



City Manager's Update

February 23, 2022

Every two years, City Council reviews and updates the [City goals](#). The goals are reviewed with this frequency because, as we all learned with COVID-19, community needs and priorities can change significantly in a short period of time. The City goals build upon the City's overall purpose of providing core services and infrastructure to the community to ensure Morro Bay continues to be a great place to live, work, and visit. The City invests the bulk of its staff time and other resources into that purpose. The City goals are intended to compliment the City purpose by addressing new community challenges and opportunities.

To make sure the City's overall direction aligns with community needs, the City conducted a survey, hosted two community forums, and consulted with the City's advisory boards and commissions in 2021. City Council incorporated that feedback into the adoption of five City goals for 2022. The goals include the following: improve public infrastructure, address affordable housing challenges, climate action, improve community health and achieve fiscal sustainability and economic vitality. Further, Council adopted 35 short-term action items to accomplish in 2022 and into 2023 to help make these goals a reality.

You can learn more by visiting www.morrobayca.gov/goals and watch the City goals video [here](#).

Thanks!

Scott Collins
City Manager
scollins@morrobayca.gov
805-772-620

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 to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The number of daily cases of COVID-19 have begun to recede from the highest peak (January 14, 2022) since the onset of the pandemic.

The California indoor mask mandate was lifted on Wednesday, February 16th, which means in most indoor settings, masks are no longer required for vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated individuals, however, must continue to wear masks in indoor public places where others are present. Masks are also required for all individuals regardless of vaccination status in schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, childcare, correctional facilities, healthcare facilities, long-term care facilities and public transit. While the mask mandate has been lifted, folks may choose to continue to wear them. For those who have questions about which masks are most effective, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a helpful [resource](#).

The County continues to provide a COVID-19 testing site at the Morro Bay Veterans Hall. Tests are available Monday from 7:00 am – 11:00 am and Tuesday – Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, closed for lunch and dinner from 11 am - noon and 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Learn more at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/COVID-19.aspx>.

City Hall, the Shasta building (Community Development and Public Works) and the Harbor Office are opened with modified hours Monday through Thursday (8:00 am to 12:00 pm). The Police and Fire administration buildings will remain open during normal business hours. Recreation Services at the Community Center is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and the Senior Center is open Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. The City is preparing to resume in-person City Council and advisory board meetings in April (April 12, 2022, Council meeting). City staff is working closely with AGP Video on the final details to ensure folks can continue to participate virtually in these meetings moving forward. April is the target, in order to allow enough time for the County to complete their COVID-19 testing activities in the Vets Hall. We appreciate the community's continued patience with our phased re-opening.

SLO County and cities within the region, including Morro Bay, are encouraging members of the community to take advantage of vaccines and booster shots. The vaccines are safe, effective, and free for all members of the community ages 5 and up. All three COVID-19 vaccines and boosters effectively prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death. The County has a helpful webpage for [vaccine information](#).

With the Omicron variant surging 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. [Get tested](#) if you have upper respiratory symptoms, such as sniffles or sneezing, or if you think you may have been exposed. If you test positive, please isolate following the [CDC guidelines](#). If you haven't already done so, get your vaccine, and get a [booster shot](#) if you are eligible. Thank you for doing your part to stay safe and healthy!

Police

Patrol Operations

✓ **MBPD welcomes Officer Mario Cambronero**

On January 10th, Officer Mario Cambronero was sworn in as the newest police officer to join the department. Officer Cambronero was born and raised in Santa Maria. A graduate of the Alan Hancock Police Academy in Lompoc, Mario was commended by his fellow cadets for his leadership and goodwill to others needing assistance during the academy. Officer Cambronero will participate in a 16-week field training program where he works alongside a training officer. Upon successful completion of training, he will become a solo officer. We are excited to welcome Officer Cambronero to the community and the city and police family.



✓ **Leash Up Campaign**

During the month of January, the police department conducted an enforcement campaign to help spread awareness, educate the public, and enforcement the city municipal code for off-leash dogs. The campaign ran for 30 days and was posted on the department's social media, mobile app, department electronic information boards, and Next Door. Over the 30-day campaign period, 82 foot patrols were conducted throughout the city and city parks, 35 contacts were made, and 23 warnings were given.



✓ **Morro Bay High School burglary suspect caught**

Beginning October 2021, an investigation was conducted into several incidents where a male suspect was entering the campus of Morro Bay High School afterhours and committing crimes of burglary, criminal trespassing, vandalism, and theft. Morro Bay Police School Resource Officer along with patrol officers conducted several investigative details to attempt to identify and locate the suspect.

On February 7, 2022, at 6:00 am, a school employee located the suspect inside one of the classrooms on campus. The male suspect fled the scene. Morro Bay Police Officers and the School Resource Officer responded to the campus and were able to locate evidence leading to the identification of the suspect. Officers were able to locate and

arrest the suspect that same day. The investigation into the suspects actions is ongoing. Detectives believe the suspect is responsible for over a dozen burglaries in town over the past few months.



Community Policing

✓ **Suicide Prevention through community partnerships**

Chief Cox currently sits as a member of the SLO Suicide Prevention Council. The SLO County Suicide Prevention Program oversees organized County activities to prevent suicide as a consequence of mental illness. Programs include public and targeted information campaigns, suicide prevention hotlines, training, and education. The program also leads the Suicide Prevention Council meetings, hosts annual forums, and works close with community partners to better inform equitable suicide prevention efforts. A suicide prevention seminar will be held at the Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship on March 6th, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

SUICIDE PREVENTION SEMINAR
with County of SLO Behavioral Health

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

A COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH
Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship
Dr. Victor Silva-Palacios

MARCH 6th
5:00 - 7:00 PM

TMHA
Transitions-Mental Health Association
Inspiring hope, growth, recovery,
and wellness in our communities
www.tsha.org

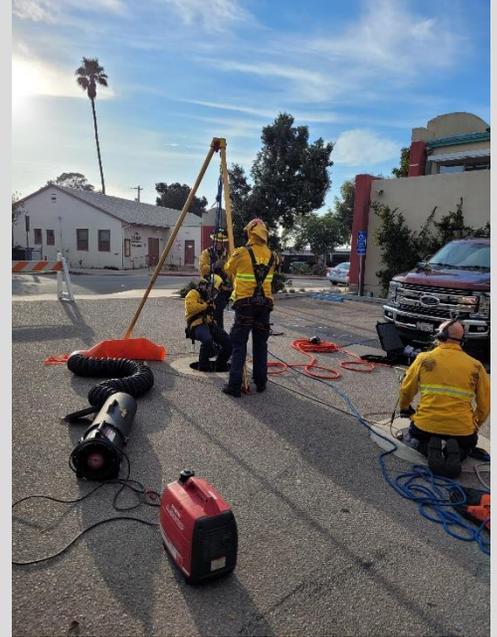
Fire

Fire Chief Update

The Fire Department responded to 152 incidents in the month of January. Of those we responded to

- 1 Fire
- 101 EMS incidents
- 4 Hazardous Condition
- 5 Service Calls/ PSA
- 21 Good Intent/ Cancelled
- 8 False Alarms

We submitted an application for the FEMA SAFER grant program. If awarded, it will allow the department to hire four additional Firefighters for a period of 3 years and all costs will be fully funded by FEMA. We anticipate the awarding of the grant to begin in August.



The department will be completing an evaluation for the Insurance Services Office through Verisk Analytics. Our department is currently rated a 3/3x from the last evaluation in 2015. This rating is part of the information utilized to determine insurance rates for the city.

In January the Firefighters trained on confined space rescue, as well as probationary firefighter training with Casey Robertshaw, the newest member of the department.

Friends of the Morro Bay Fire Department has generously donated the funds and purchased a forcible entry training prop for the department. The prop is being built and will be shipped to the station in about two months.



Fire Marshal Update

For 2021 the Fire Marshal and prevention program completed 436 business inspections, and 315 plan reviews. Hazard fuel reduction burning is continuing at Black Hills and being conducted by State Parks.

Public Works

Utilities Division

Utilities staff performed an annual maintenance inspection on the Chlorine Contact Chamber. The Chlorine Contact Chamber is the last process of wastewater treatment and is used to disinfect the wastewater before ocean discharge. This process is started two days prior to ocean discharge and involves draining other basins to make room for the incoming wastewater allowing staff the time to work in the empty chlorine contact chamber. Staff inspects each link in the chain system, replaces any broken links, and tightens the chain as needed. All confined space procedure were followed during this process. As seen in the photo with our superstar Utility Operator Chad Rocha.



Maintenance & Operations

The Maintenance Division recently hauled in 75 tons of red rock and rented a water truck to tractor grade the Rock parking lot for a much smoother surface for upcoming events and daily use for locals and visitors to enjoy. Maintenance also cleaned out and installed wood chips in several Embarcadero planters to beautify the planters and keep weeds down.



Transit

The SLO County Public Health Officer Order requiring masking in all indoor public places was lifted on February 15, 2022; however, per Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Security Directive SD 1582/84-21-01C, masking is still required when riding public transit. This masking requirement is effective through March 18, 2022, regardless of vaccination status. Morro Bay Transit buses are equipped with face masks so that one may be provided to any rider who does not have a mask for their trip.



Engineering

The Engineering Division welcomes Derek Hanson to his role as Engineering Tech. Derek started with the City on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Derek has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Cal State Poly San Luis Obispo and is certified by the International Code Council as a build plans examiner. Using this education and experience, Derek will assist the City in processing encroachment permits and development reviews for private sector developments. Finally, Derek is an Engineer in Training (EIT) and hopes to take his Professional Engineer exam in 2023. Welcome to the team, Derek!



Water Reclamation Facility

Construction of the WRF continues to progress. Filanc Black & Veatch (FBV) has installed all major wastewater treatment process equipment and is currently constructing the above-ground piping and associated support equipment for the process. FBV and PG&E completed the electrical service connection and the different process areas are systematically being energized, and equipment testing is anticipated to begin within the next 2 months. Site work and revegetation of the site is ongoing, and FBV continues to progress the remaining underground piping, curbs, gutters, and drainage swales and site paving will begin in March.



WRF Offsite Pipelines and Pump Stations

Anvil Builders has multiple crews working around town and is making good progress on catching up after being delayed by heavy rains in December. South Bay Boulevard is currently closed, and the project team is working with Caltrans on the traffic control plan for construction within the Highway 1 right-of-way. The City and Caltrans evaluated traffic control in this area and concluded that the safest approach will be to keep the full closure in place until the pipelines have been connected to the WRF, meaning that the closure will likely remain in place through April. The team will update the City Council and community routinely on progress and when the road will be reopened. The Main Street crew is moving toward the bike path, and Main Street has been mostly reopened. Work on the two pump stations is progressing and is on track. The pipe bridge construction has begun, and the bike path is expected to remain closed until the end of September.



Harbor

Harbor would like to congratulate Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer Stella Nicodemus for her new career move to Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol. Stella worked for Morro Bay for the last two years and quickly honed some great boating skills. She is an ocean Lifeguard, EMT and a great public servant, and will be greatly missed!





A second congratulations to Harbor Patrol Officer Dana Stein and his wife Brenna for the arrival of their new baby boy Merrik. Dana is currently enjoying time off at home to bond with his son, but we are hoping to have him back at work soon!

Harbor Patrol Officer and Lifeguard Supervisor Jeremiah Jacobs has been working hard to refurbish one of the lifeguard towers this winter. It is almost ready to head to the paint booth! We are grateful for the local welder John Bates at Coastal Ironworks who is building a new base for the tower, and to the Friends of the Harbor Department who are funding the project.



The Morro Bay dinner cruise boat *Chablis* is currently hauled-out at the public boat launch ramp to replace the engines to newer, more efficient models. Because there is no boatyard in Morro Bay capable of hauling the *Chablis* and she cannot travel on the open sea due to restrictions on her Coast Guard license, hauling at the launch ramp in the off-season when the ramp is virtually empty is the only option.



Administration (Finance and IT)

Utility Billing Update

Your City of Morro Bay Finance and Utility Billing team has been working with reduced staffing levels since the onset of the pandemic, and we continue to search for ways to deliver water and sewer billing service in both efficient and customer-friendly ways. One key way that we will be processing your payments more efficiently is by having the City's bank (Mechanics Bank) process water and sewer bills that are mailed in, rather than City staff. This is a common practice in modern utility billing. Starting with the March bill, you will notice a new PO box address in the remit to section of your bill. This will be more cost effective for ratepayers than augmenting staffing would be and will eliminate some of the human error that comes with hand-entering 5,000 payments a month. Staff will still be available to provide customer service to utility customers and will still process payments that are dropped off in person at City Hall's drop box.

New Utility Billing Clerk

Nigel Crisp started with the City on February 14, 2022, as the new utility billing clerk. Nigel has decades of customer service experience and looks forward to serving Morro Bay's water and sewer customers. He is also an avid sports fan and outdoor enthusiast in his free time. Please help welcome him next time you call for utilities assistance or stop by City Hall (phone hours remain Mon-Thurs 8:00am-5:00pm and in-person hours are Mon-Thurs 8am-noon).



Budget and Fiscal Forecast

City Council will be reviewing the FY 2021-22 Midyear Budget Report and General Fund Fiscal Forecast at the February 22, 2022, meeting. Major funds are performing well at midyear, with some key revenue sources higher than anticipated, allowing the City to continue to restore pre-pandemic levels of staffing and service if approved by Council. The General Fund forecast is a significant improvement from last year's forecast given the continued recovery from the pandemic. However, costs of providing core services continue to rise faster than revenues are projected to rise. This challenge is partially addressed by voters' passage of the Measure E local sales tax, which provides additional revenues to ensure that the City can continue to provide core services effectively. The FY 2022-23 budget cycle will include decisions regarding how to balance increasing operating expenses with sufficient contributions to capital needs and the City's pension liability.

FY 2021-22 Budget Award

The City of Morro Bay received recognition from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) for Operating Budget Excellence for the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget! This award is in addition to the annual budget award that the City received from the federal Government Finance Officers' Association for the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget, indicating that both the federal and state public finance organizations have deemed Morro Bay's budget to effectively communicate to the public how City funds are spent.

City Clerk

The City of Morro Bay will hold a Special Municipal Election on June 7, 2022, to elect a Council Member to fill the remainder of the term ending December 2024. At the September 14, 2021, meeting, the Council appointed Jennifer Ford to temporarily fill the Council Member seat resulting from the passing of Council Member Robert “Red” Davis; however, Measure “R” passed by Morro Bay residents in 2006 requires a special election be called so that Morro Bay voters can elect the person to fill a Council vacancy for the remainder of the term.

The nomination period for this office began on Monday, February 14, and closes at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11. Please visit the City [website](#) or contact the City Clerk’s office at cityclerk@morrobayca.gov or (805) 772-6568 for more information.

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, celebrations, and the like. Currently we are hosting COVID-19 testing at the Vet’s Memorial Building and anticipate their services will be offered through March, potentially giving way to in-person City Council and Advisory Board meetings.

The MBCC is seeing some interior changes. Our building dedication plaque has been removed and will be relocated to the exterior of the building. This move will allow for an interactive monitor to be placed in the foyer to be used to advertise events, activities, and programs. This monitor is part of the City’s Community Grant money received by the Morro Bay Senior Center, Inc. Our flyer rack was also removed to place the Dowdle puzzle in the lobby of the Community Center.

Events

We are looking forward to Surf Competition Season starting up in February – we will be hosting the SLO CAL Open, which is a qualifying event for the World Surf League. This event showcases how great our surf is and puts our little town on a worldwide stage. This event will be preceded by our long-standing local competition, The Big, Bad, and Ugly.

March is paving the way for all of our events coming back to full swing. We will be hosting the Chamber Installation Gala and Morro Bay Crab Feed Fundraiser for MBHS. We are very excited to have a Spring full of life, building community through our events.



Seniors

Participation in the classes continue to grow as more seniors get comfortable getting out and socializing. We put our health series on hold during February but are slated to offer two presentations in March. One is detailing a new low-cost phone service especially designed for seniors. We have also booked a physical therapist who specializes in working the “core” muscles to help relieve issues that are common in the aging community. We are also celebrating the 94th birthday of Barbara Hart, our ACES instructor who has been teaching the class since 1985.



Classes

We have made a few time changes to our Winter class schedule. Commit to Fit class will now be held Monday and Wednesday at 5:00-6:00PM and Pilates will be Monday and Friday 10:00-11:00AM. (See new schedule)



Winter 2022
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
- **Pilates with Carol**
 - Mon. & Fri. 10:00-11:00AM
- **Tang Soo Do**
 - Mon. & Weds. 6:00-8:30PM
- **Commit Dance Fitness with Sally**
 - Mon. & Weds. 5:00-6:00PM
- **Okinawan Karate**
 - Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-8:30PM
- **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 in full swing ramping up for spring and summer! Lessons have returned and are in high demand. We are looking forward to our spring Pre - Season Junior Lifeguard Pool Program. Lap Swim and Aqua Aerobics schedules will remain the same, which are a big hit and in high demand as a safe workout. We are excited and proud to announce Lifeguard Jazlyn has completed the Lifeguard Instructor Course! Way to go Jazlyn!

Sports

Estero Bay Youth Basketball is now just past the halfway mark of the season. Families have enjoyed the nature of our outdoor program, and nice weather in the winter months on the coast. We have around 30 staff members, which are primarily high school students, who are getting their first job experience as scorekeepers and referees. We are also planning for our end of season tournament on the weekend of March 5th for 4th-8th graders. The play will be a single elimination bracket on Saturday, culminating with championship games on Sunday. We are excited for youth to get a chance to participate in tournament play!



The Estero Bay Girls Softball teams have now been formed, and teams are starting practices in preparation for games beginning on March 12. We totaled just under 60 players for ages 6-13. We also hosted a clinic in partnership with the Morro Bay Girls Varsity softball team. The main attraction of the clinic was Olympic softball player Sierra Hyland. Participants left the clinic having learned about the fundamentals of softball, and gained a newfound excitement for the season.



We are slated to begin Adult Softball Registration. We are starting with coed games on Monday nights and masters (50+) on Tuesdays. Games will begin on March 21. We look forward to bringing back sports and keeping adults active in the community!

Youth Services

Kids' Club

Kids' Club has been busy crafting and enjoying their days. The staff are gearing up for minimum days week in March and Spring Break in April.



Youth Services hosted their first Kids' Night Out since before the Pandemic, and everyone was happy to see them back. We had 21 kids ready to celebrate and have fun while their parent took a night off! We look forward to hosting more of these events coming up.



Morro Bay Community Development Department Activity Update for January 2022



Hampton Inn

News: The HASLO 33- unit affordable housing project at 405 Atascadero Road has picked up their building permit and they are preparing the site for construction.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

Jan 4, 2022: Cancelled

Jan. 18, 2022: PC continued with review of the waterfront design guidelines for public amenities. Action: PC adopted the memo

PC Received a presentation on Accessory Dwelling units as affordable housing in Los Angeles. Action: item was for information and discussion only

Planning Permits

• Use Permits	= 4
• Coastal Dev. Permits	= 3
• Min Use Permit	= 1
• Sign Permit	= 1
• Tract Map	= 1
• Cert of compliance	= 1
• Parking exception	= 2
Total Permits	= 13

Fees collected = \$80,521

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 7

Closed: 7

Open: 2

Building Division Activity

• Permits Issued	= 25
• Valuation	= \$10,909,524.00
• Fees Received	= \$630,990.00
• # of Inspections	= 146
• New Permits	= 39