



City Manager's Update

February 22, 2023

This will be my last City Manager's Update to the community, as I will be departing the City of Morro Bay for the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo in early March. I want to thank the community, City Councilmembers, Mayors and City staff for being so supportive of the City's mission and purpose, and for being so welcoming to me. I am proud of our collective accomplishments over the past five years. We get things done together.

As the City begins its recruitment process for the next City Manager, City Council will consider a contract with Greg Carpenter at their February 28 meeting, for him to serve as the Interim City Manager. Greg is a seasoned City Manager and local government professional, who will help ensure the City continues forward in a good direction and assists City Council through the upcoming City goals process. We hope you all will participate in City Goal's survey, which can be found at <https://polco.us/morrobay>.

As part of my last duties with the City, I am excited to share the news here that the City has onboarded a new Harbor Director, Ted Schiafone. He joins us from the City of Oceanside, where he led the Harbor Division. I have also appointed Amy Watkins to serve as our next Police Chief. Chief Watkins was instrumental in leading the City's storm emergency response in early January of this year, and over the past three years as our Police Commander, helped forge stronger connections between our officers and the community.

The City is in great hands with the City Council, Mayor and staff, and with this amazing Morro Bay community that cares. I will miss working with you all!

Sincerely,

Scott Collins

CITY OF MORRO BAY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Casey Robertshaw, Firefighter

Department: Fire

Years Employed at City: 1 year

Ideal Place: The beach. I love to surf and take advantage of the beautiful coastline.

Best Part of Job: Helping and making a positive impact within the community where I was raised.

Describe Your Work: My work is exciting, unpredictable, and challenging. I love going to work and not knowing exactly what is going to happen.

Fun Fact: I play guitar, harmonica, and sing part-time with my wife Micki. We play music at local wineries, restaurants, and breweries. I have an Associate's Degree from Cuesta College in Music Performance.

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

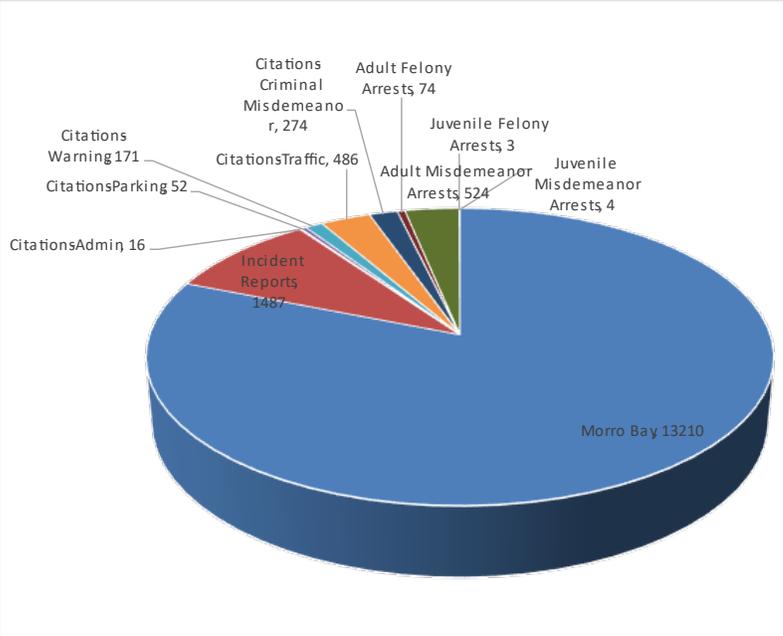
Homeless Outreach Case Manager Begins Work in the City

The Morro Bay Police Department welcomed Homeless Outreach Case Manager Jason Holland to the City team. Hired this month, Jason will work alongside the Police Department and other City departments to work with and assist our unhoused community to provide information and opportunities for individuals to receive county and state resources. Jason has been working with the Morro Bay Police Department over the past year as a member of Transitions Mental Health Association (THMA) during a grant program to provide field resources for the mental health and homeless populations in the county. Jason was an outreach case manager for THMA and we are very excited to have Jason join our City team. Jason comes with a wide range of experience, resources, an excellent professional network, and the desire to assist those who are in need of services. Jason will be working 20 hours per week to offer services and create an opportunity to assist those in need. Welcome to the team, Jason!



2022 Year-End Statistics

2022 was a busy year for the Police Department. Over 14,000 calls for service were answered by Police Department officers and staff, 2,378 reports and citations were generated, 605 total arrests, and 66 traffic collisions were investigated. This chart represents the types of arrests made by officers in 2022.



Amy Watkins Appointed to Police Chief

As one of his last actions as City Manager, Scott Collins appointed Amy Watkins to the role of Police Chief.

Chief Watkins has served in law enforcement for 23 years, progressing from police officer through the ranks at Visalia PD. She was selected by former Morro Bay Police Chief Jody Cox to serve as Police Commander in 2019. Since that time,



Amy helped lead the Department through an expansion of programs connecting the Department and the community, including launching the Citizen’s Academy, Police Chief’s Advisory Board, and mobile phone app (Morro Bay Police Department), among many other initiatives. City Manager Collins stated that, “Amy is ready to lead the team of talented and dedicated law enforcement and administrative personnel of the Police Department into the future.” The City will hold a public swearing-in ceremony for Chief Watkins at 10:00 am, Friday, Feb. 24 at the Vets Hall.

Thank You and Good Luck to our City Manager Scott Collins

The Police Department would like to express sincere appreciation to our City Manager, Scott Collins, for his hard work, support, and dedication to the community and the police department over the past five years. During Mr. Collins tenure with the City, he has supported and participated in department events such as Project Surf Camp, Police Citizen Academy, National Night Out, and Coffee with a Cop. The Department will remember Scott’s leadership and commitment to the officers and staff. We thank him for his initiative and determination in making Morro Bay sustainable for current and future employees to live and work in the city we love. We wish Scott the best of luck. Your leadership will be missed.



Fire

Fire Chief Update

For January 2023 the Fire Department responded to 243 incidents from January 1st through January 31st. Total incidents responded to include:

- 2 Fires
- 0 Explosion/overpressure/ Overheat (no fire)
- 150 EMS incidents
- 17 Hazardous Condition
- 30 Service Calls/ PSA
- 17 Good Intent/ Cancelled
- 15 False Alarms
- 12 Special Incident/Other

Of those incidents, 38 were directly related to the January 9-10 storm event, including committing one engine with 2 personnel at the PG&E switchyard to pump out stormwater for approximately 10 hours to prevent a long-term disruption in power to the North Coast.



Fire Marshal Update

State Parks will be conducting pile burning at the Morro Bay State Park and Montaña de Oro State Parks from February 14th, 2023 through Friday, March 3rd, 2023 between the hours of 7 AM and 5 PM



Department Accomplishments

Probationary Firefighter Kevin Hames has completed all the requirements of his probationary period and has been promoted to the rank of Engineer Paramedic. There will be a promotional ceremony held in early March to recognize this promotion. Congratulations Kevin!



Harbor

Big Changes/New Additions at the Harbor

The Harbor Department is committed to providing public safety and waterfront enjoyment. Three major changes to the Harbor Department were celebrated on Monday, February 20th.

A crowd gathered to meet the new Harbor Director, Ted Schiafone, who joins the Harbor Department with over 30 years of related harbor and business experience. Ted recently served as Harbor Division Manager for the City of Oceanside and previously owned and managed a succession of commercial businesses and real estate developments on the West Coast of Florida. In addition, Ted served in leadership roles in the banking industry and holds an MBA in Finance and Marketing along with various relevant certifications and licenses.

A new Harbor Patrol Officer, Charlie Howland was sworn in to fill a position that was removed in 2010 after the Great Recession. Charlie is a long-time local fisherman and all-around talented waterman who will serve the community well with his keen sense of environmental stewardship.

Finally, with great pride, the new Harbor Patrol Vessel 3869 was unveiled to the community, christened by Mayor Wixom and blessed for safe operations. Boat 3869 was purchased through a DBW grant from Port San Luis Harbor Patrol and has undergone a complete overhaul at D.R. Radon Boat Building over the past 2 years. Some of the upgrades include structural changes to accommodate our needs, new emissions-compliant diesel engines, new electronics, and a new firefighting system. The Department is very pleased with the results and looking forward to many years of service from this boat. The vessel overhaul was partially funded by generous donations made to the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department raising over \$100,000 for the refit. Morro Bay Harbor Department is eternally grateful for the support from this community.





New Coast Guard Regulations

On a different topic, the Harbor Department would like to make the boating community aware of the regulations established by the United States Coast Guard that are now being enforced in Morro Bay. For more information, the following link is provided along with a short summary below.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-14791/p-3>

In the interest of improved navigational safety, the United States Coast Guard has established a Regulated Navigation Area ("RNA") for the harbor entrance of Morro Bay in order to mitigate potential hazards to navigation and establish communication protocols with mariners in the event of hazardous sea and weather conditions at the harbor entrance. The RNA established, restricts vessel traffic entering or leaving Morro Bay harbor during certain, defined conditions.

The RNA only affects recreational vessels and uninspected passenger-for-hire ("6-pack") vessels. Commercial fishing and inspected passenger for hire vessels are not restricted, although the Harbormaster for the City of Morro Bay does have the authority under California State Harbors and Navigation Code (Section 774.1) to stop any for-hire vessels from entering or leaving Morro Bay under certain conditions.

Public Works

Utilities Division

Water Tank Rehabilitation project work has been completed on the two front tanks at the Blanca site. These tanks have been sand blasted and re-coated inside and out. New safety ladders have been installed along with new water quality sample ports and new couplings for pressure gauges which are used to determine the water level of the tanks. The tanks have been filled and water quality tests are currently being conducted before the water is used in the water distribution



system. Next, the back two tanks at the Blanca site will be removed and replaced with new bolted steel tanks along with the appropriate seismic updates. Once the two back tanks are completed at Blanca, the work crew will move back to the Kings tank site and begin sandblasting and re-coating the inside and outside of West Kings tank.

Engineering Division

The Elena Slope Repair and Utilities Replacement Project started recently and is progressing quickly. Project design was finished late in 2022 with the bid advertisement issued in November. The construction contract was awarded by the City Council at the January 10th meeting which coincided with the heavy storm period of January. The site was protected with visqueen to minimize further slope damage while the contract and a Notice to Proceed was issued soon after contract award was authorized. The \$500,000 project is under construction with Rehak General Engineering of Auberry, California. The project work includes the excavation, removal, and replacement of a failed 18" diameter storm drainpipe and, at the same time, replacement of an aged 6" vitrified clay pipe sewer line in the same utility easement. The recent storm caused some additional soil loss around the storm drain, but the City is taking advantage of clear weather in February to get the project on the road to completion before arrival on another significant storm event. In addition to new pipelines, the area will be stabilized by the construction of a reinforced concrete, cast-in-place gravity retaining wall with additional placed drainage media and backfill. Funding for the project was budgeted through the general capital and sewer funds.



The City hopes recently purchased signs will deter locals and tourists from feeding the gulls. Erin DeAngelis, Engineering Intern, collaborated with State Parks to adapt their anti-wildlife feeding signage design for City use. Not only does the bad practice of feeding gulls attract the birds to the Embarcadero and downtown Morro Bay, it also hurts them because human food doesn't have the same nutritional value for the gulls as fish, insects, and other natural prey. The practice results in changed behavioral patterns that trains gulls to seek out human food rather than their natural food sources, and therefore brings the gulls into urbanized areas.

Finally, City staff is fighting the seagull problem by making sure City trash cans are emptied routinely in order to keep the seagulls from pulling food and trash out of the cans. City staff expects the various seagull mitigation measures being implemented this year will help to control the population of the seagulls during the nesting season.



Water Resources Center

City Operations Staff and Filanc-Black & Veatch (FBV) continued working together to optimize the wastewater treatment process, and in early February the City determined that the WRC wastewater treatment component had achieved the significant contract goal of "substantial completion." This means the wastewater treatment process is ready for the City's long-term use and the State's regulatory compliance deadline has been met. There are building and site work items remaining to be completed, and the City and FBV are working through the list with the goal of completing the work items by or before the end of March. The four-phase, State-required testing of the advanced water purification and disinfection process for the indirect potable reuse program will begin in March after several discussions with the State Division of Drinking Water resulted in a change to the approach. Testing of this process is anticipated to be completed this summer.

Finally, the City will be hosting a WRC community open house the afternoon of February 23. Event details can be found here:

<https://www.morrobayca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2796>. More public tour dates will be made available soon, as this community event has already been sold out.

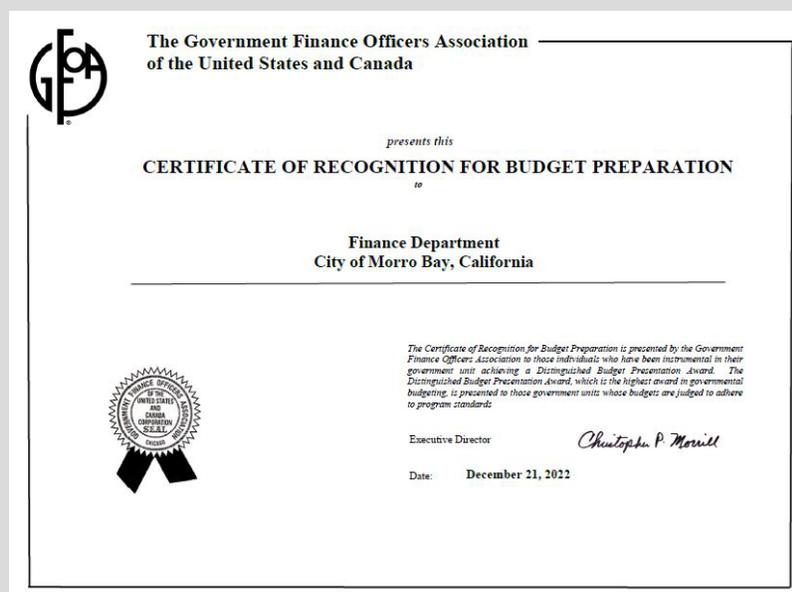


Administration (Finance, HR, IT, Clerk)

Budget and Financial Reporting Awards

The City of Morro Bay has been granted three significant awards for its transparency in financial budgeting and reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) is the agency that provides best practices, professional development, and research for government finance institutions. The GFOA awarded the City of Morro Bay a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

In addition, the City of Morro Bay received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget document. The award represents a significant achievement by the City. It reflects the commitment of the City Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America. Finally, the City received an Operating Budget Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2022-23 from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers, the state-level organization for public finance officers. Receipt of these three awards, which the City of Morro Bay has successfully received for the last few years, underscores the City's commitment to best practices, transparency, and robust communications in the administration of the public's finances.



Recreation

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 the like. We are looking forward to hosting the WSL Surf Competition beginning February 24.

Community Classes

Our new Tang Soo Do class for Kids has had a successful start. We have 12 kids enrolled in the class and are accepting more. The class meets Mondays from 5:00-5:45 PM at the Community Center. Register at the Morro Bay Recreation Services office or online today!



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 (895)60-2008 solidrockmartialarts@gmail.com

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

Seniors

Health Faire was another big success with local seniors being able to interact with the more than 30 vendors in the Auditorium. Information ranging from physical therapy to financial help was available and the attendees took home a lot of literature with them. Not to mention the great food from Buttercup Café!

February is the time when seniors decide to 'get into shape.' Our exercise classes seem to grow more during this month than the rest of the year and we offer a wide range of exercise classes so that all seniors can find their comfort zone. From our PACE class that is performed in chairs to our Strength Training and Tai-Chi classes which are more advanced, there is truly something for everyone. We have also expanded our 39+ Dance program and now offer dances on Friday nights once a month.



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 semi-private 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. Session 1 is only a few short weeks away!



Sports

Our girls softball program is just getting started as we look forward to our spring season sports. We ended up with more teams than last season, with one 6U, one 8U, three 10U, and one 12U team. Teams play in the District 5 softball league, which includes San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Templeton, and Paso Robles. The season will kick off with opening day on March 11.



We are excited to announce our futsal program registration opened up! Futsal is an indoor soccer program that is relaxed in nature. Games will be Thursdays and Fridays at Baywood and Del Mar starting on March 23.

The spring season of adult softball will start soon. We are registering teams currently for the adult coed league that plays games at Lila Keiser on Monday nights.



**2023
FUTSAL**

REGISTRATION
2/6/23 - 3/1/23

BOYS & GIRLS
GRADES 1ST - 8TH

***\$15 LATE FEE
AFTER 3/1/23***

SCAN TO REGISTER
\$90 PER PLAYER

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

Youth Services

Kids' Club

Kids' Club will be open extra hours the week of March 13th-17th for Del Mar Elementary's Conference Week. Kids' Club will be holding pre-registration in April for the 2023/24 school year. Youth Services will be hosting Holiday Hangout Spring Break the week of March 27th- 31st.

Youth Services hosted our February Kids' Night Out on Friday February 10th. Our next Kids' Night Out will be in April.



Community Development



News:

Work on the 405 Atascadero Road affordable housing project continues to progress. Project includes 35 units with project completion anticipated in July of 2023.

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

January 3, 2023: 3202 Beachcomber; construction of a new 2,567 square foot residence. Action: Approved

3230 Beachcomber; construction of a new 1,684 square foot home. Action: Approved.

January, 17 2023: 3009 Beachcomber; Demolition of an existing home and construction of a new 3,335 square foot home. Action: Approved

PC discussed development of a historic preservation ordinance and agreed to forward a recommendation to Council to have the item included as a new goal in FY 23/24

Planning Permits

- Coastal Dev. Permit = 2
- Cannabis Renewal = 1

Total Permits = 3
Fees collected = \$7,171

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 4
Closed: 4
In Process: 19

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 33
- Valuation = \$611,367
- Fees Received = \$33,538
- # of Inspections = 251
- New Permits = 12