



# CITY OF MORRO BAY HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

*The City of Morro Bay provides essential public services and infrastructure to maintain a safe, clean and healthy place for residents and visitors to live, work and play.*

## **Regular Meeting Thursday, August 1, 2024 – 5:30 P.M. Veterans Memorial Hall 209 Surf St., Morro Bay, CA**

Cal Myers	Recreational Boating
Cherise Hansson	Waterfront Leaseholders
Gene Doughty	South Bay/Los Osos
Sean Green	Member at Large
Christopher Vaile	Member at Large
Mary Witkowski	Marine Oriented Business
Jeremiah O'Brien	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
Lori French	Alternate to Jeremiah O'Brien (MBCFO)

### Public Participation:

*Public participation is allowed in the following ways:*

- *Community members may attend the meeting in person at the Morro Bay Veterans Memorial Hall.*
- *Alternatively, members of the public may watch the meeting and speak during general Public Comment or on a specific agenda item by logging in to the Zoom webinar using the information provided below. Please use the "raise hand" feature to indicate your desire to provide public comment.*

*Please click the link below to join the webinar:*

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82722747698?pwd=aWZpTzcwTHlRTk9xaTlmWVNWRWFUQT09>

*Password: 135692*

- *Or Telephone Attendee: 1 (408) 638-0968 or 1 (669) 900 6833 or 1 (346) 248 7799; Webinar ID: 827 2274 7698; Password: 135692; Press \* 9 to "Raise Hand" for Public Comment*
- *Members of the public may watch the meeting either on cable Channel 20 or as streamed on the City [website](#).*
- *Community members are encouraged to submit agenda correspondence in advance of the meeting via email to the Harbor Advisory Board at [hab@morrobayca.gov](mailto:hab@morrobayca.gov) prior to the meeting. Agenda Correspondence received at [hab@morrobayca.gov](mailto:hab@morrobayca.gov) by 10 a.m. on the meeting day will be posted on the City website.*

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER & COUNCIL LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORTING

PRESENTATIONS

Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Melodie Grubbs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the audience wishing to address the HAB on Harbor business matters not on the agenda may do so at this time. For those desiring to speak on items on the agenda, but unable to stay for the item, may also address the HAB at this time.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board, the following actions are approved without discussion. The public will also be provided with an opportunity to comment on consent agenda items.

A-1 Approval of Minutes from the Harbor Advisory Board meeting held on March 7, 2024  
**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-2 Approval of Minutes from the Harbor Advisory Board meeting held on May 2, 2024  
**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-3 Harbor Department Status Report  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.**

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

B-1 Commercial Vessel Fees Ad-Hoc Committee  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file committee update.**

B-2 Mooring Field Ad-Hoc Committee  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file committee update.**

C. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

D. ADJOURNMENT

This agenda is subject to amendment up to 72 hours prior to the date and time set for the meeting. Please refer to the agenda posted at the Morro Bay Harbor Department, 1275 Embarcadero, for any revisions or call the department at 772-6254 for further information.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Harbor Department, 1275 Embarcadero Road, or online at [www.morrobayca.gov](http://www.morrobayca.gov). Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after publication of the Agenda packet are available for inspection at the Harbor Department during normal business hours or at the scheduled meeting.

MINUTES-MORRO BAY HARBOR ADVISORY  
BOARD MEETING – MARCH 7, 2024  
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL – 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA NO: A-1  
MEETING DATE: August 1, 2024

PRESENT:	Cal Myers	Chair
	Cherise Hansson	Vice-Chair
	Christopher Vaile	Member
	Jeremiah O'Brien	Member
	Sean Green	Member
ABSENT:	Gene Doughty	Member
	Mary Witkowski	Member
STAFF:	Ted Schiafone	Harbor Director
	Lori Thompson	Harbor Business Coordinator

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=rJciLWINjTc6039e&t=4](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=rJciLWINjTc6039e&t=4)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER & COUNCIL LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC  
OUTREACH REPORTING

PUBLIC COMMENT

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=461JHnuX8BjZ5LzP&t=511](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=461JHnuX8BjZ5LzP&t=511)

The public comment period was opened with no comments.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=ja-Co7rGGi2C4f0l&t=542](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=ja-Co7rGGi2C4f0l&t=542)

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board, the following actions are approved without discussion.

A-2 Approval of Minutes from the Harbor Advisory Board meeting held on December 7, 2023.  
**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-1 Harbor Department Status Report.  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.**

**MOTION:** Board Member Vice-Chair Hansson moved to approve the consent agenda. The Motion was seconded by Board Member O'Brien and carried, 5-0-2 with Member Doughty and Member Witkowski absent.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=jQH5I0D4xQ8CtIbO&t=577](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=jQH5I0D4xQ8CtIbO&t=577)

B-1 HARBOR DIRECTOR – DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Director Schiafone presented an oral report and responded to Board Member questions.

The public comment period was opened and closed with no comments.

B-2 REQUEST TO CONTINUE COMMERCIAL VESSEL FEES AD-HOC COMMITTEE

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=r88-p3GbmyNnQSow&t=2815](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=r88-p3GbmyNnQSow&t=2815)

Director Schiafone presented the staff report and identified new requests for the ad-hoc committee to have deliverables in the next 60 days.

Chair Myers confirmed the appointment of Members Witkowski, Vaile, and himself as the three ad-hoc committee members.

The public comment period was opened and closed with no comments.

B-3 HARBOR WALK UPDATE – MORRO BAY LANDING TO MORRO BAY OYSTER COMPANY

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=r9Cu6htAT0X7C-dA&t=3190](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=r9Cu6htAT0X7C-dA&t=3190)

Director Schiafone presented the staff report to update the Board on the Harborwalk between Morro Bay Landing and Morro Bay Oyster Company and answered Board Member inquiries.

The public comment period was opened and closed with no comments.

B-4 REQUEST THE FORMATION OF A NEW AD-HOC COMMITTEE

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=Hd6jw8WgwgSz3R9i&t=3755](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=Hd6jw8WgwgSz3R9i&t=3755)

Director Schiafone presented the staff report and requested an ad-hoc to be formed.

MOTION: Board Chair Myers moved to form an Ad-Hoc to study the mooring with Member O'Brien Member Vaile and Member Doughty. The motion was seconded by Member Green and carried 5-0-2 with Member Witkowski and Member Doughty absent.

The public comment period was open.

Chuck Losness spoke to his knowledge of working on mooring locations.

Robert Reece, Land Surveyor, presented a few facts and history concerning the mooring fields.

The public comment period was closed.

B-5 APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FOR BOARD MEMBER DOUGHTY

[https://youtu.be/IYs7fl\\_tTM8?si=fSB32iT8HyTxOD9j&t=4694](https://youtu.be/IYs7fl_tTM8?si=fSB32iT8HyTxOD9j&t=4694)

MOTION: Board Member O'Brien moved to approve the request submitted by HAB Member Doughty to excuse his absence from the March 7, 2024, Regular Harbor Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Member Vaile and carried 5-0-2 with Member Witkowski and Member Doughty absent.

C. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Member Hansson requested to add a Budget update to the future agenda item list.

D. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lori Thompson  
Harbor Department

MINUTES-MORRO BAY HARBOR ADVISORY  
BOARD MEETING – MAY 2, 2024  
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL – 5:30 P.M.

AGENDA NO: A-2

MEETING DATE: August 1, 2024

PRESENT:	Cal Myers	Chair
	Cherise Hansson	Vice-Chair
	Christopher Vaile	Member
	Jeremiah O'Brien	Member
	Sean Green	Member
	Gene Doughty	Member
	Mary Witkowski	Member
STAFF:	Ted Schiafone	Harbor Director
	Lori Thompson	Harbor Business Coordinator

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=yqiyolXttGdhTxgX&t=7>

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER & COUNCIL LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC

OUTREACH REPORTING

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

[https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=-n\\_C68wO5ntJ0aFR&t=304](https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=-n_C68wO5ntJ0aFR&t=304)

The public comment period was opened.

Bill Luffee, Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department promoted the upcoming marine swap meet on June 29, 2024.

Drew Jacobson, mooring owner, expressed concerns for the new harbor skiff storage program.

Denise Jacobson, mooring owner, expressed concerns regarding Harbor staff and the recently implemented skiff storage program. She indicated that the program's guidelines are confusing and voiced her apprehension about potential difficulties in accessing her mooring.

Adam Battenburg, mooring owner, expressed support for the skiff program but requested clarification on certain language that he finds concerning.

Joel Silano, liveaboard, questioned the necessity of a new program, suggesting instead that the Harbor Department should focus on enforcing the existing program.

Anastasia Ruttschow, liveaboard, raised concerns that the new program may unfairly burden those who diligently pay their fees and highlighted issues regarding the availability of water resources and proper trash disposal facilities at the Tidelands dock.

Korrin Alpers, liveaboard, suggested specific revisions to the skiff storage agreement, by removing the 30-day modification clause without refunds, modifying the non-transferable sticker, proposed

assigning a sticker number to the mooring holder and requested the agreement be mailed rather than requiring in-person submission.

Jeff Odel, a Morro Bay resident, noted that Bayshore Park currently allows informal storage at no cost. He emphasized that the Board should recognize the city's liability for any accidents that may occur at this location and suggested implementing a storage fee.

Nancy Cooper, mooring owner, raised concerns regarding discrepancies between the promised skiff tie up and the current allocation of storage spaces with the new program, not accounting for two occupants of a mooring needing two skiff storage spaces.

The public comment period was closed.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=NlKcVlSmJMyhAeu6&t=2142>

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board, the following actions are approved without discussion.

A-1 Approval of Minutes from the Harbor Advisory Board meeting held on February 1, 2024.  
**RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.**

A-2 Harbor Department Status Report.  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.**

**MOTION:** Board Member Vaile moved to approve the consent agenda. The Motion was seconded by Board Member O'Brien and carried unanimously, 7-0-0.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=4luD9bPx-Z7z953V&t=2179>

B-1 HARBOR DIRECTOR – DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

Director Schiafone presented an oral department update report and responded to Board Member questions.

The public comment period was opened.

Bill Luffee, Morro Bay resident, commented on the Harbor department's legal fee line item being overbudget, and recouping the cost by passing it on to leaseholders in current negotiations.

The public comment period was closed.

B-2 COMMERCIAL VESSEL FEES AD-HOC COMMITTEE

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=tWw3f1B56XSLrm2O&t=4195>

Committee member Witkowski requested additional direction from Director Schiafone on what specific fees the committee should be reviewing.

The public comment period was opened and closed with no comments.

B-3 MOORING FIELD AD-HOC COMMITTEE

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=LCAW09kDt7LX8zfK&t=4470>

Committee Member Myers gave a brief oral report on the committees last meeting.

Committee Member's Vaile and Doughty discussed the major issues and possible remedies the committee will examine.

The public comment period was opened.

Devon Hatcher, Morro Bay resident, expressed interest in establishing a mooring inspection business and inquired if there were any new environmental laws concerning barges and inspection equipment.

The public comment period was closed.

C. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

<https://youtu.be/3HXw1vdLmmQ?si=rCnnlttOHWkCuRj1&t=5149>

Member Witkowski requested to bring back the skiff storage program for review. There was Board consensus.

Member O'Brien requested a broader approach concerning the skiff storage program item, which would include the maintenance complaints heard during public comment. Chair Myers and Member Green agreed.

D. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lori Thompson  
Harbor Department



AGENDA NO: A-3

MEETING DATE: August 1, 2024

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** July 25, 2024

**FROM:** Becka Kelly, Harbor Patrol Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Harbor Department Status Report

## RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report.

## DISCUSSION

### **Recent Department Activity:**

Harbor Patrol statistics for **May, June, July 2024:**

bay patrols: 245

land patrols: 583

emergency responses: 62

calls for service: 370

assists of other agencies: 168

enforcement contacts: 129

trainings: 80

maintenance actions: 594

weather warnings: 44 and 2 hazardous bar warnings

### Harbor Patrol Activity.

Safe Boating Day was recognized on May 18. Harbor Patrol hosted an open house on the dock and talked with kids about water safety. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Fish and Wildlife Wardens also participated. This event coincided with the Pirate and Mermaid Parade that had more than 75 kids who walked from Morro Rock to the Dockside restaurant in their sea creature outfits.

On May 19, and the days preceding it, staff was busy with Ironman preparation and safety for the race itself. Harbor Patrol assisted Ironman staff by towing the dock/buoys and organize safety personnel to work the event. This year as many of you have heard, was a very difficult swim due to the constraints set forth by Fish and Wildlife to keep the athletes in deeper water away from the sea otters. Many swimmers struggled with the tidal current and over 300 people needed assistance from water safety personnel.

On the same day as Ironman, later that afternoon, Harbor Patrol was dispatched to a subject that had fallen out of his boat off Cayucos. Patrol boat 3864 responded with two officers and requested

Prepared By: LS/BK

Dept Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Attorney Review: \_\_\_\_\_

one rescue watercraft operator from Morro Bay Fire to respond with a jet ski. An initial search was conducted by Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard with no luck. The California Highway Patrol Helicopter, H70 flew overhead and spotted the small zodiac approximately one mile NW of the Mouse Rock buoy with a man in the water. Coast Guard attempted to bring the victim aboard their 47' motor lifeboat. However, due to his size and inability to help because of hypothermia, the crew could not get the victim aboard. Harbor Patrol boat 64 assessed victim and even though the victim had beach launched off Cayucos beach it was decided due to both the large size of the surf and the hypothermic state of the victim that it was safest for Harbor Patrol to bring him back to their dock in Morro Bay. Care of victim was turned over to paramedics once back at the dock and released to his family.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Harbor Patrol responded to a 14' aluminum skiff with two people on board stuck in the tidal flats, south of the State Park Marina. Reserve HPO Macintosh paddled tow line and connected to their boat and Patrol boat 3869 towed it back to the channel. They were educated about tides and fishing regulations.

A small boat was swept thru the surf on the beach on bay side of South Jetty on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Harbor Patrol Officers responded in 3864 and on Rescue Watercraft (RWC). The 14' Wahoo (Whaler style boat) was broadside in beach break and swamped. HPO Stein took swim line in via RWC, 3864 towed and pumped vessel. Stein transported the victims to 3864. HPO's Howland and Kelly towed boat to launch ramp, boaters were a little cold, but no signs of hypothermia.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Harbor Patrol intercepted communication from Lifeguards regarding a rescue in progress involving an unconscious victim at Morro Rock. Dispatch was then notified and HPO's responded code 3 to assist. Upon arrival two LGs on rescue boards and several surfers were paddling the victim in through the surf and began CPR as soon as they could. Fire and Paramedics continued CPR on unconscious man while transported off the beach in the Harbor Patrol truck into parking lot. The victim was pronounced deceased on arrival to the hospital.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the Harbor Department hired a contractor to demolish several boats at the launch ramp with funding from the SAVE (surrendered and abandoned vessel exchange) Grant by the California Division of Boating and Waterways. This program has been valuable to keep boats from becoming a threat to pollute and derelict in our waters.

The Coast Guard held a Change of Command Ceremony on June 21<sup>st</sup>. We would like to take time to welcome the new Officer in Charge (OIC) of Coast Guard Station Morro Bay. BMC Eric Ceallaigh (pronounced Kelly) has assumed the responsibility after moving to Morro Bay from Cape Disappointment in Washington. He is making strides in the community and with the Harbor Patrol to be a great teammate. The search and rescue mission of the Coast Guard overlaps with Harbor Patrol but covers a greater area of the California coast.

On June 29, the Friends of the Harbor Department and Harbor staff hosted the Marine Swap meet in conjunction with the Maritime Museum and the Youth Sailing Foundation. This was the biggest turnout since it's inception in 2018. This annual event takes place in the triangle lot on the last Saturday of June.

The Skiff Storage Program is underway as of July 1, and 41 stickers have been issued. Approximately 39 warnings have been placed on skiffs still needing to comply. The contract is under final review after few revisions were requested by the Morro Bay Boating Community.



Over the past few months, the Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department launched a largely word-of-mouth campaign to raise funds for a state-of-the-art rescue UTV. The campaign resonated deeply with the community, garnering donations from near and far. This overwhelming support has culminated in the acquisition of the new UTV, which will significantly boost the capabilities of the Morro Bay Harbor Department in conducting lifesaving operations. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the UTV was put in service with the Lifeguard staff at Morro Rock.

Lifeguards and Harbor Patrol have completed training to drive this vehicle. Its features include improved agility on sandy terrains, and vital lifesaving equipment providing a safer environment for all beachgoers.

The Harbor Department received a grant for an Oil Spill Response Equipment trailer from California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The trailer came fully stocked and an 8-hour training was conducted with Global Diving and Salvage, Fish and Wildlife, Coast Guard, Harbor Patrol and Fire personnel. The training included booming techniques, health and safety concerns regarding oil spills and equipment familiarization. The trailer is stored in the Harbor Boathouse, ready for quick deployment. To report an oil or chemical spill, you can contact the **National Response Center (NRC)** at **800-424-8802**. The NRC is part of the federally established National Response System and is staffed 24 hours a day by the Coast Guard. When reporting, provide as much information about the incident as possible. The NRC is the designated federal point of contact for reporting all oil discharges into the environment. They activate the National Contingency Plan and coordinate the federal government's response capabilities. Remember, immediate reporting is crucial to effective spill management.





Harbor Patrol Officer Howland pursued a second Life Jacket Loaner Station from the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. This one was placed at Coleman Beach to help provide a safe and legal way for folks to paddle/boat in the harbor. The first one is at the launch ramp. Special thanks to the Friends of the Harbor Department volunteer, Dave Naumann for driving to Sacramento to pick it up.





The City's commercial fishing slips continue to be repaired by local contractor Associated Pacific Constructors. The slips at the base of Beach Street were removed months ago and have been greatly replaced. Gangways and additional work on the southern portion of the slips is still to come.



In 2022, the City of Morro Bay was notified by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) of the availability of funding available for installation of electric vehicle charging stations on the Embarcadero. The city applied for the funding and was awarded partial funding in the amount of \$24,160.00. Total cost of the project was \$29,622.00. Construction of the charging station was completed in April 2024 and went live in June 2024. APCD confirmed the installation complies with the Grant requirements in July 2024 and the Grant funding will be provided to partially reimburse the city for construction costs. You will find it next to Crill's Saltwater Taffy.





AGENDA NO: B-1

MEETING DATE: August 1, 2024

## Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** July 10, 2024

**FROM:** Lori Thompson, Harbor Business Coordinator

**SUBJECT:** Update from the Commercial Vessel Fees Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file committee update.

### **BACKGROUND, DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

The Commercial Vessel Fees Ad-Hoc Committee of the Harbor Advisory Board will be presenting an oral update on their activities.

Prepared By: LS

Dept Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Attorney Review: \_\_\_\_\_



AGENDA NO: B-2

MEETING DATE: August 1, 2024

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** July 10, 2024

**FROM:** Becka Kelly, Harbor Patrol Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Update from the Mooring Field Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file committee update.

## **BACKGROUND, DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

The Mooring Field Ad-Hoc Committee of the Harbor Advisory Board will be presenting an oral update on their activities.

Prepared By: LS

Dept Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Manager Review: \_\_\_\_\_

City Attorney Review: \_\_\_\_\_