

emergency recovery and emergency declarations. The act was amended in 2000 by the Disaster Mitigation Act, which sets out a protocol for all local governments to set out a plan to address potential disasters from known hazards like flooding, hurricanes and earthquakes. Local agencies that complete a Hazard Mitigation Plan will then be eligible for federal funding to implement the plan. The focus of the Plan is preparation and prevention. The City has put in place a committee to work on the Morro Bay Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Neumann stated the committee is going through the following process:

- Organize local resources
- Assess Risks and associated costs
- Develop a mitigation plan
- Bring the plan to the City Council for review and approval
- Apply for approval from the federal government

Mr. Neumann noted that Chairman Lockwood is a member of the committee and provides a perspective on harbor related issues. Mr. Neumann said he will return in the future with a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Board to review.

Chairman Lockwood added that the committee is looking for input from the public and City Boards and Commissions to address concerns and ideas. Chairman Lockwood thanked Mr. Neumann for his presentation.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

IV-2. Partial One-Way Embarcadero Traffic Proposals – Parking Management Plan Update

Mr. Alpert stated that this item was reviewed at the January 9, 2006 City Council meeting and will be a public hearing item at the February 13, 2006 City Council meeting. For background, the staff report from the City Council's January meeting was provided to include the three alternatives for partial one-way Embarcadero traffic.

Chairman Lockwood noted that he requested this item be placed on the Board's agenda because this will have an effect on the harbor facilities and operations and is within the Board's purview. Chairman Lockwood opened the item for public comment.

Mr. Dean Tyler, operator of the Morro Bay Aquarium since 1961, said he has always been in support of projects and proposals on the Embarcadero until now. Mr. Tyler said the proposed one-way traffic on the Embarcadero would create problems along the Chessboard/Centennial Stairway area and decrease safety as traffic would move faster. He added that he surveyed 29 of the Embarcadero businesses and 26 of them said to leave the traffic circulation the way it is. Mr. Tyler also added that there really is not a traffic problem on the Embarcadero; he said that of the thousands of people that come in to the aquarium, he has never had a complaint about traffic or parking.

Ms. Debra Hesch, a resident since 1964, and an Embarcadero employee for many years, stated she finds it easy to get back and forth along the Embarcadero and she is not convinced that the cost of the various proposals for one-way traffic on the Embarcadero is the best use of City funds.

Chairman Lockwood asked for Board comments. Ms. Meissen asked why the issue was brought up to the Council initially. Mr. Ewing noted that the Council has looked at various Embarcadero traffic and parking issues over the years and this is another attempt.

Mr. Anderson said he is not in favor of one-way traffic on the Embarcadero. He agreed with Mr. Tyler that there is not a big problem with traffic on the Embarcadero. Mr. Anderson agreed that parking is a bigger issue than traffic and that perhaps employees should not be allowed to park on the Embarcadero. Mr. Anderson added that temporary loading zones might alleviate some of the problems. Mr. Phillips agreed, he has spoken to several people and has not heard from anyone in favor of one-way traffic on the Embarcadero. Mr. Phillips noted that the proposals do not create additional parking and will create problems at the intersections. Mr. Doughty agreed, the proposal does not appear to have much support from businesses or frequent drivers of the Embarcadero; he noted that one resident suggested a roundabout might be better than one-way traffic. Chairman Lockwood also agreed; adding that the one-way proposal will move traffic more quickly, but he does not think that is an improvement.

Motion:

Mr. Anderson moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommends the City Council not make any changes in regards to flow of traffic on the Embarcadero. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and carried unanimously.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-2. Harbor Department Status Report

Ms. Lichtenbaum and Mr. Algert briefed the Board on the following items:

MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting

Storm Report

Buoys

Back Bay Update

Salmon Seminar

C-MANC Golden State Week – Washington D.C.

City Council Action

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

March: MLPA Recommendations for City Council

April: Budget

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Submitted by,

Susan Lichtenbaum
Harbor Department