



Photo: Another beautiful day in Morro Bay

December 1, 2017

Happy Friday from Morro Bay's City Manager, Scott Collins. I have been on the job here for about four weeks and continue to count my blessings that I get to work for such an amazing community and City organization every day.

In the course of my time here, I have met with many community members, the City Councilmembers, and most of City staff. I am struck by the uniform courteousness of everyone I have met, in addition to pride in Morro Bay, and common interest in doing what is best for the community. For me that is a sign of a very healthy town and one in which great things can spring forward from. I will be spending the next several months getting to know the City and community better. My job is to listen and learn. I am excited to get to know more members of the community and I encourage folks to reach out to me to set up a time to meet and chat. My direct phone number is 805-772-6206,

and my email address is scollins@morrobayca.gov.

In addition to getting to know the community and the City organization better, I will be working with City Council on some of their most important priorities, including efforts to ensure the City's long-term financial sustainability, bringing the Water Reclamation Facility project into the next phases, improving transparency and engagement with the community, and implementing economic development plans, amongst other important priorities.

It is an exciting time to be a City Manager in Morro Bay. I look forward to serving the community for many years to come.

I hope you read through this City Manager Update, which provides important updates from the various City departments. The format of the update may change a bit and we expect to issue an update at least every other week to start.

Fire Department

Mutual Aid works: Last Sunday, November 26th, Fire staff responded to a reported climber on Morro Rock and received multiple personnel from our fire department neighbors to assist as per our auto and mutual aid agreements. One hour later, we responded with our Ladder Truck to Los Osos to a fully involved residential structure fire as per our auto and mutual aid agreements. Regional partnership works.

Firefighters in School Education (FISE): The Fire Department completed the Firefighters in Safety Education (FISE) program which provides free burn prevention education and materials to hundreds of elementary school children every year. Our goal is to bring burn prevention to “each child, each year” in our local schools. This is the 1st year of a partnership between Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation and our Fire Department to serve the local schools. The curriculum involves Personal Responsibility, Consequences and Home Escape Plan. We reached 585 students enrolled in the local public and private elementary schools with a documented 30% knowledge increase through pre-and post-testing results.

Burning on Black Hill: Starting on December 4th, 2017, we will have 2 air curtain burners and 2 heavy equipment operators running from 4 am to 10 pm, loading and burning storm damaged trees. The operation will continue for approximately 2 weeks. We have approximately 1400 cubic yards of wood to burn, which translates to approximately 1,890 tons. As with past air curtain burner operations, we do not anticipate any smoke-generated particulate emissions. In addition, the hazard fuel reduction and vegetation management program will continue with the burning of 22 piles on Black Hill. California State Parks are great partners by increasing the fire department defensible space with our residences adjacent to the State Park. The Fire Department will keep a close eye to staffing, smoke, and noise concerns.

Aerial Filming: Our Fire Marshal attended the Aerial Filming Workshop in partnership with the California Film Commission and the FAA. This workshop discussed updates and changes in laws on drone and helicopter filming, as well as information on regulations and compliance. This course is in concert with the State Fire Marshal’s Motion Picture / Television Fire Safety Officer certification which will allow for quick permit development and approval for our “Filming Friendly” City.

Finance Department

Staffing: The Finance Department has a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. We are excited to share that Chere Valencia has joined our team as an Account Clerk, working in Utility Billing. Chere joined the City on Monday, November 27th and comes with a strong background in accounts payable, customer service, as well as overall office and accounting management.

Chere was born in Reno, NV, moved here as a young child and attended school in south county. Chere has taken classes at Cuesta College in both accounting and business

management. Chere and her family enjoy living by the beach and all that the central coast has to offer.



Also, we would like to welcome and thank Carly Hartzell. Carly has been assisting the Department on a part-time basis, as we evaluate our staffing needs and structure.

Carly is a 5th generation resident of Cayucos and initially joined the City in September. Due to staffing transitions within the Finance Department Carly, along with several other City employees, assisted the Department to keep work flowing. We are thankful for all the help we received during that time, and have been fortunate that Carly had availability to assist on a more consistent basis while we continue to assess our staffing needs and structure. Carly has been very helpful and a joy to have in the department. Thank you, Carly, for your time and commitment to the Finance family and City team.



Community Development Department

Projects:

1. Black Hills Villas, 16 lot Subdivision at South Bay Blvd. and Quintana, has completed preliminary grading and submitted model homes and final grading plans to Building this week.
2. 1899 Sunset Avenue, 6-unit subdivision, has completed final map submittals (going to City Council on December 12th) and will likely pour foundations next week.
3. The City's new code enforcement officer, Jason Nefores, has completed training and will be working Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays moving forward.
4. The 3rd round of Building Plan Check comments were returned to the applicant on November 30th of this week for the 1215 Embarcadero project (new two story, approximately 7000 sq. ft. building on the waterfront).
5. The first round of Building Plan Check is underway for the Sonic Restaurant (corner of Main & Hwy 41).



1899 Sunset Avenue



1215 Embarcadero project

General Plan Update: a. The Scoping meeting for the EIR was held on November 21st and the Notice of Preparation has been routed to the State Clearing house with comments from Responsible and Trustee agencies due no later than December 8th 2017. b. Initial administrative Draft of the General Plan/Local Coastal Program (GP/LCP) has been reviewed by Staff and returned to Michael Baker for edits. c. Staff completed review of the administrative draft of the Development Standards module for the Zoning Code update this week and returned comments to Michael Baker for revisions.

Tourism

Tourism is on the hustle with the start of the first annual [Winterfest, Dec 1-12th](#)!

Each day we have mini-events going on between the tall ship Lady Washington being in port, real snow at Tideland Park and the Santa Crawl. Pulling off this task has only been possible with the help of the Council approval of grant funds to hire an event planner for the Lighted Boat Parade and Winterfest. Our event planner, Teri Bayus has done a fantastic job including

creating swag-bags for each boater well in excess of \$50 in value. The addition of Teri, allowed Morro Bay Rotary to take on the additional task (and expense) of building a Santa House for our City! Santa will be in his house daily December 1-12 from 6-8pm by the chess board. To see all the activities, visit the following website: <https://morrobaywinterfest.com/>

The solid support from City staff to help complete a multitude of tasks this week has been fantastic! Harbor, Maintenance, Fire, Police, Rec and Tourism all working together for the greater purpose has been amazing!



Crab pot Xmas Tree



Rotary elves constructing Santa's House

Our Agency of Record, Mental Marketing, has secured great stories on this event including the story that broke today in the LA Times [“Off Beat Christmas Holiday Lights and Events” article](#)!!! This will also come out in the travel section on Sunday in print!

Although you see Tourism working on this current event, the bulk of our focus is always two months out to fill hotel rooms. Right now, we are finalizing our January-February Restaurant Passport which is free to all hotel guests. We have found that added-value items like the Restaurant Passport gets the best traction from guests and hotel owners. Our restaurants have been great at stepping up with solid offers to incentivize guest. Participants include; Dutchman's, LaVida Roca, Giovanni's, Buttercup Bakery, Pizza Port, Libertine Pub and STAX.

Harbor Department

1. The Tall Ship Lady Washington is in the bay giving dock and sailing tours, docked at Marina Square. The Hawaiian Chieftain is due to arrive December 5.



Tall ship Lady Washington in the Morro Bay Harbor

2. The above mentioned “Crab pot” Christmas tree was put up at the top of Centennial Stairway by Harbor Department personnel on Wednesday. Decorating and lighting is still underway.
3. Three evenings of boat parade activities starting Friday, December 1, with the waterfront business-sponsored decorated boats plying the bay this evening, and the regular, judged parade Saturday evening, followed by a paddle-only parade Sunday afternoon.
4. High surf advisories have kept staff busy with warning and advising the public of various dangers.
5. On Sunday, November 26, we had a climber on the Morro Rock. Thankfully, they came down on their own. It is very dangerous to climb the Rock, and rescues put the lives of the individual and first responders in danger...please don't do it!
6. Waterfowl hunting season is now open in the back bay, so be aware the sound of shotgun fire may be heard ringing through town.

Public Works Department

Consolidated Maintenance

Staff is assisting with the assembly and painting of “Santa’s House” to be located at Centennial Park Way for Winterfest.

Utilities

State water is flowing again after the three-week shut down. Staff ran the City’s water treatment plant 24/7 during that period to provide potable water for the community.

Water crews are relocating water meters in conjunction with the sidewalk project. Customers will experience outages during the work, but staff has informed all residents affected and will be working as expeditiously as possible to keep interruptions brief.

Wastewater crews will be smoke testing the collections system in north Morro Bay over the next few weeks. The goal of smoke testing is to discover illicit connections where typically roof drains have been tied into the wastewater collections system. Additionally, the smoke testing can reveal locations where repairs are needed on shallow pipe. Notices will be sent to residents in the neighborhoods prior to the start of testing.

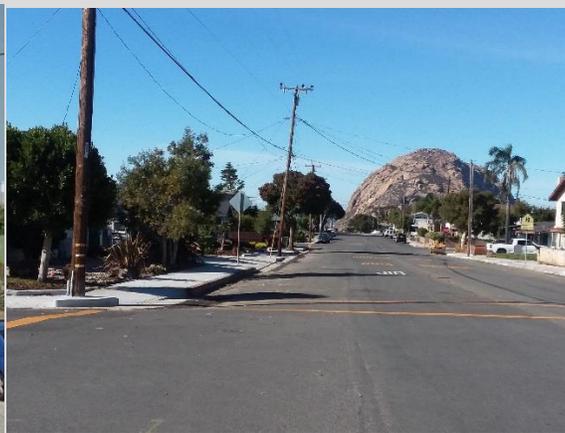
Capital Projects

WRF Project: The Team is working on Developing Performance Criteria for the Request for Proposals

Sidewalk Gap Closure: Scope of work is approximately 50-percent complete (see before and after photos). Construction work will continue on Main Street between Marina and Driftwood next week.



Before work conducted (Harbor and Napa)



After work completed (Harbor and Napa)

Pavement Management: This year's pavement maintenance program is substantially complete, striping is at San Jacinto and Main is awaiting issuance of a Caltrans Encroachment Permit. This current project provided treatment of existing pavement with slurry, chip/cape sealing, and micro-surfacing of 7.05-centerline miles of road work or approximately 13 percent of the City's streets. Measure Q, approved by voters in November 2006, provides critical funding for the pavement management program and we thank the Morro Bay community for their on-going support of this program.



Recent Paving done on Main Street

In the next City Manager's Update, look for information from these departments as well as the Police Department, City Administration and Recreation Division.

Thank you for reading through the update and please reach out to me should you have thoughts about how to improve this form of communication and to share your general thoughts, ideas, concerns about the City.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins
City Manager