



City Manager's Updates

October 2, 2024

Our City's 60th incorporation celebration was a success. I want to thank everyone involved, especially our partners who have made this milestone memorable. Visit Morro Bay was one of the City's most significant partners to produce last month's festivities. Visit Morro Bay is a non-profit organization established in 2021 to efficiently represent the interest of Morro Bay Tourism Business Improvement District. Although separate from the City operation, Visit Morro Bay has been a close strategic ally to the City. As a member of its Board of Directors, I serve alongside six dedicated hoteliers and business owners to work collaboratively, advance city's tourism and overall wellbeing. During the September board meeting, we discussed several exciting topics that I want to include briefly.

One key update was the results of a brand awareness study, commissioned by Visit Morro Bay to assess how our city compares to other popular regional destinations. Conducted by Heart and Mind Strategies, this study surveyed over 1,200 participants across key markets like the Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County. The findings were promising. Morro Bay performed very well in the region, with 93% of our ads generating a positive response, 92% of travelers viewing us as a favorable destination in the region, and 45% expressing interest in visiting within the next year. These insights will help us refine our marketing strategies and target key opportunity markets. Additionally, the board approved grant funding for the upcoming Marine Time Family Fun event in October and the Chamber of Commerce's Shop, Sip, and Stroll events. Both events are sure to enhance our community offerings.

Shifting focus to city departments, I'd like to highlight some of the important projects each department has been working on. First, our Finance Department, though its work is often behind the scenes, its contributions are essential to the success of all other departments. Recently, our independent auditors visited City Hall to conduct on-site work for the FY 23/24 financial audit, which will be finalized and available in January. This is an annual affair for the Department. The Finance team is also spearheading the City's Development Impact Fee Study with results expected early next year. Also in motion for the Department is the review of transient occupancy tax (TOT) and business license administration contract with HdL to evaluate future options.

The Community Development Department never has a shortage of exciting projects to work on, including the long-awaited Waterfront Master Plan update. The last waterfront masterplan was adopted in 1996. City Council directed staff to apply for a grant of up to \$750,000 with the Coastal Commission for an update. Here is a link for the application can be found [here](#). The application has been submitted and will be considered by the Coastal Commission at its November meeting. We are optimistic that the city can begin this highly anticipated project early next year. In the meantime, I encourage you to explore the 2017 [Downtown Waterfront Strategic Plan](#) which was developed with substantial public input and served as an important guide for our city's economic growth and downtown/waterfront development. Community Development Director Airlin Singewald and his team also continue to review the implementation and the enforcement of the short-term rental ordinance, a topic that has proven to be quite complex. Our city website has a page dedicated to short term vacation rental ordinance information. Click [here](#) to view the website. Additionally, I invite you to take a look at the May 2024 staff report which outlines some challenges and solutions. Linked [here](#) is the staff report.

Street paving has been a standing priority for the City Council and the community. This year the Public Works Department received approval for over \$4 million street paving work. Contracts have been executed. The paving construction is tentatively scheduled for October. Watch out for construction activities. We will send out more alerts when details are available. [Here](#) is additional information on this year's pavement work. Additionally, this [annual street pavement presentation](#) helps to understand the City's overall pavement program.

Lastly, I want to share some progress we have made to reduce homelessness in our community. Under the leadership of our Street Outreach Coordinator, Jason Holland, and Police Chief Amy Watkins, the City continues the focused approach to proactively help individuals who are willing to accept services and addiction treatment programs. We continue to collaborate with regional and local partners to provide shower services, meals, connection to shelters, and assistance with social service, mental health and treatment programs. Thanks to their efforts, several unhoused individuals have successfully transitioned into housing and services this year. In addition, the Police Department, along with Public Works and Fire personnel, have led camp cleanups in several areas, including Quintana, Tideland park, Morro Bay Blvd/ Hwy 1, Coleman Park/Rock Dunes Area, corner of South San Jacinto and Main St., 1300 Main St bridge, West Atascadero Road, 400 Block of Surf St., an area near Morro Elementary School, Underneath Pedestrian Bridge at North Pit Park/Dunes RV Park, as well as the Pullout at Hwy 41 east of Ironwood. Despite these efforts, it is estimated that 20 to 25 individuals remain service resistant. Chief Watkins has reported that among the service resistant individuals, many are frequently cited for violations such as trespassing, shoplifting, under the Influenced of Drugs and/or Alcohol, Arson, Disturbing the Peace, and Assault.

I hope you will find these highlights informative. As always, there are many more important updates from each department in the sections that follow.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Kimball
City Manager – ykimball@morrobayca.gov;
[cell: 805-440-4450](tel:805-440-4450)

Police

Department Updates

Senior Officer Jason Ta Recognized by San Luis Obispo Masons



On September 10th, the Morro Bay Police Department was invited to the San Luis Obispo King David's Masonic Lodge for their annual San Luis Obispo County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet. The Morro Bay Police Department recognized Senior Officer Jason Ta as the department's 2023 Officer of the Year. Senior Officer Ta was chosen by his Morro Bay PD peers for his hard work and dedication to the department and the community. Jason was recognized alongside nine other law enforcement officers from San Luis Obispo County law enforcement community.

Traffic Statistics

On July 10, 2024, the Morro Bay Police Department placed into service two 2024 BMW Police Motorcycles operated by two certified motor officers. Along with patrol and traffic enforcement in Morro Bay, the motors unit has worked in the cities of Atascadero and San Luis Obispo for special events and enforcement. Below are the preliminary statistics generated by the motor's unit.



190 citations have been issued by the motor officers with 95 of those citations being traffic infractions such as driving while using a wireless telephone, no evidence of current registration, failure to stop at a stop sign, unlicensed driver, unsafe speed, unlawful material on windshield/windows and mandatory seatbelt to name a few. All other citations were issued as a Notice to Appear, Parking and Municipal Code violations.

Community Events & Outreach

Morro Bay 60th Anniversary Parade

On September 7th, Morro Bay Police Department staff along with 12 volunteers and four police explorers joined the city to assist with the traffic management and road closures for a community parade to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the incorporation of Morro Bay. The parade covered just under one mile and lasted 45 minutes. The parade started at Morro Bay Blvd and Piney Way and concluded at Embarcadero and Beach St. Traffic was minimally impacted due to the hard work and experience of police

department staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and worked in cooperation with us to make this a safe and successful event.



Fourth Annual Faith & Blue Weekend

On September 18th, the Morro Bay Police Department kicked off this year's National Faith & Blue weekend with a conversation at Estero Bay United Methodist Church. Faith & Blue Weekend takes place this year during the October 11th - 14th weekend. We met with Estero Bay Methodist Church a little early this year due to scheduling conflicts. Faith & Blue is based on the premise that strong communities are built through mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive. This is Morro Bay's fourth year participating in this event. This is truly a wonderful opportunity to meet our community in our community where good conversations can be had and questions can be answered for a more inclusive community. We look forward to another weekend where we can connect and be with our community and faith-based organizations.



Sheriff's Family Day

The Morro Bay Police Department enjoyed an amazing day with our SLO County law enforcement partners with the goal of connecting with SLO county families and friends at this year's Sheriff's Day. Several members of the police department including the chief, commander, officers, volunteers, and explorers attended the event. We set up our Morro Bay Police Department canopy and gave away some good swag to kids of all ages. We connected with many during this five-hour event as we showcased our newest BMW motorcycle and patrol truck. We look forward to this event each year and look forward to next year.



Fire

Response Statistics

The Morro Bay Fire Department totaled 209 responses from August 1 through August 31, 2024.

- Series 100 (Fires) 8 incidents
- Series 200 (Overpressure, rupture, explosion, no fire) 0 incidents
- Series 300 (Rescue & EMS incident) 128 incidents
- Series 400 (Hazardous condition no fire) 4 incidents
- Series 500 (Service call) 38 incidents
- Series 600 (Good intent call) 17 incidents
- Series 700 (False alarm & false call) 14 incidents
- Series 800 (Severe weather & natural disaster) 0 incidents
- Series 900 (Special incident type) 0 incidents
- Total 209 incidents

Public Events

The Morro Bay Fire Department was excited to participate in the City's 60th anniversary celebration. We had the honor of driving the parade Grand Marshal's Mr. and Mrs. Kitzman on the Department's antique fire engine. Fire Department personnel were able to hand out some plastic fire helmets and stickers to the children and interact with many of our residents and visitors at the Founders Day celebration at tidelands Park.





Halloween Safety Tips

- When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Make Halloween safe
for your little monsters
with a few easy safety tips...



Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns.



When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.



Teach children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.



Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like lightbulbs and heaters.



Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.



CHECK OUT SPARKY.ORG
FOR MORE SPOOKY FUN!

The name and image of Sparky are a trademark of the NFPA.



Harbor

Harbor Patrol Statistics

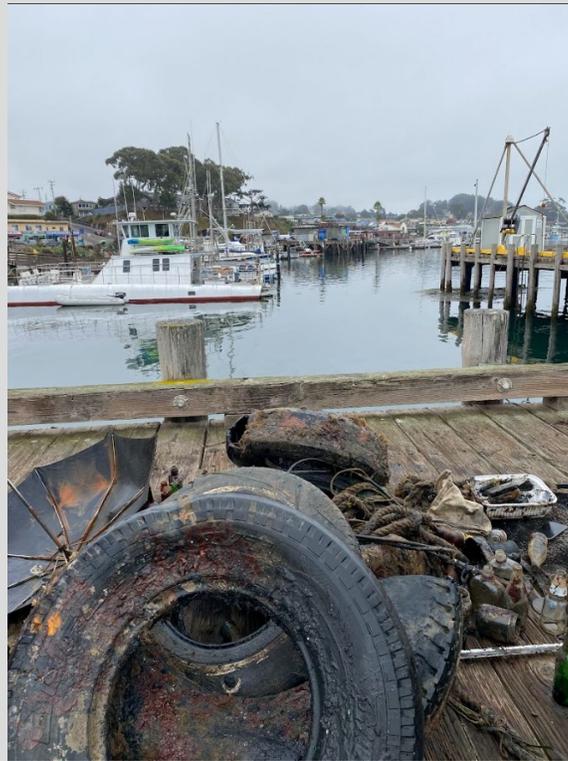
August 2024:	September 2024 as of 9/30/24:
bay patrols: 90	bay patrols: 75
land patrols: 207	land patrols: 217
emergency responses: 23	emergency responses: 12
calls for service: 138	calls for service: 103
assists of other agencies: 62	assists of other agencies: 41
enforcement contacts: 56	enforcement contacts: 48
trainings: 37	trainings: 60
maintenance actions: 252	maintenance actions: 250
weather warnings: 14	weather warnings: 14 & 2 hazardous bar

Community Involvement

On September 21st, Harbor Patrol along with Friends of the Morro Bay Harbor Department partnered with ECOSLO to participate in the 40th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. The focus for the Harbor Department was Bayshore Bluffs Park, where more than 30 volunteers showed their spirit to remove debris and abandoned skiffs and kayaks. All watercraft stored on this City beach must have the owner's name and phone number clearly visible or valid registration numbers showing so contact can be made by City staff.



On September 28th, Harbor Patrol Officers assisted Revive Dive a San Luis Obispo based non-profit group of volunteers who focused on cleaning up trash beneath the South T Pier. They were able to remove about 500 pounds of trash. They hope to come back in December to clean up another underwater section of our bay.



For the City's 60th Celebration the Harbor Department hosted the band, The Wavehogs who rocked the parade with 60's surf music. The Harbor Team did an extended loop out to Morro Rock to stoke the local surfers that day as well.



Public Works

Engineering

Pavement Management Project

Staff is currently negotiating a start date with the City's low-bid contractor, Souza. We are working expeditiously on this task. Once we have a concrete start date, we will announce it on the City's website.

Sequoia Court Storm Drain Replacement/Repairs:

Construction started October 19th. This project includes a number of challenges including work in the City utility easement on private property, the depth of the storm drain and other utilities. The work is estimated to be completed approximately mid-November.



Astound Residential and Commercial Fiber Optics Project

Over the past two years, Engineering staff has been coordinating and approving permits for Astound, Inc., to install a fiber optic network across the City. This has been a time-consuming, extensive task which has required staff to create backend permit tracking systems and ensure proper sequencing of work to minimize impacts for the Morro Bay Community. Below is an action photo of Astound and Public Works staff working on coordinating underground work to be performed on streets before the City's paving project, which is set to start this Fall.



Utilities

Utilities participated in the 60th anniversary celebration. Jimmy Kelly drove the Utilities Vacall truck and Alex Tapia drove the water valve turning truck. Utilities staff enjoyed being a part of this great celebration and seeing so many smiling faces along the parade route.



Manhole collars repairs

Utilities Sewer Collections crews repaired two sewer manhole collars. These collars get damaged over time and therefore crews periodically must repair them. Sometimes the manhole collars need to be raised to prevent water from pooling and flowing into the sewer system.



Before

After

Utility Operations Stats for September

September	
Water	
Leaks	1
USAs	143
Meter shutoff due to Emergency	0
Meter re-reads	55
Chlorine residuals checked	25
Tank inspections completed	57
Meters exchanged	3
Water complaint	9
State Water purchased	31.8MG
BWRO production	0.5MG
Sewer	
Footage of sewer lines cleaned	13,715
CCTV'd sewer lines	0
Lateral inspections	1
Lift Station inspections	45
FOG inspection	8
WRC	
Sewage Processed	27MG
Waste Hauled	118 Tons
Work Orders completed	383

Maintenance

Maintenance staff has been busy clearing encroaching vegetation on City Streets. The attached pictures show bike lanes on Quintana Rd and South Bay Blvd being cleared. Work was done by prison crews, private contractors, and City staff.



**September Service Requests Received from
Public and Completed**

Bike Path Issues	1
Custodial Request	1
Graffiti	3
Maintenance Request	9
Other - Street Lights	1
Pothole/Sinkhole	6
Sidewalk Issue	1
Storm Drain Issue	1
Tree Fallen Across Sidewalk	1
Tree Pruning/Trimming	3
Total	27

September Work Orders Completed

Facilities		Sidewalks-Paths	
Core Duties	9	ADA Work	2
Custodial	1	Remove	1
Electrical	3	Trim Bushes/Trees	1
Facilities Other	1	Stormwater	
General Maintenance	1	Hydro Jetting	1
Graffiti Removal	1	Maintenance	1
Plumbing	2	Replace	1
Furniture		Street Trees	
Install	1	Evaluation	5
Replace	1	Hazard Reduction	1
Parks		Removal	1
Electrical system	1	Tree Trimming	6
Haul Debris	1	Streets	
Maintenance	2	ADA Work	3
Mowing	2	CMA Patch	3
Other	4	HMA Patch	1
Weed Abatement	2	Replace Sign	1
		Total	60



FULL TIME OPENINGS

- Assistant to the City Manager
- Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer
- Harbor Vitality Director
- Police Sergeant
- Police Officer - Lateral or POST Academy Graduate Only
- Utility Operator Multi-Cert

PART TIME TEMPORARY OPENINGS

- Custodial/Maintenance Aide
- Office Assistant - Finance Dept.
- Pool Lifeguard
- Swim Instructor
- Sports Official

APPLY ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT
[HTTPS://WWW.MORROBAYCA.GOV/832/EMPLOYMENT-OPPORTUNITIES](https://www.morrobayca.gov/832/EMPLOYMENT-OPPORTUNITIES)



illustrates the life cycle of a Vote-by-Mail Ballot.

Keep an eye on your mailbox in the coming days as Voter Information Guides and Vote-by-Mail Ballots will begin arriving on Monday, October 7th. If you're not registered yet or need to update your voter registration, go to registertovote.ca.gov.

A list of official Vote-by-Mail Ballot drop box locations is available [here](#). For those curious about what happens to your ballot once placed in a drop box or mail, this graphic provided by the SLO County Clerk-Recorder's office

LIFE CYCLE OF A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT



SLOVOTE.COM

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Community Development

Vistra Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Update

On September 24, 2024, City staff presented the Council with an update on the Vistra BESS project. This included presentations on the permitting status and timeline, off-site consequences analysis, and the AB 205 “opt in” process whereby an energy company can seek approval of an energy storage project from the State, bypassing local zoning. The slides from the presentation are available [here](#).

Automated Solar Permitting is Now Available Online

The California Energy Commission (CEC) in conjunction with California Senate Bill 129 (2021) made appropriations to support grant funding to implement an automated solar/battery storage permit processing program. The Building Division secured the grant funding in the amount of \$40,000 in February of 2023 and have been working closely with our 3rd party provider Symbium during the implementation process. We are excited to announce that our automated permit processing program is now live. This not only brings the City into compliance with SB379 but affords us the procurement of grant funds and rolls out a one-stop permitting process for our solar/energy storage system installers. Applicants can now apply for a permit, pay the fees, and even schedule their inspection from the Symbium portal which also has a landing page on the City website, [here](#).

Building Division Staff Update

The City’s Building Inspector position is currently vacant. As the City recruits a new building inspector, we have contracted with a company called “CSG” to assist the City’s Building Division. CSG regularly provides building permit plan checks for the City and will now perform building inspections on a temporary and interim basis, until a new permanent inspector is hired. Dave Muehlhausen is the CSG inspector assigned to Morro Bay. Mr. Muehlhausen, a very experienced inspector, will work under the direction of Chad Ouimet, the City’s Supervising Building Inspector. The City will advertise the permanent Building Inspector position in October with the goal of filling the position before the end of the year.

There are currently 134 projects of various sizes under construction in the City. The City’s Building Division conducts an average of 12 inspections per day.

Permit Statistics

September was the City’s busiest month of the summer for permit activity, with 54 permits issued at a total valuation of \$2,710,869. Planning cases were down in September. This has allowed City planners to shift focus to Council-directed Long Range Planning items, such the Waterfront Master Plan Update and researching a potential BESS ordinance.

BUILDING	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Permits Issued	45	35	51	54
Inspections	174	283	301	287
New Applications	18	15	15	13
Valuation	\$2,527,295	\$806,123	\$768,327	\$2,710,869
Fees Collected	\$264,202	\$40,637	\$35,690	\$205,464

PLANNING	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Coastal Development Permits	4	3	12	1
Use Permits	1	1	1	0
Sign Permits	0	0	0	2
Temporary Use Permits	0	0	0	0
Lot / Parcel Map	0	3	0	0
Min/Maj Modification	0	2	1	1
Parking Exception	0	0	0	0
Sidewalk Vending License	1	0	0	0
Zoning Clearance	1	0	0	1
Comm Cannabis Renewal			1	0
Admin Design Review			1	0
Total	7	9	16	5
Fees Collected	\$2,755	\$29,890	\$30,217	\$6,684.50

Short-term Rental Ordinance Enforcement

Beginning November 1, 2024, the Community Development Department will start actively enforcing its short-term rental ordinance. This means identifying all short-term rentals currently advertised online (e.g., AirBNB, VRBO, etc.) and issuing notices of violations to properties that are operating without a permit. Beginning January 1, 2025, the City will also require all short-term rental permit holders to renew their permits annually as required by the City’s Municipal Code. More information is available [here](#).

Planning Commission – Housing Policy Review

On October 15, the Community Development Department will give a presentation to the City Planning Commission on recently adopted State laws to streamline the development of housing in the City. This includes ADU law, Senate Bill (SB) 9, and SB 684. These laws require administrative by-right approval (i.e., no hearings or environmental review) for certain housing developments and subdivisions. Per these laws, the City has limited discretion when reviewing such housing developments. The City’s recently updated zoning code, however, includes objective design standards that the City can apply to such developments.

Panorama Subdivision – Notice of Preparation of an EIR

The City is about to issue a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 3300 Panorama Drive Subdivision Project. The proposed subdivision would involve demolition of the remaining onsite structures and the subdivision of the 10.1-acre project site to create 46 residential lots and one common lot. Residential lots would range in size from approximately 2,800 square feet to 6,690 square feet and would be developed with a total of 46 for-sale single family residences, 16 of which would contain ‘casitas’ or separate living facilities interior to the structure. Onsite vehicular access would be provided by newly created internal roadways that would provide access to residential lots throughout the site. There would be two ingress/egress connections from the private roads on the project site to the public street, Panorama Drive. Portions of the project site would also be used for drainage, infrastructure, and open space.



The public will be invited to a Scoping Meeting at the Veterans Hall on October 17 at 5:30 PM to provide input on the key environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR.

Recreation

Recreation Service's Aquatics section is splashing into fall with its 5th annual Floating Pumpkin Patch coming up on October 20th! This is a unique spin on the traditional fall pumpkin patch with recreational swim. Participants get to jump into the pool and swim around until they find their favorite pumpkin! They then get to decorate them with fun faces! They will also get to participate in games, activities and face painting. Lifejackets are available to borrow that day. This is also a recreational swim opportunity, with the deep end and diving boards open! Registration is open now! Here's information on this year's event and a look at last year! Parents joining in the swimming only portion of the event can pay \$5 at the door.





Floating Pumpkin Patch 2023

Join us for the 10th Annual Morro Bay Trick or Treat Event!

10th Annual
MORRO BAY
TRICK-OR-TREAT
 Saturday, October 26th, 2:30-5:30pm

 Use the **MAP** to Trick-or-Treat Morro Bay businesses!

Meet for walking parade @ 2:30pm
 corner of Monterey Ave & Morro Bay Blvd

Map pick up: 2:45pm at the City Rec booth
 corner of Morro Bay Blvd & Main St

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Photo Booth Face painting
 Haunted Trolley
 White Caps Band Candy



Kids' Club is back in Session for the 2024/2025 School Year! Kids' Club Children's Center is licensed by the State of CA Community Care Licensing Division, which means we have set requirements for staffing and our program. On Thursday August 29th, licensing conducted an unannounced random inspection, and we are happy to announce we passed with all A's! Kristina and the team go above and beyond to keep all paperwork in order, classroom cleaned daily and meet all set requirements. We are very proud of our team!

