

CITY OF MORRO BAY
HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD
SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:	Members:	Brett Cunningham Gene Doughty Jeff Eckles Bill Luffee Lynn Meissen
	Absent:	Jim Phillips
	Staff:	Eric Endersby, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Luffee moved the April 5, 2012 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. George Trevelyan, owner of Grassy Bay Oyster in Morro Bay, said he has been in operation for three years and is located on the west side of the channel in the Back Bay area. Mr. Neal Maloney owns the oyster operation on the east side. Mr. Trevelyan bought the business from the Williams family, and wanted to introduce himself to the Board and the public. He said his goal, along with Mr. Maloney, is to make Morro Bay famous for its oysters. He said their lifeblood is clean water; his business depends on protecting the water quality in the bay. He hopes that boaters will take the time and extra effort to avoid fuel or sewage spills.

Mr. Trevelyan said the California Department of Public Health in Richmond, tests the water monthly, and he has been testing weekly himself for fecal coliform only. When the tests results are high, his business shuts down. Also whenever the rain accumulation is over 4/10" he is shut down for twelve days following the rain event. His business is halted for most of the winter into spring. Mr. Trevelyan answered questions from the Board.

Ms. Carla Borchard, City Council liaison to the Harbor Advisory Board, said the fundraiser for the Fourth of July will be held on May 20, 2012; it will be a barbecued oyster event, located on the 14th hole of the Morro Bay Golf Course. She said the City Council approved sending a letter opposing the proposed Marine Sanctuary expansion. She appreciated Mr. Endersby and local fishermen who attended the meeting in Salinas to voice their opposition.

Ms. Borchard said the Council unanimously approved the April 23, 2012 letter to California State Lands Commission opposing the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Central Coast California Seismic Imaging Project. She appreciated the local support from fishermen at the meeting in San Luis Obispo, and hopes their collective voice will be heard.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Central Coast California PG&E Seismic Imaging Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Mr. Endersby said the comment period for this project ended at 5:00 PM tonight; however, the Board may choose to discuss this item and go on record with a position that can enter into the project discussion at some future point of the process. He said the letter Ms. Borchard referred to was included in the packet to the Board. Mr. Endersby said it is largely agreed that the proposed testing will have serious environmental as well as economic impacts on the area, but it is the degree to which PG&E will be required to mitigate those impacts that is in question.

Mr. Cunningham said he testified at the San Luis Obispo meeting, and his opinion is that PG&E has been less than forthcoming on issues facing the Morro Bay Commercial Fishing industry. He said an example of incorrect information is the statement that marine mammals do not frequent the area in September, when in actuality this is when large populations of whales are here and moving through the area. Mr. Cunningham believes the mitigations are “mock” mitigations, for example offering \$6,000 per fishing boat during the potential shut down of the area for four months. Mr. Doughty calculated that amount to be a rate of \$6.20 per hour. Mr. Cunningham appreciates the good community support and asks the public to stay engaged with this serious issue.

Discussion by the Board regarding the many unknowns of the proposed seismic testing, as well as the problem that PG&E is being required by the federal government to perform this study and the seismic survey. Mr. Eckles said there is an article in the current *New Times* on this issue called, “Testing the Waters.” He said it is important to rally behind the local fishing industry.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham moved that the Harbor Advisory Board endorse the language and intent of City Council’s letter to the State Lands Commission on the DEIR, dated April 23, 2012. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

IV-2. Embarcadero Lease Site Review

Mr. Endersby reviewed the status of current noteworthy Embarcadero lease site projects and activity for the Board. He explained the process and timeline of both Lease Appraisals and Lease Audits. Mr. Endersby updated the Board on the following Lease Sites:

30W-33W, Bay Front Marina, 201 Main St.

37W, Morro Bay Marine, 261 Main St.

50-51/50W-51W, Whibley, 451 Embarcadero

67/67W, Viole Family LLC, 575 Embarcadero and 68/68W, 591 Embarcadero LLC

87-88/87W-88W, The Cannery Restaurant, 833 Embarcadero

102/102W, Central Coast Seafoods, 1001 Front St.

110-112/110W-112W Great American Fish Co., 1185 Embarcadero

122-123/122W-123W, Harbor Hut Restaurant, 1205 Embarcadero and

124-128/124W-128W, Sea One Solutions, 1215 Embarcadero

129-131/129W-131W, Morro Bay Fish Co., 1231 Embarcadero

144/144W, M&M General Refrigeration Service, 1287 Embarcadero

Mr. Eckles asked for more details on the status of the Sea One Solutions site. Ms. Borchard said there has been interest in leasing the property, but there are questions of possible fisheries closures in the future and the viability of a fishing-oriented business. Mr. Cunningham inquired about Measure D for the sites north of Beach Street, and Mr. Endersby concurred that the sites are to be sport fishing and commercial fishing dependent, though the restaurants already there when Measure D came into effect were grandfathered in.

Ms. Borchard added that another Lease Site, the Salt Building, is still moving forward with the Coastal Commission permitting process. Mr. Endersby said the plans crossed his desk a couple of days ago and agreed the Salt Building project is moving forward.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

State Park Marina Dredging

New Rescue Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Lifeguard and Junior Lifeguard Tryouts and Academy

Harbor Office Changes

Fishing Seasons

Events:

Blessing of the Fleet, April 22

Celebrate Morro Bay Parade & Morro Bay Kite Festival, April 28

Upcoming Events:

Miracle Mile, May 12

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Cunningham said this has been a very good salmon year so far, and he recommends that the public buy salmon from the fish markets and restaurants, and that this time the word "local" means caught right here. Ms. Meissen said the Morro Bay Yacht Club will be offering sailing lessons starting from Memorial Day weekend.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

June: Harbor Department Draft Budget FY12/13 Review

Consideration of Changing Harbor Advisory Board Meeting Time to 6:00 PM

Patriot Sportfishing Bait Barge

Cancellation of July 2012 Harbor Advisory Board Meeting

Future:

Boat Yard/Haul Out

Launch Ramp Parking Pass Review

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department