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ROCK PARKING LOT ENHANCEMENTS

The City of Morro Bay is in the midst of implementing some long-planned “pedestrian” / beautification enhancement to the Rock parking lot area. These include trash improvements, benches and testing fire pits. Staff assessment is that the removal of the very high maintenance and generally inoperable “big belly” solar trash cans and relying on expanded dumpsters at the restrooms, will measurably reduce the amount of trash that is dumped on the ground or that blows out of the cans along the beach overlook. In the weeks ahead many new park benches both at the beach overlook and on the other side overlooking the bay, in the area adjacent to the fisherman’s statue, will be installed.

The benches will be paid for primarily through the memorial bench program. We are also installing a fire pit at one bench cluster as a test. Morro Bay municipal code allows fires at the beach in designated areas. Staff intends to closely monitor the fire pit usage and if it presents a problem will remove it. In the meantime, we may find that providing a designated place for fires as referred to in our code may further enhance the enjoyment of the area for some residents and visitors.

SPRING BOATING SAFETY TIPS

Spring has sprung and the weather out is wet! This year we have had some pretty intense storms. Here is some information to help keep you safe on the water:

- Keep an eye on the weather at : 17ft.com, noaa.gov, or forecast.weather.gov for current sea conditions, weather forecasts, radar, and satellite information.
- Know the tides and locations of shoals before running an inlet.
- Slow down, slower speeds allow better reaction time.
- Adjust the throttle to ascend/descend waves to avoid taking on water.
- Wear a life jacket.

MISSION STATEMENT

“The Morro Bay Harbor Department is a service oriented organization providing boater assistance, emergency response, code enforcement, facilities maintenance and property management for the waterfront and waters surrounding Morro Bay– in a friendly and professional manner.”

City of Morro Bay

Harbor Department

Office Hours

Monday through Sunday

6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Office Phone: 805-772-6254

Office Fax: 805-772-6258

After Hours Emergency: 911

VHF Channel 12 or 16

DREDGE REPORT

CHANNEL DREDGING: Currently the Army Corps of Engineers has contracted the dredging operation that is dredging the Harbor channel. The disposal pipeline is located directly under the Yellow buoys. For safe navigation of the bay contact the Harbor Patrol on VHF channel 12 or the dredge directly on VHF channel 69.

DREDGE YAQUINA TO ARRIVE IN MAY: The hopper dredge Yaquina is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Morro Bay early, May 2017. They will be dredging primarily in the Entrance and Transition Channel areas. Be safe when transiting the harbor during dredging. Contact the Harbor Patrol to find out general conditions and to get a contact number for the dredge so you can find out from them directly the safest way to proceed during their operations.

FIRE PIT RULES

The City of Morro Bay installed a fire pit as a test in the Rock Parking Lot. Here are some rules to follow to ensure safe usage:

- Fires only allowed in designated containers.
- All fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- Fuel loading shall not exceed 3 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. in height.
- Fires shall be fueled only by natural dried wood, charcoals, or commercial logs.
- Leave your ashes in the fire pit, do not place in trash receptacles.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

MAY 20-26TH, 2017

During National Safe Boating Week, we want to bring special attention to this pastime and remind recreational boaters of a few tips to ensure that they and their loved ones are safe and responsible while exploring the waterways.

Proper planning for the day of boating begins even before leaving the home. Getting a free vessel safety check and taking a safe boating course at the beginning of the boating season, filing a float plan with a family member or friend, and checking the weather before boating are key steps to an enjoyable time boating. Every boater should wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket at all times while boating. Drowning remains the number one cause of death for recreational boaters each year, and the majority of drowning victims in recreational boating accidents are not wearing a life jacket. Safe and responsible boating includes never operating a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and knowing basic navigation rules.

National Safe Boating Week is observed to bring attention to important life-saving tips for recreational boaters for that they can have a safer, more fun experience out on the water.

FISH MORRO BAY

Commercial: Salmon season opens May 1st through June 30th. Here are some general commercial regulations. For more information visit: wildlife.ca.gov/fishing.

- Minimum size limit: 27 inches total length
- All salmon except Coho; all commercial salmon must be landed in California.
- Single point, single shank barbless hooks are required
- No more than 6 lines are allowed per vessel.
- Compliance with minimum size or other special restrictions.
- Transit through closed area with salmon on board.
- Barbless circle hooks required when fishing with bait and fishing by any other means than trolling.

Recreational: Rock fish opens April 1, 2017. Here are some guidelines for species, size, limit, and depth.

Lingcod: 22", 2 fish, less than 360'; **Cabazon:** 15", 3 fish within 10 fish RCG, Less than 360'; **Kelp & Rock Greenlings:** 12", 10 fish within the 10 fish RCG, Less than 360'. The daily bag and possession limit is 10 fish in combination of all species with the RCG Complex (includes all species of Rockfish, Cabazon, & Greenlings) per person, with a sub-limit on Black rockfish (3 per person) and canary rockfish (1 per person) also included in the 10 fish RCG Complex aggregate limit. Yellow eye, Bronze spotted, and Cow cod may not be retained. **Salmon** (season is from April 2– May 31st): 24", 2 per person. Retention of Coho salmon or steelhead trout is prohibited in any ocean fishery. For the most current information visit: wildlife.ca.gov/fishing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Captain's License Class: The Maritime Institute is coming to Morro Bay March 6-17th. This course is for OUPV Master up to 100 GT and includes assistance towing and sailing endorsements. Visit www.MaritimeInstitute.com to Register.

Rescue Watercraft Conference: The 2017 RWC Conference, presented by K-38 on March 10-17th. Open water training will be March 13th– 14th, this will provide students with operation skills and include a night operation segment.

Beach Lifeguard: Now hiring! Visit www.morro-bay.ca.us for applications and more details. Applications and certifications are due March 16th by 5:00pm at City Hall.

Art Show & Open House: April 14th at the Gallery at Marina Square.

Easter at the Rock: Sunrise service will be held at the Morro Rock parking lot April 16th at 6 a.m.

Kite Festival: Hosted on the beach north of Morro Rock which offers some of the best kite-flying wind in the world! Come enjoy this free annual event April 29-30th for all ages and lifestyles.

Miracle Mile 10K: Saturday, May 13th at 8:00 a.m. run/walk 6.2 miles from Morro Rock to Cayucos Pier for a cause. Visit mm4k.com to register and for more details.

AMGEN Tour: The AMGEN Tour announces the cycling route to Morro Bay on May 16th.

DogFest: May 20th is a dog themed event with a clean water message.

Clean Marina

Discharge of sewage in the waters of Morro Bay is Prohibited.

Vessel pump-out facilities are located at:

- South T-Pier
- Morro Bay Marina
- Morro Bay Yacht Club
- Tidelands Park Dock



CITY COUNCIL: Agendas are available for review at City Hall and the Morro Bay Library and are posted at City Hall. The next City Council meetings are 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD: Meetings are the 1st Thursday of each Month. Agendas and meeting minutes are available for review at the Harbor Office, City Hall, Morro Bay Library, Mill's Stationery, and online at www.morrobayca.gov.

SNOWY PLOVER NESTING SEASON

It's that time of year again—Snowy Plovers are nesting and laying eggs on the sand spit and on the beach area North of Morro Rock. Snowy Plovers are a threatened species and are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act. The State Parks Department and the City of Morro Bay have put up fencing to protect the Snowy Plover's nesting habitat. This is especially critical for the Plovers as their nests are so well camouflaged that they could be easily destroyed. When visiting the beaches please obey the posted signs, stay out of designated nesting areas and keep dogs on leashes at all times.

The following brochures are available online:

Rules and Guidelines http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/937/files/snowyplover_rules.pdf and,

Sharing the Beach: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/937/files/snowyplover.pdf>

REMINDER

NO SMOKING ON CITY PIERS OR BEACHES!

ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES WITHIN

CITY LIMITS INCLUDING THE BEACH AND SAND-SPIT!

SAVE PAPER: Get our Harbor Newsletter online on our website at: <http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/456/Harbor-Quarterly-Newsletter>. Interested in participating in our mailing list, please contact us via phone at 772-6254 or e-mail to: clowe@morrobayca.us

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