



# 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, March 6, 2025 – 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
Marshall Witkowski	Marine Oriented Business
Jeremiah O'Brien	Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization
Vacant	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 - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the audience wishing to address the Harbor Advisory Board (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 Harbor Department Status Report  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.**

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

B-1 California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC)  
**RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.**

B-2 City Council Goals and Objectives Update, and Receipt of Harbor Advisory Board Input for the Upcoming Goals and Objectives Setting Process  
**RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Harbor Advisory Board receive the staff update on the City Goals progress and provide input regarding goals and actions items to share with City Council ahead of their review of the City Goals for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.**

B-3 Approval of Excused Absence Request for Board Member Witkowski  
**Staff recommends the Harbor Advisory Board (HAB) approve the request submitted by HAB Member Marshall Witkowski to excuse his absence from February 6, 2025, Regular HAB meeting**

C. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Pending items previously declared:

- TOT Derived from Waterfront to be used by the Harbor Fund
- Goals Work Planning Process - Reform Ad-hoc Committees
- Coleman Park Update
- CFAC Joint Ad-Hoc Committee
- Parking Ad-Hoc
- Waterfront Master Plan

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 805-772-6254 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.



AGENDA NO: A-1

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** February 24, 2025

**FROM:** Harbor Staff

**SUBJECT:** Harbor Department Status Report

## RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file report.

## DISCUSSION

### Recent Harbor Department Activity:

#### Harbor Patrol Statistics

##### February 2025:

Bay Patrols: 85

Land Patrols: 193

Emergency Responses: 16

Calls for Service: 200

Assist Other Agencies: 50

Enforcement Contacts: 33

Training: 35

Maintenance Actions: 220

Days with Restricted Harbor Entrance: 8

#### Noteworthy Harbor Patrol Activity

2/2/25 - Harbor Patrol was flagged down by a citizen who reported his 2 teenage sons with an additional friend had walked up the beach over an hour before and he was concerned they were not back yet. They had been entering the water, and fog was approximately 100' visibility. Harbor Patrol soon located the 3 boys on the beach slightly to the north and turned over to the father and Police for follow up.

Harbor Patrol was also flagged down by an individual with an inflatable, motorized, stand-up paddle foil board who was disoriented in the fog and reported having walked from possibly Atascadero State Beach, looking for the Pit where he had parked. He was directed to the lot, and advised about the fog, currents, building swell etc.

2/9/25 - Harbor Patrol was requested to tow the CHABLIS from Tidelands dock back to their dock due to steering troubles while passengers were on board. As soon as the tow was complete, Patrol was dispatched to a medical aid on beach at Azure St. for 2 hypothermic surfers with rental boards, but no wetsuits. They had been rescued by fellow surfers and were transported in the Harbor Patrol

Prepared By:  Lt/BK

Dept Review:  EF

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

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

truck to Fire and ambulance for further evaluation.

2/14/25 – Harbor Patrol responded during a gale warning for S/V ALOUETTE DE MER that had broken free of its mooring ball and drifting down bay. The vessel ran aground west of the channel between day markers 18 and 20. Harbor Patrol pulled it free and took it in tow to Tidelands.

2/16/25 – The Harbor Office received a phone in report of a subject climbing the Southeast side of the rock. Harbor Patrol spotted from office a subject matching the description (grey shorts, black hoody) a little over half way up the rock. On scene, the subject was back on the ground and initially admitted to climbing the rock but then changed his story. While questioned by a State Parks Warden, the subject fled but gave up the chase shortly thereafter. Harbor Patrol assisted State Parks transfer the detained subject back to their vehicle by the South rock gate and was cleared from the call.

Harbor Patrol was hailed by M/V LOST ISLE with passengers on board, they had lost power near the guest moorings, but deployed their anchor and were in no immediate danger. Officers towed the vessel back to their dock without any issue.

2/19/25 – A vessel called for assistance near the State Park Marina that had run aground on the sandbar just South of the marina entrance. Harbor Patrol was able to tow it free and assured he returned to his slip safely.

A car stuck on the beach at the Pit was assisted by Harbor Patrol truck near the tide line. They assisted him in airing down tires and led him on hard pack off the beach at South Creek access. The driver was warned regarding rules of no driving on the beach in Morro Bay.

2/22/25 – Harbor Patrol responded to Morro Strand beach near the campground kiosk for a fall from a horse. The patient received serious injuries and was loaded into the bed of the Harbor Patrol truck for immediate transport to Azure St. lot where the ambulance was staged.

The Dragon Boat paddlers requested assistance for a capsized kayak with one victim in the water. They were unable to get him into their Dragon Boat or his kayak. Harbor Patrol arrived on scene at the old cannery where the Dragon Boat paddlers assisted him to the dock and put a blanket on him. He declined any further medical assistance and was transported back to his home safely.

2/23/25 – While on patrol, Harbor Patrol warned a jet skier about no wake zone and expired registration. They also responded to a capsized kayak near the fuel dock. The kayaker made it to shore, and Harbor Patrol towed the waterlogged kayak back to the rental shop.

2/24/25 – Morro Bay Harbor Department was selected to take possession of a 2004 Pacific Skiff from Humboldt County Sheriff's Office through a competitive process from California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW). Harbor Patrol requested this vessel to add depth to our current two-boat patrol fleet and ensure reliable, consistent boating safety operations 365 days per year. Harbor Patrol intends to use this vessel as a supplement to our primary patrol vessels. Recurring maintenance removes one of our two vessels from service an average of four months per year. Having an additional vessel is crucial to maintaining our level of service to the recreational boating community. DBW will remain the owner of this boat while the Harbor Department has full use of it.

This vessel will be used full-time for our inner harbor operations such as recreational vessel safety and enforcement contacts, assisting disabled vessels, pollution response, and a myriad of other services we provide to the public and assistance to other agencies. Additionally, having a somewhat smaller response vessel will allow us to maneuver in our tight mooring areas and in the shallow areas that are often not accessible by our larger vessels.

Harbor Patrol Supervisor Kelly picked the boat up in Eureka and trailered it back to Morro Bay. Staff are currently getting the boat ready for service for our waters.



2/26/25 – Snowy Plover symbolic fencing was put back up to mark the beginning of the nesting season. Harbor Patrol and State Parks collaborate on this project for monitoring. The fencing protects the nests that lay in the interior of the sandspit and will remain in place through September 2025. The 2024 Western Snowy Plover Annual Report is attached.



**SNOWY PLOVER NESTING HABITAT  
PLEASE**

**DO NOT ENTER**

**TO AVOID DISTURBING PLOVERS:**

- STAY OUT OF FENCED AREAS
- OBSERVE POSTED REGULATIONS
- DO NOT APPROACH BIRDS OR NESTS
- LEASH ALL DOGS ON CITY PROPERTY
- NO DOGS ON STATE PARK PROPERTY



The snowy plover is a small (6-7"), sand colored bird with a black mark on each side of the breast, behind each eye and on the brow.

Plovers nest in bowl-like depressions in the sand. They abandon nests when disturbed by humans, vehicles or dogs.

**CROSS SANDSPIT USING MARKED CORRIDORS**



**THE CITY OF MORRO BAY  
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION**

## **City Council Activity**

### **February 25, 2025**

Council adopted Resolution No. 07-25 Declaring the Vessel Aquafen Abandoned Property Pursuant to Harbors and Navigation Code Section 522 for the purposes of abatement.

Council adopted Resolution No. 08-25, approving 40-year Master Lease Agreement with California Coastal Investments, LLC, Eric Newton for lease site 86/86W, Libertine located at 801 Embarcadero.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **March 17, 2025**

2025 Morro Bay Junior Lifeguard Programs registration from 7am-5pm will be in person at the Morro Bay Recreation Services. For more information go to [www.morrobayca.gov/929/Recreation-Services](http://www.morrobayca.gov/929/Recreation-Services) or call 805-772-6278

### **March 21-23, 2025**

Morro Bay City Wide Yard Sale

The dates will be the weekend of March 21st, 22nd, & 23rd. To participate email [info@morrobay.org](mailto:info@morrobay.org).

### **April 25-27, 2025**

Morro Bay Kite Festival

The Kite festival will be April 25th, 26th, & 27th, 2025. Discover one of the most fun FREE events on the Central Coast at the Morro Bay Kite Festival! Hosted on the beach just North of Morro Rock find kites of every size and color soaring in the abundant wind. It's a family event for all ages and lifestyles.

### **May 1-3, 2025**

Cruisin Morro Bay Car Show

Cruisin Morro Bay Car Show May 1st - 3rd the Cruisin' Morro Bay Car Show returns for its 29th year in 2025! Starting Thursday evening, rare cars will begin arriving in Morro Bay for registration. On Friday, secure a spot on Main Street for Cruise Night at 6 p.m. as classic and other rare cars cruise past. Continue the "Show & Shine" on Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and talk with the car owners.

### **June 28, 2025**

Morro Bay Marine Swap Meet

Mark your calendars and get your stuff out you want to sell! This event began in 2018 and has been a successful gathering for both buyers and sellers. For more information contact [info@friendsofthembhd.org](mailto:info@friendsofthembhd.org) or check out their website at [friendsofthembhd.org](http://friendsofthembhd.org)

# 2024 Annual Report for the Western Snowy Plover at City of Morro Bay Sandspit Property

*California State Parks*

*San Luis Obispo Coast District*

*750 Hearst Castle Road*

*San Simeon, CA 93452*

*USFWS Permit # TE-082237-8.1*

*CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit #SC-10633*

*January 30, 2025*

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## Introduction

This report summarizes the 2023-2024 the non-breeding (winter) and breeding season of the western snowy plover (WSP) (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) on the City of Morro Bay's Sandspit property. The WSP that breed at this site, in addition to the greater pacific coast population, were listed in 1993 as federally threatened under the Endangered Species Act (USFWS 1993). This site is a part of Recovery Unit (RU) 5, which supports the greatest number of WSP and has the greatest amount of available suitable habitat throughout the entire range of the WSP (USFWS 2007).

The City of Morro Bay and California State Parks (CSP) - San Luis Obispo Coast District (District) collaborate to manage the WSP program in coordination with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to further recovery goals and objectives as identified by USFWS for RU5 as stated below where feasible.

### *Recovery Objectives*

1. Maintain broadly distributed healthy population
2. Minimize threats with management actions
3. Monitor population size and productivity

### *Species Delisting Criteria*

1. Maintain 3000 breeding adults distributed among 6 recovery units
2. Maintain annual productivity of > 1.0 chicks fledged per male in each recovery unit for at least 5 years prior to delisting

### *Recovery Unit and Regional Population Targets*

1. Recovery Unit 5 (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and the northern Channel Islands) has a recovery target of 1200 breeding adults
2. Morro Bay City portion of sandspit has a target of ~27 breeding adults

Current WSP management on the Sandspit consists of monitoring breeding and wintering activities and nesting area protection through symbolic fencing and signage. Specific management activities authorized under USFWS Recovery Permit Number TE- 082237-8.1 and CDFW Scientific Collecting Permit Number SC-10633 issued to the District with Dan Falat, District Superintendent, as the Principal Officer include monitoring and handling eggs (see Authorized Activities table below).

Authorized individuals listed on the permit for WSP activities are: Makaleh Smith, Robyn Jensen, Owen Shapleigh, Jodi Isaacs, John Sayers, Jeff Ebner, Gillian Ippoliti, Brad Collins, Kelly McFadden, Matthew Fresquez, and Michael Walgren.

## 2024 Authorized Activities

Name and title of each permitted activity conducted during calendar year	Specific location of project site, including County	Common name	Scientific name	Observed? (Y/N)	GIS data submitted? (Y/N)*	Report (draft or final; and reason submitted – ongoing activities, processing of data, report in progress, etc.) and anticipated final report date
Nest monitoring	Morro Bay City Sandspit Property, San Luis Obispo County	Western Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	Y	Y	Final report of ongoing activities
Handle eggs	Morro Bay City Sandspit Property, San Luis Obispo County	Western Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i>	Y	Y	Final report of ongoing activities

All reports were submitted to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Field Office (VFO).

\*occurrence information submitted to CNDDDB (attached for reference)

## Study Area

The Sandspit is a barrier dune ecosystem which stretches approximately 5.5 miles between the Pacific Ocean and the Morro Bay Estuary. The Sandspit falls under joint jurisdiction of the City of Morro Bay and California State Parks (CSP), with a small portion being privately owned. Except for the privately-owned segment, the northernmost mile of the Sandspit is City property, while the remainder of the Sandspit to the south is CSP property, part of Montaña de Oro State Park - Morro Dunes Natural Preserve (Figure 1).

## Methods

### Nesting Area Protection

The City property is managed by the City of Morro Bay and monitored for WSP by CSP staff. Morro Bay Harbor Patrol, with the assistance of CSP employees, installed symbolic fencing consisting of metal eye-posts strung with polypropylene rope, surrounding the WSP habitat on the City property on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2024. Closure signs were attached to the fencing to inform the public about the WSP breeding habitat. The symbolic fencing was continually maintained and moved to encompass suitable breeding habitat throughout the season. It was removed on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2024.

The northern access to the Sandspit consists of 3 corridors: 2 on the City property and 1 on CSP property, which connects the bayside to the ocean side. These 3 corridors, as well as the northern tip of the Sandspit, are often accessed by boat, canoe, kayak, surfboard, and stand-up paddleboard.

Figure 1. Sandspit overview map.



The northernmost half mile of the City property is bounded to the north and south by 2 jetties: respectively, the Groin Jetty and the South Jetty. This section of beach, called Jetty Beach, is backed by a sparsely vegetated plateau consisting of large areas of dredge spoils containing

coarse rocks, stones, pebbles, shells, and sand. South of Jetty Beach is a sandy beach with low, lightly vegetated foredunes backed by higher, more stabilized, densely vegetated dunes.

Large red flags were placed on the bayside corridor entrances to guide water goers to the access points across the Sandspit.

### Monitoring

WSP monitoring was conducted within the symbolic fencing 3 days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) beginning March 4<sup>th</sup> and ending September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The area was surveyed on foot to find new nests, check the status of known nests, determine nest fates, observe WSP activity, record colored leg bands, chicks and fledges, document predator tracks or sightings, and record human or dog foot traffic trespassing within symbolic fencing. Additional monitoring duties included repairing the symbolic fence when necessary and contacting the public when violations occurred or answering questions. Monitoring was reduced from 3 days a week to 2 days a week during August after all the active nests had hatched. Monitoring on the City property was conducted between approximately 7:30 am and 10:00 am.

### Estimating Hatch Date

If an active nest is found at 3 eggs, permitted WSP monitors float the eggs as a method to safely estimate its incubation stage and thus estimate a hatch date for the active nest. This data is critical in determining nest fate (hatch/fail). Occasionally, if a nest is found at 2 eggs and does not progress to 3 eggs it too will be floated.

### Nest Data and Documentation

For each nest found, location and a nest inspection were recorded in Field Maps-ArcGIS. Nest inspections include: number of eggs, any disturbance to the nest, nest fate (hatch/fail) and activity of associated plovers. Nest inspection data collected in the field is stored and attached to each individual nest and accumulates in ArcGIS, which can be viewed, edited and shared from the office. Nest data also populates larger data sets in real time, providing up to date numbers on total nests, hatch/fail rate and several other metrics across all beaches in the District. All nest data accumulates across breeding seasons allowing for analysis of trends over larger periods of time.

### Censuses

Rangewide population censuses (window surveys) organized by USFWS were conducted on January 29<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. Results from the rangewide window surveys are not meant to represent a total count of WSP but to provide an index of WSP population size from Washington to southern California.

### Banded Birds

All observed band color combinations, time, and activity were recorded using ArcGIS quick capture in the field. Origin of banded birds was determined in the office from sharing re-sight

information with the collaborative Google group listserv, distributed to WSP managers in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Injured/Dead WSP

No injuries or mortalities of WSP occurred because of City/CSP management activities during the 2024 season. However, there were 2 injured banded WSP reported on City property in which USFWS and CDFW were notified as per permit requirements. No interventions were taken since it could not be confirmed through observation that the injuries were caused by the bands (Table 1).

The first reported injured bird was on September 13<sup>th</sup> gg:yb (juvenile, fledged from Oceano 6/28/24), it was first seen September 9<sup>th</sup> uninjured then last seen on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Banded bird, bb:ow (juvenile, fledged from Oceano 6/17/24) was first reported injured September 16<sup>th</sup> but had been observed without injury before in August on the CSP Sandspit and then after uninjured 5 times on Hearst San Simeon State Park beaches.

Table 1. Dead/injured plovers on City Property 2024.

WSP Status	Observation Date	Age	Type of Injury/Death	Band data	Location	Last Known GPS Coordinates	Actions Taken
<b>Morro Bay City Property</b>							
Injured	9/13/24	Juvenile	Left leg injury	gg:yb	Morro Bay City Beach	35.358957°N 120.861845°W	Notified CDFW/USFW on behalf of MB City
Injured	9/16/24	Juvenile	Left leg Injury	bb:ow	Morro Bay City Beach, Sandspit, HSSSP	35.319013°N 120.869319°W	Notified CDFW/USFW on behalf of MB City

Results

Wintering WSP

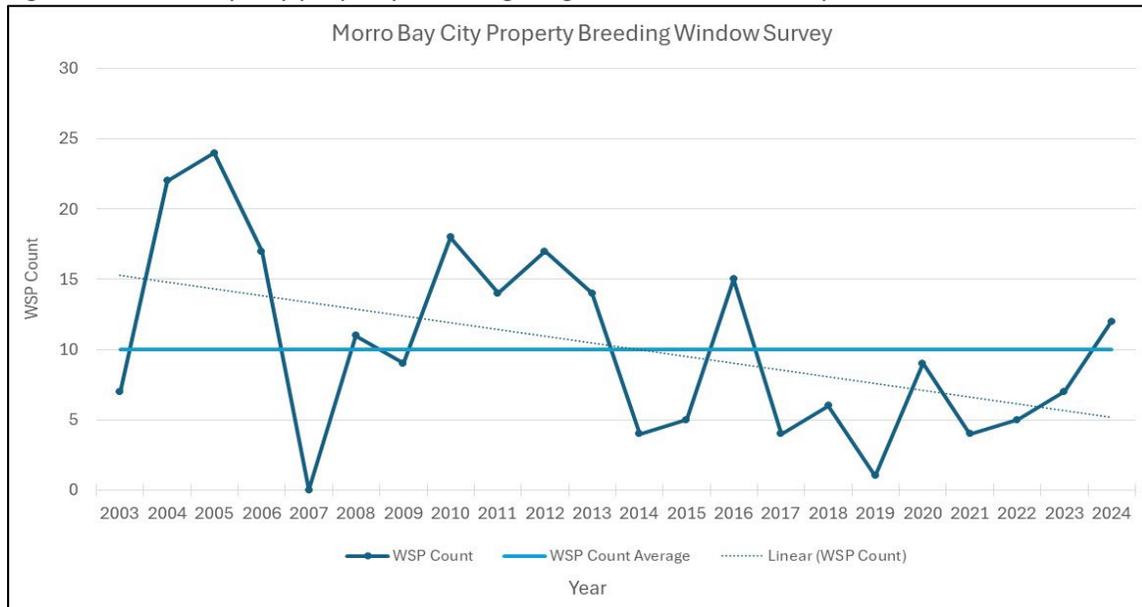
A total of 15 additional surveys were conducted during the non-breeding season from October 2023 through February 2024 on the City property. During these surveys, the number of WSP observed on the City property ranged from 0 to 15. An average of 2 WSP were observed on the City property, while the average number of WSP for the entire Sandspit (including CSP property) was 86.

The rangewide winter window survey conducted on January 29<sup>th</sup> resulted in 0 WSP observed on the City property, and 50 WSP counted on the CSP portion of the Sandspit.

### Breeding WSP

The rangewide breeding window survey on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, resulted in 12 WSP (7 males and 5 females) observed on the City property and 70 on the CSP portion of the Sandspit. The 2024 census for the entire Sandspit was 37% lower than the average of 111 yet, was slightly higher than the average of 10 WSP for MB City property (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Morro Bay City property breeding rangewide window survey 2003-2024.



In addition to the breeding window survey, the minimum number of breeding adults can also be derived from a simple calculation: the date from that season with the highest known sum of actively nesting adults and adults concurrently raising chicks. This calculated minimum number of breeding adults for the City portion of the Sandspit was 14 individuals which is 2 higher than the breeding window survey.

### Banded WSP

Although banding is not currently performed on City or CSP beaches, banded WSP from other locations were often observed on City property. From October 2023 through September 2024, monitors observed 83 banded WSP on City property: 2 during the non-breeding season and 81 during the breeding season. In total, monitors observed 9 unique band combinations (Table 2).

Several of the banded birds were seen numerous times, accounting for a high percentage of overall observations. The most frequently observed WSP bands on City property were gg:ow, Pb:kk, and an:ra. Of the banded WSP on City property, 2 paired birds, male Pb:kk and female an:ra successfully raised 2 fledglings. Pb:kk then went on to have another successfully hatched nest with a new female.

Table 2. Observed banded WSP on City Property in 2024.

Band	Sex	Date First Seen	Date Last Seen	# of Times Seen	Origin	Notes
gg:ow	F	4/19/24	9/16/24	27	ODSVRA, '23	
Pb:kk	M	4/3/24	8/30/24	24	Naval Base Coronado, '22	
an:ra	F	4/19/24	5/17/24	8	VSFB, '22	
bb:aw	M	3/11/24	6/12/24	6	ODSVRA, '23	
py:ry	F	7/3/24	7/24/24	6	Santa Barbara Zoo, '22	
bb:ow	J	08/23/24	09/16/2024	6	ODSVRA, '24	Left leg injury
gg:yb	J	9/9/24	9/16/24	4	ODSVRA, '24	Left leg injury
w:v/o	J	11/6/23	10/30/24	2	VSFB, '23	
gg:lw	U	9/13/24	9/13/24	1	ODSVRA, '24	

The 9 banded WSP were from the following locations: Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) (5), Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB) (2), Naval Base Coronado (1), and Santa Barbara Zoo (1).

Nest and Egg Numbers

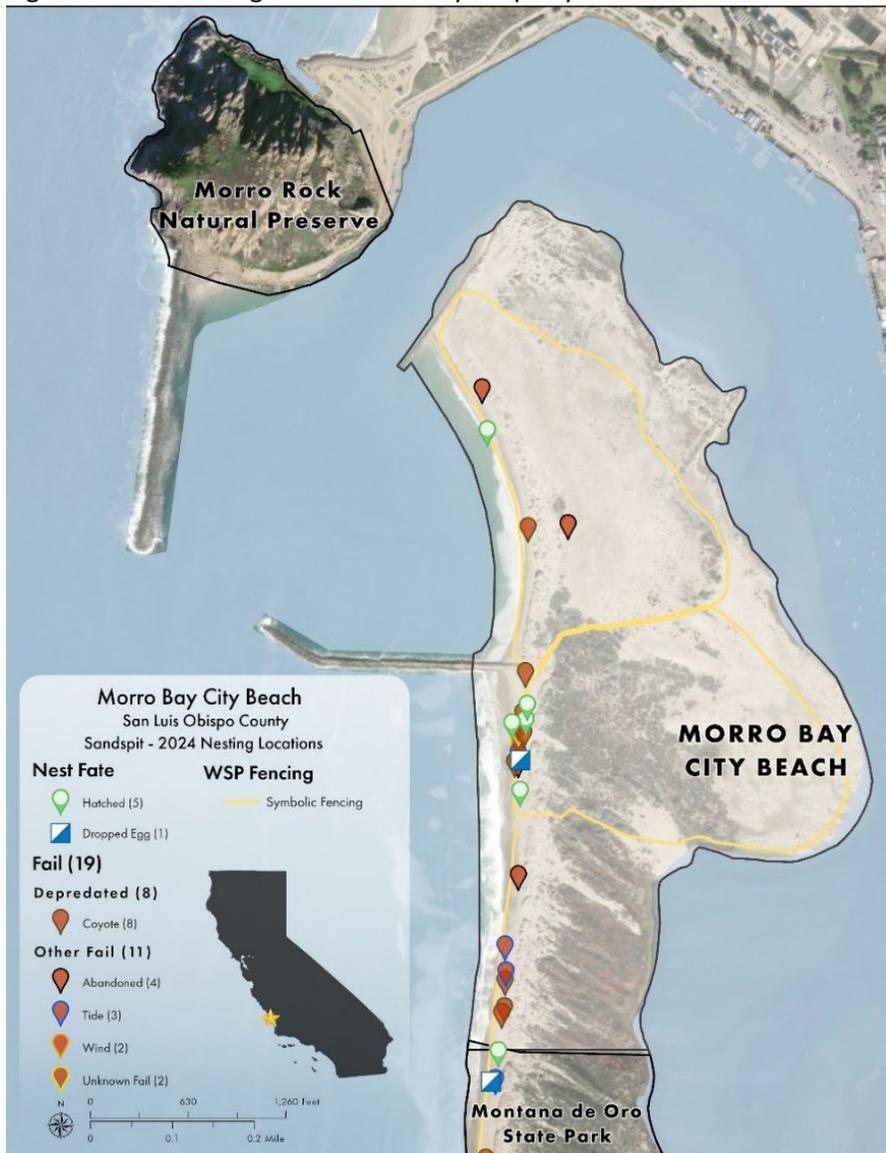
A total of 24 nests with 61 eggs occurred on City property during the 2024 breeding season. The first nest was found on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the last nest was found on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The first hatch occurred on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and the last hatch occurred on August 4<sup>th</sup>. North of South Jetty, 4 nests were found, one which was on the plateau that sits above the beach to the east. There were 13 nests found between the South Jetty and Rescue Marker 7 (RM 7), and 7 nests found between RM 7 and the State Park Boundary (Figure 3).

Fates were determined for all 24 nests. A total of 5 nests hatched (21%), and 19 failed (79%). Nest failures were attributed to 8 depredations, 4 abandonments, 3 tide losses, 2 wind losses and 2 unknown fails (Table 3).

Table 3. Nest fates and percentages for City Property in 2024.

Total Nests	24	% Total	
Unknown Fate	0	0%	
<b>Total with Known Fate</b>	24	100%	
<b>Hatch</b>	5	21%	
<b>Fail</b>	19	79%	<b>% Failed Nests</b>
Depredated	8		42%
Abandoned	4		21%
Tide	3		16%
Wind	2		11%
Unknown fail	2		11%

Figure 3. WSP nesting locations on City Property 2024.

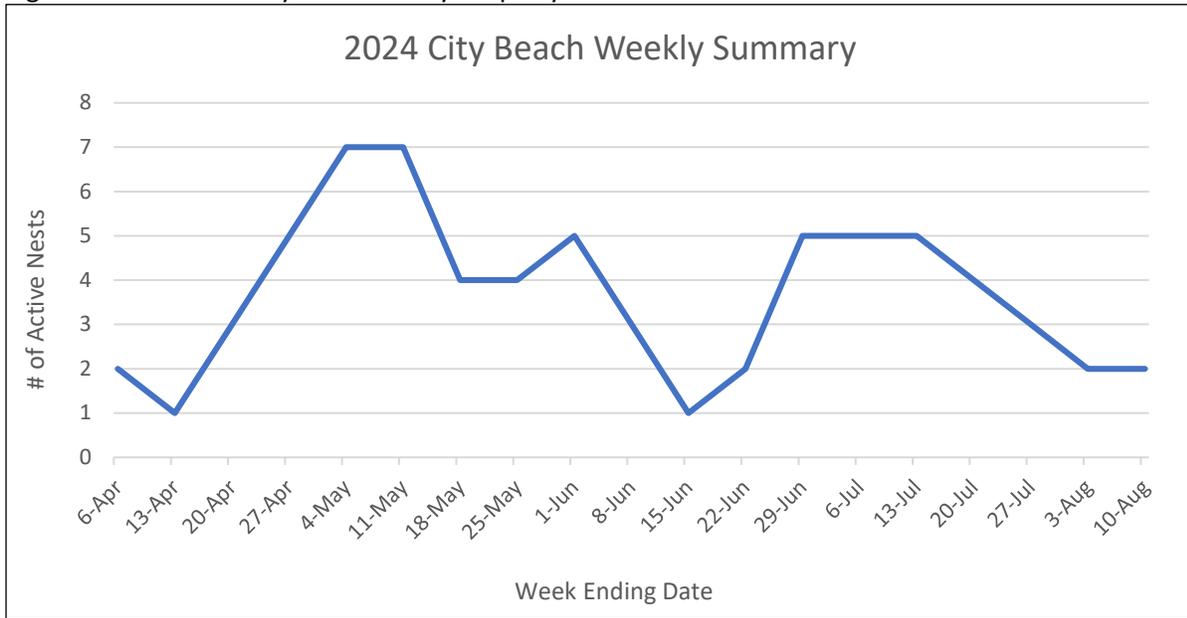


The number of active nests was calculated on a weekly basis. The highest nesting activity on the City property occurred between April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, when there were 7 active nests (Figure 4).

**Floated Eggs**

A total of 6 eggs from 2 nests were floated to determine estimated hatch date.

Figure 4. Active nests by week on City Property



Chick/Fledgling Fate

A total of 12 chicks hatched from 5 successful nests for a hatch rate of 21%. The first 4 chicks, from 2 separate nests, were observed on May 17<sup>th</sup> on the beach between RM 7 and State Park Boundary.

The largest number of chicks observed on City property occurred when 7 chicks from 3 separate broods were observed with adult WSPs on August 7<sup>th</sup>. The breeding period for the City property was 138 days (first initiation on April 14<sup>th</sup> to last chick observed on August 30<sup>th</sup>).

Banding of chicks is not performed on City property or any of CSP beaches. Without a means of identifying individuals and monitoring only 3 times a week, fledging rates cannot be accurately determined. However, depending on circumstances some fledges can be confirmed. This season, 6 chicks were confirmed to have fledged. The fledging success (fledges/chicks hatched) was 50%. The number of chicks fledged per male was 0.86 (using calculated minimum number of breeding males). This is below the USFWS goal of 1.0 fledged chick per male (Table 4).

Table 4. Chicks fledged/male on City Property and CSP Sandspit for past 5 years using calculated minimum number of breeding males.

	City Property	Sandspit
2024	.86	.97
2023	1.5	1.5
2022	.20	.72
2021	1.29	.56
2020	.40	.41

Depredation and Predator Activity

Predators consumed 8 of the 24 nests on City property and all nests were depredated by coyote (*Canis latrans*). Depredation accounted for 33% of nest fates (Table 3).

WSP monitors observed an array of predators by either tracks or direct sightings on the City property including: American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), racoon (Procyon Lotor), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*).

Human Activities/Recreation

Monitors contacted members of the public 4 times on the City property; 3 of which were considered “positive” outcomes, while 1 was “negative.” Despite the symbolic fencing, 90 sets of human foot traffic were observed within the symbolically fenced habitat.

Leashed dogs are allowed on the City property year-round, however, they are not allowed inside the symbolically fenced habitat. In 2024, 18 sets of dog tracks were observed inside the symbolically fenced habitat. The majority of which were found between South Jetty and Rescue Marker 7. A total of 4 dogs were reported off leash in this same area during the breeding season (Table 5).

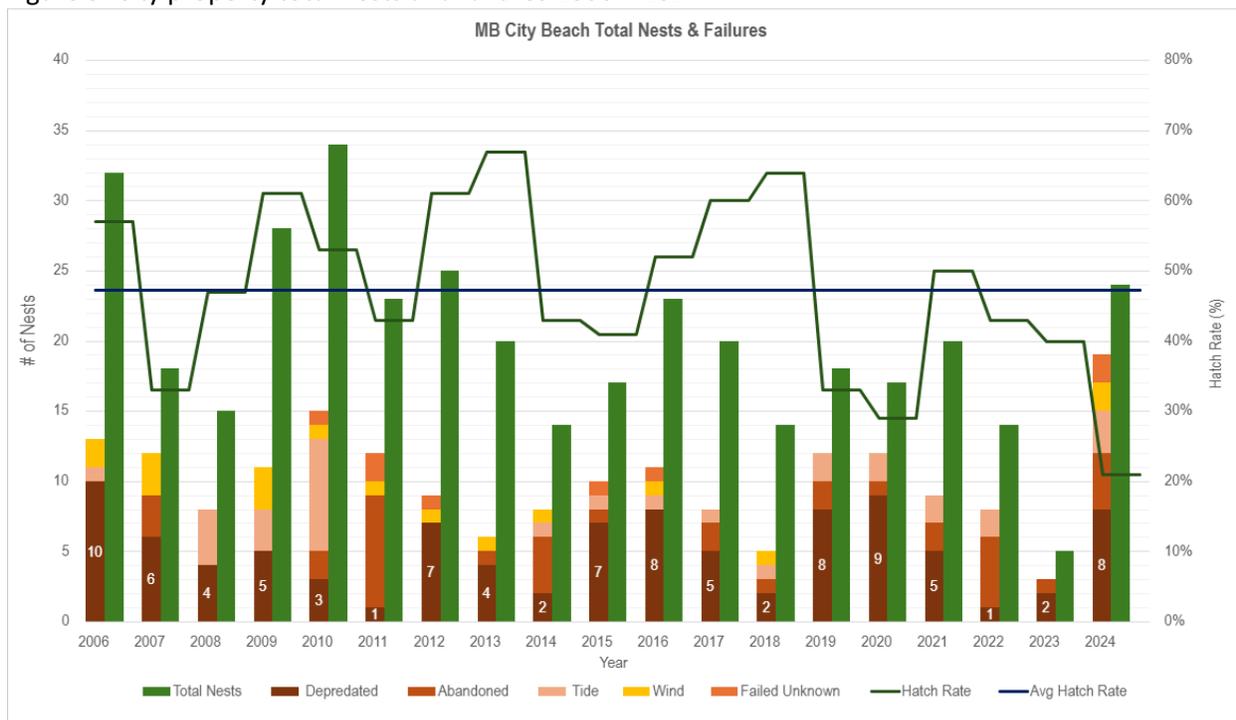
Table 5. Foot traffic and dog tracks and contacts 2012-2024.

	Foot Traffic	Dog Tracks	Dog Contacts (off leash occurrences)
<b>2024</b>	90	18	4
<b>2023</b>	101	11	2
<b>2022</b>	157	18	1
<b>2021</b>	370	39	1
<b>2020</b>	214	5	2
<b>2019</b>	192	29	1
<b>2018</b>	283	30	4
<b>2017</b>	230	14	1
<b>2016</b>	81	14	1
<b>2015</b>	147	19	1
<b>2014</b>	373	5	2
<b>2013</b>	175	12	1
<b>2012</b>	220	20	4

## Conclusion

The number of WSP observed during the rangewide breeding window survey (12) and the number of nests found (24) were slightly above the average for the City property (Figure 1 and 5 respectively) however, the 21% hatch rate (5 of 24 known fate nests) was well below the average of 49% over the same period (Figure 5). Recovery goals of 27 breeding adults and 1 fledge/male for 5 years has not been achieved on the City property. Depredation, human activity, including dogs and environmental conditions continue to be threats to nesting WSP success.

Figure 5. City property total nests and failures 2006 – 2024.



### Sea Level Rise

Though not included as a part of CSP’s monitoring program for WSP, another threat to WSP is sea level rise. Sea level rise (SLR) modeling concludes a reduction in open sand and dune habitats, negatively impacting the WSP habitat (Rincon 2018, Point Blue 2024a&b, CSP 2015, 2021). State Parks policies and SLR best practices outlined in the Departments Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy/Departmental Guidance (CSP 2015, 2021) provide a framework for coastal management and resilience.

Recently, Point Blue evaluated WSP habitat resiliency for five CSP districts: North Coast Redwoods, Santa Cruz, Monterey, SLO Coast, and Oceano Dunes. SLO Coast’s Sandspit was predicted to have high levels of resiliency when a projected 50 cm rise was assessed (Point Blue 2024). The Sandspit experiences regular sand replenishment and this is anticipated to ensure its continued existence and resistance to SLR impacts. The predicted resiliency along with the

higher WSP productivity emphasizes the value of the Sandspit habitat and the critical importance of continued management and monitoring on both the City and CSP property.

### Future Management

The City property supports breeding and non-breeding activity of WSP and continues to be important for ensuring the recovery and long-term protection of the Pacific Coast WSP population. State Parks works in conjunction with the City of Morro Bay to provide public recreation opportunities and protection for the threatened Western Snowy Plover. San Luis Obispo Coast District remains dedicated to the continued protection of the WSP through a multi-faceted approach involving monitoring, habitat protection and management, public outreach, and collaboration with Morro Bay City, State, and federal agencies.

### Literature Cited

Analysis: 2050 Sea Level Rise Scenario. Prepared for City of Morro Bay. 44 pages.

California State Parks. 2015. Sea-level Rise and Extreme Even Guidance. 12 pages + appendices. Last revised November 2015.

California State Parks. 2021. Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy. [www.parks.ca.gov/sealevelrise](http://www.parks.ca.gov/sealevelrise).

Point Blue Conservation Science. 2024a. Systemwide SNPL Reproductive Success Results. [Powerpoint slides].

Point Blue Conservation Science. 2024b. SLO Coast SLR Adaptation Workshop using Reproductive Success Results. [Powerpoint slides].

Rincon Consultants, Inc. 2018. City of Morro Bay Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. Recovery Plan for the Pacific Coast Population of the Western Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*). In 2 volumes. Sacramento, California. xi + 751 pages.

# CNDDDB Online Field Survey Form Report



California Natural Diversity Database  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1416 9th Street, Suite 1266  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: 916.324.0475  
[cnddb@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:cnddb@wildlife.ca.gov)  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/)



Source code xxxx  
Quad code 3512037  
Occ. no. \_\_\_\_\_  
EO index no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Map index no. \_\_\_\_\_

This data has been reported to the CNDDDB, but may not have been evaluated by the CNDDDB staff

**Scientific name:** *Charadrius nivosus nivosus*

**Common name:** western snowy plover

**Date of field work (mm-dd-yyyy):** 09-13-2024

**Comment about field work date(s):** Field work occurred 3/4/2024 to 9/13/2024

## OBSERVER INFORMATION

**Observer:** Jodi L. Isaacs

**Affiliation:** California State Parks

**Address:** 750 Hearst Castle Rd. , San Simeon, CA 93452

**Email:** [jodi.isaacs@parks.ca.gov](mailto:jodi.isaacs@parks.ca.gov)

**Phone:** (805) 458-3974

**Other observers:** Robyn Jensen, Makaleh Smith, Owen Shapleigh

## DETERMINATION

**Keyed in:**

**Compared w/ specimen at:**

**Compared w/ image in:**

**By another person:**

**Other:** USFWS authorized individuals for WSP monitoring

**Identification explanation:**

**Identification confidence:** Very confident

**Species found:** Yes If not found, why not?

**Level of survey effort:** Monitoring occurred 3 days per week

**Total number of individuals:** 12

**Collection?** No

**Collection number:**

**Museum/Herbarium:**

## ANIMAL INFORMATION

**How was the detection made?** Seen

**Number detected in each age class:**

12

adults

juveniles

larvae

egg mass

other

**Age class comment:** Adult juvenile determination is difficult on many birds

**Bird site use:**

- Nesting   
  Rookery   
  Nesting colony   
  Burrow site   
  Lek  
 Non-breeding (over-wintering)   
  Communal roost   
  Other (foraging, fly-over, etc.)

**Site use description:**

What was the observed behavior? *Adults nesting and raising chicks*

Describe any evidence of reproduction: *in 2024, 24 nests were found on the City of Morro Bay portion of the Sandspit. 5 nests hatched and 19 failed. Causes of failure were depredation (8), abandoned (4), tide (3), wind (2), and unknown fail (2).*

**SITE INFORMATION**

**Habitat description:** *The City of Morro Bay's nesting area consists of a sandy beach with low, sparsely vegetated foredunes and a large plateau with rocky dredge spoils.*

**Slope:** Landowner/manager: *City of Morro Bay*

**Aspect:**

**Site condition + population viability:** *Good*

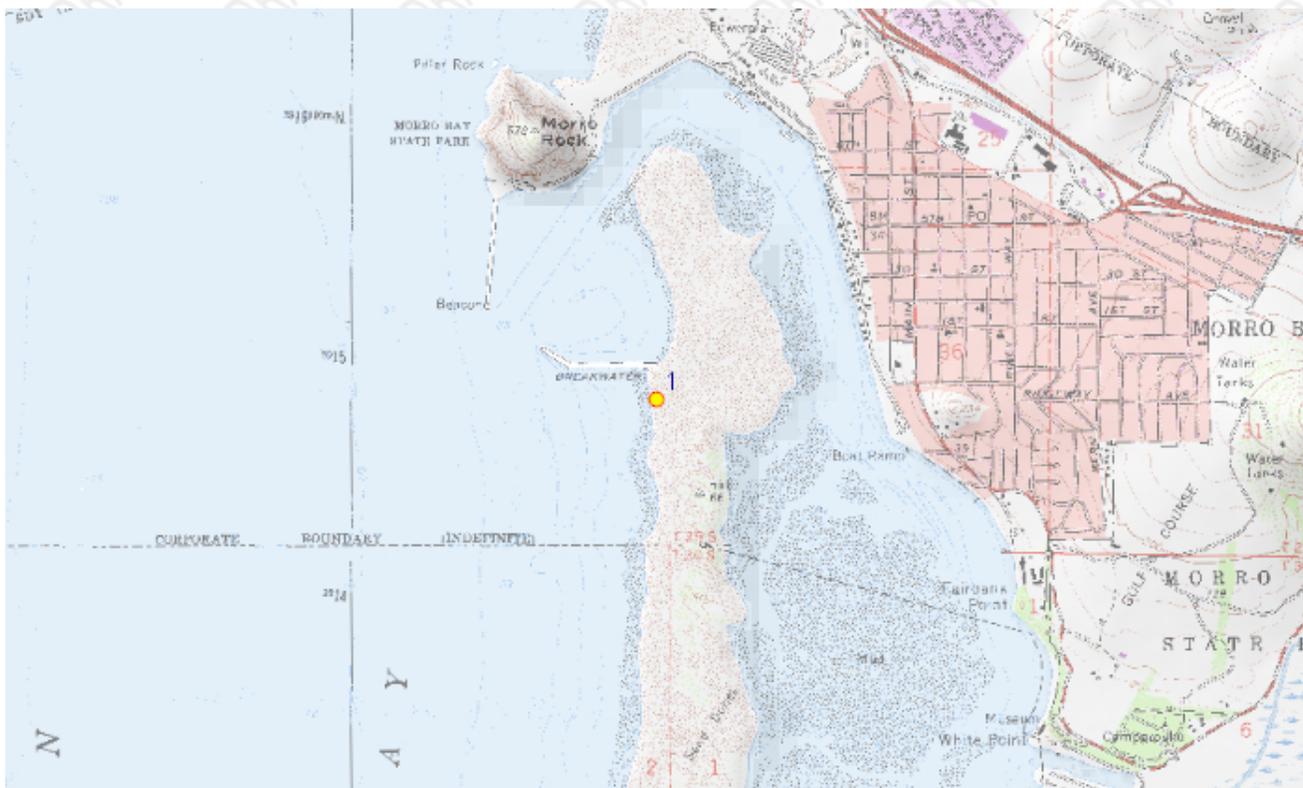
**Immediate & surrounding land use:** *Bay and park land*

**Visible disturbances:** *None*

**Threats:** *Predation and human and unleashed dog trespass in the fenced nesting area.*

**General comments:**

**MAP INFORMATION**



ID	County	24K Quadrangle	Elev. (ft)	Latitude NAD83	Longitude NAD83	UTM E NAD83	UTM N NAD83	UTM Zone
	San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay South	6	35.35941	-120.86197	694257	3915000	10
1	Public Land Survey	Feature Comment						
	M T29S R10E 35	Center of nesting area along length of beach						

The mapped feature is accurate within: 10 m

**Source of mapped feature:** CNDDDB online field survey tool

**Mapping notes:** City of Morro Bay Sandspit property

**Location/directions comments:** Center of nesting area along length of beach

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**Attachment(s):**

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AGENDA NO: B-1

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** February 25, 2025

**FROM:** Chris Munson, Harbor Director

**SUBJECT:** California Marine Affairs & Navigation Conference (CMANC)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file report.

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

At the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting, the Council authorized a 3-person delegation to attend the 2025 C-MANC Washington Week meetings, a trip which is largely funded by the Central Coast Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee.

C-MANC annually hosts Washington Week meetings, where representatives of California Ports and Harbors have the opportunity to remind Congress and various other agencies of the importance of dredging projects, commercial fishing, ocean and coastal management and other coastal-related issues in California. The City of Morro Bay is a long-standing member of C-MANC, and for over 25 years has sent representatives to the “Washington Week” meetings.

While in DC, city representatives usually engage with city’s federal lobbyist to advocate the city’s distinct interests. This includes addressing critical concerns such as harbor dredging, seawall repair, pier maintenance, along with other infrastructure needs. Additionally, discussions often extend to broader Morro Bay interests with national implications including the protection of marine lives, the perseverance of the Morro Bay National Estuary, and our partnership with local tribes. Mayor Wixom, City Manager Kimball, and Harbor Vitality Director Munson represented the City in 2025’s DC week.

The city and Harbor Department would like to express appreciation to the Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee for the grant funding.

Some key take aways from the trip include:

- Strong push from all California ports and harbors for continued maintenance dredging
- FEMA reimbursements for dock and slip repairs are likely to be distributed soon
- City made a strong case for additional T-Pier funding
- Met with staff of both CA Senators, FEMA, USACE, Rep. Salud Carabajal and many others
- Started conversations regarding federal responsibility of revetment repairs.

Prepared By: CM

Dept Review: LT

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

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

Harbor Vitality Director will provide additional details orally and will be available for HAB questions.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

1. Post Meeting Report
2. Briefing Paper

# DC Meetings Report



## City of Morro Bay, CA

Congressional and Agency Meetings – Washington, DC  
February 10-13, 2025

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### Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

#### Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24)

*Johanna Montiel, Deputy Chief of Staff*

- ✓ Discussed offshore wind status and challenges generally in light of new Administration priorities and other factors.
- ✓ T-Pier: City/TFG will share background information and needs to facilitate Rep. Carbajal's efforts engage the Coast Guard.
- ✓ Community Project Funding (CPF)<sup>1</sup>.
  - FY26 CPF process pending. TFG will track and continue communications with Rep. Carbajal's office.
  - Morro Bay discussed potential CPF requests.
  - Johanna and TFG will check prior year's appropriations regarding fire engine eligibility.

#### Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

*Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director*

- ✓ Discussed Sanctuary Advisory Committee membership.
- ✓ BOEM clarified the Trump Administration Executive Orders
  - No planning for new offshore wind leases.
  - Rights of existing lessees remain intact; Administration reviewing associated legal/environmental matters.
  - Multi-agency review will take place on permitting; stand by for BOEM guidance.
  - BOEM recommends "weighing in" as opportunities arise on policy and projects.

#### Staff of Rep. Jimmy Panetta

*Krista Wunsche, Legislative Director; Liz Jacobson, Legislative Assistant*

- ✓ Discussed fishing industry, offshore wind, health care reimbursement issues.

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<sup>1</sup> CPF formerly known as congressional earmarks.

## Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

### Senator Alex Padilla

*Nate Bentham, Policy Advisor; Pedro De Anda, Legislative Correspondent*

- ✓ City/TFG to provide talking points and/or draft letter supporting Corps Continuing Authorizations Program (CAP) and other possible funding.
- ✓ City/TFG to keep office informed regarding T-Pier status and needs.
- ✓ Senator has prioritized port electrification.
- ✓ Updated on offshore wind matters.

### Meeting with Staff of Senator Adam Schiff

*Olivia Oo, Policy Advisor; Jamie Thompson, Legislative Assistant*

- ✓ Familiarized staff with Morro Bay legislative priorities.
- ✓ Shared plans to submit projects to earmark process.

## Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

### FEMA Intergovernmental, Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Teams

**Derrick Hiebert, Assistant Administrator for Hazard Mitigation Directorate and Team; Robert Pesapane, Division Director of the Public Assistance Division; and Region 9 officials.**

- ✓ Hazard Mitigation: FEMA has existing project scoping and advanced assistance funding which is highly recommended
  - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
    - Provides design, environmental, engineering and other technical assistance funding
  - FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
    - Useful for developing plans to reduce future disaster losses. Can apply for retrofit to housing infrastructure, including on behalf of mobile home communities affected by flooding
  - FEMA Region 9 urged the connection to state level technical assistance webinars and other resources
- ✓ Public Assistance: FEMA will coordinate with Region 9 to provide a timeline of reimbursement for the following three projects:
  - Harbor Slip Repairs (#727691): In final review phase.
  - Seawalls (#)7246944: Maintenance records are required for reimbursement.
  - Culverts repairs (#729191): FEMA will provide timeline for reimbursement.



Mayor: Carla Wixom  
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball  
Harbor Vitality Director: Chris Munson  
February 2025

## Morro Bay Harbor Needs

### **ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**Dredging:** The City is requesting \$4,000,000 for annual dredging to ensure the entrance remains open to navigation.

Contact: Julie Minerva, Carpi & Clay, 202.822.8300

**Harbor Infrastructure Repair & Improvement Project:** The revetments and jetties of Morro Bay were built by the US Army Corps of Engineers during World War II. The USACE has maintained the jetties and the federal channel, the revetments and seawalls have fallen into disrepair, which has been accelerated by recent storms. The City is seeking \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for repairs and improvements to this critical Harbor infrastructure.

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023

### **OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS**

#### **Storm Damage and High Surf/ King Tide Damage:**

The high surf and storm events of 2023 worsened the existing extensive damage to our Harbor infrastructure (docks, seawalls, revetments, etc.) and other City infrastructure (storm drains, vehicles, equipment, roads, City facilities, etc.). This damage was not eligible for FEMA reimbursement.

The City is seeking \$1,000,000 to evaluate alternative improvements and \$5,000,000 to repair infrastructure related to the storm and surf damage.

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023

**Offshore Wind:** The City is requesting a minimum of \$500,000 annually to support City efforts to research, conduct analysis, training, outreach, legal and environmental reviews as related to the Offshore Wind Development.

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023

**North T-Pier Project:** The City is requesting \$7,000,000 in CPF/CDS funding to complete funding of the full North T-Pier project.

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023



Mayor: Carla Wixom  
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball  
Harbor Vitality Director: Chris Munson  
February 2025

**National Estuary Program:** Morro Bay is home to one of the 28 National Estuary Programs in the US. Morro Bay Estuary encompasses 2,300 acres. Continued federal funding of our nation's National Estuary Programs is always a priority.

**Fisheries and the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS):**

The City of Morro Bay has identified the following concerns with the proposed CHNMS:

- While it appears the Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary does not have any direct jurisdiction on fishing regulations, they can recommend regulations that have direct or indirect influence on commercial fishing.
- The Sanctuary adds another layer of governance over the activities in coastal areas such as dredging. While existing maintenance dredging areas and disposal sites may be exempt, any request to increase the size of the dredge disposal site or any new dredge site location will likely require the additional approval of the Sanctuary. This is concerning since additional dredging is needed to keep Morro Bay's harbor viable long term.
- The City of Morro Bay requested to be included in the NOAA implemented Advisory Council for the NMS.

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023





AGENDA NO: B-2

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board

**DATE:** February 24, 2025

**FROM:** Yvonne Kimball, City Manager  
Chris Munson, Harbor Vitality Director

**SUBJECT:** City Council Goals and Objectives Update, and Receipt of Harbor Advisory Board Input for the Upcoming Goals and Objectives Setting Process

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Harbor Advisory Board receive the staff update on the City Goals progress and provide input regarding goals and actions items to share with City Council ahead of their review of the City Goals for 2025/2026 and 2026/2027.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no immediate fiscal impact related to the recommendation.

## **BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS UPDATE**

City Council Resolution 83-18 establishes the “Strategic Planning Framework Policy” (Policy) that sets forth the process for how the City adopts its strategic budget goals and objectives (Attachment 1). According to the Policy, new goals are established every four years, following presidential elections. Objectives are revisited every two years. And, each year short-term actions are adopted with the budget to move objectives forward and accomplish the goals. The goals are intended to set the direction for the City for the next four years and the whole process starts anew with each four-year cycle. Fundamental to the strategic process is the creation of a 10-Year Fiscal Forecast, which provides key information for decision-makers today to help ensure balanced budget and fiscal sustainability into the future.

## **Progress on Current City Council Goals and Objectives**

### Current City Council Goals

The City goals and related action items for Year 2023 to 2025 were formally adopted by City Council in May 2023. The City adopted four major areas of goals that reflect the concerns and desires of the community. The goals are as follows:

- 1) Public Infrastructure
- 2) Economic Vitality
- 3) Housing/Homelessness Response
- 4) Community Engagement

Each of the goals include objectives and corresponding action items which, if implemented, would help bring the Council goals into reality. The council approved a total of 27 action items in May 2023, with some modifications for the current Fiscal Year 2025.

#### Progress on Current Goals and Action Items

As of December 2024, the City has completed 15 action items, with 7 nearing completion and 5 in progress. Details are included as Attachment 2.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **General Process & Key Considerations**

To ensure City goals relate back to the community's needs and desires, City Policy dictates that the City conduct outreach to the public for their input. City outreach and engagement on Council goals is performed using a variety of methods, including the online survey, a community forum, input from City advisory bodies, and a Council goal setting workshop. The current community survey closes on February 15, 2025, and has over 500 responses. Members of the public also communicate with their elected officials directly via e-mail.

To kick off the "new" goal process, the current City Goals were reviewed by the City Council in January 23, 2025. A facilitated community forum is scheduled for March 13 and advisory body outreach is ongoing. From there, a report will be prepared in advance of a City Council Special Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> where the Council will utilize all of the input received from the community and deliberate as a body to formulate their goals for the next four years.

This takes place at the outset of the FY 2025/2026 Budget process and the city goal discussions will ultimately help to inform budget decisions. The key considerations for the City Council in developing goals and action items are as follows:

- 1) They reflect the current needs and desires of the community
- 2) They are achievable given existing City resources (staff and revenues)
- 3) They are trackable with measurable milestones

The new Council goals and action items will also help inform the work plans for the City's advisory boards and commissions. With the City's budget constraints in the forecast, prioritization of existing initiatives and low cost/low resource programs are recommended.

#### **Harbor Department / HAB Specific "Action Items"**

The HAB and Harbor Development staff have provided input to the City Council in years past, which helped Council in forming and approving the existing goals and related action items. The currently active actions that have bearing on the Harbor Department and/or HAB are as follows:

1. Public Infrastructure
  - Public needs assessment
  - Public safety needs assessment
  - Storm recovery (seek FEMA and insurance reimbursements)
2. Economic Vitality:
  - Stay engaged in OSW
  - Pursue grant opportunities for boat ramp
  - Parking study and a pilot program
3. Housing and Homelessness- None
4. Community Outreach
  - Conduct joint council/advisory meetings

- Consider advisory reports to Council.

Although the Harbor Department has undergone changes at the Director position since the last goals were set in 2023, the Harbor Department has been able to make many achievements in line with the goals such as negotiating 3 new tideland leases, 4 lease amendments and 2 license agreements since 2023, and completing several dock and slip repairs associated with storm recovery. Recently, the Department managed to complete two new mixed-use projects on Embarcadero.

### **Questions for HAB**

The HAB should review the Harbor related “Action Items” above and discuss which items should be kept or modified and which items should be added. This revised list will be presented to the City Council for consideration.

Harbor Department staff has provided some modifications and additions for HAB to consider:

1. Public Infrastructure
  - Immediate Repairs to Boat Ramp (Phase 1)
  - Tidelands Facility Inspections of Public Areas and Lease Sites
  - Refurbish/Replace Light Posts on Embarcadero
  - Address Mooring Inspection and Engineering Needs
  - Assess Feasibility of State Park Marina Dredging
2. Economic Vitality:
  - Stay engaged in OSW
  - Pursue grant opportunities for Boat Ramp (Phase 2)
  - Pilot Parking Program at Boat Launch and Rock Parking
  - Fully incorporate lease management software
  - Pursue funding opportunities for North T-Pier and Revetment
3. Housing and Homelessness- None
4. Community Outreach
  - Conduct joint council/advisory meetings
  - Consider advisory reports to Council.

In discussing these Action Items, HAB members should keep in mind the available staffing resources and city’s funding ability for new programs. Additionally, any recommendation that HAB makes should align with the priority action items for Council consideration. The Harbor Department works collectively with the other departments on these action items, so it will be useful to identify and phrase these action items with that communal effort in mind.

### **CONCLUSION**

Updating the City Council goals is an important process to ensure that City goals link back to the current needs and desires of the community. Consistent with the City Council Policies, Resolution 83-18, and guided by the city goal of community engagement, staff seek to receive input from the public including the City’s advisory boards and commissions. Bringing the various points of public input together will support Council to identify priority goals and direct City staff to develop a work plan to achieve them through allocation of budget and staff resources.

### **DOCUMENT LINKS:**

1. Resolution 83-18
2. Status of Current City Goals

**RESOLUTION NO. 83-18**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA,  
RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 72-15 AND  
ESTABLISHING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK POLICY**

**THE CITY COUNCIL  
City of Morro Bay, California**

**WHEREAS**, at the August 11, 2015, City of Morro Bay regular City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved the Strategic Planning and Budgeting Framework concept presented and directed staff to develop a Strategic Planning Framework policy to be adopted at a future meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with City Council direction, staff prepared a Strategic Planning Framework procedure, which was adopted by City Council via Resolution No. 72-15; and

**WHEREAS**, it is recommended that City Council revise the Strategic Planning Framework, to include a component for community outreach, to ensure broad public engagement in the development of the City's goals and objectives.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay, hereby rescinds Resolution No. 72-15 and establishes the Strategic Planning Framework Policy as defined in the attached Exhibit A.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Morro Bay, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Irons, Davis, Headding, Makowetski, McPherson  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMIE L. IRONS, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DANA SWANSON, City Clerk



## WHITE PAPER

### Strategic Planning Framework

Revised October 9, 2018

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to describe the City of Morro Bay Strategic Planning framework. This framework, to be adopted by the City Council, provides direction on annual, biennial and quadrennial planning and budgeting tasks and processes the City will follow.

#### II. OVERVIEW

The City has many plans, including a General Plan (GP), Local Coastal Plan (LCP), Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP - under development in 2015/16), Parking Management Plan and other particular plans. Those plans are essential to provide long-term guidance for the City. And, in particular, the GP/LCP provides strategic direction not only in land-use but in many other areas.

However, the City also needs a regular process to set more general goals, and to identify specific, measurable objectives to reach those goals. This process must also ensure those objectives are considered in the annual budgeting process.

This Strategic Planning Framework does that. In general, the City Council will set / refine broad goals every four years. Every two years the Council will identify specific objectives associated with each goal for staff to complete. Every year during the budget process, those objectives will be budgeted against.

In addition to this Strategic Planning Framework, the City is developing fresh Vision, Values and Mission statements that should inform all of our planning efforts, and goal / objective setting in particular.

#### III. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are important to understand the City's Strategic Planning Process:

- **City Mission Statement** – The Mission Statement is a Council-approved statement that describes the basic / essential tasks the City must provide, and a statement toward the purpose of executing these tasks. The mission statement is focused on the purpose of the City Government, not the broader community. The City mission statement might begin something like: "The City of Morro Bay provides Public Safety, Recreation, and other key municipal services in order to . . . ."
- **Community Vision and Values Statements.** Community vision and values are also Council-approved, semi-permanent statements, developed with significant community

input, that describe what we want our community to be (Vision) and what ideals our community considers of essential importance (values).

- **City Core Tasks.** Core tasks are functions that we should always be doing well and they should be addressed in our City mission statement. A core task might be: “Maintain City Infrastructure”, or “Provide Public Safety”.
- **City Goals.** Goals are broad projects we want to accomplish over a long-term (4-6 year) period, usually because they are big enough and broad enough they can't be accomplished in a year or two. An example of a goal is: “Improve Streets”.
- **City Objectives.** Biennial objectives are specific, discreet, medium-term (1-2 year) projects that support a more general goal, are feasible and achievable if appropriately resourced, and can be directly budgeted against. An example of an Objective related to the Goal “Improve Streets” could be: “Repave 10% of streets in FY16/17 and FY 17/18”.

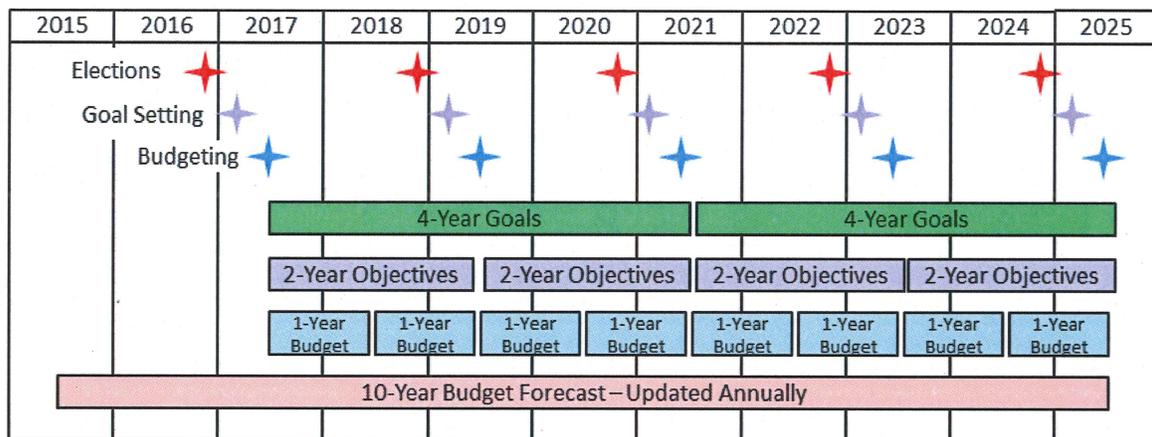
#### IV. PROCESS

Following is a written description of the City's Strategic Planning Framework depicted below in figure 1.

- The process begins in December of each election year with the seating of a new Council.
- The new Council begins a planning process to set biennial budget objectives for the upcoming two budget years.
- Following elections, the City will advertise in December upcoming community outreach and engagement opportunities.
- This objective-setting planning process normally occurs in January and February with two-year objectives set by the last Council meeting in February.
- In years following an election, in January through mid-February, staff will provide numerous opportunities for the community to engage in the process and to provide input in a number of ways, including community forum(s).
- In years following an election, City Council will host a public retreat in late-February/early March to review community input gathered through the outreach opportunities and develop goals (following Presidential elections as described below) and objectives (following a non-Presidential election). Council will formally adopt the goals/objectives typically by late March/early April.
- Council-approved objectives are then used by staff and Council to develop the annual budget in March – May of each year.
- Every four years (Presidential election years) the new Council also reviews and updates the City's Goals. The City should work to ensure goals are items in which real improvement is needed and achievable. Generally, goals should not be “maintain,” but should be “improve.” Any new Council could, of course, resolve to deviate from this Strategic Planning Framework and modify City goals outside of the specified four-year window. However, for organizational efficiency and community stability, the City should strive to keep goals for at least four years, using biennial objective setting and annual budgeting to affect change and adjust priorities.

- On a semi-annual basis, normally in the fall of each year, staff updates the Council on the status of the two-year budget objectives in an Annual Goals Update report and special Council Meeting.
- In March – May each year, the staff and Council develop a 1-year budget for the upcoming fiscal year: July 1 to June 30 of the following year. The two 1-year budgets every 2-year goal/objective period provide the Council ample opportunity to reallocate resources to achieve, or “weight” specific City Goals and Objectives.
- This entire process is underpinned and informed by a continuing 10-year budget forecast process that is updated annually in Jan – Feb. Every other year the 10-year forecast is updated by an external professional consultant. In the off years it is updated internally by staff.

**Transition Plan for the Morro Bay  
Strategic Planning and Budgeting Framework**



- ★ Elections – Nov of even years, new Council seated in early January
- ★ Biennial Planning – Every other year in Jan and Feb Council updates 2-year objectives. every 4<sup>th</sup> year Council also updates 4-year goals.
- ★ Annual Budgeting – Every year in May and Jun Council updates approves a 1-year budget.

**Overview.** Beginning in December 2016 the City of Morro Bay executes a 4-2-1 Strategic Planning and Budgeting process.

- Following each election, the new council meets in Jan / Feb to establish 2-year objectives supporting each existing City Goal.
- Every four years this process begins in December and includes renewal of the City’s goals.
- The staff then uses the new objectives to inform creation of the City’s annual budget.
- The entire process is underpinned by a 10-year budget forecast that is professionally (externally) updated every other year and internally updated every year.

Figure 1 – Strategic Planning and Budgeting Framework

**V. SUMMARY**

This Strategic Planning and Budgeting Framework is intended to complement the City’s broader and more specific plans, including the General Plan, Local Coastal Plan, Economic Development Strategic Plan and other land-use and issue-specific plans.

The above mentioned plans coupled with this Goals and Objectives process should serve, taken as a whole, as the City's strategic plan. Following full implementation of the ongoing GP/LCP rewrites in 2017, and 10-year Economic Development Strategic Plan in 2016, the City could consider if an additional, formal, 10-year strategic plan is required.

## Attachment 2 – Status of Current Goals, Objectives and Action Items

### Public Infrastructure

- Street Paving: The City Council continues to prioritize street paving and allocated significant funding in the FY 25 budget to support this. During the 2-year goals period, City has completed numerous street paving projects:
  - \$1.4 million paving project completed in August 2023, including portions of Quintana and South Bay Blvd.
  - Radcliff neighborhood street repairs completed in 2024
  - Greenwood, Bolton, Laurel, Cuesta neighborhood street repairs completed in 2024
  - Jamaica, Panorama, Island, Tide neighborhood street repairs completed in 2024
  - Rehabilitation of Police Parking Lot and Lila Keiser Park Parking Lot completed in April 2024
  - Bi-weekly Public Works Maintenance crew pothole and patch digout repairs (ongoing)
  - Tuscan Road slide stabilization and road repair project completed in December 2024

The \$4.5 million pavement rehabilitation project is currently in progress. This is likely the largest City paving project and is anticipated to be completed by April 2025.

- Capital Needs Assessments: This goal initially included two projects: 1) an assessment of harbor facilities, and 2) an assessment of all other city facilities including parks, City buildings, and other infrastructure. This second project was removed in order to prioritize resources to support the first project. As such, the City combined resources for both projects to focus solely on an assessment of the revetments supporting the harbor. This project is nearing completion. The City's consultant, Brady Engineering, prepared a draft revetment assessment report which was reviewed by staff in November. The final report and cost estimate is expected in early 2025. The assessment report is needed to support the City's Congressional funding request for harbor revetment repairs as its condition has exacerbated since the 2023 heavy storms.
- Update Council Chambers: This goal includes two projects: 1) audio visual (AV) upgrades, and 2) implementation of a web-based agenda management system for closed captioning and improved accessibility for visually impaired. On October 8, 2024, the City Council communicated its desire to receive detailed cost information about AV system options. The City released an RFP for the development of AV system design options and their cost estimates. Staff expects to bring to City Council in February a request to approve a consultant contract to fully develop three design alternatives. The City Council will have the opportunity to select for implementation a design alternative at their meeting in April; purchase and installation of the system will occur subsequently. For the second project, the City Clerk's office led the transition to a web-based meeting management system, eScribe. It has been successfully in use for City Council meetings since early 2024 and will be rolled out for advisory body meetings in 2025. In addition to enhanced accessibility features, this new system also improves efficiency in the production of meeting agendas and staff reports.
- Complete Development Impact Fee Study. This project is underway. Due to priority changes such as storm recoveries and personnel transitions, this project has been delayed. It is anticipated to be completed in June 2025. Additionally, the Finance

Department has initiated a user fee update study.

- Public safety needs assessment: This is nearing completion. The Community Risk Assessment and the Standards of Cover report include assessment of all three public safety departments: Fire Department, Police Department and Harbor Department. The Fire Department report is expected by the end of January. The Police and Harbor information is anticipated in March.
- Prioritize storm recovery efforts, maximizing FEMA/insurance opportunities, and hazard mitigation grants. The City has done well on this goal. City completed several storm system improvement projects, including, Elena/Juniper Emergency Storm Drain Repair project, Sequoia Court Emergency Storm Drain Repair project, and Ironwood Storm Drain Replacement project. We also repaired Harbor docks damaged by the storms and applied/received \$660,000 in insurance reimbursements. Lastly, we applied and have been awarded an OES grant for a study of Morro Creek watershed study.
- Improving streetscape with road striping, parking lines and curb painting. This is an ongoing effort that has seen great progress. Much of the striping work happens concurrently with street paving. Additional examples of completed projects are: installed a flashing crosswalk sign; re-striped crosswalk by PD, Embarcadero/ Coleman parkway, Embarcadero parking lot and a variety of intersections in north Morro Bay; completed two grant-funded EV Charging stations which are located in parking lots, Rehabilitation of Police Parking Lot and Lila Keiser Park Parking Lot, and corrected sidewalk ADA deficiencies in downtown Morro Bay and Atascadero Road,

In addition to the stated short-term actions, the City's Engineering and Maintenance Divisions also completed a few other key infrastructure-related projects, which include:

- a variety of park improvement projects, including tennis court rehab, pickleball court resurfacing, and Franklin Park improvements.
- Closed out WRF's two major contracts totaling over \$120 million.
- Completed Lift Station 1 Force Main Replacement project, which fixed a sewer leak due to an old sewer main under Highway 1.
- Completed Water Tank Rehabilitation project involving six of the City's drinking water tanks.
- Completed Local Roadway Safety Plan and a Speed Survey which would to identify priority areas for future traffic safety related work.

### Economic Vitality

- Monitor and stay engaged in Offshore Wind (OSW). Completed and ongoing. City Council has formed a sub-committee. The Mayor, Council Members and staff stay engaged with many federal and local agencies on OSW discussions. City partners with SLO county in the OSW related assessment studies. The *Harbor Vitality Director* will continue to support this goal.
- Pursue grant opportunities. City continues to engage state and federal lobbyists to seeking unique funding opportunities including congressional earmarks. City is considering a 2025 legislative platform to guide grant efforts.
- Streamline permit processing for residential and commercial development. This has been completed through the zoning code update which represents significant efforts, including adoption of the objective design standards. Here are a couple of examples illustrating efficiency: The department launched a Pre-designed ADU Program <https://morrobayca.gov/1056/Pre-Designed-ADU-Program>; the Building Division launched online instant permits for small-scale residential solar and energy storage systems. This helps to lower the cost for permit applications and while increasing the

speed of installing residential solar energy systems.  
<https://morrobayca.gov/1076/Residential-Solar-Permits>

- Presentation of Paid Parking Study and proposed pilot program. A presentation of the 2022 parking study was provided in October 2023. At the same meeting, Council directed staff to proceed with a paid parking program at the Rock Parking Lot. Since then, staff has been working with the Coastal Commission to obtain necessary approval for a paid parking program. Concurrently, we continue to monitor congestion issues on Embarcadero, especially in the stretch from Morro Rock parking lot to Beach St. Staff's research concurs with previous studies which find a strategy focusing on timed parking enforcement and paid parking at the Rock lot, essential to improve traffic safety and congestion issues on Embarcadero. The Police Chief leads a steering committee consisting of City staff from all departments to look into implementation details. Community stakeholders will also be included in future discussions. The goal is to concurrently implement the timed parking enforcement and paid parking at the Rock parking lot by June 30, 2025.
- Market Plaza development. This topic of discussion continues to evolve. The Council directed staff to reject any and all pending proposals in Fall 2024 and return with a new request for qualification (RFQ) for Council consideration. The RFQ would consider a hospitality project that encompasses all parcels that are in the original project footprint. Council directed staff to hold off on the development of RFQ and focus on analyzing city owned properties.
- Review of City-owned properties and strategies to optimize revenues. An initial first step is to update City property inventory. This should be completed by April 2025. Following the portfolio update, Council can consider a strategic review and opportunity analysis to identify high-potential properties. Then Council can provide directions for redevelopment, leasing, selling or maintaining of each piece. The Council could also task CFAC and/or HAB to assist with identifying high potential properties and developing strategies to utilize them.

In addition to the stated short-term actions, some other key achievements in the area of Economic Vitality are:

- Updated Zoning Code certification in early 2024 following the adoption of Plan Morro Bay.
- Successfully produced the city's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.
- Successfully hosted the 2023 and the 2024 Ironman Triathlon events.
- Continued to partner with private partners to improve the city's broadband fiber-optic infrastructure. We are one of the most "fiber connected" cities on the Central Coast.

#### Housing and Homelessness Response

All goals except the following are considered complete:

- Seashell Estates property. A revised application was received August 2024. Upzoning is no longer required. A hearing of the project is tentatively scheduled for February 2025. Here are some details of the proposed Seashell Estate: *The Seashell Estates is a master-planned community located north of Highway 1 and west of the Bayside Care Center nursing home. The project proposes ten (10) single family homes, ten (10) attached junior accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and ten (10) detached ADU, for a total of 30 residential units in a residential low density (RL) zone.*
- Identify affordable housing incentive program: This has evolved into the discussions with

the Downtown Design District (DDD). The final DDD public meeting is still in the works and will be complete by spring. This has been delayed due to the consideration of BESS related urgency ordinance.

Although not included in specific goals, some other key accomplishments that supported public safety include the adoption of a camping ordinance which resulted in noticeable improvements were made along Quintana and other camp sites upon.

### Community Engagement

Significant progress has been made to all the action items.

- Develop and implement outreach and communication plan, leverage partnerships with Chamber, Visit Morro Bay, local service clubs, etc.; explore available communication tools.
- Conduct joint council/advisory meetings and consider advisory reports to Council.
- MBPD Citizens Academy, consider community outreach workshops. Citizens Academy has been hosted. Staff also hosted workshops on homelessness responses, BESS project reports, traffic study community workshops, and an information session on the Morro Elementary site. City staff also partnered with Cal Poly graduate studies to host research workshops on topics related to climate action plans and downtown design.
- Develop and implement outreach and communication plan using different formats to reach a broad spectrum of residents. Mayor and Council members have implemented a variety of programs that intend to engage a wide range of residents.
- Development Historical Preservation Ordinance using draft ordinance prepared by Historical Society as a starting point. This item is in progress. A new ordinance requires substantial resources to develop. The DDD discussion has identified that the first achievable step is to work with the Morro Bay Historical Society to generate a list of properties of historical interest or value. The Community Development Department will present the Council with a framework for a historic preservation ordinance by June 30, 2025. The framework will outline the basic components of a potential historic preservation ordinance for Council discussion and direction to staff.

In addition to the stated short-term actions, other notable achievements to improve community engagement and government transparency are: Implemented electronic and paperless filing of campaign disclosure statements and statements of economic interest. Soft launch a web based Public Records Act request platform, streamlining and improving efficiency for review and release of requested record. Continued implementation of electronic signatures for contracts and correspondence for improved efficiency and record keeping. Conducted 2024 election, produced candidate orientation, continued New Council orientation and onboarding.



AGENDA NO: B-3

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2025

# Staff Report

**TO:** Harbor Advisory Board **DATE:** February 27, 2025  
**FROM:** Lori Thompson, Harbor Business Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** Approval of Excused Absence Request for Board Member Witkowski

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Harbor Advisory Board (HAB) approve the request submitted by HAB Member Marshall Witkowski to excuse his absence from February 6, 2025, Regular HAB meeting

## **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION**

In April 2022, the Council adopted Resolution No. 39-22, amending the By-Laws for all standing advisory bodies to establish a policy regarding absences. That policy, which is included in the current Advisory Bodies Handbook and By-Laws, states:

*“Because of quorum requirements, when an absence is anticipated, the individual advisory body member is responsible for notifying the Chair and the staff responsible a minimum of seven days in advance and the absence shall be counted in that member’s attendance record. An advisory body member may include a written request that the absence be excused; said request must be submitted in advance and formally approved at a regular meeting of the advisory body. The unexcused absence from two consecutive regular meetings or twenty-five (25) percent of the regular meetings during any calendar year period shall constitute the resignation of such absent member. An advisory body member determined to have not met the attendance requirements herein may submit a written request to the City Council to have the previous absences excused.”*

Staff received a request from Member Witkowski for Board consideration to excuse his absence from February 6, 2025, regular meeting as he had a prior commitment before being appointed to the board.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff recommends the Board consider Member Witkowski’s request for an excused absence from the February 6, 2025, Regular Harbor Advisory Board meeting.

## **ATTACHMENT**

1. Link to [Advisory Bodies Handbook and By-Laws](#)
2. Email Request from Member Witkowski

Prepared By: LT

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

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

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

## Requesting an Excused Absence

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From Marshall Witkowski <marshall.witkowski@morrobayca.gov>

Date Thu 2/27/2025 12:09 PM

To Lori Thompson <LThompson@morrobayca.gov>

Hi Lori,

I would like to request an excused absence from the Harbor Advisory Board General Meeting on 6 February 2025. I have a prior work commitment scheduled for that date which I committed to before I was confirmed to the Harbor Advisory Board.

Thank you,  
Marshal Witkowski