

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)



January 28, 2026

TAMC Board Elects New Officers and Executive Committee Members

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County elected the following members to serve as their officers and members of the Executive Committee:

- Chaps Poduri, Chair
- Luis Alejo, 1st Vice Chair
- Jose Rios, 2nd Vice Chair
- Wendy Root Askew, Past Chair
- Glenn Church, County Representative
- Dennis Donohue, City Representative

Their terms began upon their election at the beginning of January 28, 2026, Board meeting through the next election of officers in January 2027.

Draft 2026 Regional Transportation Plan Presentation and Public Hearing

The Transportation Agency's Board of Directors received a presentation on the Draft 2026 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan, which sets the framework for future transportation investments and policies, aligning local projects with regional goals for safety, sustainability, and multimodal access.

The Transportation Agency prepares a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years, in coordination with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), which prepares a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the three- county Monterey Bay region. These plans outline the region's priorities

for meeting future transportation and mobility needs, consistent with the policy goals and objectives adopted by the Board, within the constraints of a transportation revenue forecast over the planning horizon of the documents.

The three components of the Regional Transportation Plan are:

- Policy Element communicates the goals and measurable objectives for improving the transportation system.
- Financial Element includes a forecast of revenues over the life of the plan.
- Action Element includes a list of projects funded within the capacity of the funding forecast and meeting the goals and objectives identified in the document.

The Plan establishes a regional framework that influences transportation planning and investment decisions at the local level. Key implications for cities and the County include:

1. Consistency with Regional Goals
2. Integration with Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
3. Funding Prioritization
4. Performance Monitoring

Following the presentation, the Board opened a public hearing on the Draft 2026 Regional Plan to receive public comments and noted that the deadline to submit written public comments on the Draft 2026 Regional Plan is January 31, 2026.

Draft 2026 Monterey County Regional Transportation Plan:

<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/files/11b8701e1/2026+Monterey+County+Regional+Transportation+Plan+-+DRAFT.pdf>

TAMC Board Holds Gas Tax Replacement Study Session

The Transportation Agency's Board of Directors received a presentation on revenue alternatives to replace the Gas Tax. The presentation is a follow-up to the Board's request at their September 2025 meeting to have an in-depth study session on the topic to discuss how the alternatives would impact Monterey County residents.

Under the current Transportation Funding System, Transportation in California is financed through a blend of federal, state, regional, and local sources. In the "State and Local Transportation Full Needs Assessment – May 2025" California's 10-year transportation funding needs total \$756.8 billion, based on Regional Transportation Plans, fiscal needs surveys, and assessments of transit, climate adaptation, and tribal transportation. Projected 10-year revenues are \$541 billion after accounting for a \$31 billion decline from reduced fuel consumption. This results in an estimated \$215.7 billion shortfall.

Declining statewide gas tax revenues will reduce the long-term funding available for transportation projects in Monterey County. Any future changes to the gas tax system, including a shift to a road user charge or higher vehicle registration fees, would directly influence the county's ability to maintain stable revenue for roadway maintenance and improvements. At a high level, choosing a sustainable replacement mechanism will be essential to offset the projected statewide funding shortfall.

The two options that have the greatest potential to meet the need as presented to the TAMC Board of Directors were:

- (1) A New Road User Charge. A road user charge is a fee based on the number of miles traveled, regardless of vehicle fuel source. Because the road charge will not diminish as drivers shift to zero-emission vehicles, it is regarded as a sustainable revenue source.
- (2) Increasing Vehicle Registration Fees. An increase in the vehicle registration fee is a fee based on a vehicle's value and is agnostic to fuel source, fuel economy, and travel patterns. This source of revenue is regarded as sustainable because it would not diminish as drivers shift to zero-emission vehicles.

After an extensive and robust discussion, the TAMC Board of Directors directed staff to begin conversing with regional partners on the replacement to statewide gas tax that includes a Vehicle Registration Fee option that prioritizes affordability for rural residents.

Adaptive Systems are Installed on SR 68

Caltrans reported that the equipment and software for the adaptive AI system has been installed at the nine signalized intersections along Scenic Route 68. It is expected to be operational starting in May after Caltrans completes training and calibrates the system. Data collection to be used for analysis will begin in May and will be ongoing for the next five years. Caltrans will provide TAMC's Board of Directors with an update on the progress of the adaptive systems in the spring.

Monterey One Water (M1W)



January 26, 2026

Informational Items:

- Executive Officer Paul Sciuto presented an update on Pure Water Monterey
- Executive Officer Paul Sciuto and Director of Engineering Matt Thompson gave an update on Renewable Energy and Electrical Reliability Program
- Director Moore reported on his attendance at the 2025 CSDA Special Leadership Academy in November 2025
- Community & Legislative Affairs Manager Rachel Gaudoin provided the Q2 Recap of M1W's FY26 Advocacy Program. The state strategy included in-district spotlights and relationship building with the federal strategy focusing on FY26 appropriations bills. Metrics included 2 site visits with state delegation, 2 site visits with federal delegation staff, 1 site visit with state agency State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), 1 site visit with state agency CalRecycle, 1 SWRCB presentation on stormwater capture and reuse, 2 state legislative staff meetings. Key legislation followed – implementation of Prop 4 funding and federal appropriations bills.

Board Actions:

- Approved an Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Black & Veatch for Additional Engineering Design Services and Engineering Services During Construction for the CP361 Renewable Energy Improvements Project, in the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$2,776,269
- Approved the Renewable Gas Interconnection Agreement with Pacific Gas & Electric in Support of the CP361 Renewable Energy Improvements Project, including: 1) RNG Injection Station and Pipeline Design Services in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,682,200 and 2) Procurement of the RNG Injection Skid in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,302,000
- Approved a Contract Amendment with Trussell Technologies for Professional Services for Water Quality and Treatment Optimization in the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$225,820
- Approved First Amendment to the 2022 Professional Services Contract with Best Best & Krieger LLP to Approve a Retroactive Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2026
- Approved of a Change Order in the Amount of \$638,471 to the Royal Electric Construction Contract for the CP310 RTP Electrical Upgrades Project; and Authorize Release of an Additional \$1,301,529 Contingency, to Bring the Total Contingency Amount up to \$2,940,000
- Approved a change order for \$638,471, to Royal Electric for the CP310 RTP Electrical Upgrades Project & authorize release of \$1,301,529 contingency for a total amount up to \$2,940,000

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Monday, January 19th- Martin Luther King, Jr. March, Seaside- Kevin and I were grateful to march today along our fellow MPC colleagues and students. It was a large and heartwarming turnout. Given the state of our nation, it meant so much to walk among people who are dedicated to equality, kindness, and civil rights for everyone in our country. Thank you, Seaside, for always hosting such an important event!

Friday, January 23rd- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- If there's ever an award for "most likely to cry on the dais," I'm pretty sure I'd sweep the category. My goodness! Beginning today's meeting was a presentation of the winners for the SB1383 Edible Food Recovery Grants for FY 25/26. First, a little background, as you well know (hopefully!) SB 1383 is the legislation that directs organic waste into our yard waste stream for composting so as to avoid methane production that would occur if it were directed into our landfill. Another part of this legislation is to also collect edible food from stores, restaurants, events, etc., which is still safe to eat, and deliver it to organizations that will collect the food and provide it to people in need. Every year, the city of Del Rey Oaks, along with all of the other jurisdictions on our peninsula, pays ReGen to help manage our efforts for this legislation. And part of that funding gets portioned out for grants to help support the edible food recovery actions. This year, we gave away 7 grants to the following agencies: CSUMB Basic Needs, Gathering for Women, Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula, Veterans Transition Center of CA, All-In Monterey County, Christian Social Concerns, and the YWCA. The stories we heard of the need that was being filled by these organizations were so touching and impactful. We were all so happy that what was meant to be climate legislation is also making such a difference for those who need additional help throughout our communities. Granted, we were sad to hear the stories of such need, but we were happy that we could make a difference by supporting these organization who are doing great things for thousands of people. Tears of joy were abundant!

Next, we kept the good vibes continuing in a different way by learning about the landfill emission research that's being done by researchers from UC Davis and UC Berkeley. The purpose of their work is to study new technologies that can measure landfill methane emissions more accurately. In other words, we are lucky enough to try firsthand all of the fancy technology and learn a lot about our landfill through this partnership. The researcher who was presenting made it clear that it was ReGen's willingness to share our information that made this partnership possible (makes me proud!). In the end, this participation will help other landfills manage their emissions and will help support the understanding of future emissions regulations, while allowing us to be a leader in this field.

I was grateful today to also receive an award of recognition for 5 years of service to ReGen Monterey. Vice Chair, Mayor Delgado, presented me with the award ("iron fist in a velvet

glove”). My appointment to the ReGen board has been one of the most fulfilling positions I’ve ever held, so it’s truly been my honor. And after I received the award, I was lucky enough to present Supervisor Wendy Root Askew with her 5-year service award! We are so lucky to have her guidance, wisdom, and thoughtfulness on our board. Her contributions to our agency and board are always meaningful and well-respected by everyone.

The rest of the meeting was made up of updates from our Franchise Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Committee. In regards to the franchise planning group, please be aware that they will be seeking input from residents regarding our waste hauler, Green Waste Recovery. So if you’re one of the lucky ones to be asked to complete a survey (online, phone, or mail), please do so, as it will greatly inform this committee as they work towards our next steps for choosing our next garbage hauler. In addition, there will also be community meetings to provide additional input and thoughts on our current service, so make sure you watch for those dates (2/24, 2/25, and 2/26—check out the DRO website for details).

Tuesday, January 27th- City Council Meeting- We began tonight’s meeting with a presentation from Police Chief Chris Brouquin about our 2025 police statistics. In general, it seems that our number of arrests and violations has remained consistent over the years. In the end, I had a few questions, one of which was asking him to address the issue of speeding in our city. The reason I asked was that I had a resident share about an incident he saw with someone speeding on Portola, and we also had a Carlton resident give a public comment, worried about the potential speeding we’ll see once Carlton is opened. In that conversation, I learned that we’d need to do surveys along our roads in order for our police to use speed radar guns, which would be an expensive process. I know we’ve talked in the past about speed bumps, but those slow down emergency vehicles and can be loud to those houses that surround the bumps. I also learned that when the city downloads the data from our speed radar signs, we don’t reach nearly the number of speeders as we might expect. I realize it might seem like a bigger issue, but unfortunately, there don’t seem to be many other options for interventions.

After the presentation and passing of the consent agenda, we addressed our new business of approving the FY 24/25 Annual City Audit. I spoke about this audit when I wrote about our finance committee meeting last month (I listed the meeting date as 1/16, but it was actually Thursday, 1/15). Nothing new was presented this evening, and again we’re all happy with the state of our city’s finances and its fiscal processes. I’m grateful for our city’s staff and the work they do to help prepare for this big task. I did comment on this item and pointed out the large unappropriated fund balance that we had at the end of the year (\$2,039,478). I made the point of saying that I do appreciate how fiscally conservative our staff is, and I realize that we’re earning interest on that money. I also recognize that we’re limited in our revenue sources in Del Rey Oaks, but I also believe that the council should have discussions in our upcoming budget talks about how we might want to

appropriate that money. It's our residents' tax money, and it should be used in ways that benefit them instead of having such a large amount sitting in the bank. If you feel this way, too, please reach out to me to share your thoughts! And also make sure you're involved in our discussions as we enter into mid-year budget adjustments and budget planning in the spring. Ideally, we'd be doing our strategic planning in March, which you know I've been advocating for for many years now. It would be a perfect opportunity to engage our residents and the council on this topic. We'll see if it happens!

Wednesday, Feb. 4th- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- Our first item of business was electing a new chair and vice chair. I was happy to pass off the chairship to Mayor Bruce Delgado, and Director Jerry Blackwelder continued on as vice chair. Next we reviewed a new purchasing policy which was far more detailed than our last one and increased the threshold for purchases that need to go to the Board for approval (went from \$75,000 to \$200,00). Some of the additional details included procurement processes, an emphasis on local preferences, and the incorporation of environmental considerations into purchasing. I'm grateful for our staff and our legal counsel for creating a policy that's so detailed, providing clear direction for purchasing to both the staff and the board. With a few minor edits in wording, we voted to review this policy at the Board level.

Next was a discussion about a potential contract with Valley Recycling to bring in 5yrs worth of residual waste due to their expansion. Over the 5 yrs, it would use roughly 70% of 1 year of landfill space and bring in over \$2 million/year. ReGen would be able to handle this increase in waste with our current staffing level. Given our needs for capital projects and planning in the next few years, our committee was in support of staff moving forward with negotiations for this contract, which will come before the full board this month.

Lastly, we reviewed our finance committee bylaws (no changes) and learned that there were no findings for our most recent audit, which is great news.

Monday, Feb. 9th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Wednesday, Feb. 11th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- Today's meeting mainly had a focus on our Sentinel Well #4. First, we learned that the Water Management District will be allowed continued access to that well to do induction logging every year. There were some questions about whether the truck would be able to go into the area with the revegetation that they're doing, but it sounds like they're keeping the road clear for our access.

Next was a big discussion regarding our need for testing chloride levels at a shallow depth (140-200 ft) in the area of Sentinel Well #4. Currently, we're not able to isolate water samples at the depth needed, and so the discussion was whether we'd need to put in a separate monitoring well in this area. After talking to consultants who have worked on

these wells before, and given the cost of a new well, the staff recommendation was that we did not need to pursue a new monitoring well at this time. He felt that when the Seawater Intrusions Response Plan is further updated after we do the modeling this year, the location and need for a new well could be made at that time.

During this discussion item, we also had Mike McCullough from the Water Management District on the line, as well as our consultant for our Seawater Intrusion Response Plan. Mike thought his board would be interested in paying for half of the monitoring well because they see this as an important data point for this area, where we're seeing an increase in conductivity. With their interest, and our absolute need for getting a water sample from this particular depth, and given that this would be a good time to put in a well since the trail is closed due to construction, I ultimately made the pitch to move forward with plans for a monitoring well and having the costs shared with the Water Management District. I just couldn't imagine that we would ever not need it, and I certainly wouldn't want to regret not getting this type of data sooner rather than later, given the increase in conductivity in the area. My pitch turned into a motion, which passed unanimously.

Our last item was discussing whether we needed to start doing stable isotope testing in our deep water aquifers in conjunction with the deep aquifer monitoring that's taking place in the other aquifers. Since we felt that this type of testing wouldn't change anything we were doing in the Seaside Basin, we decided that we wouldn't move forward with regular testing, but that we would be interested in our deep aquifers being one of their test sites if they deemed it necessary.

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
February 24, 2026 Meeting**

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – February 10, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks neighbors,

Here are the key takeaways, in plain language, from the **Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD)** meeting on **February 10, 2026**.

What the Board Covered

This meeting focused on two bread-and-butter items that directly affect day-to-day service:

- **Approval of prior meeting minutes** (standard accountability and recordkeeping).
- **Receiving the January 2026 Operations Report** so the Board and the public can see what maintenance was completed, where issues occurred, and how the system is performing overall.

Operations Update: What Happened in January 2026

The monthly report shows the District’s ongoing emphasis on **preventive maintenance**—the less “glamorous” work (jetting/cleaning lines) that helps avoid backups and overflows.

1) Preventive cleaning (jetting)

- In **January**, SCSD jetted **50,728 feet** of sewer mainlines districtwide.
- Of that total, **Del Rey Oaks accounted for 1,260 feet** jetted in January.
- Fiscal year-to-date (FY 2025/26), SCSD has jetted **328,476 feet** districtwide, showing a strong, consistent maintenance cadence.

2) Stoppages and overflows

- For **January**, the report reflects **no Del Rey Oaks stoppages or overflow locations**.
- The District recorded **one mainline stoppage** in Seaside in January, and an **overflow location noted at 2045 Waring St (Seaside)**.
- FY-to-date, the report reflects **3 total SSOs** across the District, with **1 recorded in Del Rey Oaks earlier in the fiscal year** (not in January).

Why This Matters to Del Rey Oaks

Nobody wakes up excited to read a sewer operations report until something goes wrong. These maintenance metrics matter because:

- **Jetting = prevention.** Routine cleaning helps reduce clogs, grease buildup, roots, and line blockages that can lead to backups into homes and businesses.
- **Transparency builds trust.** These monthly reports let residents see what work is being done and where issues are occurring.
- **Shared system, shared responsibility.** Because the system serves multiple cities, SCSD's preventive approach helps protect Del Rey Oaks as part of the broader network.

A Helpful Note for Residents

While SCSD is doing its part on mainlines, the most common avoidable causes of problems are still:

- grease/oil down the drain,
- “flushable” wipes (they aren't),
- and improper disposal of food scraps.

Small habits at home can save major headaches for the whole community.

What's Next

The **next regular SCSD meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2026 at 9:30 AM.**

As always, if you experience a sewer issue or notice something concerning, please report it right away so it can be addressed before it becomes a bigger problem.

II. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – February 11, 2026

I want to share a quick but important update regarding the **AMBAG Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 11, 2026**: the meeting was **cancelled due to a lack of quorum.**

What “lack of quorum” means (in plain terms)

A **quorum** is the **minimum number of Board members required to be present** so the Board can



legally conduct business, take votes, and make decisions. When too few directors are present, the Board cannot proceed, so the meeting must be cancelled or adjourned.

Why this matters to Del Rey Oaks

AMBAG's work affects our region in ways that touch everyday life, including:

- **Regional transportation planning and funding priorities**
- **Housing and land-use coordination**
- **Long-range planning goals that shape grants and major infrastructure decisions**

When a meeting is cancelled, it doesn't mean the work stops, but it can mean **decisions are delayed**, discussions are postponed, and items may be pushed to a future agenda.

What happens next

Typically, when a meeting is cancelled for lack of quorum:

- **No votes are taken**
- **No formal Board direction is given**
- Agenda items are either **carried to the next meeting** or **rescheduled**, depending on timing and urgency

I will continue to monitor the rescheduling and ensure Del Rey Oaks is represented and informed once the Board reconvenes.
