



City Manager's Update

May 6, 2024

Happy Monday and thank you to everyone who has reached out to me about April's newsletter. There's a lot going on in Morro Bay in May. May marks the start of Morro Bay's busiest season, with our community anticipating thousands of visitors each weekend, either joining events or simply relishing our stunning bay views. Kicking off the month, the annual car show (Crusin' Morro Bay), where hundreds of classic cars and their owners came to Morro Bay to show off their goods. As we approach Mother's Day weekend, we expect a bustling waterfront and downtown as families gather to celebrate. On May 17-19 Morro Bay will host the internationally renowned Ironman and Ironkids events which will draw an estimated 8,500 visitors. Following the Ironman/kids events is Memorial Day weekend which promises another influx of out-of-towners.

Parking around Morro Rock and the Embarcadero can become challenging during this peak season. The Police Department has placed signs across the city and urges everyone to exhibit patience and courtesy. City staff remains dedicated to serving both visitors and residents, striving to strike a balance between their needs.

There are many reasons residents and visitors treasure our city alike. I would like to remind everyone that Morro Bay is a bird sanctuary. This designation was proclaimed by the City Council in 1970. This designation demonstrates our commitment to preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of our area and the community's desire to provide a haven for various bird species. The City's Municipal Codes set forth a certain procedure for tree trimming on public right of way. For example, unless for emergency reasons, no trees on the city's right of way shall be trimmed during the nesting season, which is from February 1 to June 30th. For that reason, the city is not doing much tree work until summer. The municipal code also prohibits "trap, shoot, hunt, molest, injure or kill any wild birds, or tamper, damage or destroy the nests or eggs of any wild birds within the city". Please respect our designation of being a "bird sanctuary" by being kind to wild birds, their

nests and eggs. Morro Coast Audubon Society has good information on birds. Here is their website: [Morro Coast Audubon Society](#)



Speaking of birds, the City has been using falcons as a natural deterrent to seagulls. Seagulls, known for scavenging food scraps and occasionally posing health risks, have prompted frequent complaints from residents. Falcons, being natural predators of seagulls, are enlisted by the City to patrol areas like the Embarcadero, discouraging large gatherings of seagulls and mitigating the associated mess and disruptions. In the accompanying photo, city staff warmly welcome the falcon patrol.

In this edition of the City Manager newsletter, staff provide several important project updates. The Public Works Department will share a tentative road paving schedule, update on WRF, and invite community input on [capital projects](#) (click hyperlink to view document). The Community Development Department will discuss the BESS project and provide a summary of the Downtown Design Review Committee's recent efforts. The Harbor Department will offer updates on the city staff's work regarding Offshore Wind discussions and more. The Recreation Division will wrap up the newsletter with fun facts. I would also like to introduce the new Finance Director in the Finance Section.

We hope you find it useful and encourage you to share your thoughts about how to improve this communication moving forward. Should you like to share your thoughts, ideas, and concerns, please reach out to me by phone/text 805-440-4450, or email ykimball@morrobayca.gov.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Kimball
City Manager



Attending CJPIA Executive Summit in April. Attendees were City Managers from the various cities, and retired San Luis Obispo City Manager Ken Hampian.

Finance and IT

I am delighted to announce the formal appointment of Emily Conrad as the City's Finance Director. Emily stepped into the permanent role of the Finance Director on April 27, 2024. As the Finance



Director, she oversees budgeting, utility billing, accounts payable, Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) collection, revenue programs, payroll, financial forecasting, investment, and IT functions. The Finance Director is a member of the City's Executive Team and reports to the City Manager as well as the staff liaison to the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC).

This position was formerly known as the Administrative Service Director / Assistant City Manager. It was reclassified as the Finance Director in March. The reclassification demonstrated the vital role finance plays in the city's operation. Emily has served as the Acting Finance Director since March. During the acting period, Emily led her team to complete a clean financial statements audit for the city, launched the second year of a

TOT audit, provided critical information for labor group bargaining sessions, and continued the FY 24/25 Budget development.

Emily brings eighteen years of experience in government finance and finds joy in being a public servant in this community. She was initially hired as the Finance Manager in September 2021 under the former Administrative Services Director/Assistant City Manager.

Before joining Morro Bay, Emily had worked at Cuesta College for 15 years. She began as a utility player and worked through all accounting divisions. Her work was involved in areas of governmental accounting, budgeting, and grant administration. Emily holds a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. As Finance Manager for the City of Morro Bay, Emily has successfully overseen the essential financial functions, completed annual financial reports, special fund audits and annual reports, and federal audits. She has also worked to increase the City's investment portfolio, resulting in the highest interest earnings the City had yet achieved. In the winter of 2022-2023, Emily served as the acting Administrative Services Director/Assistant City Manager while the incumbent was on leave.

Emily started visiting Morro Bay as a young teenager, leading her to move to San Luis Obispo County for college and then a fulfilling career. Emily enjoys spending her time with her family.

Please join me in welcoming Emily Conrad as our Finance Director. Emily can be reached at econrad@morrobayca.gov.

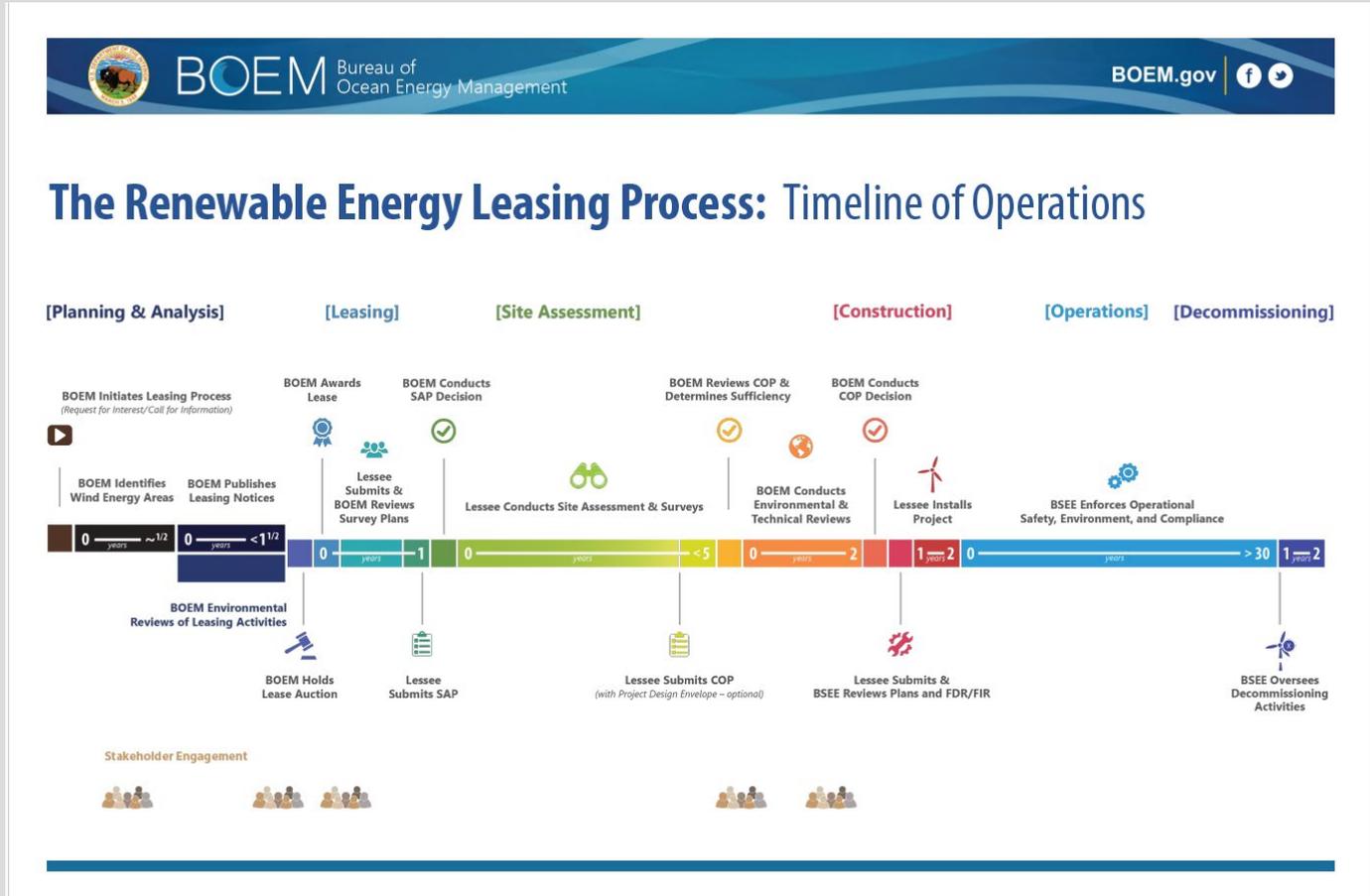
Harbor

Offshore Wind (OSW) information: City staff continues to participate in various discussions regarding OSW.

Under the Council’s direction, City staff are also working with the County in hope for a share of its \$1 million dollar grant to conduct feasibility studies and local needs, such as outreach. An agreement about the funding is anticipated in June.

The City Council supported Assemblywoman Dawn Addis’ new bill (AB 2537): establish a statewide community capacity building fund grant to help agencies, like Morro Bay, to obtain funding in addressing state renewable energy goals. The letter of support can be found here: [7h.1 2024.04.15 AB 2537 \(Addis\) Morro Bay Support Townsend](#)

On the federal side, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has this poster explaining the timeline of OSW operations. We are currently in the phase of “lease submits and BOEM review survey plan”. This info is available on the city website under offshore wind.



Public Works

ADMINISTRATION:

Bird Sanctuary

At a recent City Council Meeting, City staff was asked about the meaning of the City's designation as a bird sanctuary. After some digging, staff found the following information.

This designation of the City as a bird sanctuary was performed by the Morro Bay City Council through adoption of Ordinance No. 85 on July 14, 1970. Besides requiring signs that state "Morro Bay is a Bird Sanctuary" at the principal entrances to the City, the City's Municipal Code was amended to state the following:

Molesting Birds and Bird Eggs Prohibited. No person shall shoot any species of wild birds within the City and no person shall molest or damage the nest or eggs of any wild birds within the City. However, if the City Council, City Administrator, or the City Poundmaster shall determine that starlings or other birds have become so numerous in any particular location or area as to be a public nuisance or for any other reason have become a public nuisance or menace to health or property, said fact may be declared and the birds involved may be destroyed or otherwise controlled.

However, this section was later amended with other code sections by the City Council through adoption of Ordinance 480 on January 24, 2000, to bring the City's animal regulations into compliance with the State of California. The new (and current) Municipal Code section states:

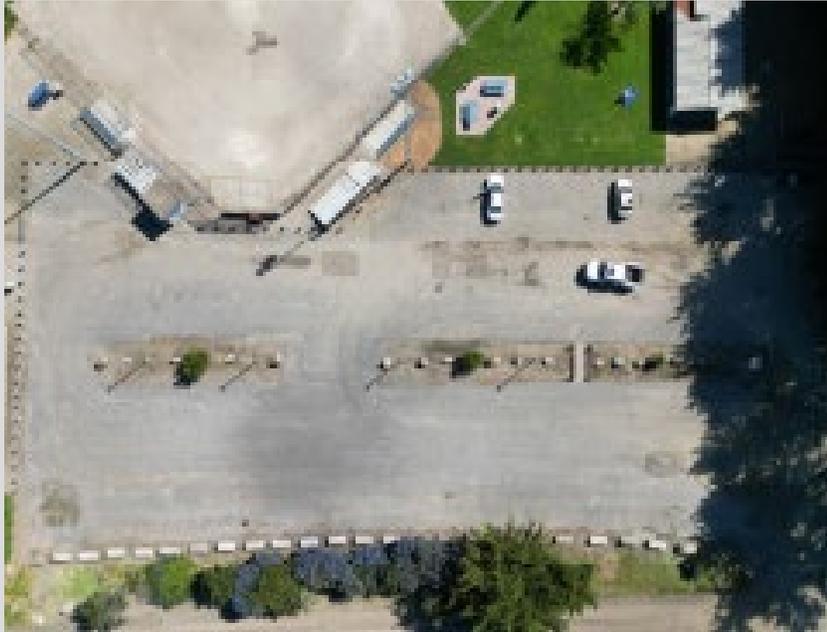
Molesting wild birds—Nuisance remedies. No person shall trap, shoot, hunt, molest, injure or kill any wild birds, or tamper, damage or destroy the nests or eggs of any wild birds within the city. Should the city council determine by resolution that birds protected under this chapter have become so numerous or destructive in any particular location or area as to constitute a menace and danger to the public health, safety or property, the council may provide for such remedies appropriate under the circumstances.

The ordinances and resulting Municipal Code sections demonstrate a balance between wild bird management on the one hand and a policy statement regarding the importance of birds to the City's ecology on the other.

ENGINEERING:

Parking Lot Rehabs: Work crews from Ramsey Asphalt and Construction completed work on the City's Lila Keiser and Police Department Parking Lot Rehabilitation project on April 17th.

The work at Lila Keiser included new ADA sidewalks in the picnic area, dig out and repair of failed sections of the parking lot, new asphalt across the parking lot, and fresh striping.



Lila Keiser parking lot before construction



Lila Keiser parking lot after construction

The work at the Police Parking Lot included removal of the failed sections of paving in the front area of the lot, installation of base material, asphalt and striping over the entire lot.



Police Department parking lot before construction



Police Department parking lot after construction

Failed Storm Drain Pipe Replacement: A sink hole was found by maintenance crews in the south bound traffic lane on Embarcadero near Beach Street on April 14th. Maintenance installed a steel plate over the sink hole and closed the lane. On April 15th, Brent Knowles Construction removed paving in the area of the sink hole so Public Works could determine the extent of the erosion below the street. The storm drain pipe was found to have deteriorated, allowing storm runoff to flow outside of the pipe, which caused the erosion. Protective plating was replaced, and the lane closure maintained. Public Works obtained a cost estimate from Brent Knowles to replace the damaged pipe and initiated a Tier 1 contract for the work. The contractor replaced the damaged pipe section, joined the new pipe to a new liner pipe installed inside the existing pipe for the section under the sidewalk and to the outfall at the bay. The work was completed April 23rd.



Sink hole, damaged pipe



Plating, traffic control



New pipe in place



Completed repair

Utilities

On April 25th, the Utilities Division held another public tour of the Water Resources center. Over 1,000 people have now toured the facility since it started operating last year. The tour consisted of learning about all the different areas Utilities crews work in. Water crews had displays of various repairing techniques they use on water mains; they had a display showing how a typical water main is tapped for a water service lateral and a water meter with running water to show how the water meters work. Pamphlets were provided on how to read your water meter, information on water pressure and where city responsibility ends and what section of the laterals are the property owner's responsibility. Sewer Collections crews had the CCTV van and VACALL out for display. Crews described how these vehicles are used to video and clean sewer mains throughout the city. Collections staff also educated the tour participant on the importance of what not to flush down your drains and how wipes and grease affects the sewer system. The tour participants were able to tour the entire wastewater treatment process and advanced water treatment facility. Additional tours will be made available over the summer.





You're Invited to a Family-Friendly Community Tour at the New Water Resources Center!

Tour Morro Bay's largest infrastructure program in City history, meet City staff and learn more about the City's Public Works Department!

Enjoy an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Water Resources Center! Meet the Utilities Staff who operate your water, sewer collections and wastewater infrastructure. Also check out Public Works equipment and vehicles. Please RSVP to sign up for a 1-hour time slot. Due to parking on site, slots are limited.

DATES: Registration is required

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Saturday, August 17, 2024

TIME:

9:00a.m., 11:00a.m., 1:30p.m.

Please reserve a time slot for a tour.

RSVP & TOUR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/city-of-morro-bay-water-resources-center-community-tour-tickets-856349393087>

Or call 805-772-6272 or amills@morrobayca.gov

LOCATION:

Morro Bay Water Resources Center
555 South Bay Boulevard
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Please proceed up the driveway past the 2 sets of gates, to the covered parking area. Carpooling is encouraged.

This is a walking tour with an uphill slope. For your comfort and safety, we recommend flat, sturdy shoes. The event will occur rain or shine.

Please contact Amy at amills@morrobayca.gov with questions.



MORRO BAY
OUR WATER
RELIABLE. CLEAN. FOR LIFE.

Current Utilities Project: The first phase of a sewer main pipe rehab with CIPP (Cured In Place Pipe) was completed. The first phase was to line the inside of the pipe. This sewer main pipe stretches over a creek which drains to the Ocean, therefore critical to perform preventative maintenance before a sewer main break leaks into the creek and ocean. The outer wrapping of the pipe will be completed next.

Before

After

PIPE LINING REPAIR 1.26 1.27
8 Vitrified Clay Pipe
4/18/2024



40.56ft

PIPE LINING REPAIR 1.26 1.27
8 Vitrified Clay Pipe
4/18/2024



40.38ft



The next phase of this project is to repair and protect the outside of sewer main. Because the sewer main is not buried and exposed to the outside elements the sewer main will need to be re-wrapped to protect it.

Water Resources Center

Gallons Processed: 27 Million

Waste Hauled: approx. 117 Tons

Work Orders Completed: 211

The Water Resources Center has received the California State award for Outstanding Environmental Engineering Project of the year from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The WRC has already received both San Luis Obispo County and Los Angeles County awards from ASCE.



Utilities Stats for April:

Water:

Leaks: 4

1. South Quintana
2. 555 Piney
3. 350 Sicily
4. 2698 Koa

- Underground Service Alert locations: 66
- Meters Locked off for Non-Payment: 5
- Unread Water Meters: 114
- High Water Meter Reads Investigated: 37
- Zero Read Water Meters Investigated: 25
- Sample Station Chlorine Residuals Checked: 25
- Tanks Inspections Completed: 36
- Meters Exchanged: 7
- Water Complaints: 4
- Valves Exercised: 10
- Hydrants Maintenance Performed: 15
- State Water Purchased: approx. 24.7 Million Gallons
- BWRO Gallons Produced: 785,000 Gallons
- Water samples taken: 111



Community Development

BESS Project Activity

The City continues to receive comments on the Draft EIR. On Tuesday, May 7th, the Planning Commission will hold a workshop to receive comments from the public. This effort is expected to increase public participation and provide an opportunity for the public to make verbal comments and have them addressed in the Final EIR, as appropriate.

In addition to the Planning Commission meeting, the City is also hosting a Master Plan Workshop on May 8th at 6:00 PM at the Vet's Hall. The meeting will provide another opportunity for the public to provide the City with input on the future of the Power Plant property. As you know, the City is required to prepare a Power Plant Master Plan before any portion of the property is developed. Coastal Commission staff has approved a two-phase Master Plan process where the first phase will cover the BESS project site and preliminary planning for the remainder of the property. Once uses are proposed for the rest of the Power Plant property, the Master Plan can be completed. The Master Plan is an important document for understanding all of the allowed uses of the property, and especially the infrastructure needed to support those uses. For example, the City's General Plan left the location of a new street connection and outlet from the north Embarcadero to the Master Plan process.

Downtown Design District Subcommittee Status

The Downtown Design District Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 1st. This was the sixth and final meeting of the subcommittee, however, members agreed that additional work was needed to complete the effort. Staff will now prepare a summary of the work completed to date with recommendations regarding next steps. The summary will be presented to the City Council for their consideration. Some of the major topics that the Committee has worked on include:

- Housing Strategies
- Character Defining Buildings
- View Protection
- Process Improvements (Clear Codes and Guidelines)
- Traditional Economic Development/Business Support

Staff believes all of these areas of focus would need to be addressed in a final work scope for the creation of a Downtown Design District.

Mobile Vendor Issues

City staff is working with the Attorney's Office and coordinating between departments internally to address the situation with mobile vendors locating in locations where they are not allowed. Enforcement is challenging given limited staff resources. It is important that the City does not infringe on the rights of mobile vendors given the changes that have occurred over the past several years in State law. City staff are handling complaints on a case-by-case basis.

The Short-Term Rental process is under review and more information will be forthcoming.

Recreation

Recreation Services is working on planning the City's 60th anniversary celebration! Along with direction from Mayor Wixom, the City is seeking community members to help with this effort. Though the anniversary date is officially July 17, 2024, the date for the celebration has been set for September 5 – 8 with three days of activities planned to include music, a parade, and a Founders Day at the Park! Stay tuned for more information!

Administration

Facilities

In April, the Morro Bay Community Center and Veteran's Hall hosted a few celebrations of life, a baby shower, some church gatherings, a town hall meeting and much more! The Morro Bay Fisherman's Organization had their annual "Blessing of the Fleet" event at the North T Pier and finished up with a luncheon at the Vet's Hall. Also, this month was the 20th Annual Morro Bay Kite Festival! This event creates lifelong memories for locals and tourists!

20th Annual Morro Bay Kite Festival.



Community Classes

We have new Spring classes being offered -- Arts & Crafts Club Spring Session, Dog Training, and Pilates with new instructor Heather Thomas.



ARTS & CRAFTS CLUB
with Instructor Kendra Bowling

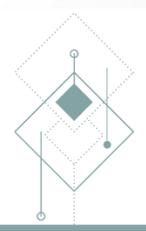
For registration and more info scan here



THURSDAYS
@ the Morro Bay Community Center
Ages 7-11 4:15-5:15pm
\$80 a Session
Spring Session 4 weeks
(5/23-6/13)

pilates with Heather

Monday & Fridays
at the Morro Bay Community Center
10:00-11:00AM




Heather Thomas is a 450hr certified Pilates teacher. She completed her training at Pilates Collective in San Luis Obispo and is trained in mat, reformer, Cadillac/tower, Wunda Chair and more. She has been practicing Pilates for almost 20 years, and loves how it makes the body feel.

"Physical fitness is the first requisite of happiness." - Joseph Pilates

Special Events

Recreation Services will be hosting our annual Mermaid, Sea Creature, and Pirate Parade on Saturday, May 18th. We will be partnering with Mark Tognazzini and Dockside Restaurant to bring this fun event to our community.

Working with IRONMAN and a Cal Poly Recreation class, Recreation Services will be hosting IRONKIDS at Cloisters Park Saturday, May 18th at 9AM. This will be a series of running events for children ages 1 – 17.

Dog Training

Force-free "positive" reward-based training, fun for the dogs and people.
with Irina Beatty
All classes held at Del Mar Park

Spring 2024

Good Manners Class: \$110.00 / 4 weeks
This class focuses on 4 behaviors: loose leash walk, recall, polite greeting (not jumping) and "leave it".
Sundays 3:30-4:30pm (5/19-6/9)

Leash Manners Workshop: \$70.00 / 2 weeks
This class teaches your dog to walk by your side and focuses on loose leash walking without pulling.
Sundays 4:45 - 5:45pm (5/19 & 5/26)

Reliable Recall Workshop: \$70.00 / 2 weeks
This class teaches your dog to come when called.
Sundays 4:45 - 5:45pm (6/2 & 6/9)

*Classes are subject to weather cancellation/rescheduling.

For registration and more info scan here



For More Information Contact:
Irina Beatty, CPDT-KA
The Right Choice Dog Training
310-488-4860 (call or text)
www.facebook.com/MBDogtraining

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



Seniors

As the MBAA...55+ membership continues to explode, and we are now at 900. The word is getting out that we offer a variety of programs. Currently the class sizes are at a maximum and our 'good' challenge is to find more space or time spots for these classes as we would prefer not to have to limit the number of participants. Morro Bay Senior Center offers the most programs in our county and has more participants in the Cuesta Emeritus program than any other city in San Luis Obispo County... and we are continuing to expand!

Aquatics

The Morro Bay Aquatic Center Spring programs are in full swing. Here is the schedule . . .

- Lap Swim is offered Monday through Friday from 11:30am-2:00pm and Sundays from 10am-2:30pm.
- Aqua Aerobics runs Monday through Friday 11:30am – 12:30pm and Tuesday and Thursday 7am – 8am.
- Master's swim is Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30am – 7:30am

Master's Swim is a great place to get coach lead workouts and stroke advice from our knowledgeable coaches. If you need some one-on-one time, we also offer private adult lessons. This spring the aquatic staff is providing private lessons on Sundays.

Junior Guard Boot Camp (pool program) just started up the third and final session this last weekend. Boot Camp is an opportunity for swimmers to strengthen their swimming skills in preparation for our Junior Guards program. Bootcamp works on participants' stroke technique, endurance, and confidence to be in the ocean. We are excited to be able to provide a positive safe environment to learn and improve aquatic skills, get exercise, and work on rehabilitation.



Sports

Coast Girls Softball

Opening day of Coast Girls Softball took place on March 16. Players and families enjoyed the ballpark atmosphere and festivities. Each team played a hometown game vs. an opposing Coast Girls Softball team to get the ball rolling on the season. To commemorate the special occasion, we played the national anthem, announced batting lineups, and had stadium music for families to enjoy. It was a great start to the 2024 Coast Girls Softball Season!

Adult Soccer

Our league offers an exciting opportunity for players of all skill levels to come together, enjoy the sport, and foster a sense of community spirit. With an emphasis on recreational play, scores are not kept allowing all skill levels to feel welcomed.

There are currently four co-ed teams, six players on each, and 24 total participants. The games start at 6:00 and 7:00pm every Thursday at Lila Keiser Park. The beginning of games started on April 15th and the last day of games will be on June 6th.

Stay tuned for information on our Summer Adult Kickball League! Coming soon!



Junior Guards

Our Junior Lifeguard Beach Program better known as “Jr. Guards” started registering participants on Monday, March 18th for Morro Bay residents and scholarship recipients. Each day of the week thereafter marked a different session opening online to anyone interested. In total, the signups landed at:

- Session A: 49 participants
- Session B: 37 participants
- Session C: 50 participants (full)
- Session D: 50 Participants (full)

We are excited to bring on new coordinators Dylan Koch and Devyn Downing to lead the program this season. We will aim to continue registration and open additional spots up as we approach the summer. We look forward to a fun Junior Guard summer on the beach!



Youth Services

Kids' Club

Kids' Club is counting down the last few days of school, our last day of Kids' Club will be June 6th. The kids have been filling their afternoons celebrating favorite Authors like Dr. Seuss. Tending to our garden and creating lots of fun crafts!

Kids' Camp

Kids' Camp 2024 registration is open! We have 8 weeks of fun and adventure planned with pool trips, special guest speakers, and great trips to many local spots in Morro Bay and a few other destinations outside of Morro Bay.

The collage features several photos of children smiling and participating in activities. The main flyer is for Morro Bay Recreation's Kids' Camp 2024, which includes the following information:

- MORRO BAY RECREATION'S Kids' Camp**
- Childcare & Recreational Enrichment for Children 4-12 yrs. old
- Located at Del Mar Elementary Campus, 501 Sequoia, Morro Bay
- Hours: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm**
- Contact Info: (805)772-6279, agallardo@morrobayca.gov
- Join us for a Summer of Fun & Adventure!**
- June 17 to Aug. 9 2024**
- Activities include: Talk About It Tuesdays, Wonder Wednesdays, Take a Trip Thursdays, H2O It's Monday!, and Fri-YAY!
- Weekly Prices:**
 - Full Week \$190
 - 4 days \$155
 - 3 Days \$125
 - 2 Days \$85
 - Daily Rate \$50
- *SUMMER SCHOOL PACKAGE \$80*
- *\$50 Registration Fee*
- *Scholarship's Available through CPEB*
- To PRE-Register, Scan this Code