



AGENDA NO: C-1

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2021

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Dana Swanson

From: betty winholtz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:44 AM
To: John Headding; Jeffrey Heller; Dawn Addis; Laurel Barton
Cc: Dana Swanson; Rob Livick
Subject: agenda item c-1

Dear City Council:

1. **Cash Flow.** At your last meeting, August 10, I inquired as to the City's status regarding cash flow for the proposed projects in the OneWater Plan and what, if any, effect funding these projects would have on funding the WRF. The written responses I received stated that there was cash flow for phase one of the OneWater Plan and the WRF, and they would not impact each other.

Now only two weeks later, those answers are no longer true. This is an example of the communication problem that your goals say you want to fix.

Here is my financial fear: the WIFIA and SRF loans were to cover the original guaranteed price of \$126 million (bill #1). Now, in addition to the loans and interest, residents' rates have to pay for \$20 million above the non-financed guaranteed amount (bill #2). Tonight is projecting that there will be bridge financing (bill #3). Seriously, where does it stop? It appears we are in a loan money pit.

2. **Change Orders.** With this staff report, there are now 96 change orders on the sewer project in 1.5 years. Cayucos had 1 change order in 1 year. What clearer statement can be made regarding mismanagement under this Council's supervision.

In one change order, residents are again being asked to pay for another landslide at the sewer plant site: the cost of removing tens of thousands of yards of dirt. The fix for both landslides is more than double what the City paid for the property. Has it been worth it to choose grading this hilly terrain to make the plant feasible? No.

The staff report states that the increase in the cost of the project does not count because it can be absorbed through contingency money. Regardless of whether rates are raised for these new expenses, the cost of the project increases \$1.3 million. The project is now \$20 million over the guaranteed price.

2. **Trees.** Unfortunately, this aspect of the project exemplifies Council's and staff's disregard for who Morro Bay is and the intelligence of the residents.

First, the staff report states there were originally 27 trees approved for removal. In actuality, 42 mature trees have already been cut down. Count the stumps. The EIR stated trees were to be avoided. Would another developer be fined for this? Now you want to remove 36 more trees bringing the total to just under 80 trees. Some of the

proposed destruction and expense could still be avoided if the pipeline alignment was moved a few feet. Who is watching the City's pocketbook?

Second, a serious suggestion is made to remove all the red flowering trees which define Morro Bay Blvd, the entrance to downtown. Again, who is watching the City's pocketbook? What would be the cost per tree? How many years of barren streets until the saplings mature? What is the carbon sequestering loss for 80 mature trees? It sounds like the protected night herons who have moved into town the last two nesting seasons have not being taken into account. I know residents still pride themselves on being a Bird Sanctuary and Tree City, USA; does the City Council?

Third, doesn't the City code state replacement trees are 2-to-1 not 1-to-1? It seems the City, as developer, is letting itself get away with something any other developer would hopefully not get away with.

Sincerely,
Betty Winholtz



AGENDA NO: C-3

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2021

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
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PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Dana Swanson

From: Karen Robert [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 7:23 AM
To: Council
Cc: Scott Collins
Subject: Item C-3 - City Council Agenda - August 24, 2021

Dear Mayor and City Council:

Do we really need to hire another professional service company to poll the citizens about the stacks, at the cost of a possible \$48,000? The stacks do not define Morro Bay. It is our Rock. She is our magic. She is our essence. She is the nature, the attraction, the beautiful reality of what brings many to our Coast – including those of us who are lucky enough to reside here. The stacks are something we have had to live with while being here. If we are totally honest here, the reality is, the stacks are hazardous. And if there is a catastrophic event (tsunami, accident, whatever) and the stacks were to fall, the disaster of asbestos leaks and whatever chemical leakage could come from them would be financially and physically astronomical for our community from an essentially uncontrolled demolition.

The stacks do not define Morro Bay. Once they are removed, they will be gone and we will be back to being our natural nature preserve – our fishing village. The cost to remove them is Vistra Corp's full and financial responsibility, and we should require them to do it while it is part of the process. We should not leave the expense of upkeep or removal to the City because "we" thought they should be kept as part of some tourist attraction. They will continue to deteriorate and at some point, there will be a reckoning that we will have no control over, if this is not addressed properly. We as a town cannot afford that reckoning. The stacks have dangerous, expensive future implications for our town, and thus need to be removed. Let Vistra Corp take that responsibility with them, as determined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement that was signed and approved between Vistra Corp and the City of Morro Bay.

In the MOU the decision about the stacks has already been made. So, why should we be putting a poll forward (*which isn't even including **only residents** who would be responsible for the future costs*) when the agreement has already been signed that essentially is saving our town millions of dollars?

Thank you.

Rick Gilligan and Karen Robert

Residents

Dana Swanson

From: Scott Collins
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 4:40 PM
To: Dana Swanson
Subject: FW: Item C-3 - City Council Agenda - August 24, 2021

FYI.
-Scott

From: Carolyn R Brinkman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 1:56 PM
To: dswanson@morro-bay.ca.us
Cc: Scott Collins <scollins@morrobayca.gov>
Subject: Item C-3 - City Council Agenda - August 24, 2021

Dear Dana,

I hope your summer is going well.

Could you please post this for Public Correspondence.

Thanks much,

Carolyn Brinkman

FROM; Carolyn Brinkman
DATE; August 23, 2021
TO; Mayor and City Council
SUBJECT; Item C-3 - City Council Agenda - August 24, 2021

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I completely agree with Karen Robert's excellent, thoughtful argument here in Public Correspondence on letting Vistra remove the three stacks left from power plant days. It's one of the best I've heard so far; I couldn't have said it better.

Thank you,

Carolyn Brinkman
Resident



AGENDA NO: C-4

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2021

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Dana Swanson

From: betty winholtz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:58 AM
To: John Headding; Jeffrey Heller; Dawn Addis; Laurel Barton
Cc: Dana Swanson; Rob Livick
Subject: agenda item c-4

Dear City Council:

Locating the library, post office, and city hall are essentials. They may not be on the wayfinding list. Please retain the current signs regarding these 3 facilities.

Sincerely,
Betty Winholtz