

Erosion Repairs Stuck In Limbo

Story and Photos By Neil Farrell



Erosion on the Harborwalk.

They say climate change is real, the evidence is overwhelming, but the latest example in Morro Bay of its effects isn't so much an example of the dire predictions of scientists, but one stuck in bureaucratic limbo.

In January 2017, a major storm and an unusually high, "king" tide struck simultaneously causing a section of Morro Creek's southern bank to wash out at the mouth of the creek as it empties onto the beach.

That erosion event nearly undermined about 110-feet of the Harborwalk — a pedestrian and bicycle pathway paid for by taxpayers, built for public use and installed by the City of Morro Bay as part of the Morro Creek Bridge project.

At "The Pit," as the parking lots on both sides of the creek are called, is where the Harborwalk comes to an end, with benches arrayed where those out exercising can stop for a breather. It's also a great spot to watch the sunset.

Storm Damaged A Lot

After the storms, which also wrought other damage to City facilities, the City fenced off that portion of the Harborwalk deeming it unsafe, and the public has not been able to use it since.

Plastic net fencing strung between iron posts mars an otherwise scenic spot.

Normally, there is about 250 yards of beach between the Pit and the ocean and the creek meanders through the creek channel and pools on the beach, but that storm/king tide was strong enough to push the stream through the sand and erode the bank.

The Harborwalk damage now has become mired in a dispute over what caused the erosion, and what to do to protect the creek bank from future erosion.

Path Approved With Bridge

The "dog-leg" the Harborwalk takes as it approaches the Morro Creek Bridge was approved and built as part of the 2014 bridge project and so comes under the terms of that project; including the Commission's policy on sea level rise, namely "planned retreat" from the coast.

It's the same policy that drove the City to build a new sewer treatment plant well away from so-called coastal hazards like tsunami zones, flood plains and sea level rise.

The bridge project was actually approved under a waiver from the Coastal Commission's executive director (Waiver No. 3-13-1339-W), which reads in part, "The proposed multi-use trail will connect with the proposed bridge and provide for a pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Morro Creek where none exists now. Thus, the proposed project will increase and enhance the scope of public access and recreational opportunities in this heavily-used visitor-serving area."

The waiver went to the commission for approval in May 2014.

Storm Damage Was Extensive

The bridge was completed in 2016 and just months later, the area was hit with fierce winter storms that wrought havoc up and down the Central Coast including Paul's Slide, a landslide that

Erosion Continued on page 19

Saying Fare-thee-well to a Waterfront Legend

By Neil Farrell



Reggie Whibley

He was by many accounts a Renaissance man, a talented Jack of many trades, and when Reg Whibley died in August, Morro Bay's waterfront lost a legend and one of its pioneers.

He was a fisherman, a surveyor, hard hat diver, a hunter, businessman, teacher, and master craftsman, who first came to Morro Bay in the 1950s when his dad, Morris, started bringing him on fishing trips from Ventura where he was born in 1944. His mother's name was Opel.

Reg was "blessed with many talents and exceptional charisma," according to his obituary that ran Aug. 19 in The Tribune. He lived life on his own terms, living large and "truly free." Reg Whibley died Aug. 9.

Sometimes that living included a few things that some (government types mostly) might have frowned upon.

Los Osos businessman Mike Tutt was almost at a loss for words when asked to remark on the passing of his friend of more than 45 years. He referred to Reg as his "mentor and friend."

The two met around 1973, while Reg was a shop teacher at Morro Bay High and started Associated Divers, later to become Associated Pacific Constructors, a marine engineering and construction firm that he sold in 2005 when he "retired."

Tutt said he would meet Reg down at his waterfront construction yard, every Friday, "for cocktails, and to shoot the sh*t," Tutt said.

He recalls Reg chartering a plane for a regular fishing trip they made to the Sacramento Delta and a wild time they had at a bar called Foster's Bighorn that was decorated with just about every kind of stuffed big game animal one could imagine; a real taxidermy Heaven.

"Reggie saw that and just said, 'Wow!'" Tutt recalled.

He said Reg rebuilt the Pismo Pier (in 1985) after a huge storm in 1983 knocked down most of the landmark, along with the Standard Oil Pier in Estero Bay (never rebuilt) and caused extensive damage to the Avila Pier as well.

Waterfront Legend Continued on page 14

Laptop Drive to Help Students Thrive

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Without access to a home computer, students at every level already faced a digital gap in learning, and when the pandemic hit and schools shifted to online classes, that divide expanded. A local service organization with a history of supporting the advancement of education is working to put technology in the hands of those in need.

The Masons of King David's Lodge # 209 in San Luis Obispo, which also serves the North Coast, are holding a Used Laptop Donation Drive benefiting the San Luis Coastal Unified School District through November 8. The goal is to be able to distribute 250 to 750 laptops.

"A teacher told me about some of their students trying to do online classes over their cell phone which were antiquated cell phones to start with," said Michael Hammons, Laptop Drive project lead. "This led me to contacting the school district to see if this was truly an issue and also doing analysis around the potential need using demographic data. Obviously, through these discussions it became clear, particularly with all education being online, that there was a need. So, while it was difficult for us to deal with other aspects of online education, like backend



Master Andrew Brown donating the first laptop to San Luis Coastal Unified School District's Coordinator of Adult Education Programs, Sally Ames, following an urgent need request she made.

infrastructure and hotspots, we could focus on the laptop piece of the puzzle."

King David's will collect laptops from donors, get them cleaned up, refurbished, and delivered to local schools for them to distribute to students who need them.

"Many of our Adult Education students in our High School Diploma and English as a Second Language programs do not have personal devices in their homes," said Sally Ames, coordinator

Laptop Drive Continued on page 16

City v. Vistra — Fighting Over Easements

By Neil Farrell

The City of Morro Bay is for the first time ever using the Constitutional power of "eminent domain" in a lawsuit seeking to force the owners of the Morro Bay Power Plant to grant easements needed for the City's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project.

The lawsuit, filed Feb. 26, 2020 by the City's contracted law firm, Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, essentially seeks three permanent easements and two temporary easements needed during construction.

It seeks a linear easement from the Triangle Lot on the waterfront through the plant to connect with a new sewer main line that will run parallel to Hwy 1 behind the plant.

That so-called "West alignment" pipeline would bypass an existing sewer main that collects sewage from the Downtown, the Heights and the Embarcadero, sending it to the existing treatment plant on Atascadero Road.

That portion asks for a permanent easement consisting of some 0.85 acres (37,026 square feet) for the raw sewage pipeline.

The City also wants a temporary, 3-month construction easement for this pipeline project, some 2.14 acres (93,218 s.f.).

The suit seeks a permanent pipeline easement of 1.94 acres (84,506 s.f.) for another pipeline that will carry treated wastewater for reuse in an "Indirect Potable Reuse" or IPR system.

The injection well field and accompanying pipelines is another 3.82 acres (166,399 s.f.) and the City wants a permanent easement for this.

This portion would also need a temporary construction easement of 4.43 acres (192,971 s.f.) for up to 15 months, according to the suit.

The power plant property in question is pegged at 96 total acres.

Easement Continued on page 18

Police
Blotter
Page 8



Tour WRF
Page 7



Haunting
Los Osos
Page 13



Women's Network Helps Continue Voting Tradition

By Theresa-Marie Wilson



South Bay Women's Network members and a volunteer will help with the polling station in Los Osos during the General Election. Pictured are: Debbie Wacker, Valerie Parillo, Tom Murphy, Gila Zak, Ke Kai Kealoha, Rita Flores. Photo submitted

In August of 1920 the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote for the first time in American history. It is fitting that 100 years later a women's organization will hold a vital role in safeguarding the democratic process here on the North Coast.

The South Bay Women's Network will once again operate a Voter Services Center for the General Election — the only one in Los Osos. In 2016, there were 7 polling locations in Los Osos.

"We're really excited," said Gila Zak, South Bay Women's Network (SBWN) chairperson. "It's the hundredth year of the passage of the suffrage legislation for women's vote. We are here to support our community of women and everyone, regardless of gender identity."

The number of polling places has declined this year due to COVID-19 situation and the expected massive increase in vote-by-mail ballots.

Whatever your political affiliation, many people believe that this is the most important election of our lifetimes. Citizens are expected to vote in record numbers despite being in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

"People oftentimes feel powerless, and our vote is our power," Zak said. "It doesn't matter where you are on the political spectrum, everyone deserves the opportunity to exercise that power. It's a right not given to everyone around the world or even in this country."

The end of the article has a list of voting centers as well as a list of vote-by-mail drop off locations. Safety precautions will be in place.

Since 1983, the SBWN has worked with women to network, promote and support one another to achieve professional and personal goals.

One way they do that is through annual scholarships to Cuesta College re-entry, female students.

The decision to award scholarships within those parameters is based on the inspiration of women in the organization in the past who became entrepreneurs, solopreneurs or were able to employ themselves or their families because of going back to Cuesta after they've had to take a break for whatever reason.

"We started a scholarship fund just to help other people like that," Zak said. "Sometimes they come from a history of drug abuse, and they become clean and sober. Sometimes, they've had to drop out of school because they got pregnant. Very often they end up in an abusive relationship and have to leave school. And so when they find their feet again it's just a wonderful way to say, 'Hey we believe in you.'"

One of the funding sources for those scholarships is the stipend or hourly wages people earn from the County by working at the polling stations.

"We do it, not only because we want to be civic minded, but because we get paid and then we can use that as part of our fundraising arm for the scholarship," said Zak who has volunteered her time for the past 12 elections. "It generally runs around \$600. This year, because of the four days that are involved and the extra staff that we're going to need, we stand to make around \$5,000 for the scholarship. That is typically what we raise in an entire year over different types of fundraising. If we can start out with that, then we can just offer more scholarships and help to procure that endowment that we're trying to make."

SBWN needed to fill about 70 slots at the voting site this year and are nearly there thanks to the number of folks who

stepped up to help out. To be clear, people are not required to donate their earnings to the organization's scholarships.

For future scholarship opportunities for a Cuesta College female re-entry student, visit www.SBWN.org under the "About SBWN" tab. The application process has closed currently, but Zak said there is a possibility it will be extended. If not, it will return next year.

The South Bay Women's Network is open to all women of all job levels and in every occupation. It offers an opportunity to meet with other interesting women, to share ideas, build friendships, and exchange support needed for growth on a professional and personal level.

Monthly dinner get togethers are currently on hold, but for more information about joining the organization visit SBWN.org/membership/ and fill out an application.



Local Voting Information

Through Election Day, Nov. 3 at 8 p.m., mail-in ballots can be delivered to any Drop Off location or Voter Service Center during hours of operation.

You may vote in person at any Voter Service Center beginning October 31.

Drop Off Vote-By-Mail Ballot

Cambria Library

1043 Main St
Tue-Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
24/7 Book Drop

Cayucos Library

310 B Street
24/7 Book Drop

Los Osos Library

2075 Palisades
Tue-Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
24/7 Book Drop

Morro Bay Library

625 Harbor St
Tue-Sat: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
24/7 Book Drop

Voter Service Centers

Hours of operation:

Saturday, October 31st – Monday, November 2:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 3: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Vote-by-mail ballots can also be dropped off at

Voter Service Centers.

Cal Fire South Bay Training Center

880 Manzanita Dr
Sat 10/31 - Mon 11/2: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tue 11/3: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Cambria Vet's Hall

1000 Main St
Sat 10/31 - Mon 11/2: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tue 11/3: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Morro Bay Community Center

1001 Kennedy Way
Sat 10/31 - Mon 11/2: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tue 11/3: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Police Investigating Hash Oil Explosion

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay Police are investigating a report of an explosion at a mobile home park that appears to have been the result of someone trying to make hash oil from marijuana.

According to MBPD Cmdr. Amy Watkins, at 8:18 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12 police received a 9-1-1 report of a possible explosion at a trailer park in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd.

The fire department responded first but didn't find any indications of an explosion and no active fires in any of the trailers. They did however uncover some possible nefarious activity.

"Fire arrived on scene to no active fire," Said Cmdr. Watkins, "however, they located items used to extract honey oil from marijuana. MBPD Officers arrived on scene and began an investigation into what had occurred."

A half hour later, a man arrived at Sierra Vista ER with apparently severe burns to his hands and face.

"MBPD responded and contacted the male and two additional subjects, a female and male who transported the burned male," Cmdr. Watkins explained. "The burned male was transported to a burn center at a Fresno area hospital."

The County Narcotics Task Force responded to the trailer park "to investigate the possible BHO activity" (BHO is "Butane Hash Oil").

No arrests have been made, and police continue to investigate the incident and according to witnesses, "an explosion occurred in the park. No additional injuries, homes or property were damaged as a result of the explosion," Cmdr. Watkins said.

Police did not release the name of the suspiciously burned man or the two who took him to the hospital.

According to the marijuana industry website, weedmaps.com, "Butane Hash Oil" or BHO is an extract, "which is a type of cannabis concentrate that's produced using solvents."

However, "Butane is a highly flammable substance and hash oil production is extremely dangerous if done by inexperienced technicians with improper equipment and ill-equipped facilities."

Anyone who has any information regarding this incident is asked to contact the Morro Bay Police Department at (805) 772-6225 or Crime Stoppers at (805)549-STOP.

Correction

Last issue's story about a fundraiser to help with the purchase of a harbor patrol boat gave the wrong phone number for the Harbor Department.

The correct phone number is (805) 772-6254.

Estero Bay News Staff

Dean Sullivan

Owner - Publisher

dean@esterobaynews.com

Theresa-Marie Wilson

Editor

editor@esterobaynews.com

Neil Farrell

Reporter

neil@esterobaynews.com

Joan Sullivan

Jill Turnbow

Ruth Ann Angus

This is a publication of Estero Bay News LLC.

Copyright 2019 all rights reserved. We are

a bi-weekly publication

with 10,000 copies

distributed throughout Morro Bay, Los Osos and

Cayucos. Our website is EsteroBayNews.com.

You can reach us through emails listed above, by

phone at 805.528.6011 or by snail mail at

P.O. Box 6192, Los Osos, CA 93412.



Confused about Medicare Options?

I help you understand your options so that you can make the best choice.

- My services are 100% FREE to you-

As a broker, I represent most of the major insurance companies offering Medicare plans in SLO County. Everyone should review their coverage every year because plans and needs change.

Make an appointment soon
open enrollment is October 15 to December 7.

805-506-1649

TTY: 711 - calling the above number will connect you to a licensed agent/broker

www.LacklandHealthPartners.com

Laurie Lackland of LACKLAND HEALTH PARTNERS

I'm a local Morro Bay resident and have 20+ years in the healthcare industry, most recently with the SLO VA as a Nurse Practitioner. I care about your health, and I want to be a good neighbor.



Deputies Arrest Suicidal Man



Adam Randall Helyar

County Sheriff's deputies subdued an apparently suicidal Cambria man who was in the throes of a mental crisis and threatening to harm law enforcement officers.

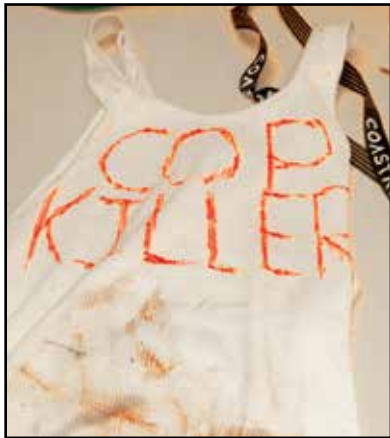
The call came in about 6:20 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5 of a man seen covered in blood and making threats against police inside his home in the 3200 block of Bradford Cr., Cambria.

The man had a history with the Sheriff's Office, as according to a news release, he'd threatened to kill his mother, who also lives in the home, just a few days before, as well as making "statements to her about ambushing and killing law enforcement officers," Sheriff's spokesman Tony Cipolla said. "When Deputies arrived they were aware this could potentially turn into a suicide-by-cop situation."

The suspect, identified as Adam Helyar, 36, was reportedly seen throwing items including a wooden chair over an embankment in his backyard, Cipolla said. He was also reportedly wearing a homemade T-shirt that said, "Cop Killer" on the front.

Deputies surrounded the house and realized that Helyar was "going through a mental health crisis," and they tried to reason with him, which apparently didn't work.

"At one point," Cipolla said, "Helyar refused commands to show his hands and began running toward the deputies."



This T-shirt with the handwritten threat, 'Cop Killer' was worn by a Cambria man accused of threatening to kill law enforcement officers while in the throes of a mental health crisis.

"At that time, deputies deployed less-lethal bean bag rounds at Helyar, striking him. Helyar ran back inside his residence, came back out and returned to where the deputies were located."

He again refused commands to show his hands, Cipolla said, and began yelling obscenities at the deputies.

They eventually subdued Helyar and one deputy rode with him to the hospital in an ambulance. Cipolla said, "The deputy stated Helyar made threats to kill the deputy and the deputy's family members."

According to Cipolla, Helyar, "had access to multiple weapons nearby, which included a pellet gun that resembled a handgun, two machetes and a folding knife that was open."

Once cleared by the hospital, Helyar was booked into County Jail on suspicion of resisting arrest and "threatening a crime with the intent to terrorize," Cipolla said. Helyar was undergoing mental health treatment while in custody.

County Says Schools Can Reopen

By Neil Farrell



San Luis Obispo County Health Department says local schools — kindergarten through high school — can now open for classes, and the State has handed down new edicts aimed at people throwing house parties.

On Oct. 6, SLO County announced that the county's coronavirus numbers have held in the Governor's "Red Tier" for reopening, signaling that schools can open for in-person classes.

"San Luis Obispo County's K-12 schools have the option to reopen for modified in-person instruction according to the criteria listed in the State's 'Blueprint for a Safer Economy,'" reads a County news release.

"Because we have kept our COVID-19 transmission relatively stable," County Health Officer Dr. Penny Borenstein said, "we have been consistently in the red tier for two weeks now.

Local schools are not required to reopen for in-person instruction, but they may choose to reopen if they implement the State's COVID-19 guidance for schools and school-based programs."

The declaration will now go to the individual school boards for a decision on what to do to meet the Governor's edict. Currently, are all doing online teaching.

The new rules aren't exactly a green light. Under the State's "School Reopening Framework," schools that do open are not required to close if SLO County moves back to the highest, "Purple Tier," which is the most restrictive level, but "should consider increasing screening and testing of staff."

The County Public Health Department continues to work closely with the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education and local districts for opening local schools safely.

The County has been working with school districts and the County Office of Education but, "officials convey that many local districts decided to stay closed through the end of the calendar year, but some may reopen with approved reopening plans by County Public Health officials." According to the County.

Schools may be having their restrictions eased but the Governor now has instructions on how to have a house party.

On Oct. 13, the State released the latest round of restrictions focusing on private gatherings that County health officials have previously fingered as adding to the spread of the virus locally.

"The guidance outlines rules for private gatherings that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place," the County explained. "It focuses on attendance, location, behaviors, singing, chanting, shouting and live music.

"Anyone planning to host or participate in a private gathering must comply with the following requirements:

- Keep it outside;
- Keep it small (no more than three households present at one time);
- Don't attend if you feel sick or are in a high-risk group;
- Practice physical distancing and hand hygiene (wash your hands frequently);
- Wear a face covering to keep COVID-19 from spreading; and,
- Keep it brief.

"Many of the most recent cases of COVID-19 in SLO County have been traced to holiday celebrations, family parties, and other social gatherings," Dr. Borenstein said. "The safest way to gather is to spend time with people in the same household or to gather virtually, but if you choose to host or attend a social gathering, please be sure to follow the rules laid out by State health officials."

This new rules update the initial orders from March 16 and prior gatherings guidance. "It applies to private gatherings," according to the County, "and all other gatherings not covered by existing sector guidance are prohibited."

The guidelines even define what constitutes a risky gathering.

"Gatherings are defined as social situations that bring together people from different households at the same time in a single space or place. The risk of COVID-19 transmission increases when people from different households mix."

The County continues to have testing sites at the Morro Bay Vet's Hall (open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.); at the SLO Vet's Hall (open Mondays-Fridays, 7-5); in Paso Robles at the Mid State Fairground's Frontier Pavilion (open Mon., Thurs., and Sat., from 7 to 5, by appointment only). And testing is also being done in Arroyo Grande at the South County Regional Center (open Mondays-Fridays 7 to 7).

The testing is free to those without health insurance. If you have insurance they will ask for your account information, so they can bill the insurance, and there will be no co-pays.

For local information, State guidelines and updated statistics on COVID cases in SLO County, see: ReadySLO.org.

Bayside Cafe

Serving Morro Bay, Los Osos Area for over 30 years.

Just plain good food, generous portions



Casual atmosphere, patio and inside seating with views of the back bay.

Come experience what the locals love about this hidden gem.

Open daily at 11:00am, serving lunch until 3:00pm.
Dinner available Thursday/Sunday until 8:30 and Friday/Saturday until 9:00pm.
10 State Park Road, Morro Bay. Phone 805-772-1465
for questions or "take out". • Visit our Menu at Baysidecafe.com

Featured Listings

Los Osos

Bay View Lot

Enjoy gorgeous views of Morro Rock and Bay from your custom home on a quiet cut-de-sac near the Elfin Forest. Number 8 on the county's priority list for building.
\$225,000

Morro Bay

Morro Bay

Three bedroom plus bonus room, two bath with open floor plan. Partial view of ocean from living room. North Morro Bay.
\$550,000

SOLD

San Luis Obispo

www.2220Exposition-63.com

The heart of the scenic coast, San Luis Obispo!
Two bedroom, two bath condo in Woodbridge Meadows.
\$474,000

SOLD

Morro Bay

www.centralcoastsales.com

Three bedroom plus bonus room, two bath with open floor plan. Partial view of ocean from living room. North Morro Bay.
\$550,000

Call the Broker with the **SOLD** signs!

Kelly Vandenneuvel

Central Coast Property Sales
Broker / GRI
CalBRE# 01472453

I Can Sell Yours Too
Call Me Today! **805-471-1046**

www.centralcoastsales.com • kellyv@centralcoastsales.com

Dear Morro Bay,

Over the past several months after I announced my candidacy for Mayor, I've had many in-depth conversations about the financial state of our city, zoomed virtually because of social distancing and chatted over the phone with many concerned community members like you about the high cost of your water and sewer bills.

We may not agree on everything and that's okay. But I do hope we can agree on one thing, it's time to bring business and City Hall back together again. With many vital issues at stake this election, I wanted to ensure you have access to my position on issues facing our beloved city. Please visit my campaign website at johnweissmayorformorrobay.com. I'm also a phone call away at 805-748-9615.

No gimmicks, no fancy campaign slogans, simply your friend and neighbor, asking for you to vote for change this election. My name is John Weiss and I am running for Mayor of Morro Bay. Thank you!

All my best,
John

To see a list of endorsements, please visit the campaign website at www.johnweissmayorformorrobay.com



VOTE
WEISS
For
MAYOR

Ad Paid for by Citizens Supporting
John Weiss for Mayor 2020

www.johnweissmayorformorrobay.com

Diablo Shuts Down Completely

Story and Photo by Neil Farrell



Photo shows the main generators at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. A hiccup in the hydrogen cooling system of one of these massive generators forced the Unit 2 reactor to be shut down, even as Unit 1 is down for refueling.

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is completely shut-down with one unit undergoing a scheduled refueling but the other shut down unexpectedly.

Unit 1 was shutdown successfully on Oct. 3 for what plant owner Pacific Gas & Electric said was “a scheduled and planned refueling and maintenance outage,” according to a news release from PG&E spokeswoman, Suzanne Hosn.

Unit 2, which ordinarily would be kept online while the other unit is refueling, was shutdown Thursday, Oct. 15 “in order to perform maintenance on the main generator,” Hosn said. “There is no impact to the health and safety of the public or plant personnel.”

Hosn characterized the Unit 2 shutdown as “unscheduled maintenance.” Hosn said early in the morning of Oct. 15, “operators received a monitoring indication that the rate of hydrogen consumption was increasing on Unit 2’s main electrical generator cooling system, indicating a flow of hydrogen out of the system.”

The unit was shutdown safely and work on the generator was begun. “The components under review,” Hosn said, “are part of a cooling system for that electrical generator, on the non-nuclear side of the plant. These maintenance activities cannot be performed while the unit is operating.”

She said the main generator didn’t necessarily “fail.” “The components under review are part of the cooling system for the Unit 2 main generator. Many power plants (nuclear, fossil, etc.) use hydrogen as an efficient and effective cooling method to transfer heat away from power generating turbines. At Diablo Canyon, hydrogen cooling systems are used to cool the electrical generators, which are located on the non-nuclear side of the plant.”

How serious was the damage? “Though our inspections are ongoing,” she said, “the equipment is intact and in place.”

What will the unscheduled maintenance entail? “We are currently conducting inspections on the component and will safely and methodically work through necessary maintenance or repair activities before returning the unit to service,” she said, as apparently they need to do a deep dive into what went wrong.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified, as is the case with most all unexpected events at the plant. “We have been in communication with our Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspectors regarding this unplanned outage on Unit 2, and our Senior Resident Inspector has been on-site,” she said. “This maintenance issue in no way impacts or impedes our commitment or ability to protect the health and safety of the public and plant personnel.”

With both Diablo Canyon units down, it removes some 2,300 megawatts of electricity — about 10% of the State’s total — from the power grid, as temperatures continue in the high 90s across much of California.

New App Warns About Power Shutdowns

If you’re worried about planned electrical shutdowns being done in times of great fire danger, the electric company now has an app for that.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company spokesman Mark Messen said in a news release that the company “continues to improve

vital safety communications for customers that will be used before turning off power to prevent wildfires during severe weather, the company has enhanced its notifications to provide more detail about when power is expected to go out, when it may be restored and where customers can go to find additional information.”

PG&E, responding to customer concerns over getting information as soon as possible when so-called “Public Safety Power Shutoff” or PSPS events are planned, has instituted a new “Watch and Warning” program “to ensure they have time to prepare and plan in advance” for a PSPS.

“Whenever possible,” Messen said, “an initial ‘Watch’ notification will be sent two days in advance of a potential PSPS event, followed by an additional Watch notification one day before the potential PSPS event, notifying customers of the possibility of a PSPS event in their area based on forecasted conditions.”

Conditions likely to trigger a Watch notification include heat waves and high winds, both of which can cause damage to high voltage power lines, and have often been blamed for some of the most destructive wildfires in State history, including the Camp Fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and killed over 80 people.

If the weather persists and a PSPS is called, PG&E will issue a “Warning” that “it is going to happen soon.”

“Whenever possible,” Messen said, “Warning notifications will be sent approximately 4 to 12-hours in advance of the power being shutoff.”

The Watch and Warnings will be tied to the weather. “Both Watch and Warning notifications are directly tied to weather forecasts,” Messen said, “which can change rapidly. For example, predicting the time and area of landfall for tropical storms and hurricanes in the Southeast United States.”

This new system is better than what was done prior. “As an example of how notifications have been improved for 2020,” Messen said, “customers will see an estimated time when their

power will be restored two days before it goes out. Last year, that estimated time of restoration wasn’t provided until the power had been turned off.”

The Watch and Warnings will be issued via automated calls, texts and emails, providing essential information, including:

- Your address so you know you’re getting the accurate information for your home;
- The date and time when power is estimated to be shut off. (For example, between 6 and 10 p.m. on Oct. 7.); and,
- The estimated date and time when they expect power will be restored.

“When power is turned off, PG&E will provide updates to customers at least once a day until power is restored,” Messen said. “Power will remain off until the weather has passed, and equipment has been inspected.”

The company is also working to reduce the length of time the power is off, with the goal of cutting the time in half, “So that power is restored to the majority of customers within 12 daylight hours after severe weather has passed. PG&E will send a final notification once power has been restored.”

Readers should make sure their contact information is up to date by going to the PG&E website, see: www.pge.com/mywildfirealerts or call 1-800-742-5000, where in-language support is available. The system is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Russian, Vietnamese and Korean.

Six additional languages will be available soon including Farsi, Arabic, Hmong, Khmer, Punjabi and Japanese. Customers choose their language of preference on the website and the warnings will be sent in that language.

PG&E also has posted an online Safety Action Center to help people prepare for a PSPS, see: www.safetyactioncenter.pge.com and use the “Make Your Own Emergency Plan” link.

News Briefs

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Reserve Firefighters Sought

Are you sick of being stuck at home because of the Coronavirus pandemic response?

Cal Fire Sta. 15 in Los Osos is offering an opportunity to get out of the house, become part of a life-saving essential service, and contribute to your community all at once.

The station is seeking applicants for its reserve firefighter program with the deadline to apply set for 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16.

Applicants must be available for physical fitness testing and oral interviews on Nov. 21-22.

Those interested in this ground floor entrance into the fire service can pick up an application at the station house, 2315 Bayview Heights Dr., Los Osos. Call (805) 528-1053 with questions.

Support for Addis

Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris have endorsed Dawn Addis for State Assembly District 35 as have Bruce Gibson, San Luis Obispo County’s District 2 Supervisor and Joan Hartmann, Santa Barbara County’s District 3 Supervisor. The district spans San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara counties.

Supervisor Hartmann praised Dawn Addis saying, “As a City Councilmember, Dawn has been a champion for the environment, workforce housing, economic vitality, and our public schools.” Hartmann confidently predicts that, “Dawn will bring the same dynamic leadership to the State Assembly, and make sure the Central Coast’s voice is heard in Sacramento.”

Agreeing with Hartmann, Supervisor Bruce Gibson remarked, “I wholeheartedly support Dawn as our next Assemblymember. She’s shown how much she cares about our county and our region in her work to engage people in the crucial social issues of our time. She’s been a problem-solver on the Morro Bay City Council and worked tirelessly to better the lives of our communities’ children. She’s the representative we need now in these challenging times.”

Addis has received endorsements by community leaders, city officials, and civic organizations from throughout Assembly District 35. A complete list of her supporters can be found at dawnaddis.org/endorsements/

Oktoberfest and Car Show Canceled

The Los Osos Baywood Park Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club of Bay Osos announced that the 42nd Annual Oktoberfest and Car Show have been cancelled due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

“This was not an easy decision,” said Oktoberfest Committee Chairman Steve Vinson. “We know how much the community looks forward to the music, costumes, contests and beer. Rest assured, we will be back in 2021.”

Usually held on the last Sunday each October, Oktoberfest is the largest annual community event in Los Osos.

Drug Take Back Day

There will be a Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 24 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the California Highway Patrol Parking Lot, 675 California Blvd, San Luis Obispo.

This year’s Take Back Day will be a free, no-contact drive-through following COVID-19 Public Health safety measures to ensure everyone’s safety.

The SLO County Opioid Safety Coalition, in collaboration with the California Highway Patrol, works to facilitate the safe disposal of medications while at the same time offering an anonymous, safe way for residents to drop off their prescription drugs. The organization has collected close to 2,000 lbs through Take Back Days locally since 2016.

Nationally, drug overdoses have spiked roughly 18% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to data from the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program, located at the University of Baltimore.

Items accepted at Drug Take Back Day include prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, medication ointments and lotions, inhalers, and liquid medication in leak-proof containers. Items not accepted are needles / sharps, thermometers, aerosol cans, medical waste, personal care products, and hydrogen peroxide. Free disposal is available year round at all SLO County pharmacies. Contact your local pharmacy for more information.

For more information, visit opioidsafetyslo.org or contact Jennifer Rhoads, (805) 781-1195; jrhoads@slo.co.sa.us.

the Leather Shop
MORRO BAY CA
Quality leather goods

October Special • 15% off Custom Hand Made Purses

(Exp October 31)

Come by and say hi to ...

Luna and Ziggy

Like us on Facebook

Many to choose from,
all hand made

For details please see Finn at the shop.
Open Tuesday- Saturday 9-5

880 Morro Bay Blvd., Morro Bay • (805) 772-0255 • www.finnsleathershop.com

News

Finance Director Takes Job in Truckee

By Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's finance director is hittin' the road, and becoming the town manager for the Sierra Nevada City of Truckee, the City of Morro Bay announced last week.

Jennifer Callaway came to Morro Bay from Sonora in the Sierra Foothills in October 2017, where she was the administrative services director for the City of Sonora. She was hired as finance director by then-Interim City Manager, Martin Lomeli.

Her new job in Truckee was slated to become official on Oct. 13, according to a news release from the City. In Morro Bay, she's helped steer the City through the biggest budget challenge since 2005 with the Coronavirus Pandemic response and the shutdown of the local economy and shelter-at-home orders from the Governor.

The City's tax revenues took a huge hit when many businesses that generate tax monies — lodging, restaurants and retail stores, among others — had to close.

Balancing last fiscal year's budget and putting together a balanced budget for the current year took a lot of sacrifice by City employees that took pay cuts, over 70 layoffs mostly of part-timers in the recreation department, plus leaving vacancies open and laying off a total of 11 full time equivalent positions. The City also dipped deep into its emergency reserves.

She's been instrumental in helping formulate the City's pan-



Jennifer Callaway

demio response and the "Be A Trash Hero" promotion to try and clean the Embarcadero of excessive trash caused by all the takeout containers from restaurants unable to use their dining rooms.

She helped launch the "Be a Mask Hero" promotion to encourage wearing masks; and a "Business Hero" program just started to recognize local businesses and their efforts to protect public health and still operate their businesses.

Mayor John Headding said, "We are so thrilled for Jen to take on this exciting new role. She is ready for this leadership position given what she has accomplished at Morro Bay. Jen has been instrumental in moving the City toward a more sustainable position and weathering the financial storm created by COVID-19. We will miss her and wish her the absolute best."

During her tenure, Callaway developed new financial policies based on best practices, worked to revise the City's budget document to be more transparent, with the City achieving recognition for the first time from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, and Excellence in Financial Reporting recognition for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, according to the news release.

Also, under Callaway, the City reduced its pension liabilities by pre-paying the City's Safety side-fund and a portion of the City's unfunded accrued liability, according to the news release.

She's also been part of the City's Water Reclamation Facility or WRF project team focusing on the financial side.

Callaway "helped the City secure a near historic low interest rate [0.83%] for the \$62 million Environmental Protection Agency loan for the Water Reclamation Facility project, which significantly reduces the annual debt payment for the project."

In March she was appointed interim public works director. "Her leadership and collaboration with public works staff were key in expanding trash and restroom services during this past summer when greater than expected crowds embarked on the City in the wake of COVID-19," reads the news release.

Callaway said she's going to miss Morro Bay. "This is truly bittersweet for me," she said. "I am so honored to have been selected to serve as Town Manager for Truckee and excited for this new chapter in my life, but at the same time I am very sad to leave Morro Bay."

"I have fallen in love with the Morro Bay community, there is a true sense of caring, from the volunteers who serve on the committees to those that help pick up trash, and Morro Bay will always hold a special place in my heart."

She considers the City team as family. "I am also sad to leave the City family," she said. "I have been working in government service for 18 years and the Morro Bay City team is one of the best I have had the privilege to work with. City staff chooses to work in Morro Bay because of their love for this community. They truly care about the City and strive every day to do their best for residents and the City as a whole. They go above and beyond, and I have seen this extra effort daily."

The pandemic has been hard. "The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for our staff," she said, "we have lost employees due to layoffs, and have asked our team to complete more work with less resources."

"Yet despite this," she continued, "the entire City team has stepped up, out of commitment to the community, to take salary concessions to help the City weather this pandemic."

She said the city is lucky to have a good team. "Morro Bay is fortunate to have this City family — under the amazing, encouraging and supportive leadership of City Manager [Scott] Collins, City Council and the entire executive team — working hard for the community every day."

"I am humbled to have stood with this team for the last several years. Morro Bay truly is rock solid together!"

The City will hire temporary support for the Finance Department in the near term and Utility Division Manager, Joe Mueller, will assume the acting public works director role beginning in November. The City will start recruiting for these positions in the coming months. Callaway's last day with the City is Oct. 23.

City Manager Collins, who came to the City at about the same time as Callaway, said, "In a matter of three years with Morro Bay, Jen has accomplished more than most finance directors do in 10 years. "Jen will be a phenomenal Town Manager given her finance skills, creativity, and her management approach which includes a heavy dose of kindness, something all organizations need during these challenging times."

"We will greatly miss her leadership and look forward to hearing about her successes in Truckee."

Jim Marshall
INSURANCE INC.

- AUTO
- HOME/RENTERS
- BUSINESS
- LIFE

(805) 528-4739

2141 10th St., #A • Los Osos
www.jimmarshallinsurance.com

O'Connor Pest Control
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

SPECIAL
\$49 MONTHLY SERVICE
General Pest Service Only. Gophers & Rodents Not Included.
One Year Term Minimum. Homes up to 3,000 sq. ft.

Free Gopher & Rodent Estimates
Same Day Service M-F
ECO SMART PRODUCTS
805-544-1170
www.oconnorcentralcoast.com

Kevin says,
"Look for the ANT on the Door"

KEVIN O'CONNOR, President

DUTCHMAN'S
SEAFOOD HOUSE

HAPPY HOUR
EVERY DAY FROM 3PM-6PM

HAPPY HOUR
3-6pm Every Day

BEERS ON TAP

WINE LIST

FULL BAR

APPETIZERS

FRESH SEAFOOD

It's the only way to live. It's the only way to eat.

701 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Call: (805) 772-2269 • www.dutchmansseafoodhouse.com

LAST CHANCE
for 26% SOLAR TAX CREDIT.

The solar tax credit drops again at the end of 2020. Go solar today and save thousands more.

SOLARPONICS
(805) 466-5595 solarponics.com
Free quotes. Voted Best Value Solar Company.
CSLB #391670 • SINCE 1975

Community

Touring Morro Bay's WRF

Story and photos by Neil Farrell

Morro Bay's Water Reclamation Facility Project is well along with its \$130 million construction schedule, and City and project managers gave the city council and media a tour of the treatment plant site last Monday, Oct. 12.

City Manager, Scott Collins explained that the City wanted to do a big celebration and groundbreaking last March with the contractors, council, funding agencies and the public for, "the largest infrastructure project in the City's history," but then the coronavirus pandemic hit.

So that celebration got canceled, Collins said, and the City waited until the project had reached a point where it would be safe for a gathering that turned out to just have city officials, construction managers and the media.

A small group of protesters stood at the entrance to the job site on Teresa Drive, waving signs criticizing the project, which has already seen millions in cost overruns and change orders, and bids on the conveyance system came in millions above the engineer's estimate.

The planning for this project started in early 2013 after the Coastal Commission denied the City's first project, Collins said. That project was denied at the behest of the then-Mayor and council majority.

The new WRF will replace the City's aging treatment plant, Collins said, protect the environment and provide drinking water to the city. He added that the new project would also satisfy all the state and federal regulations and create a drought buffer that can provide up to 80 percent of the drinking water demand.

The City was, he said, "committed to ensuring a safe, sound water system that meets regulatory requirements."



Workers fashion the rebar cage of one of two bio-reactors. The final grade of the plant site will be 10 feet higher than now leaving just a few feet of the tanks above ground; but that won't happen until after both concrete tanks have been poured, cured and filled with water to check for leaks.

He said the City had pursued all possible avenues to make it affordable, including securing a \$61 million low interest (0.85%) Federal EPA loan that will save some \$29 million in interest costs over the life of the loan, from \$800,000 to \$900,000 a year.

The City, Collins said, is still working on a State loan to cover the remainder, minus whatever amount of cash the City plans to use from the \$41 a month surcharge it enacted last summer.

The City has been pre-approved by the State Revolving Fund or SRF loan program for up to \$100 million in loans and also to receive a \$5 million grant that doesn't have to be repaid.

Estimates are that the City's already spent over \$24 million on the project.

Collins said the City was "extremely proud" at how the project has come together and they now expect completion of the treatment plant in November 2022 and the 3.5-mile conveyance

system of pipes soon after that.

After an initial delay of several months due to a snafu between the EPA and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over the environmental review and taking of red-legged frog habitat, the construction finally got started in March 2020.

The City is under a so-called "time schedule order" or TSO from the Regional Water Quality Control Board to bring its sewage discharges into the ocean under full secondary treatment to comply with the Clean Water Act, in essence to finish the new plant and shut down the old one by Spring 2023.

The tour, led by construction manager Steve Mimiaga of Mimiaga Engineering Group, took the twenty or so attendees on a walking tour of the 27.5-acre site, which was literally carved out of a mountain.

Imagination was needed as he pointed out one area that is leveled, with utilities stubbed in and ready to start on forms and rebar for a concrete slab that would be topped with a pre-fab metal building.

The site would be the new administration building, he said. The slab should be completed by Christmas, he added, and the new building ready to be installed.

For the past several months, Mimiaga said, they had been grading and doing all the underground work, including running the sewer main that will bring the flow to the plant, an 18-inch potable water line for fire safety, and the conveyance pipes that will bring the raw sewage in for treatment and also send the reusable and discharge water back into town.

Currently, the City is planning on injecting the highly treated wastewater into the groundwater basin of Morro Creek at a site on the northeast corner of the power plant property on the west side of Hwy 1.

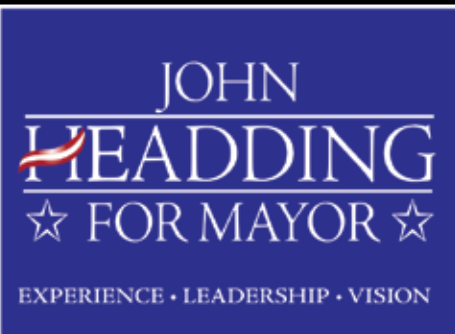
That site is still not secured, as the City and plant owners, Vistra Energy are in a lawsuit right now with the City seeking to use eminent domain to secure one easement for a new sewer main from Lift Station No. 2 under the Front Street parking lot on the Embarcadero through the plant to the other main line coming from Atascadero Road.

The injection well field site is part of that lawsuit, which Collins said it is close to prevailing in.

The tour continued past huge, welded, steel piping, 78-inches in diameter (6'6") that will be buried and used to chlorinate unusable wastewater destined to be dumped into the ocean. A roadway will be built over the top of it.

The site ends at two massive bio-reactors — large, poured-concrete basins that will teem with bacteria that will preform the main treatment of the wastewater.

Touring Continued on page 9



**THE CHOICE IS CLEAR
VOTE JOHN HEADDING
FOR MAYOR OF MORRO BAY
ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

ISSUE	MAYOR JOHN HEADDING	CANDIDATE JOHN WEISS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERVED 4 YEARS ON CITY COUNCIL • SERVED 2 YEARS AS MAYOR • SERVED ON COUNTYWIDE BOARDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE
WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUPPORTS COMPLETING THE PROJECT • OBTAINED LOW INTEREST LOANS SAVING TAXPAYERS OVER \$30 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEBT COSTS MAINTAINING RATE PARITY WITH CAYUCOS AND LOS OSOS • SUPPORTS WATER/SEWER RATE REDUCTIONS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WANTS TO "PAUSE" THE WRF PROJECT (WHICH COULD WASTE OVER \$30 MILLION SPENT TO DATE AND RESULT IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN INCREASED COSTS DUE TO FINES, LAWSUITS, AND LOSS OF LOW INTEREST LOANS)
CITY BUDGET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 YEARS OF BALANCED BUDGETS • INCREASED CITY CASH RESERVES AND LOWERED PENSION COSTS • RECEIVED 2 NATIONAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE AND TRANSPARENCY IN CITY FINANCE • NO REDUCTION IN ESSENTIAL SERVICE (POLICE/FIRE/WATER/SEWER/MAINTENANCE) • CUT CITY EXPENSES BY \$1.6 MILLION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 REVENUE LOSSES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WANTS TO "FURLOUGH CITY EMPLOYEES 2 DAYS/PER WEEK" IN ADDITION TO MAJOR SALARY REDUCTIONS THAT ALL EMPLOYEES HAVE TAKEN. (THIS COULD RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF OUR FIRE AND POLICE SERVICES.) • WANTS TO USE "QUALIFIED THIRD PARTIES TO CONDUCT SERVICES" (THIS MEANS CONTRACTING OUT RATHER THAN PROVIDING SERVICES LOCALLY.)
MEASURE E-20 SALES TAX INCREASE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUPPORTS THE 1% SALES TAX INCREASE TO PROTECT CRITICAL CITY SERVICES SUCH AS 24/7 PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE • SUPPORTS TOURISTS PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE FOR USE OF CITY SERVICES BY THE 1% SALES TAX (70% OF BUSINESS TO CONSUMABLES SALES TAX IS PAID BY TOURISTS) ESTIMATED COSTS TO CITIZENS IS 19 CENTS PER DAY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOES NOT SUPPORT • BELIEVES IN "FURLOUGHING CITY EMPLOYEES 2 DAYS/WEEK" WHICH COULD REDUCE SAFETY SERVICES • BELIEVES THE 1% SALES TAX "WOULD DETER CONSUMPTION AND HARM HOUSEHOLD INCOME" (EVEN THOUGH COST TO CITIZENS IS ESTIMATED TO BE 19 CENTS PER DAY)

ALL INFORMATION IN QUOTATIONS CAME FROM MR. WEISS'S WEBSITE OR FROM STATEMENTS MADE DURING CANDIDATE FORUMS. ITEMS IN PARENTHESES REPRESENT MAYOR HEADDING'S COMMENTS.
PAID FOR BY JOHN HEADDING FOR MAYOR FPCC# 1411645

Police Blotter



Morro Bay Police Logs

- **Oct. 4:** Police were called at 1:30 p.m. to the 200 block of Atascadero Rd., where some mutt's dog bit somebody.
- **Oct. 4:** Someone found a wallet in the 2600 block of Main and turned it over to police. No word on whether it was a tad lighter when found than when lost.
- **Oct. 3:** Police responded at 10:17 p.m. to the 500 block of Embarcadero for a "marital argument," which sounds like a case for Dr. Phil.
- **Oct. 3:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 3:30 p.m. out by the Rock. The driver, 52, was actually arrested for suspicion of driving stoned on the evil weed and he made a bumper trip to the hoosegow.

- **Oct. 3:** Police contacted a suspicious man and woman at 11:45 a.m. by the beach in the 1700 block of Embarcadero. The belle, 18 was arrested for suspicion of being a minor in possession of and drinking hooch, plus hangin' with Mary Jane. The fella, 21, got popped for suspicion of being pooped in public. Logs indicated the dingus was so drunk... (How drunk was he?) He had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance.
- **Oct. 3:** Someone found an apparent stash bag in the 200 block of Surf. Inside were two used syringes, one was apparently already shot and the other loaded for bear. Police will destroy them, unless some fool actually tries to claim them.
- **Oct. 3:** Police caught up to a familiar foe, 46, in the 200 block of Harbor. Logs indicated the scofflaw had two bench warrants and the yo-yo was cited and released only to catch again when he's got three.
- **Oct. 3:** Someone in the 400 block of Quintana reported vandalism and police are now hunting the graffidiot.
- **Oct. 3:** Police contacted an apparent regular customer, 41 at Morro Rock at 2:40 a.m. He was nicked for violating a court order, or as they say, "Woo, woo, woo — You broke the law!"
- **Oct. 2:** Police responded at 6:30 p.m. to the 700 block of Center Ct., where they hooked up a 30-year-old woman with a felony warrant.
- **Oct. 2:** A citizen in the 100 block of Mindoro complained about an ongoing problem of hooligans trespassing on their property.
- **Oct. 1:** Police responded to a disturbance at 9:35 p.m. at a motel in the 200 block of Atascadero Rd. An apparently drunken Illuminasti was saying he wanted to hurt himself while playing whack-a-ding-dong in front of the guests. He was arrested and put out of our misery.
- **Oct. 1:** Police responded to a domestic disturbance at 9:55 p.m. in the 400 block of Nassau. Logs indicated a 23-year-old apparent battleaxe was arrested for suspicion of domestic violence and brandishing a deadly weapon.
- **Oct. 1:** Police responded at 6:30 p.m. to the 3100 block of Orcas Way for a report of misbegotten knives repeatedly trespassing.
- **Oct. 1:** Some apparent Momist called police at 5:30 p.m. to complain about loud music coming from the Thai Bounty Restaurant in the 500 block of Embarcadero.
- **Oct. 1:** Police responded at 5 p.m. to a car crash at Monterey and Morro Bay Boulevard. No carnage to report.
- **Oct. 1:** Police contacted a woman at 1:45 p.m. in the 800 block of Napa. Logs indicated the scofflaw, 51, had "multiple outstanding felony and misdemeanor warrants" — this week's winner of the "Scofflaw of the Month" Award.
- **Oct. 1:** Police responded at 1:25 a.m. to Coleman Drive at Embarcadero where they towed away a vehicle for parking too long in one place and for having false registration tags, hanging offenses in the Golden State.
- **Sept. 30:** At 5 p.m. police towed a vehicle from the 200 block of Marina for violation of the City's move-it or lose-it law.
- **Sept. 30:** Police responded at 9:30 a.m. to an assault report in the 300 block of MBB. Logs indicated a 48-year-old woman was arrested for suspicion of domestic violence.
- **Sept. 29:** A woman in the 300 block of Tahiti called 9-1-1 at 6 p.m. and said her roommate was "extremely intoxicated." The apparently blindoed fellow was rushed to the hospital via ambulance.
- **Sept. 29:** Someone called police at 7 p.m. from the 600 block of Quintana and reported a choleric man was ramming a shopping cart into someone's car and denting the vehicle. The scamboogah got away.
- **Sept. 29:** Police responded at 2 p.m. to City Park for a disturbed fellow causing a ruckus. A 33-year-old skulled fellow was too blotto to care for himself let alone anyone else, and was checked into the Parkinson Plaza to sleep it off.
- **Sept. 29:** A man told police he'd had the tourist tax taken out of his vehicle while parked at Morro Rock.
- **Sept. 29:** A citizen called at 6:42 a.m. and said someone broke into his or her storage unit in the 400 block of Napa and stole a

- bunch of stuff they no doubt haven't seen in years.
- **Sept. 29:** Police stopped a suspicious vehicle at 1:27 a.m. on State Park Road. Logs indicated the driver hit the trifecta — no license, no insurance and no headlights — an of course no scruples.
- **Sept. 29:** Police roused a fellow at 12:32 a.m. sleeping in his vehicle at Bayshore Bluffs Park. The 56-year old had a warrant and was cited and released to go sleep somewhere else.
- **Sept. 28:** Someone socially distanced with a cell phone at the high school.
- **Sept. 28:** Police responded to a disturbance at 10:18 a.m. in the 900 block of Piney Way. Logs indicated a 22-year-old ruffian was arrested for resisting arrest — "after striking/hitting arresting officers with hands and feet," according to logs. The apparent scrapper was tossed to the nick.
- **Sept. 28:** Police towed a car from the 300 block of Bonita. And someone in the 600 block of Morro reported his or her car was stolen, a case of different means arriving at the same ends.
- **Sept. 27:** Police responded at 3 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Quintana. Logs indicated a 46-year-old fellow was nicked for suspicion of flapping out in public.
- **Sept. 27:** Police responded to a car crash at 1 p.m. at Marina and Morro. No gruesome details were released.
- **Sept. 26:** Two more cars went badda-boom at 7:45 p.m. in the 2400 block of Laurel. No injuries reported.
- **Sept. 26:** And two more people apparently forgot how to drive and collided at 5 p.m. at Del Mar School in the 500 block of Sequoia.
- **Sept. 26:** Police contacted a suspicious man at 4 p.m. in the 1500 block of Main. Logs indicated the model citizen, 22, was arrested for suspicion of being stoned on illegal drugs.
- **Sept. 24:** MBPD sent its expert drone pilot to Templeton to photograph some undisclosed skullduggery.
- **Sept. 24:** Someone dropped a driver's license they found through the stationhouse's lobby door.
- **Sept. 24:** A citizen in the 1900 block of Main said some scoundrel stole his bike.
- **Sept. 23:** Some scallawag vandalized an innocent car parked in the 3000 block of Hemlock.
- **Sept. 23:** police responded at 1:25 p.m. to an assault report in the 2600 block of Main. A 51-year-old man was arrested for suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon.
- **Sept. 23:** A citizen in the 400 block of Zanzibar told police their package from Amazon never arrived, a suspected case of porch piracy.
- **Sept. 22:** Police responded at 10 p.m. to a disturbance in the 400 block of Trinidad. Logs indicated they discovered that "the interior of a residence is filthy and full of items making it almost uninhabitable," an apparent case of one man's castle is another man's sty.
- **Sept. 22:** A citizen in the 400 block of Shasta told police he or she had been defrauded out of \$808.12.
- **Sept. 22:** A car crash was reported at 6:30 p.m. in the 300 block of Quintana. The driver was taken to the hospital.
- **Sept. 21:** At 10:45 p.m. police contacted a suspicious man at Pacific and Main who matched the description of a guy wanted in an earlier assault case at La Serena Inn. The guy, 27, was taken back to the motel where the victim reportedly identified the zhlub and he was arrested and charged with suspicion of battery.
- **Sept. 21:** Yet another car crash was reported, this time at 5:25 p.m. in the 400 block of Atascadero Rd. No injuries.
- **Sept. 21:** Police responded at 2:14 p.m. to Monterey and Anchor for a charge of domestic battery. No arrests yet.
- **Sept. 21:** At 12:49 p.m. police contacted a 22-year-old woman who had two bench warrants. She was given her third and let go.
- **Sept. 21:** A citizen in the 2800 block of Alder said some feculent fraudster stole a check and deposited it.
- **Sept. 21:** At 2:40 a.m. a woman came to the police station and asked to have an ambulance take her to the hospital, in this week's example of "To protect and serve..."

805-772-2411
901 Embarcadero, Morro Bay
Open 7 days a week.

Components furnished and installed by Coast Electronics

Home Theater and Observation Systems

JBL Smart Phones **LG**
 Monitors **We Beat Box Store Prices and We're Conveniently Local** Computers
 Cameras Modems

KENWOOD **SONY**

• Expert Consultation • Professional Installation • Computer Tutors
 • On-Site Service • Wi-Fi, TV mounts & Universal Remotes

OPEN 7 DAYS!

COAST ELECTRONICS

Morro Bay **San Luis Obispo**
 510 Quintana Road 1336 Madonna Road
 Morro Bay, CA 93442 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
 805-772-1265 805 544-5400

Paso Robles
 1171 Creston Rd. # 109 Paso Robles
 805-369-2811
 coast-electronics.com

Morro Bay Ducky Derby

ROTARY CLUB OF MORRO BAY is excited to announce our first annual Rubber Ducky Derby fundraiser.

You can sponsor a Duck in the Derby for \$10 ea.

Click on the Link below. This will take you to our Rotary Club of Morro Bay Givsum fundraising site to pay for the ducks.

When: Race Day = November 15th, 2020 / 8:00am High Tide

1st Place = \$300 cash prize 2nd Place = \$200 cash prize 3rd Place = \$100 cash prize

This year, due to Covid restrictions, we cannot gather to watch the event in person. However, if you would like to support local businesses along the Embarcadero by enjoying some outdoor dining, you may be able to catch a glimpse of a duck floating by. **This event will be live streamed!**

Rubber ducks in picture may appear larger than actual size®

Funds to support Rotary Club of Morro Bay's "Help Us Help Others" campaign focused on providing funding to local organizations who are enhancing health, safety and education in our community during these trying times.

News

Touring From page 7

Mimiaga said the bacteria that will be cultivated in the tanks are key to the whole “biological nutrient removal” or BNR process, and if the bacteria ever dies off it will takes weeks to regrow.

The bacteria in the tanks will be there for the life of the plant, he explained. The treatment basins will together have 600 tons of concrete and 28 tons of rebar in their 23-foot walls, with all but the top 10-feet or so buried under the eventual final grade of the site.

Along the side of the entire site is a huge scar in what used to be grassy, rolling hills grazed by cattle. A large portion of the hill was being graded and led to the first major problem with the project when the hillside above started to move.

One official said it was an “ancient” landslide that started moving again after grading removed dirt along the bottom of the hill that was holding it up.

That dirt was spread about the site and becomes part of the over 20-feet of fill that the plant will sit on. By doing that, they saved about \$1 million that would have been spent trucking the extra dirt away. They plan to plant grasses to re-stabilize the hillside.

Collins said that to date over 75,000 cubic yards of dirt has been moved on site.

The jobsite has 60-70 people working on it now, and that will increase when the buildings get installed, with plumbers, ironworkers and electricians, among other tradesmen, coming in.

Collins said, “Construction of the Water Reclamation Facility involves dozens of companies and suppliers, and has created over 50 construction related jobs to date. To date, \$88.5 million worth of low interest State and Federal loans and grants are in place for the \$130 million project.”

He added, “We committed to the ratepayers of Morro Bay that we would complete this project on time and within budget,” said Collins. “We remain on track to complete the project in November 2022 and are pleased to report that current utility rates will not increase despite challenges with project permitting, contracting and land acquisition.”

Last March, at the new plant site, an ancient landslide came to life and began to move once again, when grading work undermined the slope. The slide, here shown as the light brown area above the gray rock, was dozed down and used on site for fill, saving about \$1 million in trucking costs — over 5,000 truck trips — to store it elsewhere. Construction officials said they had no idea where they would have taken all that soil.



Morro Bay Council members from left: Jeff Heller, Marlys McPherson, Mayor John Headding and Dawn Addis pose next to a segment of 6-foot 6-inch diameter (78”), welded steel pipe that will be part of the new plant’s chlorination system to disinfect the unusable wastewater destined to be discharged into the ocean.



Project manager Steve Mimiaga of Mimiaga Engineering Group, points out the different areas of the new plant on a computer rendering attached to one of the construction trailers on site. Mimiaga also oversaw the construction of the Los Osos Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was an “oxidation ditch” type of plant, a completely different design than Morro Bay’s ‘Membrane Bio Reactor’ plant.

City Seeks Biological and Archaeological Bids

By Neil Farrell

The City is taking bids now on environmental and archaeological monitoring during the installation of the conveyance system for its “Water Reclamation Facility” project.

The City out out a request for proposals or RFP on Oct. 8 with a deadline set for Friday, Oct. 30.

The jobs would monitor the excavations for two new lift stations and the 3.5 miles of pipelines needed to send raw sewage out to the new treatment plant and return treated wastewater for both ocean discharge and injection into the aquifer of Morro Creek.

In a job description by City Engineer Rob Livick, “The Conveyance Facilities Project component of the City’s WRF involves constructing multiple pipelines to serve the WRF from the proposed influent lift stations. The pipelines include two parallel sewer force mains, which convey raw sewage by a lift station located at the existing wastewater treatment plant location sourced from the City’s collection system.

“The conveyance facilities also include the treated effluent (brine) disposal line from the WRF to the ocean outfall and a purified water line from the WRF to the injection wells.”

New lift stations are planned for a vacant lot next door to Lemos Ranch Store and at the current treatment plant site.

The Main Street lift station (next to Lemos Ranch) will be dug down some 30 feet and the trench for the pipes will have to be pretty large, considering that recycled water (in so-called “purple pipes”) have to separated from raw sewage pipes.

The conveyance system will run down Quintana Road from Main Street to South Bay Boulevard, a segment that is expected to disrupt traffic flow on one of the City’s main commercial zones for many months.

Biological monitoring is required to ensure no protected species of plants or animals are harmed during the tremendous amount of digging that is required.

“The selection of consultant will be based strictly on qualifications, expertise, and cost effectiveness of the proposed personnel and firm, in that order. The selected firm will provide a qualified biologist to perform the biological monitoring scope of work. Once a final fee is negotiated with the selected Consultant, based

on a mutually agreed upon Scope of Work, the fee will be submitted to the City Manager or Council for approval.”

The main environmental issues with the project are possible taking of habitat for red-legged frogs and tidewater gobies, though the gobies’ critical habitat, in the brackish water of Chorro Creek where fresh and seawater mix is quite a ways from the project area.

With the frogs, the treatment plant site is smack dab in the middle of critical frog habitat, a situation that delayed the start of construction for over 6 months while the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Federal EPA consulted in the matter.

That delay and additional protections that came out of it, cost the City over \$1 million in change orders.

The City is also seeking bids for archeological and paleontological monitoring services for the conveyance portions. Bids for this contract have the same deadline as the biological monitoring.

The contractor will “provide the archeological and paleontological monitoring plan requirements for culturally sensitive areas for the Conveyance Facilities Project that will require monitoring during construction.”

Environmental Sciences Associates wrote the project’s environmental impact report and Far Western, another environmental firm, put together the monitoring plan for this phase of the project.

The archeological and paleontological monitoring will be aided by Native American monitors the City will hire to handle any artifacts that might be unearthed during the digging.

“The Native American Monitors will be required to abide by the “Native American Heritage Commission Guidelines for Native American Monitors/Consultants.”

The hourly rate is \$100 per hour “for routine tribal monitoring activities provided by the all tribes.”

The consultant is being required to hire a representative from the Northern Chumash Tribe, the Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and make them part of the team.



**A TRADITION OF TRUST
ON THE CENTRAL COAST**

TIM COWAN
REALTOR® LIC#02021716
805.459.3818
Tim@BHGREGHaven.com

Award winning Pharmacy and Gift Store

25%
OFF

Any Single Gift Item

Coupon Expires 10-31-2020

805-528-1017

989 Los osos Valley Rd Los Osos,
Mon. - Fri. 9:00-6:00 • Sat. 10:00-5:00

Water Tank Work Progressing



The water tank replacement and system upgrade in Cayucos will add one new 210,000-gallon storage tank and demolish and replace another tank.

Work is moving swiftly on a water tank replacement and system upgrade project in the County's CSA-10A water district in south Cayucos.

John Madonna Const., of San Luis Obispo was awarded a \$1.9 million contract last January over four other bidders.

The project, which is at a hilltop site off Hacienda Avenue, is adding one new 210,000-gallon storage tank, and would demolish and replace another tank, according to Eric Laurie

, the project manager for County Public Works Department. That 60-year-old tank would cost more to repair than replace.

The new tank will help ensure CSA-10A customers have adequate water supplies in emergencies like a big fire, and will increase water storage and service reliability and provide redundancy within the system, according to a report from January.

"The Department of Public Works," Laurie said, "has been developing an infrastructure improvement program for the CSA 10A water system for the past several years. New water storage tanks are one phase of the needed improvements and will address storage deficiencies, improve redundancy and reliability, and

reduce overall system maintenance costs."

Public Works was planning to seek a low interest loan from the Federal Department of Agriculture's Rural Assistance Fund and had borrowed the cash for the job from the County's "Tax Reduction Reserve Fund."

Eventual repayment will come out of water bills of CSA-10 customers, essentially the residential neighborhoods in the southern end of town, some 750 customers.

Completion is slated for November 2020.

Poly Seeks Pandemic Stories from Underrepresented

A group of Cal Poly faculty and staff members have established the Central Coast Public Humanities Collaborative to support storytelling projects that cultivate greater understanding of communities on the Central Coast, especially from those whose voices have not been heard historically.

The team includes Farah Al-Nakib of the History Department; Padma Maitland of the Architecture Department; Steven Ruszczycky of the English Department and the Women's, Gender and Queer Studies Department; Tom Trice of the History Department; and Grace Yeh of the Ethnic Studies Department.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the collaborative focused on gathering and sharing Central Coast residents' stories during the outbreak through its Central Coast COVID-19 Snapshots project. The team invites community members to share their experiences through interviews, online submissions or a collective journaling project to help create a space for communities to process such a significant and world-altering period. Additionally, the team offers community members workshops in which they can learn about resources and receive guidance on ways to document their experiences. Community members can sign up for the journaling project, submit stories and learn more at centralcoastsnapshots.online.

"How people have experienced the last few months with the pandemic, the stay-at-home orders, and the different working conditions is incredibly varied based on race, economic status and where they live," said Yeh, who coordinates the Central Coast

COVID-19 Snapshots project. "There is no singular experience during this time, and we need to be sure that we understand how our underrepresented and marginalized communities have been affected."

Looking forward, the team hopes to lay the foundation for a stronger culture of collaboration within the humanities at Cal Poly, with other academic fields at the university, and with the community at large. The team is also collaborating with the Kennedy Library's Special Collections and Archives and Creative Works. Through work with students and community researchers and storytellers, who will be trained to share their practices with their fellow community members, the collaborative will ensure that their work is done "with" rather than "to" the groups that they serve.

"As the Central Coast has become more well-known over the years, we have been lax in sharing the experiences and voices of individuals from historically marginalized communities," said Renee Reijo Pera, Cal Poly's vice president for Research and Economic Development. "Amplifying these voices is central to our efforts to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive community that reflects and serves the diverse people of California."

The project is funded through Cal Poly's Strategic Research Initiatives (SRI) program, a partnership involving Academic Affairs, Research and Economic Development and University Development. The SRI program identified proposals from Cal Poly faculty and staff that addressed problems facing the Central Coast, California and the world as a whole that also placed an emphasis on the role of undergraduate and graduate student research experiences.

For more information about the SRI program, visit <https://research.calpoly.edu/strategic-research-initiatives>.



Betty Winholtz for Morro Bay City Council



**Who is watching out for our money
and our neighborhoods?**

Not the current City Council!

– \$\$\$ –

- The Council raised the Guaranteed Maximum Price on the sewer plant.
- The Council balanced the budget on emergency reserve funds.
- The Council asks us to raise taxes to cover their spending, rather than cutback on consultants.

– Neighborhoods –

- The new vacation rental ordinance doesn't take effect for 3 years.
- Allows secondary units to be used as vacation rentals in spite of a housing shortage
- Vacation Rental Enforcement is ineffective.

**Vote for Morro Bay.
Vote for Betty.**

As a 34 year resident and former MB city council member, I will steer the city in a better financial direction, advocating for our neighborhoods and First Responders.

WIN WITH WINHOLTZ

Pail for by winholtz for city council 2020

Community

Events and Activities

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

The Morro Bay Rotary Club is holding a real ducky of a fundraiser and fun-loving folks can enter now to win fabulous cash prizes.

The First Ever Morro Bay Ducky Derby is set for Sunday, Nov. 15 in the harbor and while Coronavirus restrictions prevent the club from having a big party for the festivities, people are encouraged to waddle down to their favorite waterfront eatery to watch the floating procession.

It costs \$10 to sponsor a rubber duck and enter the competition, which entails all the ducks being let loose at 8 a.m. at Coleman Beach (presumably on an incoming tide) to race (float?) up the channel to a finish line at Tideland Park.

The winning duck gets \$300 cash, second place gets \$200 and third gets \$100. Proceeds support the Rotary Club's "Help Us Help Others," campaign that focuses on providing funding to local organizations who are "enhancing health, safety and education in our community during these trying times," reads the event flyer.

See: www.morrobayrotary.org for information on how to sponsor a duck and remember, the more ducks you sponsor the



better your chances are to win and not quack up.

The Morro Bay Art Association presents The Annual Winter Faire & Juried Craft Show, featuring some of the finest artworks on the Central Coast November 5 through January 3,

2021 at the Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main Street. This special holiday event offers a collective of exceptional paintings, photography and fine crafts, spanning a variety of artistic mediums from traditional to contemporary. Crafts include fiber, wood, glass, sculpture, pottery, jewelry and more.

For more information, go to www.artcentermorrobay.org or contact 805-772-2504.

...

Cambria Center for the Arts fall juried exhibit will be held in their virtual gallery November 7 – January 3 and will include only paintings. The juror for this exhibit is Elizabeth "Libby" Tolley who is an American painter known for her plein air and studio paintings of rural and coastal California. She is the author of "Oil Painter's Solution Book: Landscapes" and her paintings are included in numerous books and publications. She is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America, the Laguna Plein Air Painters and the National Watercolor Society and is an elected artist member of the California Art Club.

The entry fee for CCA members is \$15 per piece and non-members \$25 per piece. All proceeds from the take-in fees will go toward the juried awards. The online entry form with

Events and Activities Continued on page 12

Morro Bay's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and San Diego's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (PLWTP) have a lot in common.

1. Both plants discharge their treated effluent to the open ocean.
2. Annual monitoring reports for both plants show that their effluents do no harm whatsoever to their respective marine environments.
3. Both plants discharge more total suspended solids (TSS) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) than is allowed under current EPA standards for secondary treatment.
4. Both plants expect to reduce their TSS and BOD discharges through reduction of the amount of wastewater processed. The PLWTP's inflows will be reduced on implementation of the Pure Water San Diego program. Morro Bay's inflows will be reduced when the new Cayucos plant starts running.

Now for the differences:

1. The PLWTP discharges a LOT more TSS and BOD than the Morro Bay plant. According to the most recent monitoring reports online, in 2017, the PLWTP discharged a total of 7,112,000 kg of TSS and 23,834,000 kg of BOD. In 2019, the Morro Bay WWTP discharged 46,000 kg of TSS and 75,000 kg of BOD.
2. The PLWTP's average concentrations are higher too – 37 mg/liter of TSS, versus 30.1 mg/liter for Morro Bay, and 124 mg/liter of BOD versus Morro Bay's 49.8 mg/liter.
3. The PLWTP operators object to making the plant modifications necessary to meet current EPA standards because it would be so expensive – a whopping \$1,800,000,000. Morro Bay residents are upset about their costs too, with the current estimate to build the WRF at \$130,000,000.
4. In 2017, the PLWTP got a waiver that will allow it to continue to discharge significantly more TSS and BOD than allowed by EPA standards – understandable, since science long ago established the fact that discharges of BOD and TSS to the open ocean are essentially harmless. Yet in 2018, Morro Bay found itself under a Water Board Time Schedule Order requiring it to build a new plant to bring its TSS and BOD under the EPA limits by February 28, 2023 - or face huge fines.

What's wrong with this picture? Plenty. Morro Bay's plant discharges radically-lower amounts of TSS and BOD, but Morro Bay is being threatened by its Regional Water Quality Control Board while the Point Loma plant operators are not. That's bad, but here is something just as disturbing if not more so.

The PLWTP serves about 2,200,000 residents. Making the \$1,800,000,000 changes to achieve full secondary treatment would cost \$818.18 per resident. Morro Bay's \$130,000,000 WRF will serve just 10,577 residents, putting its cost at \$12,290.82 per resident. So, Morro Bay residents would be expected to pay 15 times as much per resident to achieve adherence to a standard that science has shown to be meaningless for open ocean discharges. Meanwhile, its San Diego neighbors get a pass – even though the PLWTP discharges exceed standards by far more than those of the Morro Bay WWTP.

Oh, but with the WRF you will get "water independence", right? Wrong. A recent Estero Bay News article, "City Gives up on Desalination", confirmed that won't happen. State water will be the City's primary source of drinking water for the foreseeable future. Surely this outrage could not stand up in court. Morro Bay residents, stand up and be counted. Demand that your city government get a good lawyer to deal with the Water Board, and put a stop to the madness known as the WRF project.

Sources:

- **City of Morro Bay Offshore Monitoring and Reporting Program 2019 Annual Report**
www.morro-bay.ca.us/Archive.asp?AMID=53&Type=Recent
- **Annual Reports and Summary, Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant & Ocean Outfall**
www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2017_point_loma_annual_reports.pdf
- **Notice of Decision and Technical Decision Document: City of San Diego, E.W. Blom Point Loma Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant and Ocean Outfall**
www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-08/documents/ca0107409-point_loma_301h_decision_and_tdd_2017-08-04.pdf
- **California Regional Water Quality Control Board Time Schedule Order No. R3-2018-0019**
www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2018/06272018_NPDES_final_TSO_R3_2018_0019.pdf
- **Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Equivalency**
www.sandiego.gov/water/pdf/purewater/2014/ptlomafactsheet.pdf
- **Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant** [www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/customer-service/water-wastewater-facilities/point-loma#:~:text=Opened%20in%201963%2C%20the%20Point,gallons%20per%20day%20\(mgd\)](http://www.sandiego.gov/public-utilities/customer-service/water-wastewater-facilities/point-loma#:~:text=Opened%20in%201963%2C%20the%20Point,gallons%20per%20day%20(mgd))

Paid Advertising

Community

Events and Activities From page 11

online payment will be available from October 30-November 2. Forms and requirements are available at cambriacenterforhearts.org.

...

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, Cuesta College will hold a Día de Muertos Virtual Celebration on October 30 at 5:00 p.m.

The Day of the Dead (el Día de los Muertos) is a Mexican holiday where families welcome back their deceased relatives' souls for a brief reunion that includes food, drink, and celebration. This virtual event consists of a cultural appropriation discussion facilitated by MEChA Advisor Janet Flores. Other activities include the game Lotería, making tissue flowers, and painting sugar skulls. Participants may pick up Día de Muertos kits before the event at distributions on both the San Luis Obispo and North County campuses.

To attend and claim your Día de Muertos kit, sign up using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/120493785155>

...

The Rotary Club of Los Osos invites everyone to an Oktoberfest German Sausage Drive-Thru Dinner Saturday October 24th 4-6 p.m. in the Trinity United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 490 Los Osos Valley Road (Pine Street entrance) in Los Osos. Dinner includes: 1/4lb German sausage on a roll, German style potato salad, coleslaw and chocolate chip cookies. The cost is \$10 and COVID-19 precautions will be observed. To purchase tickets, go to LosOsosRotary.org.

...

Morro Bay 4H is kicking off their 2020 – 2021 membership year, now open for kids ages 5 to 19 years old. They are currently hosting virtual meetings with some in person project meetings that follow COVID guidelines.

Morro Bay 4H is offering the following projects: Large Animal Projects (beef, swine, sheep, goat), poultry, rocketry, baking, food preservation, gardening and leadership.

The next general meeting will be virtual on November 3 at 7 p.m. Contact the SLO County 4H Department, for more information at (805)781-5943.

Send your event listing at least two weeks in advance to Editor@EsteroBayNews.com. Make sure to include the who, what, why, where and when of the event and contact information. Please, type out in paragraph form rather than attaching flyers.

Longtime Los Osos Business Owner Gets New Heart

By Theresa-Marie Wilson

Gary Stalter, a longtime resident and business owner in Los Osos, is recovering after a heart transplant at UCLA Medical Center.

In late August, Gary and his wife of 30 years, Cathy Stalter, received devastating news — without a new heart, he would not survive until the end of the year.

This was after Gary had already undergone multiple procedures including mitral valve surgery to correct the problem. Doctors said that they were out of other options, all of this in the midst of a pandemic.

The couple, who owned the Copy Spot & More in Los Osos for more than three decades, had to close their business, despite it being considered essential, and move to be closer to UCLA.

"COVID was putting a strain on the business," Cathy said. "It was scary to continue [being open] because we knew Gary was becoming fragile with his new diagnosis of congestive heart failure on top of other heart conditions."

For awhile, Cathy ran the business through a window onto the sidewalk

"Staying protective for Gary's sake was my high priority."

One month after his evaluation and subsequent admittance into the ICU ward at UCLA, the transplant team told Gary that there was a possible match for him. Someone with 0 positive blood had donated their heart.

The family doesn't have any information other than that the donor was 21-years-old.

"We are so sorry for the family that lost their beautiful baby, but we are so thankful that they are trusting Gary to keep this new heart safe," said Shawn Ison, Gary and Cathy's daughter-in-law.

Within 12 hours after the surgery, Gary was taken off of the



Gary Stalter of Los Osos recently underwent a life-saving heart transplant at UCLA Medical Center.

ventilator, within 24 hours, he was off of oxygen, wide-awake and taking walks in the hospital halls.

Cathy said he is very motivated to return home and see his very missed dog, Willow, who had been by his side knowing something was wrong with him.

"I'd like to thank my SLO family of friends and business associates for all your support during this time," said Cathy "Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be living in LA. However, this very emotional roller coaster will come to the end in a few months. We have a new family of surgeons and nurses who have done a fantastic job. They certainly are our super heroes of today."

For now, Cathy will continue living in an efficiency apartment to be near the "love of her life," but they are ready to return as soon as the critical transplant coordinator gives them the okay. For at least the next few months, they will likely have to remain in the LA area for outpatient treatment.

"Soon we will enjoy our home again and get to enjoy retirement," Cathy said.

The Stalter family has launched a GoFundMe.com with a goal of raising \$50,000 to cover medical expenses.

NOW OPEN

GET A 1¢ PREROLL WITH 1ST \$25+ PURCHASE

FINDING RELIEF TOGETHER

CHYLA

BUDTENDER / CREATIVE FORCE

— CANNABIS DISPENSARY —

1000 QUINTANA RD

MORRO BAY

PERFECT-UNION.COM

C10-0000749-LIC

Community

Halloween Spirit is Alive in Los Osos

By Theresa-Marie Wilson • Photos By Dean Sullivan



The pandemic may have dampened some of the traditional Halloween festivities many look forward to every year, but denizens of the afterlife are lurking about and ready to mingle with the living at Bill and Sue McMillian's house on the corner of Pine and Binscarth in Los Osos.

The daring are invited to enter the couple's front yard through the archway and checkout the gruesome creatures waiting their arrival. There is a graveyard that Samara from the movie "The Ring" haunts, skeletal remains of all kinds of undesirable beings, empty eyed, soulless dolls, a zombie bride waiting for her mate, a sewer with more problems than even locals can relate to and a scene from "It" featuring Pennywise the clown and his signature red balloons.

"It just kind of morphed into this big project," said Sue, the mastermind behind the creepy display and creator of many of the props. "It started with a little skeleton on the front door, and then, over the years, we did a little bit more. You know, it's fun to just get out here, put on little music and see it all come together."

Sue, a registered nurse, is a big fan of Halloween and this year, between her husband retiring when the pandemic hit and her being off due to a fractured wrist, they had more time to dedicate to the ghoulish hobby.

"We started it in August," Sue said. "It takes quite a long time. I have a lot more dolls, but I'm not going to put them all out. I just pick and choose and try to dream up something."

Those dreams would probably be nightmares for most of us, but it is all in good fun. Younger children enjoy it more in the daylight when the fright level isn't as high and adults get a kick

out of seeing it come to life at night.

"People come by and they see it developing over weeks and weeks," Sue said. "I think it's fantastic. You know, it makes you feel good about all the work. People really appreciate it, especially this year they said 'thank you' for putting it up, and they're really happy."

On Friday and Saturday nights the McMillians will also project some ghostly images to make the scene display even more fun.



Teenagers Take Over the Beach

By Jill Turnbow



Elephant seals taking a rest north of San Simeon on Highway 1. Photos by Stephen Beck

This time of year the teenage, or juvenile, elephant seals take over the Elephant Seal Vista Point north of San Simeon on Highway 1. It's called the "Fall Haul-Out" when the younger seals take a rest from traveling and feeding up north.

Twice a year the seals will rest on the beaches of the Central Coast, either for hauling out and molting or molting and breeding. The juveniles you see this time of year are too young for breeding but will spend about a month resting and sparring with other seals. The sparring, which can sometimes look pretty rough, is merely practice for becoming an alpha male in the future. The female seals tend to just take a break and rest, clearly annoyed with the sparring, which is evident if you watch them long enough. They have spent months at sea, traveling as far as Alaska to feed before returning for some R & R.

Studies are inconclusive as to why they tend to return to the same beach year after year or why they haul out at all. Some believe it is to rehearse for the fasting they will be doing later in life when they return for mating season. What has been noted is that the juveniles tend to gain bone mass that is lost during the 10 months of deep diving. They leave the beach much stronger and able to once again travel north to feed for several months. Mid-November is typically when the large alpha males start arriving, sending the juveniles back to the water.

Since the time of Covid-19 began, there have been a few changes on the beach. Docents are no longer present to engage with the visitors. Many of the Friends of the Elephant Seal volunteers are not allowed at the viewing site due to the State Park mandates. The organization's secretary, Stephen Beck, says "many of our volunteers are in a vulnerable age group and it is just not safe at this time to greet the visitors. But there are a few that go out a couple of times during the day to replenish newsletters and pick up trash."

They really haven't seen a big drop in guests who visit the viewing area, perhaps only in foreign visitors, according to Beck.

"The weekends are still pretty busy," he said. "Fortunately, we see most people wearing masks and social distancing. Certainly not all, but most. And most visitors have been respectful of the

Teenagers Continued on page 14

You're Retired. Your Money Isn't.

To learn why consolidating your retirement accounts to Edward Jones makes sense, call my office today.

Cayucos

Scott McManus,
AAMS®, CFP®
Financial Advisor

241 S. Ocean Ave.
Cayucos, CA 93430
(805) 995-2110

Los Osos

Deanna Richards, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

1236 LOVR, Suite J
Los Osos, CA 93402
(805) 534-1070

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC

Morro Bay

Nelson Pampiona
Financial Advisor

501 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-6188

Jennifer L. Redman
Financial Advisor

1085 Kennedy Way
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 772-7938

CALL
PETER STARLINGS
FOR ALL OF YOUR
REAL ESTATE NEEDS
(805) 235-8424

Over 40 years serving the Central Coast!

PETER STARLINGS

Office - (805) 528-1133 ext. 135
Fax - (805) 528-5620
peterstarlings@yahoo.com
www.Bayososbrokers.com
BRE# 00692586

BAY OSOS BROS

1330 Van Beurden Drive Ste 101 • Los Osos



wildlife. Since we as docents can't be there, the State Park Rangers have increased their patrolling of the vista points, which helps." Many of the volunteers for the Friends of the Elephant Seals have found other ways to be of service while staying safe. The website is being updated and several members have become Trail Stewards. This group maintains the new northern trail that goes past the lighthouse, trimming bushes and clearing walkways to make it safer and to maintain the views.

For more information, visit elephantseal.org



Reggie Whibley, who died in August, was a 'man's man' according to his friends and a truly unique individual, evidenced by this antique airplane he fixed up as a guest cottage at a treehouse he built at Lopez Lake. Submitted photo

"He built the Pismo Pier," Tutt said. "That's the job that really got him started." In the next several years Associated Pacific rebuilt the Morro Bay T-pier, and the footbridge in Mission Plaza SLO that crosses San Luis Creek, among numerous other projects. Martin Lomeli was friends with Reg for about 25 years, first meeting him when Lomeli was working for the County and catching up again about 4 years ago when Lomeli retired from government work and moved permanently to Morro Bay. "He was a character," Lomeli said of his old friend. "He was a man's man who loved to hunt and fish and loved to tell stories." Like many men of the sea he didn't always impress everyone. He was opinionated and strong-willed, Lomeli said, and "You either loved Reg or hated him." Lomeli explained that Reg was widely read and very talented. "He was one of the smartest guys I've ever met." Reg graduated from Ventura College and served 2 years in an Army M.A.S.H. unit. He attended Cal Poly and majored in industrial arts graduating in 1970. He became a teacher at Morro Bay high school, where he shared his love of woodworking and art, and where he touched many young lives. He and two partners started Associated Pacific in 1972 as a marine salvage and construction business. Associated Divers later became Associated Pacific and the

company built docks, piers, marinas and more up and down the Pacific Coast. He dropped the first moorings in Morro Bay Harbor and was instrumental in the overall development of the State Park Marina, including taking what was a hot dog stand and turning it into what became The Bayside Café under owner Dawn Borst in 1987. And in 1993, he built a beautiful, art deco façade onto an old Quonset hut at Associated's yard on Main Street. Reg held the lease on the marina for many years, and battled with the State Parks Department over making extensive repairs to the marina's floats and pilings. He and his partners built Associated Pacific's headquarters on the Embarcadero in 1975 and he later bought out his partners and the business became Associated Pacific Constructors. Reg's true talent involved woodworking and he could reclaim, repurpose, and revive anything. Among his proudest accomplishments was the Treehouse, up near Lopez Lake, which Reg and wife Judy built and furnished. But perhaps the most unique thing about the Treehouse, was its guest room. Another of Reg's friends, Scott Mather said, "What do you do when your tree house needs another bedroom? You buy an antique military plane — a Beechcraft C45 — and fit it out as a bedroom. Reggie always thought outside the box!" He had a knack for living life to its fullest, something Tutt could attest to. Tutt, who was starting his own tree service at

Morro Bay,

Vote NO on Measure E-20



There is **NO** guarantee the Sales Tax Increase benefits First Responders (The Sales Tax Increase goes into the General Fund, **NOT** a fund designated for First Responders).

This is a permanent Sales Tax Increase (There is **NO** Sunset Clause even though advertising touts the Sales Tax Increase is an emergency response for COVID-19 impacts).

Everyone pays this regressive Sales Tax Increase (**NOT** just the tourists; locals will pay the Sales Tax Increase daily long after our visitors go home).

We need:

- **CONCRETE CHANGES** that make our city financially strong, **NOT** just Temporary reductions, and elimination of part time (umpires, coaches, etc) and previously unfilled positions.
- **STRICT SPENDING RULES** that keep the City within budget, **NOT** expensive consultants for lofty projects.
- **A BETTER ALTERNATIVE** to a sales tax increase is requiring our city manager to cut the overall General Fund budget by 10%, in addition to cuts already made.

A better, long term plan will provide a long term fix to the City's economic woes and preserve our First Responders.

Paid for by Citizens for Affordable Living (CAL)

Community

about that same time, said, "I will always remember that I never saw the guy get mad. He always had a smile on his face."

An outdoorsman, Reg fished the Pacific on his boat and hunted on property he owned in Monterey County. He was an advocate for the health of the ocean and the land; and was a major sponsor of the Black Brandt Group, which advocates for duck and goose hunting in the Back Bay.

He was once honored as the group's "Sportsman of the Year." He collected vintage cars and hung out with the "Rock Car Group" on their regular Saturday morning, mini, car shows in the Front Street parking lot.

He will also be remembered for 4th of July fireworks shows he would put on from the Associated Pacific yard, after the public fireworks show ended; and for the canon he would blast off, which Tutt recalled as being extremely loud.

His custom built tables, chairs and furniture for his friends and carved elaborate gunstocks for his rifles. Nathan Duty, a life-long school friend in Ventura, recalled in a posting on Reg's obit, "Reggie was extremely skilled at woodworking. I was with him at a gun shop on The Avenue, we were both in ninth grade I think, and he picked up a walnut, rough-cut stock blank and just by looking at it he could see the finished product. He bought it and an old Martin single shot rifle and about a month later, had one of the most beautiful rifle stocks I have ever seen to this day, on one of the dumbest rifles ever."

Former student, Steve Cadenasso said that in 1976, "he came up with the cardboard boat race in the MBHS pool. It was crazy fun and almost ruined the filter system, LOL."

And, Judd Conley wrote, "I was very blessed to have crossed his life. I will not forget all the smiles and the times we had together. I'm positive I will see him in Heaven."

Another friend, Dawnita Fields wrote, "Morro Bay has lost a true treasure, a kind honest true gentleman; always had a smile; a true friend to everyone. I was lucky to have him as a teacher at MBHS and a friend for life. Reggie is a legend in our town; he will be missed. He is truly loved. I am so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to you. RIP Mr. Whibley."

In sum, "With a glass of Jim Beam in hand," reads his obituary, "his loving wife Judy and cat Tony by his side, he always had a tale to tell about his many adventures throughout the world, and his escapades in Morro Bay."

"A craftsman, designer, diver, instigator and true original, he will be sorely missed by those who were fortunate enough to have crossed his path."

Letters To The Editor



Experience Counts, Vote Barton

Laurel Barton is someone who gets involved in her community and takes on responsible roles. As someone who has worked many years in administration, city planning and grant writing for the Cities of Visalia and Tulare, Laurel understands the complexities of city governments and how to get things done. She supports completing the WRF plant and the passage of Measure E-20.

In her work as an experienced grant writer, Laurel successfully secured several million dollars' worth of grants. In the context of planning, Laurel sees the Hwy41, Hwy 1 interchange as confusing (which way to turn to go downtown or to the beach), bland and tourist unfriendly. In the spirit of encouraging new and more tourists to visit MB, she would like to work on receiving grants to help fund the new design and be a part of making it user friendly.

Let's elect someone that can help Morro Bay become "the best it can be." Elect Laurel Barton for Morro Bay City Council!
*Susan Heinemann
Morro Bay*

No More Roundabouts

I think having a traffic circle in the form of a roundabout would not be so safe on California state route 41, Atascadero Road at Main Street. I'd rather see a traffic signal placed in that intersection. It is too dangerous for pedestrian traffic to cross over, just like the roundabout at Quintana Road and Morro Bay Boulevard

off of California State route 1, the Cabrillo Highway.

It kind of reminds me of the time that cloverleaf interchanges are no longer popular in the United States, and in California too, on freeways such as the removed cloverleaf interchange at the Santa Ana Freeway and the Costa Mesa Freeway, (Interstate 5, old U.S. 101 and California state route 55). I prefer the four level interchange for freeway-to-freeway interchange such as the inverted four level interchange on the San Bernardino Freeway, Interstate 10 (old U.S. 70 and 99) and the Ontario Freeway, Interstate 15.

In closing I avoid the roundabout if necessary when I am doing my errands on a weekly basis in Morro Bay. I don't think that they are popular to most Americans.

*Scott C. Presnal
Morro Bay*

False advertising for Measure E-20 in Morro Bay

As a 20-year resident, I was shocked to receive an election mailer sent by Morro Bay. One side gave generic voting information; the other was shameless self-promotion for the city's Measure E-20.

The mailer touts the benefits of the increased revenue, but never mentions how they get that revenue: It's a sales tax—and they never say that! It talks about the importance of local police and fire, but never mentions that nothing in the measure assures the money is spent on public safety (it goes into the general fund).

They talk about ensuring that visitors "pay their fare share," making it seem like an occupancy or tourism tax, but it's not. We residents will be paying it on our purchases every single day, long after the visitors go home. It's a sure sign of how much the city is trying to hide when a mailing piece paid for with our dollars skirts the truth. Vote NO on Measure E-20.

*David Weisman
Morro Bay*



VOTE:

RICHARD SADOWSKI

FOR CITY COUNCIL

Paid for by Sadowski For Council 2020

The Right Person at the Right Time. Let's Get It Right!

Experience That Counts:

- Former Planning Commissioner... a General Plan for your future
- Water Reclamation Facility Citizen Advisory Committee—I understand the water issues.
- Mechanical Engineer/Sewer Collection Operation—I have the knowledge we need NOW.
- Central Coast Business Owner—Let's support local business by cutting expenses.
- Environmental Project Leader—I will lead the City in protecting our natural beauty!

On the Issues That Matter:

- No on E-20! We don't need higher taxes. We can stop wasteful spending on consultants and tighten the belt.
- Yes, clean, affordable drinking water at reasonable cost.
- We can support local Police & Fire without taxing more.

Visit: www.SadowskiForCouncil.org • [www.youtube.com/results?Search: Richard E.T.Sadowski](http://www.youtube.com/results?Search:Richard+E.T.Sadowski)

For a Healthier Community and a Brighter Future!

Paid for by Citizens for Sadowski for City Council - FPPC# 1430595

Letters

Measure E-20 is the Right Choice for Morro Bay

On November 3, Morro Bay voters will choose whether to increase the City's local sales tax by one cent on the dollar, providing funding to maintain 24/7 emergency public safety services and needed maintenance and infrastructure projects, or to make service cuts to address budget deficits.

We strongly encourage Morro Bay voters to say YES on Measure E-20.

The demand for city services is growing, but City resources to provide those services are not. Morro Bay has faced budget challenges since the Great Recession and the Morro Bay Power Plant closure. The pandemic made the problem much worse; projections show a potential loss of \$2-3M in general fund revenues this fiscal year.

The City addressed its budget challenges over the past 10 years by reducing staff 11% and limiting City expenditure growth to ½ percent per year, far below the rate of inflation. Meanwhile, calls for service to the fire and police departments have increased.

To balance the FY2020/21 budget, 78 full- and part-time employees were laid off, employees took salary reductions of 5% to 8%, the City Attorney's Office cut its fees, and emergency reserve funds will make up the difference (\$1M). All while maintaining fire/police service levels.

Opponents argue the City can cut expenditures by an additional 10% without impacting first responder/emergency services. This is simply untrue.

Any further cuts must include police and fire because they account for almost half of the budget. Both departments are staffed with the minimum needed for 24/7 coverage. The City cannot maintain current service levels if Measure E-20 does not pass.

In a recent community survey, Morro Bay residents said their highest priority is maintaining locally controlled 24/7 emergency services, including 911, paramedic, police, and fire protection.

Measure E-20 is projected to raise approximately \$2M in revenue annually. It will pay for the services residents say they want: Maintaining 24/7 emergency response, including police, fire and paramedic services.

Keeping our public areas safe and clean.

Infrastructure improvements, such as public restrooms, street repaving, maintenance, and capital projects.

Ensuring the financial stability of Morro Bay so it remains a full-service city.

Visitors pay 70% of the sales tax; voting "Yes" means they will help pay for using the City's services, roads and beaches. There is no sales tax on basic household needs such as groceries and prescription medications.

All the money raised will be spent in Morro Bay. Isn't it worth a penny more on a dollar purchase to help our community recover from the pandemic? We hope our community recognizes the need to invest in ourselves.

Measure E-20 ensures that the additional revenue pays for the services residents say are priorities. The citizens committee overseeing Measure Q will guarantee transparency and accountability. If voters believe the City Council is not spending the money wisely, they can repeal Measure E-20.

Morro Bay residents love our City. With investment, we can grow into a safer, more vibrant and economically competitive city. We urge you to vote Yes on E-20.

Tim Cowan, Jen Ford, Stephen Peck, and Barbara Spagnola

The authors represent the Committee for Sales Tax Measure E-20. For more information, visit the Committee's website at morrobayyesone.com.

Tim Cowan is a local realtor and owner of The Pizza Port. Jen Ford is a co-founder of the Women's March and co-owner of Rock Harbor Marketing. Stephen Peck is owner of Peck Planning and Development and Chair of the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce Board. Barbara Spagnola is a retired technology executive and a member of Morro Bay's Measure Q Oversight Committee.

Thank You Jen Callaway

I want to recognize Morro Bay City's Finance Director Jen Callaway, who is leaving the City October 23 to take a City Manager position in Truckee. Jen's leaving is our loss and their gain.

Under Jen and City Manager Scott Collins, the City has followed a prudent and strategically smart plan to shore up our finances during a very difficult period. They built our reserve funds above the recommended level, which put us in a better position to weather the financial storm caused by COVID-19.

When the COVID storm descended, the City was prepared with a financial plan to cut costs immediately. Alone among cities in the county, Morro Bay staff including Jen took a cut in pay.

Part time staff were laid off and some services were paused or cut without losing our 24/7 locally-controlled public safety and emergency medical services.

During Jen's tenure, the finance division won the Government Finance Officers Association Award for Excellence two years in a row for its solid strategy and performance. She also set up the Open Gov portal, which makes the City's finances transparent and easily accessed online.

I hope that Morro Bay Measure E-20 to increase the sales tax by 1% passes so the next finance director will not have to continue cutting services, including police and fire. But I know that whatever happens, our financial house is prepared as well as it can be thanks to Jen and Scott.

*Glenn Silloway
Morro Bay*

Laptop Drive From page 1

of Adult Education Programs for San Luis Coastal Adult School. "The laptops provided will allow our students to access their education online."

According to a PEW research survey, one-in-four lower-income teens do not have access to a home computer — rent, utilities and food bills deplete most of the family income.

"The concept of the classroom has been upended with COVID where everything has transitioned to distance learning," said Hammons. "This combination has put tremendous strain on the existing education system. San Luis Coastal Unified School District has done a great job in meeting these demands; we are just looking to augment what they have done and fill some of the gaps. Ultimately, post-COVID, it is not clear what the classroom will look like. What is clear is that with the current successes we're witnessing with online learning, the classroom will most likely continue to have a heavy technology component even when the classrooms open back up."

With parents working from home and siblings all having a deadline of some sort, screen time can even be a struggle for families that can afford only one household computer or device.

"The California Masons started a focus one hundred years ago specifically around helping to fill the gap seen in public education resources," said Andrew Brown, master of King David's Masonic Lodge #209. "It was designed to renew the dedication of the citizens of California to the continuation and improvement of our system of free public schools."

- **Maintain locally-controlled 24/7 Police, Fire and Emergency Medical services**
- **Restore financial stability to City finances lost due to COVID-19**
- **Fund maintenance to keep our beaches and public areas clean**
- **Restore funding to infrastructure like paving**
- **Fund capital projects in our Harbor**

Failing to pass Measure E will force cuts in 24/7 Emergency services.

ENDORSED BY

Homer & Dede Alexander
Mike Baird
Louise & Thad Baxley
Dawn Beattie
Dianne Bianco
Bill Bowes
Kasey Collins
Tim Cowan
Pat & Orris Cowgill
Robert "Red" Davis
Norma Dengler
Jeff Eckles
Carol Ferioli-Moe

Linda Fidell
Travis & Jen Ford
Betty Forsythe
Wendy & Keith George
Jan Goldman
Janet Gould
John Headding
Jane Heath
Bob & Maggie Higgins
Jamie & Monica Irons
Christine & Lee Johnson
Jeff Jones
Dave Keeling

Bob Keller
Rob Kitzman
Valerie Levulett
Marty & Roni Lomeli
Bill & Dee Luffee
Matt & Diana Makowetski
Marlys McPherson
Lynda Merrill
Hemant Patel
Steve Peck
David & Peggy Rodgers

Larry Rosen & Karen Schwartzman
Glenn Silloway
Barbara Spagnola
Susan Stewart
Bob & Carol Swain
Rosalie Valvo
Paul Van Beurden
Ken Vesterfelt
June Wallenstein
Tom & Judy Walters



Paid for by the Committee for Morro Bay Sales Tax Measure E-20 FPPC# 1431531. No City Funds were used for this advertisement.

Community

The good news is that through the success of the drive that only started October 15, Masons have already been able to give laptops to meet urgent requests.

While researching the local need, King David's Lodge realized that the digital divide impacts more than students. During this time of coronavirus restrictions and shelter at home orders, domestic violence is on the rise affecting mostly women, many of whom are single mothers. As they leave abusive relationships to start a new life, computers are vital finding work, remote learning and keeping up with legal documents.

Confident that they will exceed the school district's needs and that some donated laptops will not meet the required specifications, the Masons will donate excess computers to Stand Strong, formerly the Women's Shelter Program.

"Many of our clients have had their access severely curtailed or controlled by their abusers, or not had access at all to online learning tools, banking and financial literacy, rental searches, tele-health, tele-counseling, job searches and applications, etc," said Sandra Gresham, Stand Strong's director of development and communications. "And now, with remote learning for school children, if they have a computer and wifi access at all, its use is necessarily ceded to their students. Having these laptops from the Masons will allow our survivors and their children to move forward in important ways that are not possible without this equipment."

Stand Strong has also partnered with Peak Wi-Fi, who has installed wifi in some of their Transitional Housing units.

How to Help

- Laptops must be in good working condition and Windows 10 compliant, at least 8gb RAM, WIFI capable, and intact power cord.

- Remove all personal data before donating
- To schedule a pickup of your used laptop, call: Greg Schlitz: (805) 434-8105 or Michael Luth: (805) 674-6381 (North SLO County & San Luis Obispo city), or email: kf6pbl@hotmail.com (George Brown, King David's Lodge Secretary).

Laptops can be dropped off at Sunshine Health Foods Morro Bay and Central Coast Surfboards or Café Roma in San Luis



Andrew Brown, King David's Lodge Master hands a laptop to Jennifer Adams, Interim Executive Director of Stand Strong.

Obispo.

"While we will accept cash donations instead of physical laptop donations, we are trying to push for actual laptops because this also supports the broader SLO County sustainability goal of reuse," said Hammons.

That said, to make a monetary donation, go to: <https://www.slcef.org/heroes> and click on the "Support School Closure Impact Fund" button at the bottom and follow the instructions for a cash or credit card donation or send a check payable to "San Luis Coastal Education Foundation" with a note in the memo line for "Impact Fund" or "Laptop Drive" to 1500 Lizzie Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

The Masons of King David's Lodge # 209 also gives out multiple scholarships to students throughout SLO County every year as well as donates to arts and assisted living programs. To find out more about them, go to sломansons.com.

Are the villagers with the torches and pitchforks gone yet?



Follow Cat Noir CC on Facebook for daily photos and read the blog at CatNoirCC.com.
Every Color Deserves a Forever Home

VIRTUAL TUTORING & Career Consulting



Mr. J.P. Drayer

805 995-1587

johnpauldrayer@icloud.com

WE DO DRYER VENT CLEANING!



Morro Bay Appliance

805-772-2755

Sales - New & Reconditioned

Service & Repairs On All Major Brands

**Freezers • Refrigerators • Washers • Dryers • Microwaves
Dishwashers • Ranges • Cooktops • Wall Ovens • Hoods**

**Serving Los Osos, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria & San Simeon Since 1971
935 Main Street, Morro Bay**

PCM PACIFIC CAPITAL MORTGAGE

805-528-5353

www.pacificcapital.biz

1352 Los Osos Valley Rd., Ste - C
Los Osos
Across from Ralph's



Pac Cap Mortgage, Inc dba - Pacific Capital Mortgage
NMLS #273846
Ca Bureau of Real Estate License #01195922



Laurel THE FUTURE OF MORRO BAY
Barton
FOR CITY COUNCIL

ELECT LAUREL ON NOVEMBER 3 FOR MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL

Put Experience on the Morro Bay Council

The City must balance its budget and still pursue its important policy goals

35 YEAR CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, INCLUDING PROJECT DESIGN, GRANT WRITING AND SERVICE AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

FOUR YEARS ON THE VISALIA CITY COUNCIL

EXPERIENCE IN DECISION-MAKING ON BIG PROJECTS



SUPPORTS MEASURE E TO KEEP MORRO BAY A LOCALLY CONTROLLED CITY WITH 24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICES

TWO YEARS SERVICE ON THE VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD

Laurel4MorroBay.com

Contact: laurel4morrobay@gmail.com or (559) 679-6133
Paid for by Laurel Barton for City Council 2020



It is believed that this marks the first time in its over 50-year history that the City has used eminent domain; a change in a long-standing policy of seeking "willing sellers" when it needs property for a public project.

The WRF project, at \$130 million is by far the biggest public works project the City has ever undertaken.

Such cases involve an agency paying fair market value for the taking of private property, in this case in the form of easements.

The City hired real estate appraiser, Todd Murphy, an owner of the firm, Schenberger, Taylor, McCormick & Jecker of San Luis Obispo. His report looks at each easement individually and places a value on it.

"As part of my appraisal study," Murphy wrote, "I personally conducted a physical inspection of the property described in the Complaint on file in this action."

He goes on to say that he interviewed public officials and representative of Vistra. He reviewed the market data (land sales) "in the immediate and general subject market area, and a valuation analysis."

Murphy pegs the easement values as: \$37,026 for the sewer main easement; \$3,263 for the temporary construction easement; \$59,154 for the recycling pipeline easement; \$33,770 for a temporary construction easement for the IPO system; and \$66,560 for the injection well field, for a total of \$200,000.

That's what the City has offered in the lawsuit and a judge will decide if it's a fair price.

The lawsuit claims that the City started negotiations with Vistra Energy (owners of the power plant) back in Spring 2019, City Manager Scot Collins testified in court filings.

"During the negotiations," Collins said under oath, "owner [Vistra] requested that the City consider the approval of a development project on the larger parcel in exchange for the easement interests. We were not able

to reach an agreement regarding the City's acquisition of the easement interests."

Vistra last year had proposed a "Battery Energy Storage System" or BESS, a giant battery storage facility at the plant to store energy generated by sources like wind and solar farms, for use when demand is high.

Vistra withdrew that project within just a few months of proposing it, and is pursuing BESS projects at its other California power plants.

"With battery energy storage developments underway in both Moss Landing and Oakland," Meranda Cohn with Vistra said back in May, "Vistra would like to extend its battery capabilities at its retired power plant site in Morro Bay — and remains willing to do so. Unfortunately, we've reached a stalemate with the City of Morro Bay about the long-term ownership of the site impeding development of the property, which could contribute economic activity and tax revenues to the community."

Some candidates for city council have pointed to the BESS project as a future economic booster for the City, even though currently Vistra does not have an active application with the City.

The BESS project coupled with a potential offshore wind energy farm that would bring

its electricity ashore at the power plant for connection with the power grid could revive the power plant's importance with the State's energy system.

The plant hasn't produced energy since it was closed by then owners, Dynegy Inc., (which merged with Vistra), in early 2014.

Estero Bay News tried to contact Cohn seeking a statement from Vistra on the lawsuit but she didn't respond before deadline.

Collins, in his sworn statement claimed that, "Relocating the easement interests would adversely affect more private property not already dedicated to a public use, would adversely affect sensitive cultural resource areas, and would

significantly increase construction costs and risks."

He testified that the WRF couldn't be built and the City meet deadlines imposed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to upgrade its sewage treatment, without these easements.

"Without the easement interests, water and effluents would not be able to be transported to and from the new WRF, the

pump stations, or wells, and there would be no injection wells to provide replenishment of groundwater within the area. Without the easement interests, the [WRF] Project could not be constructed."

Asked about this, considering that the existing pipeline now delivers sewage from roughly half the town to the Atascadero Road plant, and the City is planning a new lift station there to push sewage from the north end of town, this new pipeline would seem to not be necessary.

"The 'Project,'" Collins replied, "as defined includes not only the WRF, but also the pipelines and appurtenances of the West alignment. All other alternative alignments for the pipelines and appurtenances were considered carefully by the City Council on numerous occasions, but ultimately rejected for cost and/or feasibility concerns, so those alignments are not part of the Project."

"Thus, the Project necessarily includes the pipelines and appurtenances of the West alignment, to the exclusion of all other alternative alignments. Accordingly, the easement interests where the pipelines and appurtenances will be located are necessary for the Project."

Collins declined comment on the lawsuit but did infer that the City had gotten promising indications from the judge and was confident the City would prevail.



Bring in this ad and receive a **FREE CUP of COFFEE!**



Offer good 8:00 am to 10:00 am • Not valid on weekends
Good thru November 30, 2020 • One per person

We Offer: Patio Dining & Indoor Dining
Open Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 2:00 pm - Sat & Sun 7:30 am to 2:00 pm • Closed Wednesday

1188 Los Osos Valley Rd., Los Osos
805 - 528-5711

Dealership Quality
Minor & Major Services
Since 1972

- Check Engine Light Diagnostic & Repair**
- Air Conditioning Service & Repair**
- Smog Inspection and Certificates**
2000 & Newer
- Brake and Alignment repair & Service**
- Tire Replacement, Service & Repair**
- Full Service & Repair**

Master Technician On Duty

805-772-6060

375 Quintana Rd. Morro Bay
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 to 5:00
www.morrobaytireandauto.com

"Visit Pete's Morro Bay Tire & Auto today for a wide selection of Michelin® tires."

Show us . . .

I Voted

and receive

\$1.⁰⁰ OFF

any size yogurt

Bring in any proof that you voted and receive \$1.00 off any yogurt.
Offer good thru November 30, 2020

Monday – Thursday NOON-6:00 pm
Friday & Saturday – 10:00 am – 10:00 pm • Sunday – 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

307 Morro Bay Blvd., (Corner of Main Street)
Morro Bay, CA 93442
(805) 704-9866

closed Hwy 1 in Big Sur for nearly a year.

The City's been trying to fix the damages at home. "The repair work for this erosional damage was included in a request for assistance submitted to FEMA and CAL-OES for this declared disaster," City Engineer Rob Livick said. "The City received funding for the erosional damage along with funding to reimburse work to remove downed trees, repairs to the Monte Young Park fence, the Black Hill radio repeater and reimbursement for overtime and call-back pay.

"The amount that FEMA calculated to restore the Morro Creek stream bank was \$73,000 and the City received that funding in Spring 2018."

Guidance Sought for Repairs

With its FEMA award on the way, the City sought guidance on how to proceed from Coastal Commission staff in Santa Cruz.

In a May 3, 2018 email from Morro Bay planner, Cindy Jacinth to Commission staffers, Sarah Carvill and Kevin Kahn and obtained by Estero Bay News in a Public Records Act request, Jacinth wrote, that during that winter's storm events, "a portion of the public access trail experienced some slope failure, for which the City is seeking to repair this area. Our Public Works Department is working with FEMA for funding of this repair & maintenance effort."

Jacinth goes on to explain that the City would consult with State Fish & Wildlife, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and attached results from a hydrology report done on the failed slope with the email.

In a next day response, Kahn asks, "So is the recommended fix to install 2,750 (110 x 25) square feet (6,000 cubic yards) of RSP to protect the trail/parking from further creek erosion?" (RSP is "rock slope protection," essentially the City planned to shore up the creek bank with rocks.)

The subject apparently lay dormant until Oct. 19, 2018, when with FEMA money in hand the City again contacted the Commission staff. "We would like to proceed with the work to repair the creek before the winter," Jacinth wrote. "I had emailed last spring on this to determine required Coastal steps/processing. This is an area where we previously received a waiver #3-13-1339-W for multi-use public access trail and bike path that is now experienced slope failure from last winter's rains."

Emails Lay Out Position

In an internal email, Carvill writes to Kahn, "We were going to discuss this with Dan [Carl, assistant director] at a planner

check-in before advising the City, but I don't think that ever happened. We do have a record of asking the City what their plan would be if the path was damaged by storms/SLR/flooding.

"The City at one point replied: 'The response to events such as these would be to retreat and relocate facilities to allow the natural processes to continue. Shoreline protection and channel armoring would not be pursued to protect the improvements in place.'"

That was apparently in reference to conditions understood with the Commission's waiver, including the sea level rise policy, i.e. not to make repairs or armor the coast but instead rebuild away from the ocean.

"I noted that 'events such as these' does refer to 'a succession of flood events over time,'" Carvill wrote, "and the foregoing paragraphs discuss approaches to erosion events caused by single storms, for which 'exigent repair projects' are the favored response. I was concerned that they technically didn't commit to no future armoring under any circumstances, but you felt that we had enough to say that they agreed to no future armoring.

"Should I write Cindy and say we don't think armoring is authorized for this development? Or just bring it to Dan on 11/1?"

Kahn's reply was, "I think we tell them that our take is that armoring, per the waiver [and regardless of the waiver, it isn't existing development, but rather new development approved only 4-years ago, where there is ample room for relocation inland], is not allowed here to address the erosion issues. They need to look at soft alternatives, such as vegetation and drainage improvements, as well as relocation/removal. But putting in all of that RSP along the mouth of an unarmored creek is not going to fly. Plus, wouldn't this be in our CDP jurisdiction?"

Questions Went Unanswered

It should be noted that EBN also sent a number of questions to the commission staff along with the records request, but only the waiver report and one email train were provided.

Among our unanswered questions was how they concluded that sea level rise was to blame for this erosion? Did they get a scientific opinion that this was caused by sea level rise?

And also, didn't the Commission have a fiduciary responsibility to see that public facilities, which they approved, are maintained and repaired?

EBN also pointed out that this stretch of Morro Creek was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1940s, in order to re-channel the creek and drain what is now the power plant prop-

erty for a military base. It is lined on both sides with boulders blasted from Morro Rock and is not "unarmored."

For the City's part, Livick told EBN, "Coastal Staff contend the damage was due to climate change. City Staff is of the opinion that the damage was due to a high stream flow due to a storm combined with a high tide."

City's Not Given Up

Despite the apparent stalemate, the City hasn't given up. "In order to receive a waiver to construct the path and bridge, the City agreed [in a letter previously transmitted] to not pursue armoring and reconstruction if damage was due to climate change, but would perform repairs if the damage was due to events such as high stream flow causing erosional damage.

"Staff has prepared two designs and shared those with coastal staff to no avail, they will not support any repair. Our next step was to submit an application and argue the issue in front of the commission."

But then COVID-19 hit the City like a big storm on top of a king tide, and the Harborwalk repairs have been replaced by other priorities.

"Due to loss of staff resources and higher priority projects," Livick said, "staff has been unable to complete the work necessary for the Coastal Development permit application."

Of course, now the FEMA money isn't likely to be enough. "The project does remain on the work plan," Livick said, "and once resources become available, continue working on the project although it is unlikely the FEMA funding will be sufficient to complete the required planning, environmental, design, permitting and ultimately construction work necessary to facilitate the repair."

Site Looks Bad

So as government agencies try to figure out a way forward, a segment of taxpayer-funded public-use pathway remains closed to the public, an apparent victim of climate change policy.

Today, a small flock of mallard ducks waddles in the stinky, stagnant creek water below.

The fencing has fallen down; a City barricade appears to have been run over and stood back up, bent and broken; and a scenic portion of what has been a wonderful addition to the waterfront — the Harborwalk — looks abandoned, taken over by gulls and crows, and overgrown with weeds.

BURCH CONCRETE SOLUTIONS • (805) 748-4289

Locally Owned & Operated Since 2004

- Benches
- Fire Pits
- Concrete Resurfacing
- Stained Concrete
- Patios
- Sidewalks
- Exposed Aggregate
- Retaining Walls
- Driveways
- Foundations
- Stamped Concrete

State Lic# 816944

burchconcretesolutions@yahoo.com
www.burchconcretesolutions.com




Always in Perfect Taste!

805-995-3272

296 South Ocean Avenue • Cayucos, CA 93430

The Decision is up to You!*

VOTE OR \$SELL

Call "The Captain"
Jay Chiasson
805-500-3911
NavHomes.com

NAVIGATORS REAL ESTATE
CalDRE# 01836276

*We Counsel everything else but we do not give Political advice.



Call the Closer!

3 Bed | 3 Bath | 2216 SqFt
Morro Bay
\$809,500

24 Acres | Build-Ready | Ag Zoning
West Templeton
\$649,000

(805) 703-0778

JOEL PACE
Real Estate Specialist

Brokered by **BIGBLOCK REALTY**
CalBRE# 01885775

Joel Pace, Broker-Associate | CalBRE #01946105



Morro Bay Upholstery

Furniture • Boats • Autos • Commercial

805-225-5252
805-538-0543 - cell

2602 Main St. Morro Bay
mbupholstery1@gmail.com





Your Central Coast California Real Estate Connection Since 1978!



Leon Van Beurden
DRE # 00646313



Your Local Real Estate & Property Management Connection Since 1978

Marty Jacobson
DRE# 01014551
Monica Randeon
CA Brokers Lic#01860001
Peter Starlings
DRE# 00692586
Leon Van Beurden
DRE# 00646313
Simon Van Beurden
DRE# 01909180

Kathy Van Beurden
DRE# 00683117
Paul Pickering
DRE# 00997005
Jill Stow
DRE# 01490106
Nicole Londono
Jennifer Buentiempo

Office Space For Rent

One FREE Months RENT!

Oak Grove Business Center



"Take your business to the next level"

- Most Affordable Rent • Turn Key
 - State of the art Design
- One FREE Months RENT**

MONTH TO MONTH "ONE MONTH FREE" OFFICE RENTAL

- TWO FULL-SERVICE SUITES
\$600. A MONTH
- OPEN OFFICE SUITE + KITCHEN
\$1,200. A MONTH
- TWO-OFFICE SUITES
\$1,400 A MONTH

Bay Osos/Budget Mini Storage



New Electronic Gates
Don't Stuff It - Store It!
Park Your Car in Your Garage
One Month Rent FREE
Up to 10% Discount
Best Rates & Free Locks



BUDGET STORAGE AUGUST SPECIAL - LARGE 11X24 UNITS
\$250.00 /month/ one year contract/ save \$ 540.00!

(805) 528-1133 or toll free (800) 540-0229

1330 Van Beurden Drive, Suite 101, Los Osos

www.bayososbrokers.com