



City Manager's Update

September 10, 2021

It is hard to believe that the 9/11 tragedy occurred 20 years ago tomorrow. We must never forget this tragedy and we should all take a moment tomorrow to remember those who lost their lives that day, especially the first responders who risked their lives to save others. In recognition of this important anniversary, the City is hosting two events on Saturday, September 11. The Fire Department is hosting a [short ceremony at noon](#) in front of the Fire Station at 715 Harbor Street. Later in the afternoon at [2:00 p.m. at the Community Center](#), the City and Morro Bay Beautiful are hosting an event to honor 9/11, and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the town. You can learn more about that special event in the "Recreation" section of this newsletter.

In other news, 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 a goal's workshop on Wednesday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m. 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 continue 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.

Given the current surge in cases due to the delta variant, SLO County has issued a mask mandate. Community members must wear masks indoors in public places where others are present. In addition, the County has set up additional COVID-19 testing sites. Learn more at www.readyslo.org. The County is also considering adding a north coastal testing location. Dates and times are being determined. If a decision is made to create a coastal testing site, staff will post a notice to the City website at www.morrobayca.gov.

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 is open for classes 9am – 8:30pm Monday – Friday and the Senior Center is open Monday – Friday 9am to 4pm. At this time, staff is also working closely with AGP Video to be able to provide for hybrid in-person/virtual City Council meetings in the near future. However, with the recent surge in cases in our region, it is unknown at this time when in person meetings will resume. Per current regulations, all community members, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask inside City offices. We appreciate the community's continued patience with our phased re-opening.

As noted above, 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, it is important for everyone to do their part to stop the spread. That means wearing a mask in public 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 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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

Morro Bay National Night Out

The Police Department had a very successful National Night this year on August 3rd. With help from Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch and volunteers, we served over 250 hot dogs, 160 shave ice, dozens of raffle prizes for kids, a K-9 demonstration (whew! Chief Cox didn't get bit), a speed gun baseball throw, and a most entertaining dunk tank. Thank you to Chief Cox, City Manager Scott Collins, Officers Martinez, and Palumbo for braving the cold water and flying softballs. It was a pleasure for many attendees to watch them drop into the water. We also had CPR and stop the bleed demos and several city departments and community groups to show what the city has to offer.

A sincere thank you to Albertsons of Morro Bay for the generous donation of hot dogs, buns, chips, and water for the event. Also, Morro Bay Neighborhood Watch for sponsoring the event with the cooking of the hot dogs, raffle prizes, advertisement, cake, and volunteers. We would also like to thank the following agencies for participating in this year's event:

Morro Bay Police Volunteers

Morro Bay Parks and Recreation

Morro Bay Fire Department

Morro Bay Harbor Patrol

Cal Poly University Police K9 Unit

United States Coast Guard, Morro Bay

Safety Consulting Services, LLC (Stop the Bleed)

Coastal Cravings – Hawaiian Shave Ice



Police Department Welcomes Back Students and Staff

Thanks to a donation from Albertsons of Morro Bay, we were able to provide EVERY SINGLE staff member at Del Mar Elementary and Morro Bay High School with their own tub of Red Vines. Officer Gillespie delivered the Red Vines the day before school started making spirits bright just in time for the kids to come back to school.



Along with the Red Vines came traffic.... Students, Parents, and the general public experienced some traffic delays during the first couple days of school, but things seem to have calmed down a bit and everyone is finding the rhythm. Our School Resource Officer is being very proactive and making sure the traffic is moving along and everyone is being safe.



Police Personnel Update



The department is excited to welcome Erin Lester to our PD and city family. Erin is the new police department Support Services Technician. Erin is new to Law Enforcement but is proving to be a quick learner and a great new member of the team. She has lived on the Central Coast for 14 years and is looking for a long-term career with Morro Bay Police Department. Welcome Erin!

Fire

- The Fire Department has been busy supporting the State Mutual Aid system with our OES engine and personnel. Engineer Mike Hoese just returned from a 21-day assignment as a Fireline Paramedic on the Dixie Fire. Division Chief Matt Vierra returned from a 10-day assignment as the Finance Manager as part of the incident management team on the Dixie Fire. OES 388 is still committed with Captain Travis Hasch, Engineer Mike Kelley, Firefighter Kevin Hames, and Reserve Firefighter Riley Boughton-Proano. This crew was swapped out on September 4th for an additional 21 days. The replacement crew will be Captain Michael Talmage, Engineer Micah Szopinski, Engineer Sam Watson, and Reserve Firefighter Forrest Ringer.
- We recently had 3 Firefighters become qualified as Fireline Paramedic trainees. Mike Kelly, Sam Watson, and Andrew Schechter. Mike Kelly also completed his ICS 300 Intermediate Incident Command System training.
- The Fire Marshall along with the Seasonal Firefighter program have completed approximately 50% of the business fire and life safety inspections. The weed abatement program in almost complete with 4,252 properties inspected. There are currently 6 violations pending. The newly constructed US Coast Guard building received its final inspection, and they will begin utilizing the building.
- The Fire Department hired one reserve Firefighter Rafael Angarcia. Rafael is completing the Background check process and will begin training soon.



Harbor

Harbor Patrol statistics for August 2021 were 15 emergency responses, 104 calls for service, 50 assists of other agencies, 44 enforcement contacts and 2 weather warnings.

Out on the ocean, the last few weeks have seen very strong “red tide” episodes, which are plankton blooms associated with warm water and high levels of nutrients. This particular bloom was reddish-brown in color. Such blooms can be toxic to sealife, while at the same time-consuming large amounts of oxygen in the water and making the water hypoxic. They can also cause problems with humans such as sinus or ear infections. The blooms seem to be on the wane.

On the bay, one may have noticed large rafts of drifting eelgrass, which is both a good and bad thing. Good in that it’s a sign the eelgrass continues to recover to be producing so much seasonal blade shed, bad in that so much is being shed it can clog the cooling water intakes and propellers of boats.

Labor Day weekend marked a change in staffing for Lifeguards at the Morro Rock Beach. Lifeguards will no longer work weekdays and will only remain on the weekends through October 3rd. Lifeguard towers will be removed from the beach mid-October. A team of 5 of our Lifeguards competed in the 19th Annual Central Coast Lifeguard Competition on August 18th and took 1st place overall. The competition was held in Pismo Beach this year on a day with a good amount of swell. Pictured below are Colt Laurie, John Giacinto, Jack Malzone, Connor Stratton, and Sierra Emrick. 3 Stacks and a Rock are Number 1.



Cal Guard Maritime Training

The California National Guard, or Cal Guard, was in Morro Bay August 12-14 with their new Maritime Division for their first annual training, hosted by Coast Guard Station Morro Bay. This new division brought one 47-foot motor lifeboat down from the Bay area (the same type of boats the Coast Guard has in Morro Bay), in addition to trailering in three additional smaller vessels. They all were staged at the Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard docks, and set-up their operations center off the north T-Pier next to the Coast Guard shed. They began operations and training on Friday the 13th with scenarios developed with the assistance of new Coast Guard Station Morro Bay Chief Ben Snider, and wrapped-up training on Saturday the 15th, including hosting some National Guard here to observe their training and demonstrations. ~40 personnel from the National Guard Maritime Divisions in the Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego were involved, and training included participation from the Coast Guard and Harbor Patrol.



Air Force Testing/Training

Starting August 21, the 88th Test and Evaluation Squadron at Nellis AFB in Nevada were hosted by the Harbor Department while they were in town testing new equipment and procedures for the Air Force's Rescue H-60 helicopters, C-130 aircraft and Pararescuers. They operated out of Morro Bay on August 23-27 with several vessels, one pictured here, and their aircraft operating out of Vandenberg SFB, testing new radio/signaling equipment and over water search procedures.



Each day on Harbor Patrol there is something different to tackle. Pictured below is Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer Ari



Maksoudian who jumped into the water to assist a sailboat tangled up with a mooring after the person was pulled out of the water in a strong flooding tide.

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 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 (key items)

- 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. However, it has experienced issues as it heads toward the receiving pit, at Las Tunas and Butte. The machine is stopped at this point on the eastern edge of the roundabout. Anvil, the City contractor on the WRF conveyance project, is working with the microtunneling subcontractor to resolve the issue.
- Pump Station A - Dewatering: Anvil struggled for several weeks to control groundwater within their shored excavation at Pump Station A at the existing treatment plant. Anvil appears to have now addressed the problem



and is currently excavating for the deep wet well structure and the 96" diameter underground storage tanks.

Utilities Division

Valve tie-in: Crews from the Utilities Division recently performed a valve tie-in project to connect two water mains, one 8" main and one 10" main. This will mitigate water shutdowns on the southeastern side of South Bay Blvd during the construction of WRF conveyance project.



Transit

Mask mandate: The Transportation Security Agency (TSA) face mask requirement for transit has been extended through January 18, 2022. On January 29, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced a federal mask requirement for transit systems](#). The TSA soon followed with a [security directive](#) implementing the CDC order.

Engineering

Wayfinding Signage: Engineering staff is working with Statewide Safety and Sign, Inc., of Nipomo, CA to begin installing new wayfinding signage throughout the City.



Maintenance & Operations

Coral Ave Parkway: City crews began prep work fulfill a plan to install landscaping along the western side of Coral Avenue. The project, which was developed in coordination with community representatives in the Cloisters subdivision, will include removal of old sprinkler head, light grading, and installation of drip lines to water drought tolerant ground cover.



Administration/Finance

The City of Morro Bay FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget, which was approved by Council in June, is now posted on the City's web site. For those who would like a summary view, Budget Highlights have also been posted. Both can be found at: <https://www.morro->

bay.ca.us/827/Budget. 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. This summer has been a strong summer for Transit Occupancy Tax revenues so far, which is another positive contributor to the City's fiscal stability.

The Citizens' Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) met in August and provided input to City Council for their current goal setting process. CFAC supports the existing Council goals related to fiscal stability, infrastructure improvements, land use planning and affordable housing, and civic engagement. They recommended making associated action items specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-sensitive (SMART) where possible. CFAC also supported continued work by Administrative Services (Finance and IT) on the following action items associated with Council's existing goals:

- Update development impact fees (working with Community Development)
- Complete an updated cost allocation plan
- Develop a multi-year Capital Improvement Budget and financing strategy (with Public Works and other departments and advisory bodies)
- Evaluate additional opportunities to address the City's CalPERS and OPEB unfunded liabilities

In addition to those work efforts and all ongoing duties, Finance staff is actively engaged in Water Reclamation Facility project financing, budget tracking, and cash flow projections. IT is focused on enhancing the City's cybersecurity measures and replacing aging City computers.

Sara Pruitt joined the Administrative Services Team full-time as Office Assistant IV this summer after working for the team part time for several months. She is the friendly face you are most likely to be greeted by if you visit City Hall's public counter. Sara processes utility billing for the approximately 5,500 Morro Bay utility accounts – a big job that she tackles with competence and calm.



The City Hall public counter remains open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8:00-12:00 or by appointment, and staff is always reachable by phone at 805-772-6201 (Monday – Friday, 8:00-5:00).

Recreation

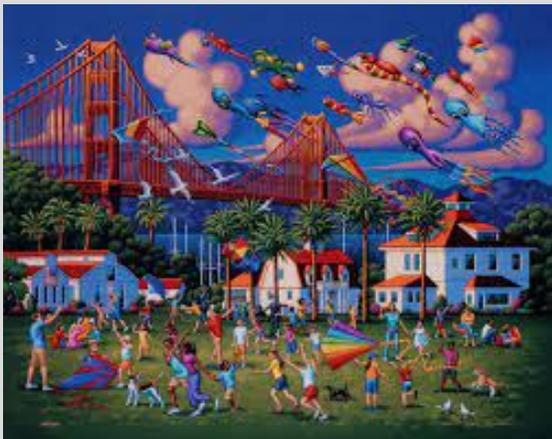
Administration

Facilities

Morro Bay Community Center and Veterans Building are open and ready for reservations! Our parks and facilities are now bustling with classes, activities, and other reservations such as birthday parties and celebrations.

Events

Events are in full swing in and around our City. We are so excited to have our community come together safely. Events such as Labor Day Softball and Morro Bay High School Cross Country Invitational keep our community active and healthy. Please come down September 11 to the Morro Bay Community Center where we are celebrating the City's 150th anniversary of the founding of our town by Franklin Riley. Morro Bay Beautiful along with the City of Morro Bay will be hosting the Artist Eric Dowdle. This artist is famous for creating puzzles that are vibrant, intricate, and a beautiful representation of cityscapes. We are extremely excited for the Morro Bay Puzzle which will be debuted at this event. Below are examples of his work.



Seniors

The Senior Center is now open full-time from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. We are excited to have our activity classes back, filling up and welcoming 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 array of classes being offered from drawing to watercolors and art history to cooking.



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

Classes

Our Community Classes have been busy, everyone is happy to get back to exercising and socializing! This month we added a new class, Commit to Fit, with returning instructor Sally Budd-Unks. Next month we plan to add a new Pilates class with certified instructor Carol Baker.



Fall 2021
MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
COMMUNITY CLASSES

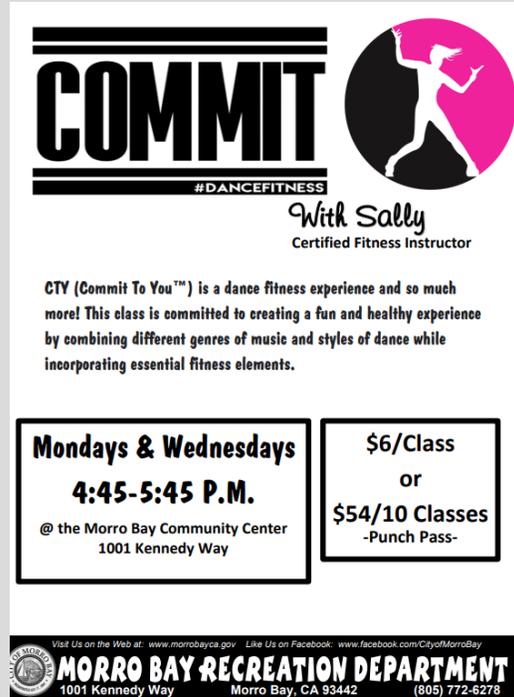
Creating Community Between People, Parks, and Programs.

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



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Certified Fitness Instructor

CTY (Commit To You™) is a dance fitness experience and so much more! This class is committed to creating a fun and healthy experience by combining different genres of music and styles of dance while incorporating essential fitness elements.

Mondays & Wednesdays
4:45-5:45 P.M.
@ the Morro Bay Community Center
1001 Kennedy Way

\$6/Class
or
\$54/10 Classes
-Punch Pass-

Visit Us on the Web at: www.morrobayca.gov Like Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofMorroBay

MORRO BAY RECREATION DEPARTMENT
1001 Kennedy Way Morro Bay, CA 93442 (805) 772-6278

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. 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 our Drop in programming which allows us to facilitate more participants. We hope to be able to offer our Floating Pumpkin Patch Special Event in October (Covid permitting).



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

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

Junior Guards

Our extremely popular MB Junior Lifeguards Program wrapped up the season with four sessions serving over 300 participants! An added feature this summer was to certify our eight “volunteer” JG Aides in 1st Aid/CPR!



Youth Sports

We are two weeks into our soccer season and the turnout has been amazing! We have 24 Morro Bay teams with just below 200 players participating in the season. We would like to send a special shoutout to our 20 amazing volunteer coaches who are taking the time to make this season possible. Our games will kick off September 11th and we'll be playing teams across the county. We have around 10 referees ready to make sure these games run smoothly!

Our basketball season will be up and running soon with early-bird registration opening in October. Once soccer is fully running, we'll be focusing our efforts to make sure the soccer season ends smoothly and go full steam ahead into basketball.



**OPENING DAY
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021**

ESTERO BAY YOUTH SOCCER

Youth Services

Kids' Camp

We were so sad to see Kids' Camp come to an end, but we were so lucky to get to have a Summer of Fun and Adventure with a group of amazing kids. We look forward to Kids' Camp 2022!



Kids' Club

And with Summer ending, we head right back to school. On August 19th Kids' Club started back up, we have had two successful weeks. We have 70 families registered for our program, and still have families joining daily. We are looking forward to a great school year.



Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee

Rockies Teen Center has remained closed since March 13th, 2020. It will remain closed this school year.

Morro Bay Community Development Department Activity Update



News: The City received Coastal Commission certification of the comprehensive update to the Morro Bay General Plan/Local Coastal Land Use Plan on August 12, 2021. The document can be found at the following link: <https://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15424/Plan-Morro-Bay-GP-LCP-Final>

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:
August 3, 2021: 206 Bradley Avenue; proposal for a 1,265 square foot addition to an existing single family residence. ACTION: Approved

PC Goals Discussion: PC recommended the following Goals to City Council for 2021/2022:

- Develop an Historic Preservation Ordinance using draft ordinance developed by MB Historical Society
- Create a Tree bank policy
- Update the City's Climate Action Plan

- Continue Housing Element implementation
- Consider establishment of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts to improve City infrastructure
- Expressed support for the Chamber's efforts to conduct outreach to the City's commercial districts regarding interest in formation of Business Improvement Districts

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permits = 2
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 2
- Parking Exception = 1
- Variance = 1
- Sign Permit = 1

Total Planning Permits = 7
Fees collected = \$16,069

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 14
Closed: 9
Open: 5
Ongoing: 8

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 34
- Valuation = \$1,160,937
- Fees Received = \$133,599
- # of Inspections = 112
- New Building Permits = 14