working as solo officers beginning the first week of August.



Police Department Patrol Operations

- **Fatal Traffic Collision Investigation** – On July 15th, the department investigated a fatal traffic collision involving a vehicle versus pedestrian. The accident scene spanned across 800 feet of roadway on Morro Bay Blvd from Bernardo Ave to Quintana Road. The roundabout was closed to traffic for approximately three hours to investigate the collision. The closure caused additional traffic congestion already being experienced by the construction on Quintana Road. Patrol officers, police volunteers, Morro Bay Fire Department, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office, and the California Highway Patrol assisted in road closures, traffic control, and scene management during the incident.
- **Theft Arrest with Social Media Assistance** – On July 15th, four unknown subjects traveling in a maroon vehicle pulled up to Giovanni's Fish Market. Two subjects got out of the car and stole the tip jar from the order counter of the business. After a lack of leads, officers posted surveillance photos of the female suspect and the vehicle on the Morro Bay POA Facebook page. On July 17th, police dispatch received a call from a citizen who recognized the suspect and vehicle in a restaurant near San Simeon. MBPD officers responded and located all suspects involved and recovered the tip jar stolen from Giovanni's.
- **No Limit of Work** – During the month of July, officers generated approximately 125 reports. These reports were generated for a wide range of activities. Reports related to persons crimes, property crimes, fresh criminal arrests, warrant arrests, missing persons, DUI arrests, vehicle tows, vehicle collisions, and found or lost property are often the reasons for generating these reports. For each report generated, MBPD records staff of 1.5 received, processed and filed each report.

Homeless Outreach

- Morro Bay Police Department continues outreach efforts with our homeless population. In July, officers made dozens of contacts during routine patrols and calls for service related to the homeless. During the contacts officers rendered medical aid, provided supplies, offered assistance, investigated crimes, made arrests, and removed abandoned encampments from private and state property. The department continues to work with local agencies, nonprofits, and Caltrans to keep our homeless population safe.



Fire

Welcome new Fire Chief Daniel McCrain and best wishes to Fire Chief Steve Knuckles on his retirement

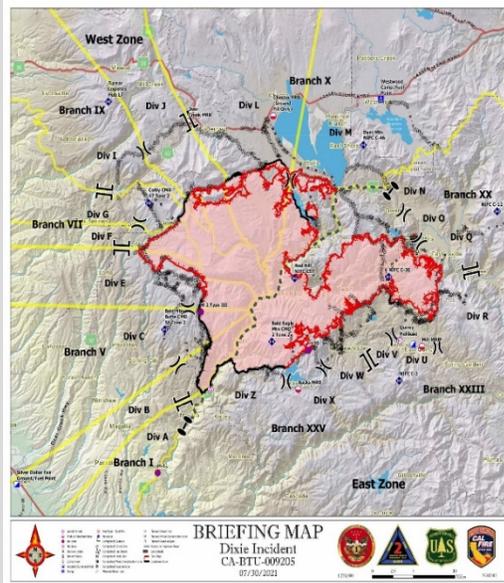
The City swore in new Morro Bay Fire Chief Daniel McCrain on July 30th. Daniel McCrain comes to Morro Bay with over 27 years in fire/paramedic and emergency management service experience. Most recently, he served as Fire Captain for the Cambria Community Services District Fire Department, where he oversaw emergency response for his shift and the agency's fire prevention, community education and commercial business inspection programs. Prior to that, he was the Operations Director/Paramedic for the Cambria Community Healthcare District, where he managed paramedic and EMT staff, training, and records. Chief McCrain served in several fire management roles for other agencies and has taught paramedic and EMT courses at Cuesta College. Chief McCrain has a bachelor's degree in Emergency Management from Waldorf University and an associate degree in Fire Technologies from Allan Hancock

University. We are excited for him to get started and work with the excellent Fire team on important initiatives, including reviewing the potential lithium battery storage project.

At the same swearing in ceremony, the City acknowledged the many accomplishments of retiring Fire Chief Steve Knuckles. Chief Knuckles served the City of Morro Bay for 22 years, beginning as a Fire Captain in 1999. He was promoted to Fire Chief in 2013, where he led the department through modernization efforts, and most recently orchestrated the City's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Knuckles dedicated his life to the fire service and serving the community and leading the Morro Bay Fire Department. He is an exemplary public servant and we greatly appreciate all he has done to transform the department, serve the community and lead the City through this challenging pandemic. We are excited for him the next phase of his life.



Mutual Aid Response in California



The Morro Bay Fire Department united with fire agencies from Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Santa Barbara, and West Covina have assisted with fire suppression activities on wildland fire around the state, most recently at the Dixie Fire in Northern California. The Dixie Fire started July 7th and has burned over 432,800 acres, destroying over 100 homes and is currently ranked 3rd largest fire in California history. The Office of Emergency Services (OES) engine lead by Captain Subler, Engineer Schechter, Firefighter Proano-Boughton and Firefighter Frempter performed direct fire attack, perimeter control, structure defense and assisted in firing operations off Highway 89. The fire crews are experiencing extreme

fire behavior and adverse weather conditions with temperatures well of a 100 degrees and very low humidity. This



Mutual Aid Response is part of the California Fire Assistance Agreement that provides reimbursements for personnel and equipment to the responding Fire



Departments. Our local Strike Team returned August 3rd after being on the Dixie Fire for 14 days to rotate crews and we anticipate sending a crew back on August 9th.

Harbor

Summer is in full swing on the waterfront. Lifeguards reported 11,832 beach patrons in July at Morro Rock. Harbor Patrol had 106 service calls and 16 emergencies. Harbor Patrol statistics for June and July 2021 were 36 emergency responses, 202 calls for service, 99 assists of other agencies, 54 enforcement contacts, 21 weather warnings, and no hazardous bar warnings.

Over the last two months Harbor Patrol responded to two sinking old commercial fishing vessels. The first one was successfully raised and pumped immediately. Coast Guard hired a hazardous waste company to pump all fuel and oil off the boat to mitigate the threat to pollute. The boat sits with multiple pumps on it to ensure it keeps above water. The second boat sank to the bottom on a mooring near the launch ramp. This vessel had been watched for several years as a threat to pollute and also had the fuel and oil pumped off by Coast Guard. At the time of this writing, the vessel still remains underwater with a plan to raise it and demolish it as soon as safely possible.



There were multiple fire alarm calls this summer that Harbor Patrol responded to, but luckily none that resulted in true fire. The sprinkler system on the North T Pier was a victim to corrosion leakage and sections of it needed to be replaced after the alarm system was set off. A restaurant on the waterfront was also closed to public for smoking electrical panel in a defunct elevator system. A smoldering beach bonfire was put out and the citizens were given a citation for illegal fire on the beach.

Waterfront Camping has been booked full most weekends of the summer providing alternative lodging for those with RV style vehicles. Harbor Patrol opened three additional camp spaces near Tideland Park on the east side of the roadway with a beautiful view of the bay.

Multiple medical aids calls were dispatched for Harbor to respond to including two overdoses on boats and two suicidal attempts on the waterfront.

Safe boating training was given to the Junior Lifeguard program by Harbor Patrol. Different age groups were able to participate in Rescue Water Craft training and Harbor Patrol boat operations.

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 recently secured 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 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. The City also locked in a CWSRF \$61 million low-interest loan and \$5 million grant. Both loans were locked in with a near historic low interest rate of 0.9% or under, which will save the City and community over \$1,000,000 annually 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.

The City was unable to secure a federal grant through the Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI “WaterSmart” program. This is a very competitive program, and the City will try again for the grant in next year’s funding cycle.

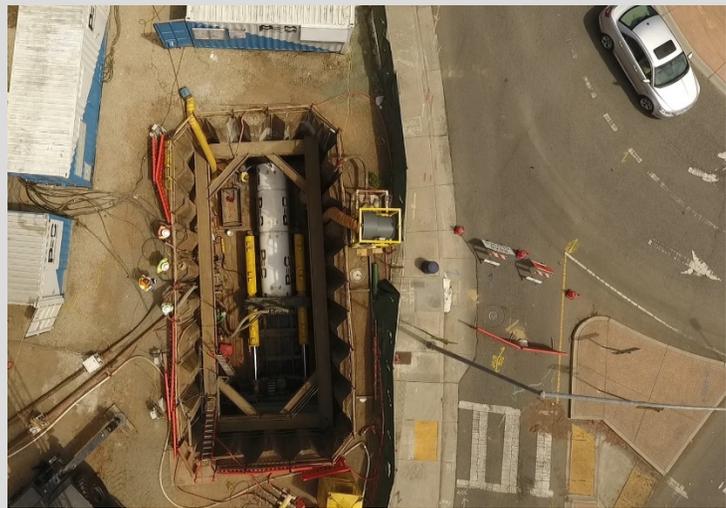
WRF Construction Update

Treatment Facility

The Contractor is currently working in the following areas:

- The vast majority of rough site grading, Yard Piping installations, and underground electrical are completed.
- The scope and cost of the remedial work for the landslide is currently being reviewed by City staff and the remedial work may be undertaken soon.

- Headworks equipment (Course Screen and Grit Removal) have been installed including above and below grade process piping.
- Contractor has recently completed underslab piping/electrical, and placed concrete for the SAFE Filtration System.
- All concrete work for the BNR and MBR (biological) treatment areas is completed and Contractor is beginning to undertake above grade mechanical work.
- The Contractor is currently installing pumps and above grade suction and discharge piping for IPR/Outfall Pump Station.
- The Operations Building, Maintenance Building, Electrical Building, and RO/UV Building are all erected and Contractor is working on interior elements. The parking, storage areas, and Chemical Facility canopies are also erected but not all roofs are installed yet.



Lift Stations and Off-Site Pipelines

The Contractor is currently working in the following areas:

- Quintana Road (Main Street to Morro Bay Blvd): Continuing trenching / piping installations from Main St. toward the Roundabout. Work will continue in this zone through the month of August. During the work there will only be one east-bound lane open between Main St. and the Roundabout
- Quintana Road (Morro Bay Blvd to La Loma Avenue): Contractor is beginning work in this area starting first week of August and this zone will remain active through September. During the work there will only be one east-bound lane open between the Roundabout and South Bay Blvd.
- Quintana Road (La Loma Avenue to South Bay Blvd): Contractor is currently completing work in this zone and will reopen this area to traffic (one east-bound lane will remain open between the Roundabout and South Bay Blvd).
- New Pump Station A (at existing WWTP): Contractor is currently excavating for the deep wet well concrete structure within their sheet pile shoring.
- New Pump Station B (Near Lemos Pet Supply): The deep wet well concrete structure has been completed and backfilled. Contractor will begin pump station area underground piping and underground electrical in the coming weeks.
- Roundabout Microtunneling: The Microtunnel Boring Machine was launched the week of July 19th from the launch pit in the old U-Haul lot. The launch was successful and the boring operation is currently underway below the Roundabout. The receiving pit, at Las Tunas and Butte, is excavated and ready for the boring machine entry, currently anticipated for the first week of August.

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!

Streets/Misc.

- 8 tons of HMA skin patch repairs were made in various locations on Jamaica St. and Island St.
- Pressure washed bird droppings off of 620 linear ft. of sidewalk in the downtown area.

Parks

- Replaced broken water irrigation main line from water meter to backflow device at Del Mar Park.

- Installed temporary power pole and set electrical panel to service boardwalk lights and outlets after building demolition at Coleman Park.
- Repaired broken irrigation lateral and replaced pressure reducer at the Lila Keiser Park fields.
- Installed and landscaped large dry creek bed feature behind restroom building at the Cloisters Park.

Facilities

- Replaced 40-gallon water heater and fittings at the MBPD.
- Disassembled, remove, and recycled large, rusted skate park ramp at the Teen Center.
- Repaired drywall and painted the Studio, Conference Rm., and Auditorium at the Community Center.
- Stripped wax off floors and re-surfaced hallway and restrooms at the City Hall.



Water Conservation Notice



The City of Morro Bay has now implemented Water Conservation Requirements for Severely Restricted Water Supply Conditions

Amid intensifying drought and record-breaking temperatures across the Western United States, Governor Gavin Newsom added nine counties, including San Luis Obispo, to the regional drought state of emergency, and called on Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent with simple measures to protect water reserves if drought conditions continue.

CONSERVATION REGULATIONS

Sprinkler irrigation rules for public and private landscape is permitted:

- Sprinkler irrigation of public and private landscape is **PROHIBITED** between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. everyday.
- Sprinkler irrigation of public and private landscape is permitted.
 - Wednesday and Sunday for properties with **EVEN** numbered addresses
 - Tuesday and Saturday for properties with **ODD** numbered addresses
- **PLEASE** limit the amount of water used for irrigation purposes.

Other outdoor water use rules:

- No water shall be used for cleaning driveways, patios, sidewalks, or other hardscapes except where necessary to protect public health or safety.
- The use of fresh water with spring loaded shut-off nozzles for washing of vehicles, boats and docks is allowed, so long as only the minimum amount of potable water is used and there are no other non-potable water alternatives.
- Any dysfunctional water fixtures in public or commercial facilities shall be repaired within three days of receipt of notification by the city.
- Use of potable water for compaction or dust control purposes in construction activities is prohibited.

If you have any questions, please Call 805-772-6261

Administration/Finance

Friendly reminder to the community that City Hall public counter hours are from Monday through Thursday from 8:00-12:00 or by appointment, and staff is always reachable by phone (Monday to Friday from 8:00-5:00).

City Council approved the Fiscal Year 2021/22 Proposed Budget in June. The budget book is being finalized and will be posted on the City's website next week. This year's budget focuses on rebounding and resiliency, and makes key investments in public safety and infrastructure thanks to the community's support of Measure E last November.

Business license processing is currently delayed due to systems challenges and staffing shortages. Businesses that have submitted applications or renewals will be considered to be in compliance while their application or renewal is in process. Thank you for your patience as we work on systems improvements and staff capacity enhancements.

Administrative Services is hiring for a Finance Manager and Senior Administrative Services Analyst <http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/832/Employment-Opportunities>. These positions—one a replacement due to a recent retirement and the other a repurposed position to focus on operational efficiencies and process improvements—will help ensure the City's ability to provide high quality customer service to the public and effective stewardship of public funds.

Recreation

Administration

Facilities

Morro Bay Community Center is open and ready for reservations! Our facilities are now being utilized for the intended purpose of building community through classes and programs. Thanks to our beautiful weather, our parks and beaches are full of people.



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 are happy to have other outdoor events back such as Project Surf Camp and are looking forward to surf contests and more film permits.

Seniors

The Senior Center opened up July 6 with limited hours of operation and, within a few weeks, all activity classes were back meeting and welcoming excited seniors from the community. Exercise classes are nearing capacity levels again, the game room is buzzing with pool and table tennis players, and the hand and foot ladies are as loud as ever!

August 16 marks the beginning of the Cuesta Emeritus classes which will bring over 100 seniors through the Center each week. We are excited that we will again have a full contingent of classes being offered.

All of the senior activities available in the city will be showcased at the Welcome Back Party held on Friday, August 27. All classes will be represented, food and drink will be available a live band will play classic tunes for our dancing crowd.



Balance Class finally gets to move inside after meeting in the weather challenged parking lot
the last 9 months!

Classes

As of July 6th, we are happy to announce our Community Classes have returned!

Fall 2021
MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES

COMMUNITY CLASSES

Creating Community Between
People, Parks, and Programs.

Available classes

- **Zumba with Carmen**
 - Mon, Tues, & Thurs. 6:00-7:00PM
- **Freestyle Fitness with Jenny**
 - Weds. & Fri. 9:00-10:00AM
- **Tang Soo Do**
 - Mon. & Weds. 6:00-8:30PM
- **Dog Obedience with Irina**
 - Various Times & Dates
- **Okinawan Karate**
 - Dates & Times TBA
- **Quilt Fever**
 - Various Times & Dates

Find something for everyone!
Sign Up today!
Register at
the Morro Bay Recreation Office
M-F 9:00am - 1:00pm.

 **MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES**
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 ~ (805)772-6278
www.morrobayca.gov ● www.facebook.com/CityofMorroBay

Aquatics Programs

Pool

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center is wrapping up Summer and preparing for Fall programming! Group Lessons were a big hit this summer as well as continued Private and Semi-Private lessons! We will continue to offer Private and Semi-Private lessons throughout the Fall. We are working with the High School to continue offering Youth Swim and Water Polo. 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. We have transitioned back to Drop-in programming which allows us to facilitate more participants.



We are committed to keeping the public safe and keeping the Aquatics Center open.

For more information, please visit our [Aquatics](#) page.

Junior Guards

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.



Youth Sports

New staff has been hired and we are working towards youth soccer this fall and youth basketball in the winter.

Youth Services

Kids' Camp

We are 6 weeks into our Summer, and what fun we have had! It has been so wonderful seeing the smiles and enjoyment our campers have had so far. We have had two visits to local Morro Bay beaches, three different Morro Bay parks, the Natural History Museum as well as many different locations throughout the Embarcadero! Something I am most proud to share is the swim progression the campers have had so far. Katie, our Aquatics Coordinator, and her team have worked weekly to teach specialized swim lessons to our campers. Many of our campers have tested out of their beginning level and are showing such progression.

It has been a Summer of Fun and adventure! We are excited to end our last two weeks of Summer Camp with a Boat Excursion around the Bay and our End of the Summer Party!



Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee

Rockies Teen Center has remained closed since March 13, 2020. We have been hosting Kids' Camp's older classroom at the Teen Center Mondays and Wednesdays this Summer, the kids are loving their "tween" experience.

Saturday July 24th the Rockies Teen Center and Skate Park hosted the 2021 Monster Skate Park Series. We had 20 participants in the contest and a few local Morro Bay Skaters took the wins in their division.



Morro Bay Community Development Department Activity Update for June/July 2021



News: The Planning Division has started work on implementation of the City's Housing Element to include development of by right development policies for multifamily housing, associated objectives design guidelines, revision of the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance, update of City's density bonus and inclusionary housing policies and development of stock ADU plans. All made possible by \$160,000 in grants from the State.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

June 1, 2021: 396 Hill St.; Time extension for a new duplex on a vacant lot. ACTION: Approved

June 15, 2021: Cancelled

July 6, 2021:

1. 490 Piney Way; 1,124 s.f. addition to an existing home, conversion of an existing garage into a junior accessory dwelling unit

and addition of a 469 s.f. accessory dwelling unit.

ACTION: Approved

2. 3200 Beachcomber; major modification adding 700 s.f. to an existing home. Action: Approved

July 20, 2021:

1. 715 Embarcadero; continued to a date uncertain at request of applicant with no discussion by PC.
2. Review of City Goals and Objectives with possible recommendation to Council. Action: continued to August 3rd meeting.

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permits = 7
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 11
- Parking Exception = 2
- Min/Maj mod = 5
- Variance = 2
- Sign Permit = 1

Total Planning Permits	= 28
Fees collected	= \$62,764

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 17
Closed: 16
Ongoing: 9

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 57
- Valuation = \$1,563,170
- Fees Received = \$120,549
- # of Inspections = 331
- New Building Permits = 19