



City Manager's Updates

February 19, 2025

The last few weeks have been quite eventful. In mid-January, as the City was preparing for the adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 668 prohibiting the application, approval, commencement, establishment, operation, relocation or expansion of grid-scale BESS facilities in the City limits, Monterey County's Moss Landing Power Plant caught on fire. This watershed incident reignited passionate discussions on BESS related regulations, safety standards and renewable energy policies for months to come.

Ordinance No. 668 was adopted at the January 28 meeting. The City Council is now scheduled to consider its extension at the February 25th meeting. This Urgency Ordinance can be extended for up to two years, during which time the City may consider a permanent ordinance to prohibit or regulate new BESS facilities within the City limits.

City leaders stayed busy at regional events. Several council members attended REACH's [2025 Ideas + Action Summit](#) at Santa Barbara where hundreds of community and business leaders gathered to hear about innovations that happen in the Central Coast. Our City also conducted two advocacy trips pushing for community's interests at the highest levels— one at the State Capitol, the other at Washington DC. Late January, Mayor Wixom led a delegation to Sacramento to advocate for Morro Bay's interests. BESS energy projects and the fire were focal points of the discussions. Furthermore, our group engaged in discussions with representatives in the Legislature and State agencies critical issues including housing policies in coastal zones, offshore wind projects, maritime resilience, disaster response, and funding for local governments, all of which impact the City's interests. Following the trip to the State Capitol, Mayor Carla Wixom, Harbor Vitality Director Chris Munson and I went to Washington DC to attend the California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC) DC meetings. We met with the US Army Corps of Engineers to promote our harbor interests and infrastructure needs. Mayor Wixom presented Congressman Salud Carbajal with a Morro Bay Fire Department Challenge Coin and urged earmarked funds for public safety. Our delegation discussed regional impact issues with

Congressman Jimmy Panetta. We also met with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and US Senators Padilla and Schiff. We connected with FEMA's headquarter staff reviewed Morro Bay's pending claims related to harbor infrastructure, gained additional information on emergency responses and grant opportunities. We are grateful for the grant from the Central California Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee which made this trip possible.

On our home front, City staff hosted an information session on January 30th to inform the public of land use and zoning specifications of the former Morro Elementary School site. It was well attended and quite helpful. If you missed it but would like to catch up on the information, it is posted [here](#). A big "Thank You" to Airlin Singewald, Community Development Director and his team for an excellent session. The PowerPoint slides are also available online for viewing [here](#).

Lastly, we are rolling out the 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 City Council goals process. City Council received a [progress report](#) on current goals at its January 28th Regular Meeting. City Resolution No. 83-18 directs that every two years, following a general election, the City Council is to review (and amend if appropriate) its high-level City goals. In order to ensure City goals relate back to the community's needs and desires, City Policy dictates the City conduct robust outreach to seek public input. We used an online survey and disseminated it through email, social media, and the local newspaper. The QR code was posted at the Senior Center and library and we visited local businesses and talked with community members. The community forum, meetings with City Advisory Boards/Commissions, and finally a Council workshop are set forth in the coming weeks. I thank everyone for your participation in this important process.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Kimball

City Manager – ykimball@morrobayca.gov; cell: 805-440-4450

Police

Department Operations

Swearing in Officer Miguel Salgado Martinez

Officer Miguel Salgado Martinez sworn in as police officer. Miguel was born and raised in Morro Bay where he attended Del Mar Elementary and Morro Bay High School. Miguel joined the Morro Bay Police Department in 2021 as a Police Explorer. In October 2022, Miguel was hired full-time as the department Community Service Officer, a non-sworn support services position. Miguel attended the Allan Hancock Law Enforcement Academy where he graduated near the top of his class and received the award for top cadet in practical scenario testing. Miguel was sworn in as a full-time police officer on February 10th. We are thrilled to have Miguel join our department as a peace officer and we look forward to him serving the community he is so proud to be a part of. Congratulations Miguel!



Community Outreach

Morro Bay PD attends Morro Bay Senior Health Fair

The Morro Bay Police Department and Department Volunteers attended this year's Senior Health Fair held on January 25th at the Morro Bay Community Center. Members of the department including our volunteers handed out cool police department giveaways and answered questions ranging from recent crime scams to neighborhood safety. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to reach out and speak to our community. See you next year!



One Year Anniversary of 805 Street Outreach Community Shower Program

February 17, 2025, marks the one-year anniversary of the shower trailer program. The shower program started providing hot showers to the community on February 19, 2024. Over the past year, these showers have taken place every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. 805 Street Outreach has provided over 350 showers to the community as well as meals, clothing, haircuts, and mental health services over the year. All services are free and supported through grants and donations. The City of Morro Bay and the Morro Bay Police Department have provided a location to store the shower trailer, transportation of the trailer to and from the library, and disposal of the wastewater. The City and Police Department continues to support this important service to our community. A shower, fresh clothes, and a friendly meal can lift spirits and bring a sense of comfort and belonging to those in need. The shower program will continue to operate well into the future. If you'd like to support 805 Street Outreach or the shower program, please contact Chief Watkins for details. Thank you 805 Street Outreach for your service and dedication to this program.





Fire

Response Statistics

The Morro Bay Fire Department totaled 184 responses from January 1 through January 31, 2025. These responses include,

- Series 100 (Fires) 5 incidents
- Series 200 (Overpressure, rupture, explosion, no fire) 0 incidents
- Series 300 (Rescue & EMS incident) 122 incidents
- Series 400 (Hazardous condition no fire) 4 incidents
- Series 500 (Service call) 26 incidents
- Series 600 (Good intent call) 16 incidents
- Series 700 (False alarm & false call) 11 incidents
- Series 800 (Severe weather & natural disaster) 0 incidents
- Series 900 (Special incident type) 0 incidents
- Total 184 incidents

Fire Chief Update

The Morro Bay Fire Department continued to support statewide mutual aid response throughout the month of January. Engine 5391 was assigned to the Palisades Fire from January 7th through January 18th. Engineer Mike Kelly was assigned to the Eaton Fire as a Fireline paramedic from January 9th through January 23rd.

Training

Engineer Casey Robertshaw completed Paramedic School and participated in a graduation ceremony on Friday February 7th. This concludes over a year of training including in classroom didactic education, hospital clinical rotations and a field internship with a training officer. Way to go Casey! Department staff completed more than 90 hours of on shift training, and two department members participated in a National Fire Academy leadership course hosted by Five Cities Fire Authority.



Community Outreach

Fire Chief McCrain and Deputy Chief Vierra will be participating in a Wildfire Preparedness Community Meeting hosted by CAL Fire on Saturday March 1st. at the SLO Vets Hall from 10am to Noon. This event will be a public forum for community members to ask questions about fire preparedness to a panel of fire department representatives.

**Wildfire Preparedness
Community Meeting**

 

March 1st, 2025
10am to 12pm

SLO Vets Hall
801 Grand Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Submit Questions at
tinyurl.com/SLOWildfire

Harbor

Harbor Patrol Statistics January 1- January 31

Bay Patrol	Land Patrol	Emerg. Response	Calls for Service	Enforcement Contacts	Training Actions	Maintenance Actions	Weather Advisory
84	184	9	114	24	40	221	8

Commercial Slip Repairs and Replacement

Ongoing slip repairs and replacement have been a focus for the Harbor Department. Currently the slips at the bottom of Beach Street are being replaced. The process of shuffling all the boats to temporary tie up and analyzing the scope of the project has been a priority.



Beach Lifeguard Recruitment

Applications are now being accepted for Beach Lifeguards on the City website. [Career Opportunities | City of Morro Bay - Official Website](#) The Harbor Department is a United States Lifesaving Association Agency and hosts a rigorous Lifeguard Academy to solidify the skillset of new and returning Lifeguards. The waters at Morro Rock can be challenging with large waves, strong currents and crowded conditions. We are looking for strong surfing and swimming skills to help protect our beaches.



Harbor Advisory Board Update

The Harbor Advisory Board (HAB) held its first meeting of the year on February 6, 2025. During this meeting the Board elected Cal Myers to resume as the HAB Chair and elected Cherise Hansson to resume her role as the Vice-Chair. In addition, Gene Doughty by majority vote was elected to the newly formed Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee.

Please welcome our newest HAB member Marshall Witkowski, a SLO County native who lives in Morro Bay with his family. He has a master's degree from UC Berkeley in Business Administration, a former Naval Officer with experience in managing day-to-day harbor activities and maintenance, experience as a mechanical and nuclear engineer, and runs a science and technology consulting business which identifies small energy businesses which have dual use applications for the Federal Government.

The Harbor Department would also like to recognize outgoing HAB Members Chris Vaile and Mary Witkowski for their waterfront experience, professionalism and valuable time they both brought to the Board. Both outgoing members gave many hours of their time for the betterment of the waterfront and City. Congratulations Mary for being appointed to the City's Planning Commission and continuing your volunteering efforts.

Public Works

Utilities

The Sewer Collections system is a vital part of the City's public infrastructure, and the Utilities Division is committed to its ongoing maintenance. The City operates five pump/lift stations, which play a crucial role in transporting wastewater from low-lying areas up to the new wastewater treatment plant.

To ensure reliable operation, these stations require regular maintenance. In addition to routine upkeep, utility crews perform a more in-depth inspection by pulling the pumps approximately once a year. This process helps identify any issues and ensures the pumps remain in good working condition.

This month, several pumps were pulled for inspection. A common issue encountered during these checks is clogging caused by rags and debris that should not be in the sewer system. These blockages can impact pump efficiency and increase maintenance costs. Residents can help by only flushing toilet paper and human waste, keeping non-flushable items like wipes (even flushable wipes), paper towels, rags and other debris out of the sewer system.

By maintaining these critical systems and practicing responsible waste disposal, we can ensure the continued efficiency and longevity of our sewer infrastructure.



Rags caught in a lift station pump and check valve

Employee Highlight

The Utilities Department would like to give special recognition to Grant Chase, our Operations Technology Specialist.

This role was newly created as part of the Water Resource Center project and focuses on instrumentation, SCADA, electrical, and control systems for water and wastewater operations.

Since stepping into this role, Grant has made major improvements to the water SCADA system, enhancing secure remote access for operators. Thanks to his efforts, staff can now easily monitor tank levels, water production trends, and other critical data in real time.

Grant has also found innovative ways to repurpose outdated equipment, integrating various technologies in a cost-effective manner that benefits the City. Grant has been able to upgrade the 16-year-old Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis plant controls to be automated and able to run from an iPad compared to the outdated interface. He has automated alarms and the chemical system and configured remote start and stop for the wells. Through his research, he has identified free or low-cost platforms to efficiently manage all the water and wastewater data and real-time controls.

His outstanding work has even gained industry recognition—he was recently interviewed and featured in a case study highlighting his contributions. The case study can be viewed [here](#)

Thank you, Grant, for your dedication and ingenuity in keeping our water and wastewater systems running efficiently!



Utilities Statistics

January	
Water	
Leaks	0
USAs	122
Meter exchange	1
Meter re-reads/on-offs	85
Chlorine residuals checked	27
Tank inspections completed	45
Water Callouts	2
Water complaint	0
BWRO production	0.89 M Gal
State Water purchased	21 M Gal
Sewer	
Footage of sewer lines cleaned	8,961
CCTV'd sewer lines	278
Lateral inspections	1
Lift Station inspections	45
FOG inspection	3
WRC	
Sewage Processed	23 M Gal
Waste Hauled	160
Work Orders completed	354

Maintenance

Monthly Work Orders Completed

CM	# of Work Orders
Facilities	
ADA Work	1
Contractor Management	1
Core Duties	37
Custodial	4
Electrical	3
Facilities Other	3
General Maintenance	2
General Repair	1
Graffiti Removal	2
Painting	1
Plumbing	2
Set-up / Break Down Meeting	3
Weed Abatement	1
Fleet	
Brake System	1
Electrical System	2
Engine Service	1
Equipment Overhaul	1
Install Equipment	4
Mower repair	1
Oil Change Lube	5
Shop Inspection	7
Smog Inspection	1
Tire Work	3
Vehicle Inspection	7
Irrigation Systems	
Repair	1
Landscape Areas	
Spray Weeds	1
Parking Lots	
ADA Work	2
General Maintenance	2
Graffiti Removal	2
Other	3
Parks	
Bench/Table Repair	1
Concrete Work	1
Custodial	1
Graffiti Removal	1
Irrigation Inspection	1
Maintenance	8
Mowing	2
Other	4
Playground Maintenance	1
Plumbing	1
Tree Hazard Reduction	1
Turf Maintenance	3
Weed Abatement	11
Restrooms and Trash	
Core Duties	9
Other	1
Repair	1
Sidewalks-Paths	
ADA Work	2
Clean/Clear Debris	2
Clear Debris	1
Install	1
Other	1
Weed Abatement	3
Stormwater	
Inspection	1
Street Trees	
Evaluation	1
Hazard Reduction	1
Removal	5
Tree Trimming	18
Streets	
CMA Patch	1
Install Sign	1
Repair	1
Sweeping/Cleaning	2
Weed Abatement	3
Total Work Orders Completed	196

Sidewalk Repairs on Kings Ave, Bayshore Dr, Shasta Ave, and Embarcadero:





Administration (HR and City Clerk)

WE ARE HIRING!

FINANCE MANAGER

\$107,994 - \$131,248

PLUS AN EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE

APPLY HERE



www.morrobayca.gov



Business License & TOT Changes Coming Soon!

The City of Morro Bay is bringing business licensing and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) administration back in-house.

Effective April 1, 2025, the City will begin processing business license applications, business license renewals, and transient occupancy tax (TOT) filings in-house. The new method for applications, renewals, and TOT filings is under construction. Stay tuned for more updates.

If your business license renewal is due April 2025 or later, you will receive instructions for renewal directly from the City of Morro Bay.

We appreciate your patience as we work to improve your experience!

Recreation

January at a Glance	
# of Permits Created	50 permits
Facility Rental Hours	717 hours
Park Rental Hours	1152 hours
Senior Center Activities	3,273 participations
Sports Participation Hours	3584 hours
Kids' Club Registrations (morning/afternoon)	1992 registrations
# of Passes Purchased for Aquatic Programs	1638 passes
# of Passes Purchased for Rec Classes/Clubs	351 passes
Total Revenue	\$54,429.92

Facilities

Facility Use was booming in January! For one full week our Community Center was the Hub for the Annual Bird Festival! Our Lobby was the check in area, the Studio was a Hospitality space, the Conference room stored extra necessities, the Auditorium hosted 2 banquets and a Bazaar, the Multipurpose room and Lounge served as classrooms. We are fortunate to host such large events for our community members!



Sports

We have wrapped up registration for our upcoming season of Coast Girls Softball for the 2025 season. We ended up with 76 players among ages 4-14. This year, we are excited to be hosting games at Lila Keiser and at Morro Bay High School JV field through our partnership with San Luis Coastal Unified School District. We are excited to get games started on March 15.

We are also excited to announce registration opening for our Adult Social Kickball League! Channel your inner child and come out and play with us!



ADULT SOCIAL KICKBALL

CREATE A TEAM!

- 10 players min.
- 15 players max
- Coed
- Team FEE \$425.00
- Register by March 21st

LILA KEISER PARK
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
April 2nd - May 21st

JOIN NOW!
www.morrobayca.gov

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
 1001 KENNEDY WAY, MORRO BAY, CA 93442 - 805.772.6281
WWW.MORROBAYCA.GOV • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFMORROBAY

Youth Services

Kids' Club resumed after Winter Break on January 6th. As of January 2025, we are delighted to have 91 registered students participating in our program. Thanks to our partnership with SLCUSD, the monthly childcare tuition for 38 of these students is fully covered by the SLCUSD Scholarship. This invaluable support allows families in need access to full-time childcare before and after school, easing their burdens and providing enriching experiences for their children.



Our Kids' Club children earned a Valentine's Incentive Party that they worked hard for all month. They played some Bingo, decorated coloring sheets, made paper plate love bugs, and had a sweet Valentine treat.

Please join us for our upcoming Holiday Hangout: Brick Challenge Camp.

Morro Bay
Recreation Services
Presents

HOLIDAY HANGOUT

Brick Challenge Camp

March 24th - 28th, 2025

Monday :
Make Something Monday

Tuesday :
Wheels, Wings and Things (Pool Trip)

Wednesday :
Wild Wonder Safari

Thursday :
Off to Space & Del Mar Park Trip

Friday :
Everything is Awesome Pajama Party!

5 DAYS - \$175
4 DAYS - \$150
3 DAYS - \$115
2 DAYS - \$85
1 DAY - \$50

Register by **March 14th**
At MB Rec Office, Kids' Club or Scan below to sign up

COME JOIN THE FUN!

When: March 24th- 28th, 2025
 7:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Who: Children 4-12 years old
 Where: KIDS' CLUB
 @ 501 Sequoia St # 25



Search "Holiday"

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANGELICA AT (805)772-6279

Seniors

The big event of the new year was the annual 55+ Health and Wellness Fair. This year we had a large crowd and more than 35 exhibitors that provided information and service contacts for a wide range of senior activities. Covering such areas as nutrition, housing options, eye care, finances, pain management, hospice

and Cuesta college to name just a few. Our cooking class whipped up some delicious snacks for all attendees.

Our motto each year is 'something for everyone'



Community Development

Planning Commission Update

The City Planning Commission held its first meeting of the year on February 2, 2025. During this meeting, the Planning Commission welcomed its two new members, Commissioners Mary Witkowski and Tony De Fazio.

Mary is a SLO County native who lives in Morro Bay with her husband and two children. A former Harbor Advisory Board member, she brings experience advising the City Council on items relating to the waterfront. In addition to her work on the HAB and Central Coast Economic Forecast, Mary is a former Naval Officer with business experience from Fortune 500 companies like Google and Amazon.

Tony grew up in the Dana Point / Laguna Beach area and moved to the Central Coast in 2003 to attend Cuesta College and later Cal Poly where he studied Architecture and received his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2010. He has been practicing Architecture for the past fifteen plus years and got back into residential construction about four years ago. Currently, he works as a Superintendent for a commercial builder managing the construction of public school work from the job site. He has called Morro Bay home for many years and spends his personal time surfing, fishing and recreating along the beautiful Central Coast.

The City would also like to recognize outgoing Planning Commissioners Bill Roschen and Mike Rodriguez for volunteering their valuable time to serve the community. As an architect with extensive experience in

housing development and historic preservation, former chairperson Roschen brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the City Planning Commission. Former commissioner Rodriguez brought valuable expertise to the Planning Commission from his many years of experience as a planner working for the California Public Utilities Commission and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

In addition to seating its new members, on February 2, the Planning Commission elected Eric Meyer as the new chairperson and Joe Ingraffia as the new vice chairperson. Thank you to Commissioners Meyer and Ingraffia for stepping into these leadership roles. The Planning Commission also appointed Mary Witkowski to the City's newly formed Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee.

Waterfront Master Plan Update

The City continues to make progress in commencing the Waterfront Master Plan Update.

The Waterfront Master Plan is the City's vision for land use, development, circulation, and infrastructure for the City's waterfront areas. The Waterfront Master Plan currently covers the area from Tidelands Park to Morro Rock. The updated plan will expand the waterfront planning area to include the former wastewater treatment plant site and decommissioned power plant property.

On January 14, the City Council directed the formation of the seven-member Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee (WMPAC) to include one member from each of the five existing advisory bodies/commissions, one member from the Embarcadero Master Lease Holders and one member from the National Estuary Program. The WMPAC will provide stakeholder input and policy direction during development of the Waterfront Master Plan. The WMPAC will ultimately make a recommendation to the Planning Commission on the Waterfront Master Plan Update. The Planning Commission's role would be to review the plan and make a recommendation to the City Council.

The WMPAC is coming together. So far, the members include James Constanzo (Recreation and Parks Commission), Stephen Peck (Citizens Finance Advisory Committee), Mary Witkowski (Planning Commission), and Gene Doughty (Harbor Advisory Board). The remaining three members will represent the Embarcadero Master Leaseholders, National Estuary Program, and Public Works Advisory Board. Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve on the WMPAC. This is a significant time commitment and will have a meaningful impact on the future of Morro Bay's waterfront.

On February 6, the City posted the [Request for Proposals \(RFP\) for the Waterfront Master Plan Update](#). The RFP provides a detailed list of the components of the Waterfront Master Plan Update.

As described in the RFP, the primary objectives of the Waterfront Master Plan Update include:

- Updating background information to reflect existing conditions, including a realistic estimate of the 20-year demand for visitor serving commercial uses (hotel, motel, RV, tourism commercial, and tourism attractions such as museums).
- Expanding the plan's boundaries northward to include the site of the former wastewater treatment plant site. The existing boundary ends at Morro Rock.
- Incorporating existing information (from other studies) regarding the feasibility of waterfront infrastructure for offshore wind development. In particular, the plan would incorporate findings from Mott McDonald's operations and maintenance infrastructure feasibility study for Morro Bay. This study was commissioned by the County of San Luis Obispo in partnership with the City and is currently underway.
- Incorporating a sea level rise analysis, vulnerability assessment, and adaptation plan.
- Establishing a vision and conceptual plans for land use, development and circulation at and around the decommissioned Vistra powerplant property (using existing background information from previous studies).

- Establishing a vehicle circulation network to support the planned growth, including improved roadway connections from the Embarcadero and Coleman Road to Quintana/Main and to Atascadero Road/Highway 41; improving pedestrian facilities along the Embarcadero, including widened sidewalks and one-way traffic; and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- Addressing land use and circulation issues at Morro Rock, including public access to beach areas (including handicap access), parking, ingress/egress, safety, infrastructure, and maintenance.
- Development of a financially feasible implementation plan.
- Implementing all relevant policies and programs of Plan Morro Bay.

Permit Statistics

In January, the City saw an increase in both Building and Planning permits from the previous month. This is an expected increase coming out of the holiday lull in permit activity.

BUILDING	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Permits Issued	45	35	51	54	51	37	27	36
Inspections	174	283	301	287	240	257	195	292
New Applications	18	15	15	13	15	9	8	14
Valuation	\$2,527,295	\$806,123	\$768,327	\$2,710,869	\$1,941,975	\$2,401,219	\$921,510	\$1,930,904
Fees Collected	\$264,202	\$40,637	\$35,690	\$205,464	\$158,853	\$251,488	\$86,532	\$132,933
PLANNING	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Coastal Development Permits	4	3	12	1	1	1	0	3
Use Permits	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sign Permits	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Temporary Use Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lot / Parcel Map	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Min/Maj Modification/Revision	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	2
Parking Exception	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sidewalk Vending License	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zoning Clearance	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Comm Cannabis Renewal	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Admin Design Review	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Variance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total	7	9	16	5	2	2	1	11
Fees Collected	\$2,755	\$29,890	\$30,217	\$ 6,684.50	\$ 3,795.50	\$ 3,707.50	\$1,457.00	\$17,196.50

BESS Urgency Ordinance

On January 28, 2025, the City Council adopted an Urgency Ordinance prohibiting the acceptance or processing of applications for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects in the city. The Urgency Ordinance is effective for 45 days. On February 25, 2025, the City Council will consider extending the Urgency Ordinance for a total of 2 years or until February 28, 2027. The Urgency Ordinance is a temporary pause on applications for BESS facilities while the City contemplates and adopts permanent regulations for BESS facilities. Those permanent regulations could be a permanent prohibition or a permanent ordinance regulating the location and siting, design, and safety standards for BESS projects.

Neither an Urgency Ordinance nor a permanent ordinance would prevent the California Energy Commission (CEC) from approving a BESS facility in Morro Bay via the AB 205 opt-in certification program. However, the CEC would have to make special findings of “public convenience and necessity” to approve a BESS project that conflicts with any local regulations.