



**February 19, 2019**

The Morro Bay City Council is embarking upon an update to its Strategic Goals and Objectives and needs your input to inform the direction of the City for the next two years. Morro Bay began its strategic planning efforts several years ago in order to set a long-term vision for the City overall, and has slightly modified it over time. This year, with a new City Council just recently seated, the timing is perfect to review high level goals to help align them with community needs and desires. We encourage you to participate in this important goal setting process. Here's how:

- 1) City Council is hosting a Community Forum on March 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Vets Hall (209 Surf Street).
- 2) If you cannot attend, please provide your thoughts about City goals on Morro Bay's online engagement tool, Polco. Go to <https://polco.us/morrobay>, and click "sign-up" if you have not used the service before.
- 3) Lastly, if you prefer, you can send your thoughts directly to City Council via email at [council@morrobayca.gov](mailto:council@morrobayca.gov). Your input will be provided to City Council to help inform and shape the City's goals and workplan for the next two years.

Have a wonderful week! Feel free to share your thoughts with me by email at [scollins@morrobayca.gov](mailto:scollins@morrobayca.gov) or phone at 805-776-6206.

Thanks!

Scott Collins  
City Manager

## Public Works

### **Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Program Update**

The City is making progress on several fronts regarding the \$126 Million Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) program, including nearing completion of design for the advanced treatment facility, permitting the overall program, and working with the State on furthering our pursuit of a low-interest State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan.

On February 13, City Council approved the pipeline routing for the WRF program on the west side of Highway 1 (Quintana). Council approved this option after reviewing staff and consultant analysis of other options, which were far costlier compared to the Quintana route.

Understanding that Quintana is a particularly important business corridor, the City is committed to ensuring the road remains open (at least one lane) during construction during normal business hours. Once pipeline plans are finalized, staff will communicate with business owners and community members about traffic impacts.

The Citizen Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) will begin reviewing the WRF program budget and financial reports on February 19, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. at the Vets Hall. This new layer of review adds to the community oversight of the program, with the WRF Citizen Advisory Committee (WRFCAC) maintaining the responsibility of reviewing technical components of the project. The WRFCAC will review the design of the treatment facility at its special March meeting on Thursday, March 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the Vets Hall.

### **WRF Funding – State and Federal Loans and Grants**

City representatives will be visiting Washington D.C. the first week of March to help secure loans and grants for the WRF program. Staff will meet with Congressional representatives, leading staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (for the WIFIA low-interest loan), Bureau of Reclamation (within the Department of Interior for the Title IXI grant and other opportunities), and the Army Corps of Engineers, among other relevant agencies.

In addition, the City received a high rating for its State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loan application; staff anticipates the State will issue notice in April if Morro Bay is a recipient of the loan. Receiving an SRF would help reduce the WRF Surcharge of \$41 (for single family homes) set to go into effect in July 2019.

### **WRF Permitting**

The City is working with state agencies on permitting the WRF program. The Coastal Commission will likely hold a public hearing on the program sometime in spring....once the date is finalized, the City will post the information on its website. Prior to that, the City will host a public meeting in Morro Bay to take public comment on the program. Permitting work for water quality is on-going with the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards. More information to come.

## Consolidated Maintenance Update

### Top Results Last 4 Weeks

1. Streets:
  - Filled several potholes around town with cold mix asphalt.
  - Skin patch 7 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt at West end of Orcas due to erosion.
  - Dig out 60'x 6'x 12", install geo grid, base, compact and pave back 7 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt on the 100 blk. of Vashon.
  - Extended and matched existing fence at the West end of Surf St. Painted entire fence, added 3 new HV warning diamond signs and painted bump stops.
  - Painted over large graffiti area on Hwy 1/ Hwy 41 underpass.
  - Installed electrical outlets in 35 tree canopies for tree lighting on MB Blvd. and Main St.
  - Precision Concrete cut 64 lifted sidewalk areas around town per ADA specifications. (Contracted)
2. Trees:
  - Trimmed and lifted canopies on several City trees around town before bird nesting season, some reducing line of site issues.
  - Cut up and haul several fallen limbs around town and 1 fallen tree.
3. Lila Keiser:
  - Prepped and painted interior Women's restroom.
  - Ground out broken floor drain in Men's RR. and replaced with new.
  - Removed old Tea Trees in center of parking lot in preparation for upgrades.
4. Tidelands:
  - Diagnose and replace broken solenoid that controls coin showers.
5. Rock RR:
  - Installed new stall door hinges in Women's RR due to vandalism.
6. South Morro Creek Path:
  - Installed orange safety fence and warning signs along hazardous eroded creek embankment.
7. City Hall:
  - Service AC split unit on roof and interior air handler, diagnose problems for repair tech.
  - Added wood chips to planters and repaired irrigation for future use.
8. Morro Bat Community Center:
  - Installed carpet tiles in entryway on Senior side and patched the Meals on Wheels office.
  - Rebuilt urinal flush valve in Men's lobby RR.
9. Public Works:
  - Converted light fixtures by installing LED tubes and bypassing ballasts in various offices reducing electrical load.
  - Added wood chips to planters and repaired irrigation for future use.
10. Chamber:
  - Sealed wood handrails on entry ramps with redwood stain sealer.
11. Vets Hall:
  - Repaired broken fence and trim boards in front of building.



Hot Mix Asphalt work on Vashon

## Fire



### Morro Bay Reserve Firefighter Program



The community of Morro Bay benefits from a firefighter apprentice program at our Fire Department. Being very similar to past volunteer programs, our Reserve Firefighter program is a unique group of firefighters that help augment our fulltime staff daily plus gives us additional personnel to respond to high risk emergency events such as structure fires, wildland fires, technical rescues, and vehicle accidents. Within our Reserve Firefighter program, we have multiple programs such as our Seasonal Firefighters, Limited Term Firefighters, and Auxiliary Firefighters. A Reserve

Firefighter who has attend a State Fire Marshal Fire Academy and is an Emergency Medical Technician, can assist our 24-hr staffing along with our fulltime staff. The average turnover in our program is usually under 30 months due the training and experience they receive is highly marketable to other Fire Departments including ours to hire as a fulltime Firefighter. Meeting the needs of OSHA and the State Fire Marshal's Office has been challenging the last few years but the dedicated Firefighters of our Reserve component have been molding to today's challenges.



As part of the required training, each Reserve is required to train with their platoon 8 hours per month. The Reserve Firefighter's training is organized and trained by our fulltime career personnel and is led by our Reserve Training Officer, Engineer Jeff Simpson. Our last drill focused on vehicle traffic collisions and extricating patients from entangled vehicles with the goal to remove the patient from the vehicle within 10 minutes upon arrival on scene. The

Reserves received their continued training with hydraulic equipment such as cutters, spreaders and rams; cutting tools such as circular saws and windshield cutters, and the command structure of all emergency incidents. Our Reserves showed they can stabilize a compressed vehicle, remove car doors, remove the roof, and hydraulically lift the dash and firewall off a victim.



*Chief Knuckles presenting Kevin's 1st Badge*



*Reserve Firefighter Kevin Hames*

In addition to the training at our last drill, Reserve Firefighter Kevin Hames received his first badge as a Reserve Firefighter. Along with the Fire Academy, Kevin has completed tasks to meet City requirements to work 24-hour shifts. Kevin is a graduate of Cuesta College's EMT program and is a recent graduate of Alan Hancock College's Fire Academy where he was the Valedictorian. Kevin comes from a firefighter family with his father, Steve Hames, serving Los Osos for 30 years as a Fire Engineer. If anyone has questions how they can enter our apprentice Firefighter program, give us a call at our Harbor Street Fire Station, 805-772-6242.

## Harbor

### **Baby Otter Rescue**

If you haven't seen it on the news (it went viral and international) or social media you must live in a cave, but in early February, Morro Bay commercial fisherman, Brett Cunningham, spotted a crying baby sea otter (yes, they cry-out with an ear-piercing squeal) on the bay near his docked boat near the launch ramp and noted after a good amount of time that its mother was not present. So, he carefully detained the critter for safe keeping and quickly called the Harbor

Patrol. Patrol in turn contacted California Fish and Wildlife sea otter guru, Mike Harris, who enlisted the Harbor Patrol to help locate the mother and reunite the two. With the baby on-board, Patrol went down the bay with Harris and the crying baby in hopes the mother would recognize its cry and, sure enough, at the otter congregation area near the South T-Pier she did recognize her pup. Harris lobbed the baby to its mother (don't worry, this is standard mother-baby otter reuniting procedure), and after a brief dive, the mother surfaced and reclaimed her pup. The story has gone viral (both nationally and internationally), you can see a snippet of the coverage with video here: [https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6712783/VIDEO-Fishermen-reunite-sea-otter-two-day-old-cub-playing-audio-recording-cries.html?fbclid=IwAR0gCxIHKsZy0cH2UUBvRDAESPtUtKvYZg9pRDM7lfrp8oA1DW2PqjN\\_o4](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6712783/VIDEO-Fishermen-reunite-sea-otter-two-day-old-cub-playing-audio-recording-cries.html?fbclid=IwAR0gCxIHKsZy0cH2UUBvRDAESPtUtKvYZg9pRDM7lfrp8oA1DW2PqjN_o4)

### **Weather and High Surf**

While boating activity is down to a minimum due to the weather and surf of recent weeks, it has largely not deterred surfers and other ocean enthusiasts. While many have enjoyed the big surf conditions, a few have gotten in over their heads and needed assistance. On Wednesday, February 13, a young male boogie boarder from Atascadero lost his boogie and got stuck in the fixed rip that has developed next to the rock revetment at the Rock parking lot and, although very near the rocks, was having trouble making headway back to shore. Harbor Patrol on-scene monitored the situation, while an alert female surfer jumped into the water from the rocks and assisted the lad safely out of the rip and back to the beach where he was counseled on the do's and don'ts of boogie boarding (don't go into conditions you aren't familiar with, do wear fins, do ensure your boogie board leash is in good shape, never panic).

Unfortunately, due to these extreme surf and weather conditions, the 49th Annual "Big, Bad and Ugly" surf contest scheduled for the President's Day weekend was canceled because the conditions were looking, well, too big, bad and ugly to safely and effectively run the event. There currently is no "rain date."

### **Vessel Assist**

On Saturday evening, February 9, a commercial slime eel (aka hagfish) fishing boat was returning to the harbor reportedly taking on more water than the pumps could keep up with. Harbor Patrol met the boat at the harbor entrance and escorted it into its slip, then assisted with additional pumps. Unable to stem the flow, the boat was towed to the launch ramp and hauled-out by its operator on a trailer for repair. The cause of the leak appeared to be through-hull valve issues.

### **Coast Guard Training and New Harbor Jet Skis**

Harbor Patrol picked up 2 new Kawasaki jet skis to update their Rescue Water Craft vessels. These were purchased with grant funds from the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways. These vessels will be placed into service within the next week. Coast Guard Station Morro Bay conducted training last week with C130 aircraft. They dropped smoke flares and equipment from the aircraft for the CG Boat to locate and retrieve. The Harbor Department participated in the training by responding to the scenario as a boat fire. Many citizens called in to the Harbor Office asking questions about the training also.



New Harbor Dept. Jet Skis

The Harbor Department would like to congratulate Reserve Harbor Patrol Officer Mat Horn on his new full-time employment with Port San Luis Harbor Patrol. He will be missed here in MB Harbor!

## Tourism

### Winter 2018/2019 Update

There's always something going on in the Tourism office. It might be wet outside but right now is a critical time of year for the tourism staff to work harder to help push hotel occupancy. This means a lot of promotions and on digital and social media to help encourage travel in January, February and March.

December TOT came in slightly lower than 2017 mainly due to weather and the last-minute postponement of the lighted boat weekend. Additionally, in 2017 we had created a restaurant passport which was handed out to incoming hotel guests as an added value to their room stay. After reviewing the redemption number from 2017 choose to not produce this passport in to 2018 which may have slightly added to this change. Lastly, in December 2017 many folks impacted by the fires in southern California stayed in the Central Coast area, which benefited Morro Bay that year. We will keep a close eye on our numbers, and work to ensure we have a successful spring.

**CITY OF MORRO BAY  
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY SUMMARY  
FISCAL YEAR 2018/19**

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)			
	MOTEL RECEIPTS	MOTEL TAX COLLECTED	OCC RATE	MOTEL #RMS	TRAILER PARK RECEIPTS	TRAILER PARK TAX COLLECTED	VACATION RENTAL RECEIPTS	VACATION RENTAL TAX COLLECTED	TOTAL TAX COLLECTED	TMD	MBTBID
JULY	\$3,802,709.59	\$380,270.96	84%	916	\$317,712.60	\$31,771.26	\$811,011.39	\$81,101.14	\$493,143.36	\$49,314.34	\$114,081.29
AUGUST	\$3,503,229.31	\$350,322.93	81%	915	\$261,864.58	\$26,186.46	\$696,156.62	\$69,615.67	\$446,125.06	\$43,034.89	\$105,096.88
SEPTEMBER	\$2,811,910.93	\$281,191.09	75%	915	\$247,334.70	\$24,728.97	\$457,437.51	\$45,744.25	\$351,664.31	\$36,192.63	\$84,357.33
OCTOBER	\$2,259,748.87	\$225,974.89	67%	915	\$203,736.60	\$20,373.66	\$378,388.43	\$37,838.84	\$284,187.39	\$28,373.47	\$67,792.47
NOVEMBER	\$1,896,681.96	\$189,668.20	59%	917	\$195,163.08	\$19,516.31	\$417,931.29	\$41,793.13	\$250,977.63	\$25,097.77	\$56,900.46
DECEMBER	\$1,503,732.86	\$150,373.29	47%	914	\$166,173.12	\$16,617.31	\$325,233.97	\$32,523.40	\$199,514.00	\$19,951.41	\$45,111.99
JANUARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,114.95	\$711.50	\$711.50	\$71.15	\$0.00
FEBRUARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MARCH	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
APRIL	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MAY	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
JUNE	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%	915	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$15,778,013.52	\$1,577,801.35			\$1,391,984.68	\$139,193.97	\$3,093,274.16	\$309,327.92	\$2,026,323.24	\$202,035.66	\$473,340.41

**CITY OF MORRO BAY  
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY SUMMARY  
FISCAL YEAR 2017/18**

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)			
	MOTEL RECEIPTS	MOTEL TAX COLLECTED	OCC RATE	MOTEL #RMS	TRAILER PARK RECEIPTS	TRAILER PARK TAX COLLECTED	VACATION RENTAL RECEIPTS	VACATION RENTAL TAX COLLECTED	TOTAL TAX COLLECTED	TMD	MBTBID
JULY	\$3,878,576.39	\$387,857.64	84%	915	\$293,088.87	\$29,308.89	\$824,571.77	\$82,457.18	\$499,623.70	\$41,716.65	\$116,357.29
AUGUST	\$3,143,702.31	\$314,370.23	74%	915	\$248,379.37	\$24,837.94	\$633,710.98	\$63,371.10	\$402,579.27	\$40,257.93	\$94,311.07
SEPTEMBER	\$2,691,866.18	\$269,186.62	73%	915	\$252,402.81	\$25,240.29	\$395,475.68	\$39,547.57	\$333,974.47	\$33,135.29	\$80,755.99
OCTOBER	\$2,273,558.24	\$227,355.82	65%	917	\$210,006.01	\$21,000.60	\$364,344.10	\$37,349.61	\$285,706.04	\$28,195.48	\$68,206.75
NOVEMBER	\$1,718,817.73	\$171,881.78	56%	918	\$172,278.19	\$17,227.81	\$334,432.51	\$32,931.77	\$222,041.36	\$22,007.94	\$51,564.53
DECEMBER	\$1,680,480.80	\$168,048.08	52%	908	\$138,293.20	\$13,829.32	\$361,589.31	\$34,832.27	\$216,709.67	\$21,048.44	\$50,414.42
JANUARY	\$1,188,259.84	\$118,825.98	46%	916	\$119,705.35	\$11,970.54	\$214,552.73	\$21,455.27	\$152,251.79	\$14,994.90	\$35,647.79
FEBRUARY	\$1,469,645.76	\$146,964.58	55%	909	\$128,183.92	\$12,818.39	\$189,446.21	\$18,261.09	\$178,044.06	\$16,895.59	\$44,089.37
MARCH	\$1,863,853.47	\$186,385.35	59%	917	\$167,243.12	\$16,724.31	\$282,058.63	\$28,205.86	\$231,315.52	\$23,129.93	\$55,915.60
APRIL	\$1,983,398.49	\$198,339.85	61%	917	\$214,982.55	\$21,498.26	\$345,067.12	\$34,506.71	\$254,344.82	\$25,434.48	\$59,501.95
MAY	\$2,180,621.69	\$218,062.17	61%	916	\$196,880.92	\$19,688.09	\$356,289.77	\$35,628.98	\$273,379.24	\$27,717.16	\$65,418.65
JUNE	\$2,787,842.14	\$278,784.22	74%	915	\$260,417.26	\$26,041.73	\$585,794.61	\$58,579.45	\$363,405.39	\$37,987.81	\$83,635.26
	\$26,860,623.04	\$2,686,062.31			\$2,401,861.57	\$240,186.16	\$4,887,333.42	\$487,126.86	\$3,413,375.33	\$318,521.60	\$805,818.69

**Checkout the latest blog written by our Marketing Communications Coordinator in the tourism office.**

Just two blocks from the water, in the heart of Morro Bay, you'll find a walkable downtown filled with original makers, boutiques, and intimate dining options. Find out more in our latest Blog Post by visiting: [www.morrobay.org/blog/entries/shop-our-downtown-makers](http://www.morrobay.org/blog/entries/shop-our-downtown-makers).  
#MorroBay #Shopping #PutLifeOnCoast



## Amgen Volunteers wanted!

Do you love [Amgen Tour of California](#) and wish you could be part of the action? Great news... volunteer registration is NOW OPEN! Follow the link to complete your sign-up today. See you in May! [#AmgenTOC](#) [#MorroBay](#) [#Volunteer](#)

## Before the Pro's arrive

Join us, May 15th, for the [Morro Bay Bike Ride with Stage 4 Finish!](#) Cross the [Amgen Tour of California](#), stage 4 finish-line just like the pros will... then stick around for our [Pro Cyclists Meet & Greet](#), including cycling legend Bob Roll! Details, how to register for the FREE event, and more by visiting [www.morrobay.org/.../morro-bay-bike-rid.../2019-05-15/2019-05-15](http://www.morrobay.org/.../morro-bay-bike-rid.../2019-05-15/2019-05-15). [#AmgenTOC](#) [#MorroBay](#) [#BikeRide](#)

The poster features a stylized illustration of three cyclists in white silhouettes riding past a large, brown, rocky mountain. The background is a gradient of yellow and blue. At the top, the 'AMGEN TOUR of CALIFORNIA' logo is displayed. The main title 'MORRO BAY BIKE RIDE AND PRO CYCLISTS MEET & GREET' is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. A red circular badge on the left says 'RIDE THROUGH THE STAGE 4 FINISH LINE!'. Below the illustration, the date and time 'WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH, 2019 - 1:30 - 2:30 PM' are listed. The bottom section contains logos for 'PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF MORRO BAY PUT LIFE ON COAST', 'BENEFITING BIKE SLO COUNTY BIKE SLO COUNTY', and 'slobc San Luis Obispo Bicycle Club'. A small photo shows Bob Roll and another cyclist. Text on the right says 'REGISTER FOR THE RIDE AT Morrobay.org' and 'TO VOLUNTEER EMAIL US AT amgenvolunteer@morrobayca.gov'. At the bottom, it says 'RSVP for the Bob Roll & Pro Evening on Morro Bay Facebook page'. The event is also advertised as 'FEATURING BOB ROLL & PRO CYCLISTS, LIVE AUCTION & LIVE MUSIC FREE AT THE SIREN @ 6:00PM'.

After [Amgen Tour of California](#) crosses the finish line on May 15th, meet the pros during our FREE [Pro Cyclists Meet & Greet](#) event at [The Siren](#) (next to the Stage 4 Finish), featuring legendary road cyclist, Bob Roll! PLUS - LIVE Auction & LIVE Music. Follow the event for more information, and to RSVP. [#MorroBay](#) [#RoadCycling](#) [#AmgenTOC](#).



Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY  
UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2019



Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

January 2, 2019: cancelled

January 15, 2019

Nov. 20, 2018 PC cont. 125

Hatteras: 316 sq.ft. addition to a home and 194 sq.ft. addition to the garage.

Action: approved

Plan Morro Bay: Review of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program Action: Reviewed and continued

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permit = 3
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 4
- Minor Modification = 1
- Sign Permit = 1

Fees collected = \$5,748.00

**918 Mesa:** 139 sq.ft. garage addition and conversion of a detached garage to a 537 square foot accessory dwelling unit.

Action: Approved

**233 Atascadero:** conceptual review for a new 83 room hotel.

Action: Planning Commission provided comment and received public input.

## Code Enforcement Activity

- 40 cases initiated
- 16 cases resolved
- 52 total pending cases

## Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 14
- Valuation = \$448,702
- Fees Received = \$115,090
- # of Inspections = 72
- New Permits = 11