



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Yvonne Kimball, City Manager

Email: ykimball@morrobayca.gov

January 23, 2025

City Leaders head to State Capitol for legislative advocacy trip and leadership academy

MORRO BAY, CA – City of Morro Bay top officials are advocating for city’s interests at the State Capitol and attending a leadership academy this week. Led by Mayor Carla Wixom, this delegation includes Council Members Jeff Eckles, Bill Luffee, and Zara Landrum, along with City Manager Yvonne Kimball. Council Member Cyndee Edwards was unable to attend due to an out-of-town funeral.

Over the course of the last two days, the group engaged with representatives in the Legislature and State agencies focusing on critical issues that are of high importance to the city, including development of large battery storage facilities, housing policies in coastal zones, offshore wind projects, environmental sustainability, disaster response, and funding for local governments.

“Those meetings provided an invaluable opportunity to advocate for the needs of Morro Bay,” said Mayor Wixom. “By building strong relationships with state officials, we are ensuring our community’s voice is heard and that we’re at the table for key discussions shaping California’s future.”

Key Highlights of the Advocacy Trip:

- **California Energy Commission (CEC) Discussions:** The delegation advocated for local involvement in the AB 205 process as related to Vistra’s pending Battery Energy Storage Systems Project, offshore wind projects, and opportunities for potential local resources.
- **California Coastal Commission Briefing:** Conversations centered on collaboration between the two agencies, capacity-building opportunities for the city, and support for local governments. Impacts of state legislation in the coastal zone related to housing and Proposition 4 were also discussed.
- **Engagement with Senator John Laird and Assemblymember Dawn Addis:** Discussions included the City’s legislative agenda, responses to the Moss Landing fire, potential legislation impacting the City, and the volatility of the state budget.



PRESS RELEASE

To ensure compliance with the Brown Act, the Mayor and three Council Members were divided into groups with two members attending each meeting with state officials.

Following a successful advocacy mission at the State Capitol, the delegation will continue its stay in Sacramento until Friday to attend the League of California Cities Mayor and Council Members Academy. The highly sought-after academy covers legal, financial, and practical fundamentals for city council members. Mayor and council members will return with more knowledge, renewed energy, and actionable next steps to advance the city's priorities. The next city council meeting will be held at Veteran's Hall at 5:30 p.m. on January 28, 2025.



Mayor Wixom, Council Member Landrum and City Manager Kimball meeting with the California Energy Commission team



PRESS RELEASE



Council Member Luffee, Council Member Eckles, Assemblymember Addis and City Manager Kimball



Council Member Eckles, Council Member Luffee, Senator Laird, Mayor Wixom, Council Member Landrum