



City of Morro Bay  
595 Harbor Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
(805) 772-6200  
Online: [morrobayca.gov](http://morrobayca.gov)

# A VIEW FROM HARBOR STREET

June 15, 2016

## Notes from Around Town

By David Buckingham, City Manager



Instead of a deep dive on a single subject, this week's column is a bit of a potpourri of notes from around town. Perhaps something of interest for everyone.

**High Speed Fiber.** The City Council recently approved a contracted partnership with Digital West of San Luis Obispo for the installation of a high-speed fiber network in Morro Bay. This network, which will connect to the internet at speeds 20X faster than the fastest connections currently available in Morro Bay will supplement – not replace – other existing internet service providers in the city. More choices for consumers. The City is participating in the project because it will also lower our local government networking costs substantially – saving our taxpayers money. Phase 1 of the project will focus on the Downtown/Embarcadero areas and provide opportunities for businesses (and individuals) to connect to the internet at super-fast speeds – one way the city is working to provide more opportunities for a broader range of businesses as we continue to be serious about economic revitalization. Project phases 2 and 3 envision extending this service across all of Morro Bay. Phase 1 may be complete as early as the end of this year.

**How Things Get Done.** The fiber project detailed above is a great example of how projects get done in Morro Bay. This idea came up from a group of community members participating in a city-sponsored economic development discussion in early 2015. A few months later, the city council put the project on our "Goals and Objectives" list for 2015-2016 – a formal process that set this project, among 70+ other items, as a specific "to do" item for this fiscal year (FY). A few months after that, following some initial staff research, the Council included funding for this project in the FY15/16 budget that was approved last June. Staff then worked through the partnership process, releasing a formal, competitive request for proposals, evaluated responses, selected a partner, worked out a contract, and the final contract was brought to the council for approval. Not a short process, but a very transparent one that included significant community input at each key step. Early this year the City Council approved our FY16/17 "Goals and Objectives" – they are available here:

<http://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9371>. The Council just approved the FY16/17 Budget and it is available for viewing here: <http://www.morrobayca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9568>.

As the staff works to complete the tasks set out for us this coming year, we also have a list of things to consider for next year. If you have ideas on what things you want your city to be doing, let us know!

**Recreation Guide.** One objective on the list for this coming year (an item recommended by staff as we work to improve our “Parks and Recreation” service) is to publish a seasonal Morro Bay Recreation Guide. The “Rec Guide”, focused primarily for use of residents, (it will not replace the visitor guide) will be more than simply an advertisement for all of our recreation programs. The Rec Guide will also include the many recreation opportunities provided by local businesses (kayaking, fishing, biking, etc), include other recreation opportunities such as museums, hiking trails and senior programs, and list all the main events taking place in Morro Bay. The guide will be funded in large part by advertisements from local businesses and the City has partnered with Tom and Mary Hay from Hay Printing on North Main Street to help publish the guide, from selling ads and writing copy to layout, printing and distribution. The guide will be mailed to every Morro Bay resident and have a shelf-life of 4-6 months. Hay Printing is formally partnered with the City and authorized to sell advertising space in this City publication. If you would like to advertise your business- especially resident serving activities – in the guide contact Hay Printing. We hope to have the first guide mailed in early September covering Fall and Winter 2016/2017.

One thing that makes Morro Bay great is the active involvement of many residents, and the staff is always looking for great input and ideas – whether something small, or a big item to consider adding to our Council-approved “to-do” list. As always, I would love to hear from you. Send an email to [dbuckingham@morrobayca.gov](mailto:dbuckingham@morrobayca.gov).

*Note: This editorial first appeared in Bay News on June 15, 2016.*