



Photo Credit: Danna Joy Images

January 13, 2026

Hello from the Interim City Manager's Desk,

First and foremost, we are all happy to welcome John Craig as the new City Manager for Morro Bay. John was sworn in on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, and his first official day is Wednesday, January 14, 2026. John has extensive management experience in both Cities and Counties and will be able to "hit the ground running." Be sure to welcome him!

John's arrival equates to my departure-six months to the day I began in July 2025. I have thoroughly enjoyed the Interim City Manager position, and believe I met the goal of an Interim City Manager which is basically to maintain continuity and stability in the municipal operations during the transition to a new manager and typically not make any monumental changes – "Mission Accomplished."

And now a few thanks are in order.

Mayor and City Council - thank you for this appointment to lead Morro Bay through this interim period. With any interim, it is a leap of faith, which you willingly took. I have enjoyed working with you, a diverse group of dedicated elected officials that all strive to make the City of Morro Bay a better place. The time and effort you donate to this endeavor is truly amazing.

Executive Team - from the first day, you welcomed me, shared information, educated me about current issues and provided fantastic solutions and remedies to a myriad of things that came up. You are a cohesive, strong, and dedicated team. Thank you, and I have great expectations for all of you in the future.

City Hall Staff - this has been my home away from home, and very similar to the Executive Team, you were so friendly and helpful from my first day and through today. Your work ethic and positive customer service attitude are unparalleled. Thank you for all the work that you do!

Thank you to all the City Employees in all departments. To a person, you have been positive, hardworking, and helpful-to not only me, but each other, the community and our visitors.

Finally, thank you to the community for whom we all work for. Your love for Morro Bay is evident, and we strive to provide a place that you can be proud of.

Finally, looking forward, please continue to remember the importance of taking care of each other and being kind and supportive and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Once again, thank you all.

Sincerely,

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

Police

Morro Bay Police Department Welcomes Officer Brett Calloway

Officer Brett Calloway was sworn in on January 6th. He is a 17-year veteran of law enforcement and joins us from Atascadero Police Department. We are excited to have Brett join our team and know he will be a great addition to our department and community. Officer Calloway is pictured in the center.



New Year = New Laws

ELECTRIC BICYCLE SAFETY

- **Electric Bicycles: Required Equipment (AB 544, Davies)**
 - Assembly Bill 544 mandates that electric bicycles must have a red reflector or a solid or flashing red light with a built-in reflector on the rear during *all hours of operation*, not just during darkness as the law previously required.
 - The bill also allows the CHP-developed online electric bicycle safety and training program to fulfill the safety course requirement for minors who receive a helmet violation involving electric bicycles.
- **Off-highway Electric Motorcycles (SB 586, Jones)**
 - Senate Bill 586 defines an “off-highway electric motorcycle” or “eMoto” as a vehicle that:
 - Is designed primarily for off-highway use.
 - Is powered by an electric motor that does not require a motor number.
 - Has handlebars for steering, a manufacturer-provided straddle seat, and two wheels?

It is not equipped with manufacturer-provided pedals. This bill also classifies an off-highway electric motorcycle as an off-highway motor vehicle (OHV), subject to the same rules and regulations. This includes a requirement that a person operating an OHV wears a safety helmet and that every OHV not registered under the Vehicle Code display an identification plate or device issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles

SPEED ENFORCEMENT

- **State Highway Work Zone Speed Safety Program (AB 289, Haney)**
 - o Assembly Bill 289 authorizes the Department of Transportation to establish a work zone speed safety system pilot program. The program will utilize a fixed or mobile radar or laser system to detect speeding violations and capture a clear photograph of a vehicle's license plate. Citations will be issued to the vehicle's registered owner with specified requirements and procedures for program implementation, citation issuance, review, and appeal.

- **Vehicles: Highway Safety (AB 390, Wilson)**
 - o Assembly Bill 390 expands the “slow down and move over” law to include *any* highway maintenance vehicle or stationary vehicle using flashing hazard lights or warning devices such as cones and road flares. Drivers approaching such a vehicle must move into a lane that is not next to the stopped vehicle or slow down to a safe speed if changing lanes is not possible.

Fire

Year-end Response Statistics

The Morro Bay Fire Department totaled 2,043 responses from January 1 through December 31, 2025. These responses include,

- Series 100 (Fires) 4 incidents
- Series 200 (Overpressure, rupture, explosion, no fire) 2 incidents
- Series 300 (Rescue & EMS incident) 1,413 incidents
- Series 400 (Hazardous condition no fire) 61 incidents
- Series 500 (Service call) 202 incidents
- Series 600 (Good intent call) 179 incidents
- Series 700 (False alarm & false call) 137 incidents
- Series 800 (Severe weather & natural disaster) 4 incidents
- Series 900 (Special incident type) 1 incident
- Total 2,043 incidents

Fire Chief Update

Looking back on 2025, Morro Bay Fire Department staff participated in 6,123 hours of mutual aid fire support throughout the western states including the Gifford and Madre fires here in San Luis Obispo County. Staff participated in over 5,878 hours of on shift and formal training courses over the last year. Crews responded to 2,043 incidents and more than 200 simultaneous calls where we had more than two active incidents at the same time.

As we move into 2026, there are many exciting projects the department is focused on. We have placed an order for a new type 3 wildland fire engine. We anticipate taking delivery in October of 2026. The Bonita Street Fire Station project is moving forward through the Community Development Department review process, and we are working with our State and Federal lobbying firms to assist in securing funding for the construction of the station. We will be conducting a recruitment in the coming weeks to fill a vacant Firefighter position. We anticipate having the other two thermal imaging camera installations complete and operational by the end of January.

Harbor

Harbor Vitality Director Update:

- Accepted Donated Trash Receptacles from the FMBHD
- Two New Lease Agreements with Dockside Restaurant and Dockside Too.
- Continued Commercial Slip and Gangway Reconstruction and Repair
- Libertine RFP bidding closed with one proposal submitted but was incomplete. Met with real estate group and completed asbestos inspection to prepare for next steps.
- Received notification around February 1st that SLO County APCD will have about \$940K of grant funding available for fishing vessel repower projects. APCD is tentatively scheduled to be present at February’s HAB meeting about the grants and regulations.

Lighted Boat Parade:

The Harbor Patrol provided water safety for the annual parade. With over 30 boat entries participating, the event was a winter success.



Christmas Storms:

Harbor Patrol was busy with the stormy weather over the Christmas holiday. Winds blew up to 40 knots in the bay, and we received approximately 3 inches of rain. Numerous skiffs throughout the bay needed de-watering or righting from being capsized. Quite a bit of unsecure debris was blown into the water and removed by Harbor Patrol. Lucky, there were no reported injuries on the water during this storm event.



New Year’s Day Polar Bear Dip:

The annual Cayucos polar bear dip took place at high noon on the first day of 2026. One of Harbor Patrol’s RWC’s (Rescue Watercraft) was at the event to assist with water safety in collaboration with CalFire.

Harbor Patrol Statistics for November 1- December 31, 2025

Bay Patrol	Land Patrol	Calls for Service	Emergency Response	Assist other Agency	Enforcement Contact	Training	Maintenance Action	Weather Advisory
161	399	253	36	136	66	62	448	29

Public Works

Utilities Division

The Utilities Division would like to remind residents that the water meter and the water lateral from the meter to the water main are City-owned and maintained infrastructure. Customers are responsible for the water service line from their home to their property line as well as any water lines inside their home.

Earlier this week, Utilities crew performed a water shutdown along Prescott Street and surrounding areas to repair a damaged water lateral and water main. The damage occurred after a customer attempted to shut off water at the curb stop, which is located on the City's side near the water meter, resulting in a break. To avoid service disruptions and costly repairs, customers are encouraged to contact Utilities for assistance if they need help locating or shutting off their water service.

Maintenance Division

The Maintenance Division recently removed the skatepark components at the old Teen Center building and put them in storage. The move addresses safety and risk management concerns raised over the past two years.

The Maintenance Division completed the recarpeting of City Hall. The effort required removal and shuffling of the building's office furniture.

This week, the Maintenance Division welcomed Lucas Howell to the team as a Maintenance Worker III. Lucas will focus on street and sidewalk maintenance.

Public Works is working on bringing Channel 20 back online for public meetings by mid-February.

Administration (HR, City Clerk and City Attorney)

HIRING NOW



FULL TIME OPENINGS

- Consolidated Maintenance Worker III
- Senior Accounting Technician
- Senior Civil Engineer

PART TIME TEMPORARY OPENINGS

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

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)

The Finance Department has made excellent progress in the area of personnel:

- The competitive recruitment process for the two vacant Finance positions Account Clerk for business licensing and TOT and Senior Fiscal Analyst ultimately resulted in internal promotions for staff ready to take the next step. We are very proud of our staff's professional growth and dedication to serving this community!
- Of course, internal promotions mean we filled the two positions they vacated: Office Assistant and Fiscal Analyst.
 - The Office Assistant position was filled by an external candidate and this past Monday officially started in the position.
 - The Fiscal Analyst position was filled after a competitive recruitment by another internal promotion: the Senior Accounting Technician (payroll and other accounting) will be our Fiscal Analyst. The Fiscal Analyst position is a great fit for her, and she is ready to promote to this next level.
 - The Senior Accounting Technician recruitment is currently open, and we look forward to finding that great candidate to complete our team.

Year-end reporting: Due to the above activity, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) is a bit delayed but close to completion. The final version is expected by Friday January 16th and will be delivered to Council in January or February, along with the results of the annual audit which will be presented by the City's principal auditor. Staff continues to work on the remaining special revenue audits for Transportation Development Act (Transit Fund, Bike Path Fund, and Local Transportation Fund) and on the remaining annual reporting to the State Controller's Office and California State Lands Commission. This annual reporting will be completed by early February.

Upcoming budget-related reports:

- Tuesday January 20th: FY 2024-25 report on Measure Q/E transactions for presentation to Citizens Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC)
- Tuesday February 17th: FY 2025-26 midyear report to CFAC
- Tuesday February 24th: FY 2025-26 midyear report to City Council

Next up: In February, staff will launch into FY 2026-27 budget development.

Finally, City Hall has new carpet! It sounds simple, but to make it happen, alternate workspace had to be identified and set up for each staff in the building. Our IT staff disconnected and removed or relocated and then returned every phone, computer, scanner, printer, monitor, keyboard, and mouse. Maintenance removed all furniture and then returned it again. This was a huge effort by IT and Maintenance, and it was a huge success! City Hall staff have made good progress in moving back into our workspaces, though some boxes are still to be unpacked and we will get to that as workload allows. Big thank you to City Council for approving the allocation of funds to this much needed maintenance, to our neighbors in Public Works and Community Development for welcoming finance staff to the building for needed workspace, and to all staff involved for emptying the building and moving in again!

Recreation

Special Events

A busy holiday season comes to a wrap!



The annual **MB Bird Festival** is coming to town January 15 – 19! With over 1,000 registered, we look forward to having our birding community here at the MB Community Center as well as numerous other locations throughout the county.

Sports

Estero Bay Youth Basketball kicked off the season Saturday with 45 teams joining us this year! Games are played at Del Mar Elementary, Baywood Elementary, and Los Osos Middle School with players coming from all communities in the Estero Bay.

Registration is now open for the 2026 season of Coast Girls Softball!

Estero Bay Pick-up Basketball is alive and playing at Los Osos Middle School gym, Sundays, 12-3PM.

Seniors

Preparations are underway for the annual **55+ Health and Wellness Fair!** Join the MB Seniors for this free educational and fun event, Saturday, January 24, 9AM – 12PM, at the MB Community Center.

January 20 marks the start of the Cuesta College Emeritus semester. Register with Cuesta and enroll in classes such as Drawing, Yoga, Watercolor, Adapted Exercise, and a number of specialized Senior Seminars.

Community Classes

Start 2026 off strong! Come try one of our **Community Classes** and put your health and wellness first—all while having fun! Check out our **Winter lineup!** All classes offer a **drop-in option** ranging from **\$6–\$15**.



Winter 2026
Morro Bay Recreation Services

COMMUNITY CLASSES

- **Freestyle Fitness with Jenny**
 - Wednesdays 9:00-10:00AM
- **Pilates with Heather**
 - Mon. & Fri. 10:00-11:00AM
- **Dance FIT with Sally**
 - Mon. & Weds. 5:30-6:30PM
- **Zumba with Erika**
 - Tues. & Thurs. 5:30-6:30PM
- **Zumba with Nicole**
 - Wednesdays 10:00-11:00AM
 - Fridays 9:00-10:00 AM
- **Open Flow**
 - Wednesday 6:30-8:00PM
- **Okinawan Karate**
 - Tues. & Thurs. 6:30-8:00PM

Creating Community Between
People, Parks, and Programs.

MORRO BAY RECREATION SERVICES
1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay, CA 93442 ~ (805)772-6278
www.morrobayca.gov • www.facebook.com/CityofMorroBay

Youth Services

Youth Services hosted **Holiday Hangouts** over the holiday break, and what a blast it was! We had an average of **30 kids per day**, and the smiles and fun said it all—look at all the great moments we shared.



Up next, Youth Services is excited to host:

- **Glow in the Galaxy Family Dance** – *January 30th*
- **Kids' Night Out: Valentine's Party** – *February 13th*

We can't wait to see you at our upcoming events!

Community Development

Permit Statistics

In 2025, the City issued 519 new building permits and 214 new planning permits (156 short-term rental renewal permits and 58 other planning permits). The City also conducted 4,510 building inspections in 2025, a significant increase over the previous year.

The Community Development Department now publishes up-to-date building and planning permit statistics, as well as a list of active projects on the Department's "Current Permit Applications and Statistics" webpage: [Current Permit Applications and Statistics | City of Morro Bay - Official Website](#)

Waterfront Master Plan Update

The City is one year into our waterfront planning journey. Since signing our grant agreement with the California Coastal Commission in January 2025, we hired a consultant, formed the WMPAC, interviewed 25 key stakeholders, and held 8 public meetings, including a waterfront walking tour and public workshop with 75 participants. This community engagement, combined with our consultant's market and transportation background analysis, will go into a comprehensive background report to be presented to the WMPAC on February 5, 2026. The main focus of 2025 was collecting information to serve as a foundation for the planning process. In 2026, the community and the WMPAC will need to shift into decision making mode.

The WMPAC held their first meeting of the year on January 8, 2026. At this meeting, the WMPAC agreed to a consensus statement on the history of the waterfront from 1996 to present. The WMPAC also provided comments on the draft market and circulation studies and reached agreement on the proposals from the 1996 plan that have been completed or are no longer relevant.

Save the date: Workshop #2 is tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2026, at the Veteran's Hall. More information will be posted on the City's Waterfront Master Plan website: [Waterfront Master Plan | City of Morro Bay - Official Website](#)

2026 Zoning Code Update

On January 20th, 2026, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing to consider various amendments to the Zoning Code / Implementation Plan (IP), Title 17 of the Morro Bay Municipal Code, to reinstate a setback adjustment for sloping residential lots; reinstate a blufftop height limit on Front Street between Beach Street and Surf Street; clarifying the sign code's standards for electronic changeable copy signs do not apply to message boards displaying time, temperate, or fuel prices; amending the City's accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations to comply with State ADU law; and amending procedural requirements for amending the General Plan consistent with voter initiative A-24.

The public review draft is available on the City's Plan Morro Bay website: [Plan Morro Bay | City of Morro Bay - Official Website](#)