



City Manager's Update

January 27, 2023

The City of Morro Bay, and most of the State of California, have been deluged by large atmospheric rivers throughout December into early January. On January 9th, with creek and drainage systems already maxed out, the community experienced a 100-year storm event, which led to significant flooding in several parts of Morro Bay. Fire, Police, and Maintenance and Utility crews sprang into action to rescue residents from flooding and maintain and clear hazards throughout the community. In the aftermath of the storm, many homes and businesses were damaged, and the City experienced approximately \$20 million in infrastructure damage and storm clean-up costs. City staff are assessing how we can learn from the storm and work with our county partners to set up systems to reduce flooding impacts from future big storm events.

While this event was horrific, the other side of the story is how the community came together to help. We had volunteers out the next day assisting impacted community members, Council members and the Mayor staffing the two evacuation centers, and county, state and federal representatives asking how they could help the community recover from the devastation. That outpouring of support gets to the heart of what makes Morro Bay special.

The City has set up a web page dedicated to informing impacted residents and businesses on how they access aid and assistance. Please visit the following web page if you or anyone you know were impacted by the storm: <https://www.morrobayca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2786>

Thank you for taking time to review the City Manager Update.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager – scollins@morrobayca.gov

Employee Spotlight

CITY OF MORRO BAY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Christina Azevedo, Administrative Technician

Department: Community Development

Years Employed at City: 4 months

My Ideal Place: Anywhere with my family

Best Part of Job: My co-workers

Describe Your Work: I perform and coordinate clerical activities within the Community Development Department as well as administrative duties.

Fun Fact: I have three daughters and 2 grandchildren.

COVID-19

The Federal government has restarted their program for free COVID-19 tests by mail. Visit <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to sign up and receive four free COVID tests per household via U.S. Mail.

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

Chief Cox Leaves a Legacy for the Community and Morro Bay Police Department

Chief Cox retired on December 31st after a 35-year career in law enforcement. Chief Cox served the Morro Bay community for 10 years as a sergeant, commander, and as Chief of Police. Chief Cox gave everything he had to the profession and leaves a legacy of servant leadership, the understanding that policing a community only works when the community is involved, and representing yourself and the agency well at all times. Thank you, Chief Cox, for your leadership, passion, and dedication to Morro Bay and the profession.



Morro Bay Police Increase DUI Patrols on New Year's Eve

On December 31st, the Morro Bay Police Department staffed additional patrol officers during New Year's Eve to locate and arrest DUI drivers. During the hours of 5:00 pm and 1:00 am, 24 traffic stops were conducted, and five citations were issued. The additional staffing is funded by the California ABC Grant in conjunction with the California Office of Traffic Safety. Additional DUI saturation patrols will take place during future holidays were drinking increases.



Police Department Approved to Install Automated License Plate Readers

On January 10, 2023, the police department presented to City Council the recommendation to approve the purchase of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) camera system. The ALPR

system is a series of cameras that capture license plates of vehicles entering and exiting the city. Supporting software and a database linked to the camera provides the capability to recognize the license plate as well as the make, model, and color of the vehicle. Once the license plate is captured, the system instantly compares the plate number to a California Department of Justice database containing wanted criminals or persons of interest with associated vehicle license number. The Council heard about the many areas these cameras will help the community including, catalytic converter thefts, violent crime investigations, vehicle hit and runs, burglaries, vehicle thefts, Amber alerts, officer safety alerts, and missing persons. Council asked about privacy concerns, and Department staff made it clear the cameras are only used to help criminal matters. City Council approved the purchase questions and hearing from the community during public comment. The Department is looking forward to the installation of the cameras scheduled to be completed before the busy summer months.

Morro Bay Police Volunteers Step Up to Keep the Community Safe During Recent Rains

During Monday's torrential rain, the Morro Bay Police Department Volunteer Unit responded to work while many escaped the storm. The department's volunteers responded to calls from department staff to assist with traffic control, road closures, evacuations, manning evacuation centers and doing anything that needed to be done. Our volunteer group continued to answer the call for service to the community over a seven-day period, 24 hours a day, to help with additional storms and community cleanup. Thank you to our dedicated MBPD Volunteers.



Fire

Fire Chief Update

For 2022 The Fire Department responded to 2,021 incidents from January 1st through December 31st. This is an increase of 161 incidents or an 8.6% increase in call volume. Of those incidents we responded to:

- 34 Fires
- 2 Explosion/overpressure/ Overheat (no fire)
- 1,376 EMS incidents
- 65 Hazardous Condition
- 194 Service Calls/ PSA
- 215 Good Intent/ Cancelled
- 133 False Alarms
- 2 Special Incident/Other

Fire Marshall Update

The Fire Marshal's office is responsible for coordinating business inspections, weed abatement inspections, fire plan reviews and building inspections. This office also coordinated fire prevention education programs at Del Mar Elementary School for Fire Prevention Week, and the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Relay. For 2022 the Fire Marshal conducted:

- 3,234 Weed Abatement Inspections
- 344 Business Inspections
- 212 Fire Plan Reviews
- 4 Fire Code Enforcement Cases

Training

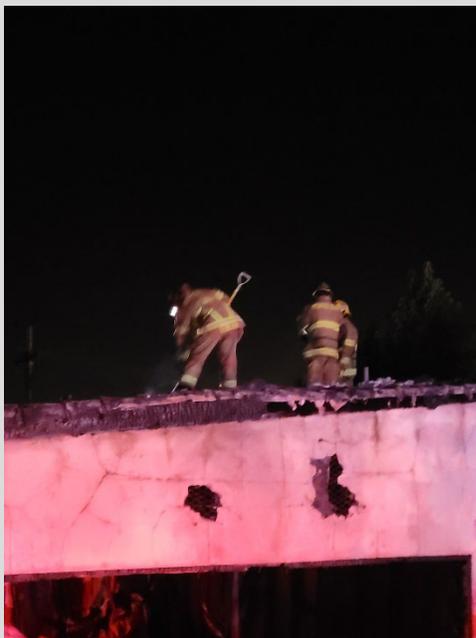
The Fire Department personnel were heavily involved in training over the last year. Fire personnel logged an average of 230 per year in on duty training for a combined total of 3,224 hours of on shift training. There were multiple members that completed various outside training courses such as Fire Inspector, Rope Rescue Technician,



Driver Operator, Paramedic training, and Company Officer Development. This outside training totaled 2,283 hours of training plus more than 1,090 hours of training for the Paramedic program at Cuesta College.

Accomplishments

Probationary Firefighter Casey Robertshaw joined the Morro Bay Fire Department and has passed his Acting Engineer testing. Probationary Firefighter Kevin Hames completed the Cuesta College Paramedic program and is awaiting his National Registry testing. Engineer Sam Watson was recognized as the Firefighter of the Year by King David's Masonic lodge.



Harbor

Harbor Department operations are largely dictated by the weather. This last month has tested our ability to successfully do our job in public safety and maintain a harbor of safe refuge with minimal staffing. We experienced the largest waves in the last 20 years to hit our coast on January 5th, which coincided with a 7-foot tidal change. The severity of this hazardous condition prompted the decision to close the road to Morro Rock. It was unknown how much damage the swell would do to the beach revetment or if the swell would be on target for the forecasted height or time. We were able to document change in the revetment and beach structure and will be further assessing needs for repair. We appreciate the understanding and patience from the public with us for our decision to close the road.



Nightfall on that same day brought dangerous southerly winds with gusts in the harbor up to 50 knots. These winds caused preliminary structural failure of several City boat slips from the pressure of the boats in the wind chop.

Only days later, on January 9, we had the storm of the century hit which affected the entire City and State of California. Harbor Patrol Officers worked diligently before and after the storm to prepare and clean up. The combination of the winds and rain ripped through the harbor and beach causing damage. A few before and after pictures are included from the damage and cleanup efforts.

Many thanks to all the citizens who walked the beach to help clean up debris. Our dumpsters are filling!

Beyond the storm the Morro Bay Harbor Department held an elaborate 2-day testing procedure for a new Harbor Patrol Officer on January 19 and 20. This fulltime position has been vacant since 2010 and was finally approved to be filled. Twelve candidates were invited to take a 70-question written test, 500-yard swim, basic boating practical, multiple interviews and a rescue boating practical. Results of this testing will be released soon!



Public Works

Utilities Division



The old wastewater treatment plant experienced severe flooding with water levels reaching around 3 feet on the site. Staff responded by installing aluminum flood gates on multiple buildings and electrical control rooms; these gates were designed to be used during a tsunami response. The gates were able to reduce the amount of water coming into the buildings, though heavy mud, silt, and debris made it into most areas. Had this facility still been in operation during the flooding, the result would have been imminent catastrophic failure of the wastewater system, and the old plant

would have not been able to continue to process incoming wastewater.

Engineering Division

Flooding and debris flows occurred around the City because of the recent heavy storms. The storms have also revealed some deficiencies in existing stormwater conveyance systems. One project that is in process for repair is the replacement of a failed corrugated metal pipe (CMP) storm drain at a property near Elena and Juniper Streets. The project was recently awarded by City Council and will be going out for construction in early February at a total cost of just under \$500,000. Several other corrugated metal pipe related failures have been observed around the City which could potentially result in costly repairs. The Public Works Department will be preparing plans for a city-wide assessment of existing stormwater conduits so that condition can be assessed with cameras and specialized equipment and identified prior to failures developing. The CMPs will continue to be a liability, and that needs to be addressed. There are technologies for lining the inside of these pipes when caught early enough so that costly failures can be minimized in the future. Public Works will bring this stormwater assets assessment forward as the



new budget year approaches, and projects for repairing and replacing these assets will be of high priority especially if “Atmospheric Rivers” are the new normal.

Admin and Programs Division

While Public Works Engineering, Maintenance, and Utilities crews were out in the field in full storm response and recovery mode, Administration staff coordinated with Public Works Division Managers gathering information and photographs to begin preparing a list of storm damages to City infrastructure. This information was used to prepare documentation of storm damage and emergency relief damage estimates to submit to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Caltrans listing damage that occurred to City infrastructure, including cost estimates for cleanup and repairs needed to restore that infrastructure and reopen roads closed due to flooding, downed trees, and debris blocking driving lanes. This work contributed to the County of San Luis Obispo being included in FEMA’s major disaster declaration for California.

Maintenance Division



With the recent storms, high winds and flooding, Maintenance staff have been busy providing disaster response by cleaning up downed trees and clearing out trees out from under the Main St. bridge, storm drain cleaning, debris cleanup, street repair and assessing other damage throughout the city. The maintenance crews have also been involved with disaster recovery, particularly the cleaning of Main Street and Atascadero Road.

Water Resources Center

The Water Resources Center (WRF Plant) handled the increased influent flow during the rain event with minimal issues. The flow coming into the plant was approximately 6 million gallons per day (MGD) for several hours with peaks of around 7 MGD. Outfall pumps were struggling to meet their designed flow of 8 MGD. Operations staff were able to watch and adjust incoming flows from the City's new lift stations to keep the stormwater flowing through the facility. Staff and the Design-Build team, who still have care and custody of the plant, are currently fine tuning and optimizing of the outfall pump skid with data collected during the peak flows. The plant’s stormwater SAFE system was used for the first time during the event, and the onsite operators were able to adjust the system as needed to keep it running and processing the stormwater.



Administration

Facilities

Morro Bay Community Center and Parks are open and ready for reservations! Our parks and facilities continue to be bustling with classes, activities, and other reservations such as birthday parties, celebrations, and special events. We are looking forward to Surf Competition Season in February.

Community Classes

Winter classes will be back running on Tuesday January 17th. We are excited to be offering a NEW Kids' Tang Soo Do Karate class held on Mondays from 5:00-5:45PM for children 5-9 years old. The class is taught by Master Dan Poorman a 7th degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do with over 39 years of experience.

Winter 2022/23
Morro Bay Recreation Services
COMMUNITY CLASSES

Creating Community Between People, Parks, and Programs.

Available classes

- Zumba with Carmen
 - 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
 - Kids Class: Mon. 5:00-5:45PM
 - Mon. & Weds. 6:00-7:15PM
- Commit Dance Fitness with Sally
 - Mon. & Weds. 5:00-6:00PM
- Open Floor with Shelley Kilcoyne
 - Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM
- 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**

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

Tang Soo Do Kids Class

5-9 Yrs Old

Traditional Korean Martial Art

Instructor: Master Dan Poorman
7th Degree Black Belt in Tang Soo Do
Over 39 Years of Experience

**This class will be a gymnastics-style karate class.
Students will be taught basic skills in a fun environment.**

- Improve self-discipline, focus, and confidence
- Improve endurance, coordination, and balance
 - Learn to defend yourself
- Reinforce positive qualities like courage, humility and inner peacefulness

**Monday
5:00 - 5:45PM**
@ the Morro Bay Community Center
\$55 a Month
Scholarships Available
Morro Bay Residents receive a \$5 Discount

Prior to Registration Contact Instructor Dan Poorman (805)610-2008 solidrockmartialarts@gmail.com

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

Aquatics

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center Winter programming is in full swing. We are excited to be able to provide a positive safe environment to learn and improve swim skills, get exercise, and work on rehabilitation. This winter the aquatic staff is providing private and semiprivate swim lessons on Sundays to participants. Lap Swim is offered Monday through Friday and Sundays. Sunday programming is now at a new time 10am -2:30pm. Aquatic staff can also help you prepare for your upcoming Triathlon or Iron Man events – 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 also ramping up for our Junior Guard Boot Camp (pool program) season. Registration set to open at the beginning of February for the bootcamp program only! Class begins in March.



Sports

The Estero Bay Youth Basketball League is now fully in season as we approach the third week of games. Games started January 7th, 2023 for youth from 1st through 8th grade. Families are glad to be back inside the gyms for games as well as practices after a fully outdoors season last year. We are utilizing Del Mar Elementary, Baywood Elementary, and Los Osos Middle School for games. We have over 275 players playing in our league from Morro Bay and the surrounding area.

OPENING DAY



ESTERO BAY YOUTH BASKETBALL 22-23

**2023
Estero
Bay**

GIRLS SOFTBALL

REGISTRATION
12/16/2022 – 1/31/2023
* \$15 LATE FEE AFTER 1/31 *

Girls: Ages 4-16
\$105 FOR 6U : 4-6YRS
\$140 FOR 8U - 16U : 7-16YRS



CONTACT FOR MORE INFO - KZINK@MORROBAYCA.GOV

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

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

Girls Softball signups are now underway. We are offering girls ages 4-14 the chance to play in our Estero Bay Girls Softball League. Signups will go through the end of this month, with opening day happening right after our basketball season ends on March 11th.

Youth Services

Kids' Club

Holiday Hangouts – Winter Break 2022 was held over 3 weeks with an average of 25 kids a day. Unfortunately, the rain was also out for Winter Break, so we were “rained” in much of camp. The staff quickly adjusted scheduled activities and we all managed to stay dry and have fun. The kids rang in the new year with a Happy Noon Year Party and enjoyed many cups of hot cocoa.



Youth Services hosted our December Kids' Night Out on Friday December 9th. We will host our next Kids' Night Out in February.

Community Development



News:

1. Work on the Hampton Inn at 295 Atascadero Rd. continues with both exterior and interior finish work being well underway.

2. As of January 3, 2023, public counter hours have expanded from 8am to 12pm to include the hours of 8am to 4pm Monday through Thursday.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

December 6, 2022: Cancelled

December 20, 2022: 3009 Beachcomber; Demolition of an existing home and construction of a new 3,335 square foot home. Action: continued to January 17, 2023.

Planning Permits

- Coastal Dev. Permit = 5
- Parking Exception = 1
- Use Permits = 2
- Min/Maj Mods = 1

Total Permits = 9

Fees collected = \$25,768

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 19
Open: 4
Closed: 15
In Process: 19

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 23
- Valuation = \$528,961
- Fees Received = \$21,788
- # of Inspections = 204
- New Permits = 21