



**October 14, 2022**

I feel incredibly fortunate as the City Manager to work alongside so many talented professionals in the City of Morro Bay who are dedicated to improving our community and keeping us all safe. I love being a part of this team and helping people grow in their roles and delivering value to Morro Bay. Within that context, one of the hardest parts of this job is when members of our team leave the organization. We have three amazing leaders in our organization who are retiring at the end of the year - Police Chief Jody Cox, Harbor Director Eric Endersby, and Human Resources Analyst Laurie Goforth.

With a combined 70 years of service to the Morro Bay community, these individuals embody the best qualities of service and leadership. I'd like to share brief information about them here:

- Laurie Goforth joined the City in 1994 and served in various Finance roles before pivoting to her passion in Human Resources. She has been a trusted resource and support to the City team throughout her tenure and her institutional knowledge has been instrumental during employee negotiations and staffing transitions.
- Eric Endersby began service with the City in 1993, eventually promoting to Harbor Director in 2012. With his team, Director Endersby helped guide on-going efforts to modernize the waterfront and keep our boating population safe.
- Last but not least, Jody Cox joined the City in 2012, promoting to Police Chief in 2018. Chief Cox was responsible for expanding programs to connect our community with our police officers and integrate new technologies to help fight crime.

We will miss each of them greatly, but appreciate all they've done for our community and the work they put in to build the next generation of leaders in our City.

Sincerely,  
Scott Collins  
City Manager ([scollins@morrobayca.gov](mailto:scollins@morrobayca.gov))

## Employee Spotlight

# CITY OF MORRO BAY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Bonnie Johnson, Support Services Manager**

**Department:** Police

**Years Employed at City:** 22 years

**Ideal Place:** Any place with family and friends.

**Best Part of Job:** The people I work with and that there is never a dull moment.

**Describe Your Work:** I assist the Police Chief and Commander with a variety of duties (correspondence, statistical reports, budget, software, etc.), while managing records, preparing audits, and supervising property and evidence.

**Fun Fact:** Don't let the cute shoes fool you. I have hiked areas of the Continental Divide, Mt. Whitney, Half Dome, and many other places all over the country and I mountain bike and paddleboard.

## COVID-19 Update

The [COVID-19 testing sites](#) in San Luis Obispo and Grover Beach, and Paso Robles remain open Monday – 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. The Grover Beach test site is available those same hours Monday – Thursday (closed on Fridays). The Paso Robles testing site has been moved to the Paso Robles Train Station located at 800 Pine Street.

The Public Health Department is hosting pop-up clinics across the county during the month of October to protect residents from influenza and COVID-19. The clinics will provide flu shots and the new, updated COVID-19 booster shots (sometimes called “Omicron boosters”) at no cost to residents. Click [here](#) for upcoming dates and locations or visit [vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org) or [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov).

Remember to [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](#). Thank you for doing your part to stay safe and healthy!

## Police

### **Senior Officer Jason Ta Honored by San Luis Obispo Masons**

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, the King David's Masonic Lodge of San Luis Obispo held their Annual Law enforcement Appreciation Dinner recognizing members of the San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement community. Morro Bay Police Department was proud to have Senior Officer Jason Ta recognized as the MBPD Officer of the Year.

Senior Officer Ta joined MBPD in 2020 and has performed at an exceptionally high level. He led the department in total arrests, citations, and reports throughout 2021 and leading into 2022. In addition to his patrol duties, Senior Officer Ta serves as a Field Training officer, an Explorer Advisor, and is a member of the San Luis Obispo Regional Swat Team.

Senior Officer Ta also recently received the MADD DUI Award, being recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for his relentless pursuit to keep our community and streets safe from impaired drivers. Officer Ta was selected as Officer of the Year by his peers who spoke of his willingness to support all team members, his positive and uplifting demeanor, and his dedicated work ethic.

Congratulations Senior Officer Ta!



### **Morro Bay Police Attend Peace Day Event**

“Yes We Can Peacebuilders” celebrated the United Nations International Peace Day on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Morro Bay United Methodist Church. Chief Jody Cox and Commander Amy Watkins attended to event where Mayor Headding read the City’s Peace Proclamation. Morro Bay is the only city on the Central Coast to have a Proclamation designating September 21<sup>st</sup> each year as a Day of Peace and the month of September as Peace and Non-Violence Month in place.



### **San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Family Day at Madonna Inn**

Morro Bay Police Officers traveled to San Luis Obispo to participate in Sheriff’s Family Day. The event is held annually on a Saturday in September and is a fun community event hosted by the San Luis Obispo Sheriff’s Advisory Foundation.



### **Morro Bay Police Citizen Academy**

This month, the Morro Bay Police Department began our Citizen Academy. Eight citizen participants listened to presentations from Chief Cox and several other police department officers and professional staff. The academy continues through October with the final session on October 27<sup>th</sup>. We have had a great time so far and look forward to seeing more community members join us next year.



## **Fire**

### **Fire Chief Update**

The Fire Department responded to 162 incidents from September 1st through September 30th. Of those we responded to

- 3 Fires
- 0 Explosion/overpressure/ Overheat (no fire)
- 124 EMS incidents
- 4 Hazardous Conditions
- 6 Service Calls/ PSA
- 11 Good Intent/ Cancelled
- 13 False Alarms
- 1 Special Incident/Other



### **Mutual Aid**

The Fire Department has been participating in the Mutual Aid Response to fires in California. Engineer Hoese was assigned as a Fireline Paramedic to the SRF Complex in Northern California, Engineer Kelley was assigned to the Fairview Fire in Southern California, Engineer Simpson was assigned to the Mill Fire and then the Mosquito Fire, both in Northern California. OES 388 was assigned to the Fairview incident in Southern California staffed by Captain Subler, Engineer

Schechter, and Firefighters Levine and Russell. Division Chief Vierra was part of the incident Management Team on the Barnes Incident near the Oregon border.

### Training

Morro Bay hosted the SLO County Regional HAZ Mat Team drill at the new WRF facility on September 21<sup>st</sup>. This was an opportunity for the team to become familiar with the facility and offer feedback on the storage and handling of hazardous materials at the facility. The team completed a tour of the facility, as well as conducted a training evolution for a simulated hazardous materials release. This drill was coordinated by HAZ Mat team member and Morro Bay Fire Engineer Sam Watson. Department members also completed training on technical rescue, new engineer training, and Paramedic recertification skills.



### Incidents

Morro Bay Fire with assistance from CAL FIRE successfully contained a residential structure fire on Laurel Ave in late September. The fire was contained to the garage, with some smoke damage to the interior of the residence. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## Events

The Morro Bay Fire Department hosted a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the fire station. The event was well attended by members of the public and city staff.



## Harbor

### Harbor Patrol statistics for September 2022:

- 100 bay patrols
- 183 land patrols
- 13 emergency responses
- 99 calls for service
- 28 assists of other agencies
- 45 enforcement contacts
- 27 Trainings
- 160 maintenance actions
- 2 weather warnings, and no hazardous bar warnings

### Noteworthy Harbor Patrol responses:

9/3/22

Patrol overheard dispatch traffic for a climber on the Rock. Lifeguards on the beach radioed they saw the single climber at the top heading in a westerly direction over the crown and out of sight, so Patrol got underway to the ocean side. Patrol spotted the single climber about 1/3 of the way down, heading south toward cliffy peregrine nesting area. With the patrol boat's loud hailer, the

climber was directed to stop and head back to the top, which they did and were met by Morro Bay Fire and State Park Rangers and escorted down.

A pontoon boat with five people aboard from Paso Robles was dead in the water near Marina Square and towed to the launch ramp by Harbor Patrol.

While escorting some visiting racing sailboats out to the harbor entrance, a father/daughter kayaking team were found capsized just outside the harbor clinging to their swamped craft. They were taken aboard and transported unharmed back to their starting point at Coleman Beach.

9/4/22

Patrol made contact with two SCUBA divers in the channel off of the North T-Pier having technical issues and getting swept south by the tide. They were both taken aboard and transported to Coleman Beach where they had started.

9/9/22

Received a radio call from a local boater reporting a small powerboat near his slip was sunk in its slip near the Harbor Hut. Patrol and Coast Guard responded to discover the vessel HIDEOUT was half under water and being held up by dock lines on her starboard side. The owner was notified, and with the Coast Guard and Patrol working together, the boat was righted enough to pump the water out and get back afloat.



9/16/22

Patrol responded to a phone report of a knee injury on the whale watching vessel FREEDOM, and initiated a medical aid response from Morro Bay Fire. The 70 year-old female was assisted off the boat and onto an ambulance gurney for transport to the hospital.

9/24/22

Harbor Patrol emergency response to the harbor entrance for a report of an overturned kayak fisherman. On scene near the channel marker #4, the boater was brought aboard and his craft dewatered. He returned to fishing.

### **Harbor Director Retirement**

After nearly 30 years with the department, Harbor Director Endersby recently announced his retirement effective the end of the year. A link to the City's news flash is here:

<https://www.morrobayca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2746>

Concurrent with the planning for that, earlier this year the City hired the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness (TCFOE) to help chart a course to put the Harbor Department back on its organizational feet since it has been operating with two fewer personnel than it historically had back in 2010, but with an increased workload. TCFOE has been working with department staff and the City Manager on recommended actions and next steps, which should culminate later this year with a proposed new department organizational structure and leadership concurrent with Endersby's retirement.

### **DBW Basic Coastal Operator Course**

Morro Bay Harbor Department hosted the Division of Boating & Waterway's in a multi-agency forum which focused on development of curriculum for a 40-hour Basic Coastal Boat Operator course. This course will be offered to all career-based Boating Safety Officers and will be taught in Ventura Harbor in 2023. Morro Bay Harbor Patrol Officers will help instruct the course. Currently Morro Bay Harbor Patrol Officers obtain their job training with DBW and the experience gained with a Coast Guard Captain's License either on the job or with previous maritime boat work.

**California Coastal CleanUp Day (9/17/22)**

Harbor Department staff spear-headed a beach cleanup at the “Oyster Beach” area adjacent to Bayshore Bluffs Park in conjunction with SLO County Creeks to Coast Cleanup Day. A full 20-yard roll-off dumpster was filled with various debris, deteriorated plastic tarps, unidentified and falling-apart craft of various sorts, broken and rotting storage racks, and even an ancient driveline of a long-buried vehicle from some bygone era.



Because this public beach/bluff area has been taken advantage of and overrun with unused, cast-off, derelict and forgotten craft of all sorts, this cleanup was the beginning of a larger effort to manage the area by way of a paid permit program. In addition, the excessive storage up onto the bluff face is causing erosion issues.

In the coming months the truly abandoned and forgotten craft will be removed and the area further cleaned, then a lottery system likely utilized to determine what boats can remain because space is limited and the whole area can't be taken over by stored craft. Adjacent moored boats will get priority for storage of their tenders, and the craft that are allowed

to remain will have to be positively identified, confined to a pre-determined area and subject to a \$100/year paid permit program. Stay tuned to future Harbor Advisory Board agendas for further Board consideration of the policies and procedures proposed for this new program.

## Public Works

### Utilities Division

Seeding of the new Water Resources Center (WRC) began on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> as part of the initial start up of the plant. This involved several deliveries of seed sludge from Paso Robles. This seed sludge was put into a basin at the WRC and is being “fed” by trucking over raw sewer from the wastewater treatment plant. Tests were performed on the seed sludge’s health while a few remaining items were being completed by the conveyance system. On October 11<sup>th</sup> the decision



was made to pull plugs at 4:00 a.m. in the wastewater system and allow flow to the WRC. The wastewater flowed to the WRC most of the day and testing continued, which revealed the WRC biological system was not functioning optimally. As a result, the City, in collaboration with FBV, who still has care and custody of the new plant, has temporarily reverted to the old wastewater treatment plant to allow for adjustments at the WRC and make sure the biological process is healthy and running smoothly. Staff plans to direct all wastewater back to the new WRC within the next few days once this issue is resolved, and will then continue to monitor progress of the plant during start up phase. The new plant is expected to be in full and permanent operation after all testing is complete sometime in January 2023, ahead of the State’s Time Schedule Order.

### Maintenance Division

The Maintenance Division recently restriped Morro Bay Boulevard at the roundabout. The City’s contractor used a thermoplastic plastic, which is heated and melted onto the street. This material has a far longer lifespan than traditional paint. The restriping not only improves the safety of the roundabout, but also improves the aesthetics of this area.



## Engineering Division

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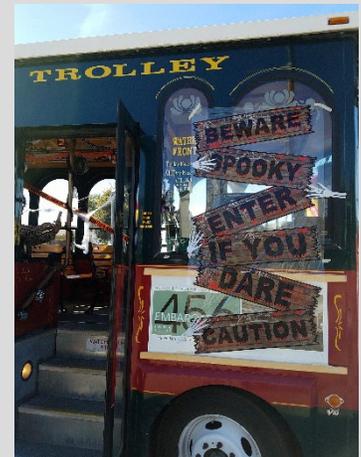
Matt Bishop, who was formerly a Maintenance Supervisor in Consolidated Maintenance, is training as the City's first Public Works Inspector. The Engineering Division saw the need to bolster up the Public Works Department's inspection efforts when it comes to improvements made in the public right-of-way. Public improvements include public facilities (sewer, water, stormwater, sidewalks, curb and gutter, streets, etc.) that are being improved through City-funded capital projects and development funded site improvement such as new homes, businesses, or subdivisions. Public Works inspection has been inspected by limited engineering office staff in the past, but with the increased number of projects in the City (both development and capital), the Division saw a need for more consistent field presence to inspect daily work covered by encroachment permits. Matt is taking in every opportunity to provide quality service to the city through detailed inspection of facilities to ensure they are installed according to plans and city specifications and to make sure that work in the right of way is performed by licensed and insured contractors with encroachment permits. Thanks Matt!



## Administration

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*Haunted Trolley:* The Haunted Trolley will be back for the 8th Annual Morro Bay Trick-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 29, from 2-5pm. on Main Street and Morro Bay Boulevard. Kids (and kids at heart) will be able to climb aboard, check out the Halloween decorations, show off their costumes, and get a little treat (while the candy bowl is full). Thanks to the City of Morro Bay Recreation Services, Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, and 97.3 The Rock for putting this event together. Morro Bay Trolley and its crew loves being able to participate in this fun event. See you on the 29th!



## Administration (Finance and IT)

### Preliminary Fiscal Year-End Position

While year-end close and audit preparation are currently underway and year-end numbers are not yet final, preliminary numbers indicate a positive end to Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). The City's primary General Fund revenue sources—property tax, transient occupancy tax, and sales tax—were all up from the prior year, and the General Fund had budget savings on the expenditure side, resulting in an operating surplus. Measure E local sales tax revenues came in higher than budgeted, and expenditures lower than budgeted, meaning more funds may be available for capital improvements or other priorities next year. Harbor lease revenues also increased from prior year and harbor expenditures came in under budget, also resulting in an operating surplus. Water and Sewer ratepayer revenues were down slightly from the prior year, likely reflecting the fact that rates did not increase in FY 21-22 and conservation efforts were underway during the drought. Water and Sewer funds had expenditure budget savings and still ended the year with operating surplus as planned, to be utilized for capital improvements. This positive end to FY 21-22 puts the City in a good position to weather the macroeconomic uncertainty that is on the horizon. Industry experts are predicting a dramatic cooling of sales tax revenue growth in the next six to twelve months statewide, regionally, and locally; thus, staff will be monitoring that closely given the importance of sales tax revenues in supporting critical City services.

### Business Tax Certificates

The City of Morro Bay requires all organizations operating within the City limits to have a current business tax certificate (commonly referred to as a business license). Business Tax Certificate rates changed as of July 1, 2022. Applications for new business licenses and renewals of current business licenses can be processed online at [morrobay.hdlgov.com](https://www.morrobay.hdlgov.com), by email at [MorroBay@HdLGov.com](mailto:MorroBay@HdLGov.com), or by U.S. mail (City of Morro Bay Business Support Center; 8839 N. Cedar Ave #212; Fresno, CA 93720). For Customer Support, call (805) 339-2649. Updated rates and more information can be found at <https://www.morro-bay.ca.us/82/Business-Licenses>.

#### Key Links:

- Adopted Budget for FY 2022-23: <https://www.morro-bay.ca.us/827/Budget>
- Fee Schedule for FY 2022-23: <https://www.morro-bay.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/Index/96>

## City Clerk



### November 2022 General Election

All California active registered voters will receive a vote-by-mail ballot for the November 8<sup>th</sup> Election. Ballots will begin being mailed out the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. In order for a vote-by-mail ballot to be counted it must be postmarked before or on Election day **and** received by the Clerk-Recorder's office no later than 7 days after election day; or returned by the voter personally to any official ballot drop box, polling place, or vote

center in the state by 8:00 pm on Election Day; or returned to the County Clerk-Recorder's office by 8:00pm on Election Day.

To verify your voter status, visit [Voter Status Lookup](#). New voters can register to vote [online](#) until October 24<sup>th</sup>. You may also [subscribe](#) to receive automated alerts regarding the status of your ballot.

### **The Harbor Infrastructure Act Citizens Initiative**

The Harbor Infrastructure Act Citizens Initiative, Measure B-22, will also be on the November ballot for consideration by Morro Bay registered voters. Information regarding this ballot measure, including the City Attorney's Impartial Analysis, and arguments for and against the measure can be found [here](#).

## Recreation

### Administration

#### **Facilities**

Morro Bay Community Center and Parks are open and bustling with classes, activities, and other reservations such as birthday parties, celebrations, and the like. Last week, the Rock radio station hosted their "Rockstock" fundraiser at the Morro Bay Community Center and next week the Community Foundation of Estero Bay will be hosting their annual "Morro Bay Sings" Fundraiser at the Morro Bay Community Center.



## Events

We are gearing up for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Morro Bay Trick or Treat event on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00PM. This year we will have participating businesses passing out candy including the “Old Circle Inn Graveyard” that will be playing Halloween classics with some popcorn, candy, and a complimentary tasting of Gaia's Gardens Spooky Elixir of October. Our street festival area will have a Haunted House presented by the Morro Bay Police Department and many other local organizations with fun activities for everyone.



## Seniors

While all of our classes and activities are in full swing and well attended, the real buzz in the senior community is the Tunes at Tideland's concert series (the last concert was held on Thursday, 10/13). Not knowing what to expect in our new venture we were very pleasantly surprised at the number of participants that showed up and brought their chairs, friends and dancing shoes! The response was so great that we decided not to advertise the second concert as many of the attendees told us they were inviting their friends and neighbors. Sure enough, the second week was even busier than the first with estimates at nearly 300 in attendance. The only complaint we received from the group was the dance area was too small!! A great couple of evenings for our senior population.



## Classes

We have new times for Zumba Class with Carmen. Zumba class is now Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 6PM.



## Aquatics

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center wrapped up its summer programming and has splashed into Fall programming! We are excited to be able to provide a positive safe environment to learn and improve swim skills, get exercise, work on rehabilitation, and participate in fun aquatic games and activities. This fall the aquatic staff is providing group swim lessons on Sundays to



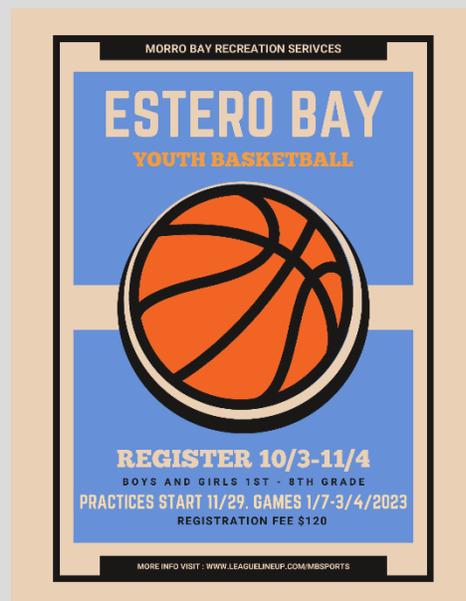
participants. Lap Swim is offered Monday through Friday and Sundays. Aquatic staff is also here for your Triathlon or Iron Man needs why just survive your swim, when your swim can thrive! Master's swim is a great place to get coach lead work outs as well as stroke advice from our knowledgeable coaches. If you need some one-on-one time, we also offer private adult lessons. We are looking forward to the return of the Floating Pumpkin patch, October 30<sup>th</sup>! Registration open now.

## Sports

The sports division partnered with Morro Bay High School Athletics to host a mini game on the field during halftime of Pirates football game. Coach Liana Vitale's Ravens squared off against Coach Jim Pond's Lions. The crowd went wild for multiple scores, and our flag football program was showcased to the community at the game.



Basketball registration for 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders opened Monday 10/3 and goes through November 4. This will be the first year the league is open to first graders! Games will start in January and the season will go until March. In contrast with last season, we will be returning to games indoors. We look forward to getting the ball rolling with Estero Bay Youth Basketball!

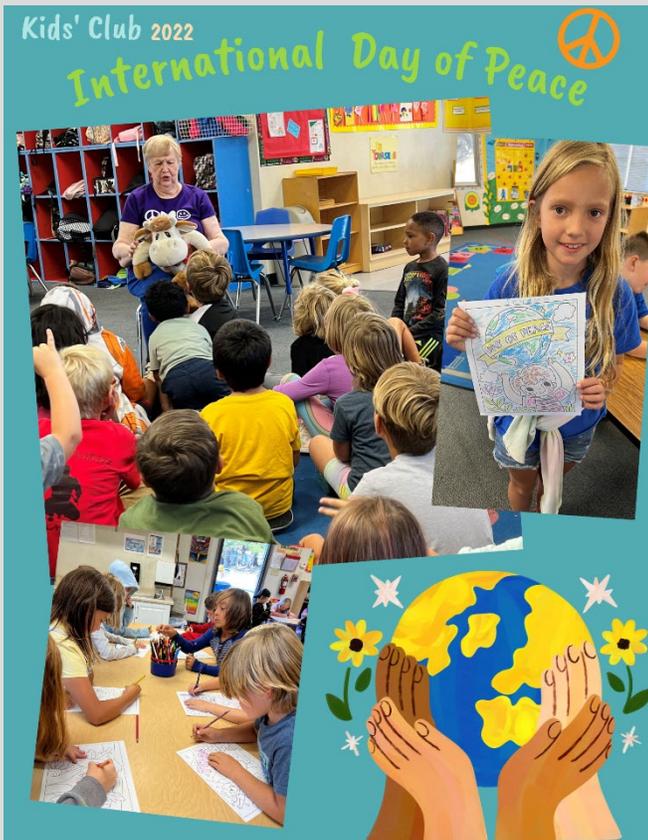


## Youth Services

### **Kids' Club**

Kids' Club celebrated International Peace Day on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We had special guest Ruth Ann Angus and Moobert the Cow from "Yes, we can Peacebuilders". She and Moobert presented a peace and nonviolent educational talk and shared different ways to celebrate International Day of Peace with the children.

Kids' Club runs an incentive program throughout the school year, where the entire group works together to fill a sticker chart and earn a group party. They earned their first incentive party on September 30<sup>th</sup> and celebrated with a Popsicles at the Park party.



## Community Development



### News:

1. Zoning Code Update: The City's Planning Commission held its second and third adoption hearings on the draft Zoning Code update and forwarded a recommendation for approval to City Council on September 20, 2022. The City Council is scheduled to review the draft zoning code on October 25, 2022, at their regularly schedule council meeting held at the Morro Bay Veteran's Memorial Building located at 209 Surf Street.

2. The City held its first community workshop for development of a master plan at the Morro Bay Power Plant site on September 14, 2022. Eighty community members attended the event and provided input on the future of the power plant site. Master plan activities will continue in the form of a community survey and second workshop in the next couple of months.

### Planning Division Activity

#### Planning Commission:

September 6, 2022: 2900 Alder; a continued review of a new 6-room hotel.  
Action: Approved

Zoning Code update: Planning Commission continued to review the draft zoning code. Action: continued to the next PC meeting.

September 20, 2022: Planning Commission continued their review of the adoption draft of the zoning code update. Action: Recommended approval to City Council

### Planning Permits

• Coastal Dev. Permit	= 2
• Sign Permit	= 1
• Parcel Map	= 1
<b>Total Permits</b>	<b>= 4</b>

**Fees collected** = \$11,318

### Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases:	15
Open:	7
Closed:	8
In Process:	17

### Building Division Activity

• Permits Issued	= 42
• Valuation	= \$498,125
• Fees Received	= \$29,821
• # of Inspections	= 314
• New Permits	= 12