



November 25, 2025

Greetings to all as we embark on the November/December/January Holiday season in Morro Bay. The City of Morro Bay has numerous exciting holiday options for you, your family, and your visitors to engage in; some of those are listed and more events as specific event information can be found on the City's website.

- [Holiday Tree Lighting](#)- Friday, December 5th, 3:30 pm to dusk, City Park
- [Breakfast with Santa](#) – Saturday, December 6th, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Morro Bay Vet's Hall
- [Caroling Cops](#) - December 8 - 11th 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, throughout Morro Bay
- Outdoor Holiday Movie Night Featuring the movie "Elf" - December 11th, 5:00 pm in the lot between Rose's Landing and the Libertine, 700 block of the Embarcadero
- [Lighted Boat Parade](#) – Saturday, December 13th, 6:00 pm, Embarcadero

To add to the holiday spirit, Visit Morro Bay and the City have joined efforts to "Light Up the City" with some additional holiday lighting and displays both downtown and along the Embarcadero. Be sure to take a walk through these areas and enjoy the Holiday Magic!

Finally, the Mayor and City Council have been immersed in the search for a New City Manager, and those efforts are going well. A final decision and public announcement are likely in early/mid-December, with a start date for the New Manager expected in early 2026.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lueker
Interim City Manager
alueker@morrobayca.gov, 805-772-6206

Police

Police Chief Update

Happy Holidays! The department has seen an increase in calls for service over the past month. This is common for this time of year. Officers and staff would like to remind our community and visitors to slow down on the roadways and be kind to one another. This can be a difficult time for many and giving a little space and patience goes a long way and keeps us all safe. Holiday parties are happening, and we remind you to drink responsibly and never get behind the wheel if you have been drinking. Designate a driver and get home safely. If you see or suspect a person is drinking and driving, please report the activity to the police. Officers will be out looking for DUI drivers, so please be safe.

November 12th was the final session and graduation of the 2025 Citizen Academy. We had a great group of community members who enjoyed seven training sessions that covered the innerworkings of the police department. Thank you to those who joined us and for your enthusiastic participation. We look forward to our 2026 Citizen Academy.



Your Morro Bay Police Department has celebrated several community events over the past few weeks. Officers, volunteers, and staff celebrated Del Mar Elementary's Trick or Treat event, Morro Bay Recreation Department Trick or Treat downtown, and the Central Coast Cops and Kids event held in Arroyo Grande.



Welcome Officer Kiana Hitchman

The department welcomed our newest officer to the team. Officer Kiana Hitchman was sworn in on October 27th and began her 16-week field training program. Officer Hitchman and her family are joining us from the central valley where Kiana and her husband are both Navy veterans. Kiana is going to be a wonderful addition to the department and our community. Welcome Kiana!



Records Appreciation Day

On November 7th, the department celebrated Records Appreciation Day. We have the very best professional staff who are behind the scenes taking care of the filing of crime reports, processing arrest reports for the District Attorney’s office for prosecution, supporting the officers with administrative work, handling phone and lobby traffic, collecting and storing property and evidence, and so much more that truly makes a difference at the department. We appreciate them every day for the amazing work they do. Thank you to Erin, Christie, Renee and our volunteers Janice, Lisa, Jackie, and Susan for your hard work, support, and wonderful service to our community. (Pictured left to right, Christie, Renee, Erin).



Central Coast Explorer Competition

MBPD Public Safety Cadets had the opportunity to compete in the Central Coast Law-Enforcement Explorer Competition. Their team placed Third in High-Risk Traffic Stop Scenario. We are extremely proud of their hard work and dedication to the program and congratulate them on their win. Special thanks and congratulations to our PSC advisors Sergeant Vasquez, Senior Officer Cambronero, and Officer Salgado for their hard work and dedication to our cadets.



Fire

Response Statistics

The Morro Bay Fire Department totaled 203 responses from October 1 through October 31, 2025. These responses include,

- Series 100 (Fires) 6 incidents
- Series 200 (Overpressure, rupture, explosion, no fire) 0 incidents
- Series 300 (Rescue & EMS incident) 136 incidents
- Series 400 (Hazardous condition no fire) 9 incidents
- Series 500 (Service call) 17 incidents
- Series 600 (Good intent call) 19 incidents
- Series 700 (False alarm & false call) 14 incidents
- Series 800 (Severe weather & natural disaster) 2 incidents
- Series 900 (Special incident type) 0 incidents
- Total 203 incidents

Fire Chief Update

The Fire Department completed a busy fire season assisting our partners across the state. This season Fire Department staff participated in over 6,100 hours of mutual aid support including the Gifford and Madre incidents here in San Luis Obispo County. We have one SYTIS thermal imaging camera installed on the nutmeg water tank. We are working to get the programming completed for automatic notifications. The goal is to have all three cameras operational by the end of the year. Finally, congratulations to Engineer Casey Robertshaw on the completion of his probation and promotion to Engineer Paramedic. We held a promotion ceremony for Casey on November 16th.



Harbor

Harbor Vitality Director Update:

- 801 Embarcadero (Libertine) lease site is currently out to RFP and closing on December 18th. The site visit was conducted, and the Q&A has been posted on the website.
- Received informal notification from the US Army Corps of Engineers that the annual dredging will take place in 2026 as regularly scheduled and funded. They do not anticipate future funding for Morro Bay’s annual dredging to be impacted by recent federal cuts. The inner-channel dredging is still happening in 2026 but has been delayed due to the federal shutdown. It is now scheduled to occur from June-November. A group at USACE has been assembled to review the revetment’s condition, and they hope to submit a funding request for a repair project. Currently, it is not clear what the scope of the project would be or the timeline.
- Coordinated meetings for Commercial Fishermen, OSW Subcommittee, and harbor tour with Charles Lester who is part of a BOEM study on harbor impacts and opportunities related to OSW development and oil platform decommissioning.
- Researched the history and funding opportunities for the Morro Creek erosion project.
- Reviewed Waterfront Master Plan reports and provided comments. Prepared and participated in first public workshop.
- Provided boat tours to prospective City Manager candidates.

The 2025 Beach Lifeguard season has ended, and towers were pulled off the beach for the winter. The total beach count for summer season was 53,837 people at Morro Rock beach. The lifeguards made 2056 public contacts with 116 public safety lectures. These contacts keep the actual rescue statistics low with only 7 emergency rescues and 124 water assists. We urge beachgoers to pay extra attention to the size of the surf and tidal influences throughout the winter. Harbor Patrol has responded to 8 different surf rescue incidents at Morro Rock within the last month and 2 different emergencies of citizens being swept off the jetty on the south side of the Rock. Never turn your back on the ocean.



Harbor Patrol Statistics for Oct 1- Oct 31, 2025

Bay Patrol	Land Patrol	Calls for Service	Emergency Response	Assist other Agency	Enforcement Contact	Training	Maintenance Action	Weather Advisory
76	215	130	14	67	28	21	251	12

Public Works

Engineering

The Engineering Division is in the process of implementing an emergency streambank stabilization project along the south bank of Morro Creek upstream of the Embarcadero. Soils testing and design of the rock slope protection is underway by a local geotechnical firm, and staff is working with the Army Corps and other regulatory agencies through the emergency permitting process.

Utilities

The Utilities Division has been operating the Brackish Water Reverse Osmosis (BWRO) facility for the last 2 weeks during State Water shutdown. State Water is anticipated to return next week on Thursday Nov. 13th. The BWRO is used to treat the Morro Basin water and is capable of treating approximately 800 gallons per minute.

The Utilities Division hired Debra Skelton as the new Water Resources Compliance Specialist. This position will assist with various federal, state and local regulatory reporting requirements pertaining to water and wastewater. Debra is scheduled to start with the City at the end of the month.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Division has been focused on installing holiday lights and decorations around the downtown and Embarcadero areas. The lights and decorations were purchased by Visit Morro Bay. The City and Visit Morro Bay will consider expansion of the holiday decor program next year depending on community feedback.

This year's lighting displays can be found at several locations, including:

1. Anchor Park
2. The Chess Board at Centennial
3. Centennial Stairs
4. The Centennial entrance next to Dorn's
5. Streetlights along the Embarcadero, Morro Bay Boulevard, and Main Street
6. The City Park tree ceremony area
7. Christmas trees at City buildings

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The City of Morro Bay is seeking dedicated residents who care about our city's future to serve on its volunteer advisory bodies. Share your ideas, help guide local initiatives, and make a difference in our community.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- Citizens Oversight/Citizens Finance Advisory Committee
- Harbor Advisory Board - Member-at-large
- Recreation and Parks Commission

RECRUITMENT PERIOD

- November 17 - December 19, 2025 by 5 pm

Interviews are tentatively scheduled on January 13, 2026. Applicants should be present at the interview to be considered by the City Council.

MORE INFORMATION

 cityclerk@morrobayca.gov

 (805) 772-6568

 www.morrobayca.gov/advisorybody

City of Morro Bay Earns Top Workers' Compensation Award!



At the recent California JPIA Risk Managers' Conference, the City of Morro Bay was honored with the **2025 Risk Management Award for Best Overall Performance Workers' Compensation Program**, recognizing the City of Morro Bay's top-ranking results among 101 member agencies. In the photo, Margaret Finlay, California JPIA Executive Committee President, Rachael Hendricks, City of Morro Bay HR/Risk Manager, and Tim Karcz, CJPIA Senior

Risk Manager, stand proudly as Rachael holds the award plaque, which is now displayed in the City Hall hallway. This achievement reflects the dedication of our employees who actively work safely, look out for one another, and foster a culture of prevention to ensure a healthy, injury-free workplace with minimal workers' compensation claims. Tim Karcz shared, *"The City of Morro Bay has been a wonderful partner of the California JPIA for many years. This award reflects the city's strong governance and leadership, as well as its commitment to excellence in risk management."*

Job Openings

FULL TIME OPENINGS

- Consolidated Maintenance Worker III
- Fiscal Analyst
- Police Officer Recruit - Non-Academy Graduate
- Senior Civil Engineer
- Utility Operator Multiple Cert

PART TIME TEMPORARY OPENINGS

- Pool Lifeguard
- Sports Coordinator
- Sports Official
- Swim Instructor

ADVISORY BODY OPENINGS

- Citizens Oversight/Citizens Finance Advisory Committee
- Recreation & Parks Commission
- Harbor Advisory Board - Member-at-Large

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



Administrative Services (Finance and IT)

After completing competitive recruitment processes for the Senior Fiscal Analyst and Account Clerk positions, Administrative Services has filled the two vacant positions with excellent internal staff. Sara Pruitt has promoted from Fiscal Analyst to Senior Fiscal Analyst. In this management role, Sara will take on the coordination of the city's budget development, procurement processes, accounts payable staff and associated processes, and other special projects. Brittany Shade has promoted from Office Assistant IV to Account Clerk. In this new role, Brittany will take on the processing and reporting of business licensing and transient occupancy tax. The search for our next two team members has begun and interviews will be conducted in December.

Recreation

Facilities

The holidays are upon us, and Recreation Services is busy permitting property use. Currently, we have the annual Thanksgiving Dinner taking over much of our Community Center which is needed for preparing and packaging around 700 meals. It is also surfing contest season, where the City will be hosting the WSA Pro Surf Contest at the Rock. Also, the holiday season brings our annual Lighted Boat Parade the second weekend where we will also see an outdoor movie and a Shop, Sip, and Stroll.

Special Events

Santa is coming to town!

Recreation Services will be hosting the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5th, at City Park. We'll enjoy performances from the children at Kids' Club Children's Center and the talented dancers from the MBHS Dance Team. Guests can enjoy cookies and warm apple cider while we eagerly await a special visit from Santa.

Recreation Services
WHAT'S COMING UP...

Annual HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING Celebration!
FRIDAY DEC. 5TH 3:30 PM - DUSK
AT CITY PARK IN MORRO BAY

HOLIDAY HANGOUT
December 2025
22nd & 23rd
29th & 30th

Winter Wonderland!
Monday 12/22
Tuesday 12/23

2 DAYS \$95
1 DAY \$55

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH
9:00AM - 11:00AM
Morro Bay Vet's Hall
BREAKFAST, CRAFTS, GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING & MORE!

Kids' Night Out
Christmas Jammie Party
12.12.25
\$25 Pre-Reg
\$40 Walk-In

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Then, the celebration continues the next morning with Breakfast with Santa! Join us at the Morro Bay Vet's Hall from 9:00–11:00 a.m. A \$12 pre-registered ticket includes a delicious Kiwanis pancake breakfast and entry to the Elf Workshop, where families can enjoy crafts, gingerbread decorating, face painting, and much more.

Seniors

Coming off another great season of concerts at Tunes at Tidelands, the senior schedule takes a little break from major activities but will soon gear back up for our annual Health and Wellness Fair in January. All classes and activities are still moving at full speed ahead (and at full capacity) and the membership in MBAA...55+ continues to swell and is currently over 1,000 members. Very impressive for a small town!

Aquatics

The Floating Pumpkin Patch made a big splash with Morro Bay Families at the end of October! We had 120 participants that swam around, picked their favorite pumpkin, and decorated it for Halloween. We also had a water safety skill, "Reach or Throw" teaching kids how to help someone in trouble in the water safely. We also had diving boards, face painting, and games!

This November we have normal programming with Aqua Aerobics, Lap Swim, Master's Swimming, Private lessons, and Water Polo camp.

Youth Services

There is a lot happening in Youth Services this season!

Over the upcoming holiday breaks, Youth Services will be hosting two Holiday Hangout Camps. Our Thanksgiving Break Camp will run for three days and will include plenty of adventure and our annual Turkey Bowl Flag Football Game. Winter Break Camp will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays during the break, with campers participating in a variety of fun winter-themed activities.

The children of Kids' Club Children's Center are also very excited to perform for Santa at our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, December 5th.

In addition, Youth Services will be hosting Kids' Night Out on December 12th, featuring our annual Christmas Jammie Party.

Sports

We capped our new Estero Bay Adult Pickup Basketball on November 16. In total, 21 adults participated in over nine consecutive Sundays at Los Osos Middle School Gym. Adults enjoyed the spirit of pickup play and are excited to resume action for the next round of pickup basketball in January.

Estero Bay Youth Soccer wrapped up for U6 and U8 teams on November 1, with our older teams participating in an End of Season tournament. Now the Recreational All-Star season begins with one Girls Under 10 team based in Morro Bay continuing their season with tournament play.

We look forward to basketball season! Team creation meetings wrapped up for 46 teams in November. Coaches will receive their rosters and equipment on December 2, and games will begin on January 10.

The Adult Coed Softball Championships were rained out and will be held December 1.

Community Development

Big Ideas by the Bay: Community Packs First Waterfront Master Plan Workshop

On November 18, 2025, the City held our first community workshop for the Waterfront Master Plan. The workshop was very well attended with over 80 participants who engaged in a thoughtful and constructive dialogue about the future of our beautiful waterfront. Participants were asked to share their favorite spots, memories, and ideas for future land uses and amenities on the waterfront. They also reviewed the major themes of stakeholder comments collected to date and shared their own ideas about the key issues and opportunities facing the Embarcadero. We are still compiling all of the great input received at the workshop. We'll summarize the community input in the background report to be presented to decision makers. We'll also use this input to help shape alternative land use concepts. There will be many more opportunities for public participation in the Waterfront Master Plan, including a community-wide survey and four additional workshops. Community members are also encouraged to attend the monthly Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings held the first Thursday of the month at 3 PM at the Veteran's Memorial Hall. For more information, including the workshop visuals and materials, please visit the City's Waterfront Master Plan website: [Waterfront Master Plan | City of Morro Bay - Official Website](#).



2025 State Building Code and Urban Wildland Urban Interface Code Take Effect on January 1, 2026

On November 12, 2025, the City Council adopted the 2025 State Building Codes to take effect on January 1, 2026. A significant change is adoption of the 2025 Wildland Urban Interface Code, which applies to new construction in the high and very high fire hazard severity zones (generally, the areas around the State Park and the hillside around Juniper and Nutmeg in North Morro Bay). The updated State Building Codes also continue to expand requirements to promote renewable energy, sustainability, and increased accessibility. This will be the last update to the residential building codes until 2031, since the State suspended the 2028 code update to promote housing development. All building permits submitted after January 1, 2026 will be subject to the new 2025 State Building Codes.

The Planning Commission Recommends New Land Use Policies and Capital Project Prioritization

On Wednesday (11/5), the Planning Commission voted to recommend the City Council accept the 2024 General Plan Annual Progress Report and forwarded the following comments to City Council:

- Direct staff to amend the zoning code to add back in the standard that limits the height of new buildings to not extend above the top of the bluff.
- Direct staff to amend the zoning code to add back in the sloping lot adjustment that allows for a reduced front setback for garages on certain sloping properties.
- Direct staff to designate three spaces on the Embarcadero for commercial fisherman to park and load / unload equipment. The suggested locations include the boat launch ramp, near the end of Beach Street, and near the north T-pier.
- Direct staff to prioritize the construction of a sidewalk on Main Street between Errol Street and Radcliff Drive for pedestrian connectivity between north and south Morro Bay.
- Direct staff to prioritize enhancing and evening the surface of the sidewalk on Main Street between Olive Street and Shasta Avenue as this section connects the State Park and downtown.
- Direct staff to prepare a historic preservation ordinance as quickly as possible given resource constraints.

The City Council will consider these recommendations on December 9, 2025.

New Planning and Building User Fees Take Effect on January 1, 2026

The City Council adopted new user fees, including Planning and Building permit fees, on September 23. The new fees will go into effect on January 1, 2026.