



April 18, 2023

City Manager's Update

I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and explain a little about the role of the Interim City Manager. I also wanted to tell you how privileged I feel to be working in your unique and beautiful city for several months during the recruitment of a permanent City Manager. I've been in the position for a month and will likely be in this role for another 2-3 months.

As far as my background, I have experience in large (Long Beach), medium (Paso Robles) and small (El Segundo) cities. I served as the City Planner and Planning Manager in Long Beach, the Planning and Building Director and City Manager in El Segundo and as the Interim City Manager in Paso Robles. They are all unique in their own ways but also share many of the same issues, challenges and opportunities. I retired from El Segundo 4 years ago and live there full time and spend weekends/vacations at Lake Nacimiento. Retirement is great but I do enjoy temporarily working in local government. For me, it's an opportunity to meet new people, learn about new places, challenge my mind, and try to help along the way.

So, what does an Interim City Manager do? It's probably a bit different in every situation. My approach is to meet as many people as possible, listen and ask lots of questions. I've found that if listen to enough people, you start to hear common themes and get different perspectives on the issues. Personally, I try to be as calm, candid and as optimistic as possible - it really helps in trying to build relationships in a hurry.

The Interim helps maintain momentum and communication on priority projects and issues as well as deal with day-to-day operations. The Interim also deals with the less tangible, more human issue of helping the organization deal with leadership change. The very fact that there is an Interim City Manager means that there's been a change in leadership and that there will be another one coming once a permanent City Manager is hired. All of us get anxious about change, mainly because it shakes up the comfort of our routine and there is an unknown outcome coming that you have limited control over. The Interim can make people more comfortable with the transition through their actions, they can help/coach employees to be in their best position to impress the new City Manager, assist the City Council with the City Manager selection process and recommend priorities for the new City Manager to initially focus on.

It has been a pleasure meeting many of you. If you have thoughts about topics for future newsletter articles, or if just want to say hello, please feel free to e-mail me at gcarpenter@morrobayca.gov.

Sincerely,
Greg Carpenter,
Interim City Manager

City Manager's Office

City Manager Recruitment Process

The City is in the process of selecting a permanent City Manager. For those of you who are not familiar with the leadership arrangement, the City operates on what is called the Council/Manager form of government. The Mayor and City Council are elected citizens who oversee the major decisions and policies of the City. The City Council has two employees, the City Manager and City Attorney. The City Manager advises the City Council, implements the City Council's direction, and oversees the day-to-day operations of the City by supervising and working with City's Executive Team. In comparison to private industry, the City Manager is the Chief Executive Officer and the City Council is the Board of Directors. To give you an idea of the number of individuals in the field, there are about 500 cities in California and about 20,000 incorporated towns and cities in the United States.

The City Council appoints and evaluates the performance of the City Manager. To assist with the recruitment process, most cities hire an executive recruiting firm with experience and expertise in local government. In our case, the City is working with Mosaic Public Partners. To help with their search, Mosaic is conducting a survey asking for input from the community on the characteristics that the City Manager should possess and the priorities for that person to be aware of. If you wish to complete the survey you can use the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BF8XM88>

The approximate schedule for the City Manager recruitment is as follows:

- April 21 – filing deadline for potential candidates
- May/June – City Council interviews/selection and negotiation
- June – City Council meeting to approve the City Manager Employment Contract
- Late June or July – City Manager start date

City Strategic Plan Update/Community Survey Results

The City is very forward thinking and diligent about planning and prioritization of its work efforts and use of resources. Typically, the City Council reviews the Strategic Plan every two years and sets goals, objectives and action items for the next two-year cycle. This is important for several reasons:

- The process aligns the City Council's direction with the issues that are priorities to the community;
- It helps in directing available resources (people and funding) with these priorities; and,
- It gives direction to the City Team on they should focus on and accomplish over the next two years.

In preparation for this year's planning effort, the community was asked to complete a survey generally asking about their satisfaction with City services and what the City should focus on and prioritize moving forward. The survey found that respondents enjoy living here because of its climate, natural beauty, small-town character, and the friendliness of their neighbors. People expressed satisfaction with police, fire and recreation services while they expressed concerns with the City's financial situation, the development/building permit process, homelessness and housing affordability. Regarding the physical state of the City, respondents felt that the City needed to address the condition of our roads, sidewalks, storm drains and harbor infrastructure. Link to the goals survey can be found [here](#).

The City Council, staff and Community met at a Goal Setting workshop on April 5, 2023. Based on the survey information, input from City Boards and Commissions, Chamber of Commerce and the community members in attendance, The City Council set four major goal areas for the next two years:

- Public Infrastructure
- Economic Vitality
- Housing and Homelessness
- Community Engagement

With these goal areas set, the next step will be for the City staff to recommend specific action-items to achieve or address these goal areas along with timing and estimated costs. These action-items will be balanced based on available resources and tied to the City Council annual budget discussion that will occur over the next several months.

Police

Patrol Operations

Farewell and Good Luck to Senior Officer Art Vasquez

Senior Officer Art Vasquez worked his last day of patrol for the City of Morro Bay on March 15th. We are sad to see such an amazing person and officer leave us. We wish him the best of luck in his new assignment with the Cal Poly State University Police Department. Art joined the Morro Bay Police Department in June of 2019. Art was a Field Training Officer, a Senior Officer, and was the department's Officer of the Year in 2020.



Congratulations to Grant Hasselbach and Dakota LaDow

We welcomed Officer Hasselbach and Officer LaDow to the department and the community in December of last year. We are excited to announce that both have completed the mandated field training period and are out working as solo peace officers.

Officer Daniel Palumbo Completes 80-hour Police Motorcycle Course

Congratulations to Officer Palumbo for his successful completion of the California P.O.S.T. Certified Motorcycle Course. This course is known to be one of the most difficult police training courses, testing the officers mental and physical capabilities for safe operation of a police motorcycle. Officer Palumbo will now have the opportunity to operate a police motorcycle during his patrol shift when staffing allows. Police motorcycles are an excellent tool for promoting traffic and pedestrian safety within the city.



Community Updates

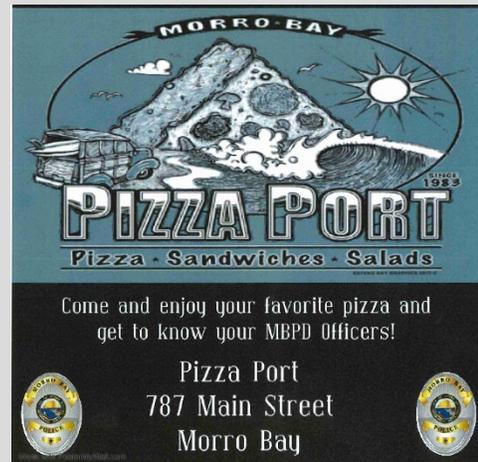
Coffee with a Cop

On April 14th, the Morro Bay Police Department held a Coffee with a Cop event at our local Starbucks inside Albertsons Grocery Store. The event was a success as many people stopped to talk with officers to ask questions and have good conversations. Thank you to our local Albertsons who sponsored this event by providing the location, coffee, and pastries. The department will be holding more Coffee with a Cop events throughout the year. We work closely with local coffee shops and businesses to hold these events throughout the community. We are fortunate to have the support of our business owners and our community which makes these events possible and successful. Thank you to all who came to say hello and spend some time with us.



Pizza with the Police

If you were not able to make it to Coffee with a Cop, we have another community event called Pizza with the Police on Thursday, June 1st from 5 to 7 pm at Pizza Port in Morro Bay. No agendas or speeches, just a chance to connect with your Morro Bay Police Department and ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know your officers. We hope to see you there for a slice of pizza and conversation.



City Response to Storms

Morro Bay infrastructure sustained significant damage during the storms in January, February, and March. The City's Harbor was hardest hit -- its docks, pilings, gangways, shoreline revetment and seawalls were all impacted, in some cases severely. Strong winds and tidal surge stressed an already weakened infrastructure due to decades of deferred maintenance. Daily tide changes that would normally go unnoticed now add additional stress to the



structural integrity of

each dock component. Emergency repairs are necessary to keep our docks in service, otherwise we stand to lose the revenue they generate. Recently, the Council approved \$80,000 to repair critical failures to fingers that support the boat ramp operations and a few



docks that support commercial fishing. Harbor staff will continue identifying emergency funding sources to make repairs while working toward a plan to assess, prioritize and fund future dock replacement.

Other essential infrastructure around the City was similarly impacted, such as roadways and City facilities. The flood waters that twice rolled across Preston Lane, which serves several businesses, broke apart and swept away asphalt to the extent large areas of the roadway have disappeared. South Bay Boulevard was undermined during the first flood, which forced the City to shut it down. Also, the City's corporation yard and the old wastewater treatment plant were flooded, causing extensive damage and loss of tools and equipment. The City was able to perform some repairs, including South Bay Boulevard, quickly. Other projects, such as restoration to Preston Lane and City facilities, will require a longer-term effort. Link to storm flooding video can be found [here](#).



In the aftermath of the storms, the City has three important tasks to execute. First, staff is working hard to coordinate short-term repairs to harbor and City infrastructure. Concurrent with these efforts is the second task to secure Federal and State funding to reimburse the City for these

efforts, which are eligible under FEMA for reimbursement due to the local disaster declaration. This will take significant resources and time to execute but is necessary to ensure the



City can successfully recover from the storms. Finally, the third task will be to make the City more resilient against future disasters of this kind. Plans are underway to apply for grant funding for hazard mitigation projects that would be designed to lessen the impacts of future heavy wind and rains. Some of these projects may involve long-term planning, and the City looks forward to putting together forums for the community to discuss and deliberate on these critical projects.

Looking for a Summer Job?

We're Hiring

Morro Bay Recreation is Hiring for ...

Kids' Camp Counselors and Counselors in Training

JUNIOR GUARDS ASSISTANT

SPORTS OFFICIAL

Lifeguards & Swim Instructors

Apply Today
Scan For Application

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 ~ (805)772-6278
City website: www.morrobayca.gov • Sports website: www.leaguelineup.com/mbsports

Community Development



Project Update:

Work on both the 405 Atascadero Road HASLO affordable housing project and 295 Atascadero Rd. Hampton Inn project continues to progress. It is anticipated that occupancy will be issued in May of 2023 for Hampton Inn and late summer of 2023 for the HASLO project.

Vistra Battery Energy Storage System Project: Rincon Consultants has assembled the background environmental studies and has started preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

March 7, 2023: 701 & 715 Embarcadero; Major Modification to existing commercial development to increase public access improvements, reconfigure existing wharf, and replace fish offloading crane
Action: Approved

Information Session 2 on Historic Preservation: Multiple speakers discussed various aspects of Morro Bay history.

March 21, 2023: Information Session 3 on Historic Preservation: Multiple speakers discussed various aspects of Morro Bay history. PC discussed recommendation of a Public Benefits policy to City Council. Action: PC provided direction for finalizing policy to staff



Planning Commission Recommendation to City Council on the FY 23/24 Goals.
Action: PC recommended Goals related to development of an Historic Preservation Ordinance, Downtown Design District formation, Vistra Master Plan and Housing

Planning Permits

- Coastal Dev. Permit = 3
- Use Permits = 3

Total Permits = 6

Fees collected = \$30,598

Code Enforcement Activity

New Cases: 5
Closed: 4
Open: 2
In Process: 8

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 38
- Valuation = \$1,103,882
- Fees Received = \$94,405
- # of Inspections = 336
- New Permits = 16