

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Wednesday, May 14th- DRO Finance Committee Meeting- Similar to last month's meeting, we had two items on this agenda. The first was to review our financials from April, which didn't show anything out of the ordinary. The second was another look at the proposed FY 2025-26 budget, focusing on capital projects (last month we focused on the operating side of the budget). I was happy to see a greater explanation of our fund balance and reserves with a handout City Manager Guertin made that outlined our fund balance from 2024 (this is the accumulated money that had not been spent). Our audited fund balance in June 2024 was \$3.2 million, which is impressive given that it's more than 50% of our entire budget. Of course, not all of that is available for spending since we did establish reserves for "economic uncertainty", Section 115 Trust (this funds our CalPERS liabilities for retirement), vehicle replacement, technology replacement, and police department radio replacement. If those are subtracted from the original fund balance as well as the capital projects we used for this fiscal year, the estimated fund balance at the end of this fiscal year is \$1.2 million.

As we look towards FY 2025-26, we will continue to commit funds to all of our reserves, except for the economic uncertainty funds, since that reserve has already been met. Once we do that, then it's estimated our unassigned fund balance will be \$1,028,149. It looks like our biggest capital project will be fixing our city hall parking lot. After that, there are several other city hall projects that could be done (new carpet, new dais, new chairs, new sewer upgrade, etc.). Other identified needs included housing element implementation, Adair stairway repair, park bathroom water efficiency upgrades, short-term rental management services, and money to hire an economic/park planning consultant. City Manager Guertin also identified other future projects that wouldn't necessarily be met with this fund balance but would need to be incorporated into our future budgets. I appreciated this larger look at our fund balance and potential projects for this next year. I look forward to having a conversation with the wider council on these topics.

Wednesday, May 14th- AMBAG (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) Meeting- DRO's regular AMBAG representative is council member John Uy, but I stepped in today as his alternate since he was out of town for work. Besides the consent agenda, we had two main items up for discussion. The first was the draft FY 2025-26 Monterey Bay Region Overall Work Program and Budget, which is a federally required document that allows AMBAG to receive federal funds. This plan covers all AMBAG work programs and activities and is used as a project management tool by the staff. After this approval, it goes to the state and then to the feds for final approval at the end of June. With a balanced budget and all projects falling within the board's adopted policies, this was an easy resolution to approve.

The second item was an update on the Central California Rural Regional Energy Network, which creates energy efficiency programs that will serve disadvantaged and underserved communities. This particular Regional Energy Network (REN) was approved in September 2024 with a \$36 million budget through 2027. It's led by the County of San Luis Obispo and offers the following six programs:

- Offering residential energy efficiency audits and installation of simple measures
- Training youth to do energy audits
- No-cost commercial electrification projects
- Technical support for public agencies in Monterey Bay
- Training and technical assistance in codes and standards for building professionals
- The finance program will be launched in 2026

Other ways they're reaching out locally is that AMBAG staff is partnering with jurisdictions to explore applying for grants and external funding opportunities to retrofit facilities. They're also offering technical assistance to building department contractors to answer questions on the building energy efficiency standards.

When I was the AMBAG representative over two years ago, I remember when they started talking about this concept, and so I was happy to receive this update and to know these positive programs will be available to county jurisdictions.

Tuesday, May 20th- City Council Meeting- Tonight's council meeting began with three proclamations. The first was an appreciation for Municipal Clerk's Week (thank you, Karen, Laura, and Stacy!). The second was an appreciation for Public Works week (thank you to Ron and Sherman!). The third was a proclamation celebrating June as Pride Month. I'm grateful for all of these proclamations and was happy the Mayor took the time to acknowledge the people who do the hard lifting for the city. It always makes me happy to recognize Pride month and the acknowledgement of our inclusive values. It's especially meaningful given our current national political climate

Besides our consent agenda, the only other item we covered was the first reading of the amended ordinance that recognizes the new fire hazard severity zones. I appreciated Fire Chief Blaha from Seaside being there to answer our questions. Del Rey Oaks is lucky in that we don't have any areas of very high fire risk, but we still have large portions that are within the high and moderate fire risk ranges. Given these ranges, the city won't have to do any additional outreach, but I would like to see additional information given to our residents in these areas so that they know what actions they can take to make their homes more fire safe.

Wednesday, May 21st- Special City Council Meeting, Budget Review- Tonight's meeting was focused only on our proposed budget for 2025-26. Some additions that have come about since our last finance meeting include the funding of our one open police officer position, increasing the reserve officer pay (top step), and including a COLA for our city staff (excluding the police chief and the city manager). It was good to hear some of the

thoughts from our other council members. I especially liked Council Member Hallock's comments about upgrading the stairs and creating a walkway down to the park from Via Verde. We also heard public comments, which included a pitch for a community center, which could also be a revenue source for the city (love it!), in addition to the idea of creating a vacancy tax which would also increase revenue for the city (focused on our commercial district, taxing property owners who sit on their property instead of getting businesses in which would provide us with tax revenue). Increasing resident involvement in our meetings was also mentioned, which I always support! Maybe we need sandwich boards to announce our public meetings, similar to what CAG does for their special events? Overall, it was a good meeting. I do look forward to further discussion and more clarity in our next Finance meeting (update: this meeting, unfortunately, never happened). Mainly, I'd like to talk more in terms of our priorities for the city (i.e., do we get a new dais or do we work on improving stairways in the city?). If you have any additional thoughts about projects or the project priorities, I'd love to hear about them! Please email (kshirley@delreyoaks.org) or call/text (831-917-4115)!

Friday, May 23rd- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- This month's meeting included tears, but it wasn't over the budget or the rate increase! Our presentation today was from our two Artists in Residence, who were CSUMB students, now graduated, who spent time at ReGen and Last Chance Mercantile to create beautiful and thoughtful pieces of artwork out of items that people have discarded. Ashley Brunetti and Melanie Gatica provided a wonderful overview of their work and shared what they learned, which included woodworking and welding, and how they gave life to items that were headed to the landfill. Turns out I'm a totally sucker for students, especially ones that are able to talk about their growth and how this experience will influence them moving forward! I was just so grateful for this enriching presentation that I could barely speak through my tears. Sigh. Passion...I just LOVE IT!

Ok, the rest of the meeting did not elicit tears, but it was just as important. We held a public hearing for our rate increase and also approved our final budget for FY 2025-26. There was also a public hearing regarding our vacancies, which satisfied a new requirement for public agencies to report out yearly on the status of their vacancies, talking about retention and recruitment. We have a low percentage of vacancies and a good working relationship with our unions, so there were no public comments on this item (or, for that matter, any of the other items either).

Sunday, June 1st- DRO Pride Flag Raising Event- What a wonderfully happy, inclusive, and uplifting event! Many thanks to council member John Uy for spearheading, organizing, and running the event, which included a touching invocation and a fabulous rendition of the National Anthem sung by Frida Vossler, who just graduated from Monterey High and is headed to the Berklee College of Music in Boston. We also had a warm welcome from Mayor Donaldson, heartfelt poetry readings from Patrice Vecchione, and speeches and resolutions from representatives from County Supervisor Wendy Root-Askew's office,

Assemblymember Dawn Addis' office, and Congressman Panetta's office. The featured resident speaker was Planning Commissioner Gary Kreeger, who raised the flag with his wife, Katie Kreeger. Then we did some community singing, and I gave some closing remarks. And of course, because this was a John Uy event, there was yummy Filipino food and rainbow cake! Thank you to everyone who came and shared the love with such passion and dedication to diversity and acceptance for all.

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

Wednesday, June 11th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- Today's meeting focused on models, plans, and coordination, which I was happy to hear! One of our agenda items was a status update on our Seaside Basin Groundwater Model, which our contractor has been trying to coordinate with the Salinas Valley GSP and their modeling team. The Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency has been working on two models- the Salinas Valley Integrated Hydrogeologic Model and their Seawater Intrusion Model. Given that the Seaside Basin is connected to the Monterey Subbasin, which is connected to the 180/400 foot aquifer, it makes sense that we should start coordinating our efforts to understand how these all work together. Representatives from the Salinas Valley GSP will be reporting out more about this collaboration in our July TAC meeting.

Our other big agenda item was getting an update on the edits for the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP). This plan, which is over 16 years old, was in need of revisiting. Besides updating any data/graphs that are included in the plan, they're also updating the indicators we'll be looking at, which will provide triggers for actions. Basically, it's what we'd need to see chemically and through other testing, to agree that sea water has intruded, and then it lays out the steps for moving the production of water inland. We also talked about the amount of water that would need to be injected to achieve "protective elevations", effectively pushing the sea water back out. The amount varies based on where the injection is happening (less if it's coastal- 850-1,000 AFY; more if it's inland- 1,000-3,700 AFY). There's a lot to follow up with this plan update, and I'm sure we'll be seeing this a few times, both at the TAC and with the full board before approval.

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)



May 28, 2025

TAMC Approves Response to Monterey County Grand Jury on Road Safety Reporting

In response to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury's report titled "Road Safety in Monterey County: Where to Report a Problem," the TAMC Board approved a formal response and outlined several actions to improve public access to road safety information.

The Grand Jury found that TAMC's online collision data map was outdated and recommended expanding public outreach tools to allow residents to report unsafe road conditions. In response, TAMC committed to:

- Updating the collision data map with current data from the Regional Vision Zero Plan by the end of 2025.
- Enhancing the TAMC website's "Contact Us" form to allow the public to report safety concerns directly.

TAMC's response also highlights the Agency's broader safety initiatives, including:

- A \$250,000 grant-funded regional traffic crash database and e-citation system.
- Development of Vision Zero Action Plans for ten jurisdictions that do not currently have one.
- Ongoing Safe Routes to School planning in North Monterey County.

"We appreciate the Grand Jury's attention to this important issue," said Executive Director Todd Muck. "We're taking their recommendations seriously and are already implementing

changes to make it easier for the public to report safety concerns and access data. Our goal is to make Monterey County's roads safer for everyone."

TAMC Board Adopts Fiscal Year 2025/26 Budget and Work Program

The TAMC Board of Directors adopted the Agency's fiscal year 2025/26 Budget and Overall Work Program, which outlines a strategic investment of \$9.7 million to deliver transportation improvements across Monterey County. The budget includes:

- \$4.5 million in operating expenditures, supporting regional planning, public engagement, grant development, and administration.
- \$5.2 million in direct program expenditures, funding project development, construction, and implementation of transportation initiatives.

The budget and work program prioritize the following key projects and programs:

- **US 101 South of Salinas Improvements:** Continued environmental review and design to address congestion and safety on this vital corridor.
- **State Route 68 Scenic Corridor:** Installation of adaptive traffic signal technology and planning for future roundabouts to improve traffic flow and safety.
- **SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project:** Preparing for construction of a dedicated busway connecting Marina to Sand City.
- **Rail Extension to Salinas:** Coordination with Caltrain and Capitol Corridor to prepare for expanded passenger rail service.
- **Safe Routes to School Program:** Expansion of education, outreach, and infrastructure planning to support safe walking and biking to schools.
- **Vision Zero Planning:** Development of local safety action plans for ten jurisdictions to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries.
- **Measure X Program Delivery:** Continued support for local road maintenance, regional safety projects, and active transportation infrastructure.

"This budget is a roadmap for delivering real transportation solutions," said Executive Director Todd Muck. "From major highway improvements to safer routes for kids walking to school, we're investing in projects that make a difference in people's daily lives."



JUNE 2, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY

Informational Update:

- Dave Lindow (Pure Water Monterey Program Manager) presented an update on Pure Water Monterey and Advanced Water Purification Facility expansion projects

Board Action:

- Approved awarding professional services agreement to Vasquez & Company for financial audit services for three years in the amount of \$168,918
- Approved and set the sewer services charges and rates effective July 1, 2025 as shown and approved in Appendix A to ordinance No. 2021-02 and adopted resolution No. 2025-05 approving the fixed asset capitalization threshold; and adopted of resolution No. 2025-06 approving the proposed fiscal year 2025-26 operating and capital budget for the agency

Upcoming Meetings:

June 19, 2025 - Recycled Water
Committee
June 30, 2025 - Board of Directors

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🌐 montereyonewater.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MID-YEAR REPORT JANUARY - MAY 2025

JANUARY -

New Board Members:

- City of Salinas Representative: Dennis Donohue and Alternate: Gloria De La Rosa
- City of Del Rey Oaks Representative: Scott Donaldson and Alternate: Kim Shirley

Informational Items:

- Update on MCWRA and M1W's Reconciliation Process presented by Executive Officer Paul Scuito and General Manager Ara Azhderian

Board Action:

- Board Chair selection nominations for election of Board Officers for 2025
- Approved a third contract amendment with Airgas to provide liquid oxygen for the AWPf, totaling \$311,362.50
- Contract awarded to Thatcher Company of CA for Liquified Chlorine for SVRP for \$1,061,625
- Approved amendment to the energy services agreement with Angeria for relocation of the Food Waste Receiving Station for an amount of \$835,918
- Approved amendment with GHD for additional program and asset management for the PWM expansion for a total amount of \$848,183
- Approved purchase of 3 electric service vans from Watsonville Ford in the amount of \$173,242.80
- Rejected proposals received for the Enterprise Resource Planning System Replacement Project and authorized participation in NASPO ValuePoint Cooperative Agreement for Cloud Solutions for the purchase of Oracle NetSuite and Implementation in the amount of \$1,623,496.38
- Approved agreement with Black & Veatch to prepare a master plan for the RTP upgrade in the amount of \$601,023
- Approved amendment for the 2/25/21 Short-Term Outfall Capacity lease with CalAm for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Test Well

FEBRUARY-

New Board Members:

- Castroville Community Services District Alternate: James Derbin

Special Acknowledgements:

- Adoption of Reso. 2025-01, Resolution of Appreciation to Outgoing Chair Moore for his service as Chair from 2023-2025 and Vice-Chair from 2021-2023
- Adoption of Reso. 2025-02, Resolution of Appreciation for Anthony Rocha for his service on the Board, representing the City of Salinas, February - December 2024

Informational Items:

- Update on negotiations with M1W and MCWD regarding outfall capacity negotiation, cooperation and funding agreement
- PWM update presentation

Board Action:

- Approved a MOA with the City of Monterey for inspection services for the Sewer Pipe Blockage Control and Stormwater Management Programs
- Adopt Reso. 2025-03 authorizing M1W's Executive Officer to act on behalf of M1W to obtain Federal Financial Assistance provided by the Federal Dept. of Homeland Security & Subgranted through the State of CA, for the FY22/FY23 SLGCP Program
- Approved agreement with GHD for Scada Cybersecurity Assessment and Upgrade Management services in the amount of \$398,179
- Increased contract amount with Brown & Caldwell for Outfall Improvement Projects for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project from \$6393,859 to now \$1,235,731
- Adopted Reso 2025-04, approving cost share of \$581,979 for PWM construction costs for the City of Salinas Round 2 Stormwater Grant Project
- Board provided direction on customer billing options and approved the Customer Assistance Program for FY 25/26, not to exceed customer support budget of \$200,00

MARCH-

Informational Items:

- Update given on the Feasibility Studies to address Seawater Intrusion by the SVBGSA
- Committee assignments confirmed for April 2025 - March 2026
- Board provided direction on MCWD's billing inquiry for M1W's wastewater fee to be placed on their bill for MCWD's customers only

Board Action:

- Approved purchase of 10 Taylor-Dunn Bigfoot S carts for \$193,623.11
- Approved an amendment to H2O Innovations for the RO threshold inhibitor contract for AWPf, in the amount of \$115,897.86
- Approved agreement with TJC for engineering services for the SVRP electrical system replacement project in the amount of \$459,160
- Approved contract amendment with Kennedy Jenks for engineering services during the PWM and AWPf expansion project for \$335,795

MARCH-

Board Action continued:

- Approved contract for the CP330 Monterey Pump Station and CP331 Seaside Pump Station upgrades design contract with Carollo for engineering services for the amount of \$410,500
- FY23/24 Annual Comprehensive and Popular Annual financial reports were presented to the Board

APRIL-

Informational Update:

- Received preliminary summary for fiscal year 25/26 proposed budget

Board Action:

- Public hearing held on M1W's vacancies, recruitment and retention efforts pursuant to Govt. Code Section 3502.3
- Regional Treatment Plant Electrical Upgrade and Interconnection Project:
 - Awarded contract to Carollo Engineers for \$3,419,972
 - Awarded contract to TJCAA for \$1,098,400
 - Awarded contract to Royal Electric, totaling \$29,489,400
- Approved two purchase order amendments for Corporate Network Refresh project for a total amount of \$112,680.13
- Awarded professional services agreement to Chandler Asset Management Investment for advisory services for 3 years
- Mountain Cascade contract change approved for pump station upgrades and SEPS Emergency Generator Fuel System to total contingency amount of \$2,979,233
- Eurofins Eaton contract amended for lab testing services for Title 22 drinking water panels for an amount of \$235,723
- Approved Recertification of M1W 2025 Sewer System Management Plan
- Contract increase approved for Larry Walker Associates for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, totaling \$828,859.78
- Executive Officer authorized to execute an interim agreement with the City of Salinas and MCWRA for the City's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility Effluent

MAY-Budget Workshop

- Received and approved the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 proposed budget

JUNE 2, 2025

Informational Items:

- Dave Lindow (Pure Water Monterey Program Manager) presented an update on Pure Water Monterey and Advanced Water Purification Facility expansion projects

Board Action:

- Approved awarding professional services agreement to Vasquez & Company for financial audit services for three years in the amount of \$168,918
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Council Report from Councilmember John Uy June 24, 2025 Meeting

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on May 20, 2025



I am honored to provide you with this comprehensive and transparent update on the key actions and discussions that took place during our Regular City Council Meeting on May 20, 2025. Together, we continue to shape our small but mighty city into a thriving, inclusive, and forward-thinking community.

The meeting opened with the recognition of three essential pillars of our civic spirit:

Municipal Clerks Week (May 4–10): We honored Karen Minami, Laura Batra, and Stacy Matthews for their unwavering professionalism, neutrality, and dedication in serving as the connective thread between our citizens and government.

Public Works Appreciation Week (May 18–24): We recognized the invaluable contributions of our public works professionals, particularly Ron Fucci and Sherman Low, who help maintain the backbone of our infrastructure and public safety.

Pride Month – June 2025: We proudly proclaimed June as Pride Month in Del Rey Oaks, affirming our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. We continue to be a city where every individual, regardless of identity, is valued and celebrated.

The Council unanimously approved a set of important measures under the consent agenda, including:

Approval of April Meeting Minutes and Monthly Department Reports

– Fire, Police, and Financial performance reports indicate strong stewardship and operational stability.

Adoption of Key Resolutions

- Retroactive Salary Schedule for FY 2021–22
- FY 2025–26 SB1 Funded Project List for road improvements
- 2.69% rate increase for GreenWaste Recovery (starting July 1, 2025)
- Response to the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Report on Road Safety
- A new 5-year Fire Protection Agreement with the City of Seaside
- Recognition of MST General Manager Carl Sedoryk for 25 years of exemplary service

These actions reinforce our city's commitment to fiscal accountability, public safety, infrastructure enhancement, and recognition of public service excellence.

We also reviewed the proposed FY 2025–26 budget, a \$5 million balanced budget, an achievement of significance for a city of our size.

Key takeaways:

1. Revenues are at 90%, while expenditures are at 81% of the year-to-date budget, showing strong financial health.
2. We currently hold \$12.9 million in cash and investments, providing a robust safety net.
3. The Police Department budget remains consistent, with 50% covered by the Monterey Peninsula Airport.
4. There is a surplus of over \$530,000 thanks to healthy property tax revenues.

The Council emphasized the importance of fiscal discipline, emergency reserves, and long-term planning, especially as economic uncertainties loom.

There was a presentation from the Seaside Fire Department about the **Fire Hazard Severity Zones** within our city. This proactive measure enhances our ability to prepare for and mitigate wildfire risks, a growing concern across California. The ordinance is in its first reading and is expected to move forward in June.

I remain proud to serve alongside my fellow councilmembers in upholding transparency, accountability, and compassion in our governance. This meeting reflects our collective dedication to making Del Rey Oaks a safe, inclusive, and fiscally sound community for all.

II. Council Report: Special Meeting of the DRO City Council on May 21, 2025



I am pleased to share with you a brief yet important update from the Special Meeting of your City Council held on May 21, 2025. Though brief in duration, this meeting marked a critical step in preparing our city for a more fiscally resilient and inclusive future. Here's what you need to know:

At this special meeting, the Council devoted focused attention to reviewing the City Manager's Proposed FY 2025–26 Operating Budget, a comprehensive financial plan that reflects our shared priorities of fiscal responsibility, service excellence, and long-term resilience.

This special session was critical to ensure a transparent and thorough public review of the budget, with ample time for Council feedback and community input before its scheduled adoption in June.

Key Budget Features:

1. **Balanced Operating Budget:** The proposed budget demonstrates sound fiscal management, balancing projected revenues with anticipated expenditures while safeguarding our reserve funds.
2. **Commitment to Essential Services:** Funding is allocated to maintain core services such as public safety, infrastructure maintenance, and community services without reductions in service levels.
3. **Investment in Resilience:** The budget includes provisions for emergency preparedness, climate adaptation, and sustainability efforts to ensure our city is ready for future challenges.
4. **Strategic Staffing:** Personnel costs are carefully reviewed and adjusted based on actual need and funding sources, including shared service agreements (such as with the Monterey Peninsula Airport).
5. **Capital Planning:** While this meeting focused on the operating budget, future discussions will incorporate capital improvement planning to align with our infrastructure and growth needs.

The special meeting allowed the Council and public to examine the details of revenue forecasts, department allocations, and the city's fund balances. As stewards of your tax dollars, we are committed to maintaining transparency, fiscal prudence, and strategic use of every public cent.

The final budget adoption is scheduled for our June Regular Council Meeting. As your representative in the Council, I remain committed to ensuring our city's budget reflects the values and vision of our community, one that is safe, inclusive, financially healthy, and forward-looking. Thank you for your trust in our leadership as we work to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Del Rey Oaks.

III. Council Report: DRO Pride Flag-raising Celebration – June 1, 2025

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, something beautiful happened at City Hall. Under the banner of this year's theme—**"Pride Shines On"**—our city gathered in love, solidarity, and celebration for what many have already called the most meaningful and powerful Pride Flag-Raising Ceremony Del Rey Oaks has ever hosted.

It was not just an event. It was a movement of hearts.

A Celebration of Dignity, Love, and Belonging

From the very first notes of the National Anthem sung by the radiant **Frida Vossler**, to the final chords of our community singing “**Voices United in Pride**,” the event was an expression of collective joy, inclusion, and purpose. The energy was electric. The message was clear: every person belongs here, just as they are.

Voices that Moved Us

We were honored to be joined by incredible speakers whose words uplifted and inspired:

Mayor Scott Donaldson, who opened the program with affirmations of our city’s commitment to equality and justice.

The Honorable Alex Garcia-Arrazola, Mr. Eric Mora, and Ms. Miranda Dailard, whose powerful voices reminded us that representation matters and that progress is not only possible—it’s happening.

Poet Patrice Vecchione, whose poetic reading echoed in our hearts and minds, challenging us to love louder.

Planning Commissioner Gary Kreeger, our beloved resident speaker, who brought authenticity and courage to the ceremony by sharing his story and leading the flag-raising with his wife, Mrs. Katie Kreeger.

We thank **The Reverend Michelle Jelinch Vargas** for grounding us with her invocation and calling forth the spirit of unity. The closing remarks by **Councilmember Kim Shirley** sealed the ceremony with love and a charge to continue the work of equality and allyship.

The Moment We Raised the Flag

As the Inclusive Progress Pride Flag was raised by **Gary and Katie Kreeger**, longtime residents and proud allies, it fluttered in the wind as a beacon of visibility, respect, and affirmation. It was a powerful, emotional moment that brought many of us to tears.

Thank You to the Heart of This Event

To every volunteer, staff member, performer, speaker, elected official, ally, and resident who made this event possible—thank you from the bottom of my heart.

You showed up. You waved your flags. You hugged strangers. You sang. You cried. You celebrated.

And by doing so, you sent a message to every LGBTQ+ youth, elder, friend, and family member that Del Rey Oaks sees you, hears you, and celebrates you.

Rainbow Cake and Shared Joy

After the formal ceremony, we shared rainbow cake, colorful dishes, laughter, and heartfelt conversations. What a joy to witness neighbors connecting across generations, backgrounds, and identities.

Why This Matters

This was more than just a flag-raising. It was a declaration of who we are as a city:

We are a community that stands up against hate.

We are a city that chooses love and justice.

We are a home where Pride is not only welcomed but honored.

As the lead of this year's Pride event, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. You showed what it means to live our values. To everyone who stood with us, whether in person or in spirit, you made this day unforgettable.

The 2025 Pride Flag-Raising was more than a success. It was a triumph of community.

Let us carry this light forward all year long!





Council Report from Councilmember John C. J. Da. D.









IV. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – June 10, 2025



As your representative on the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board, I am committed to keeping you informed on matters that impact the health, environment, and infrastructure of our region. I'm pleased to provide this report summarizing the key items discussed and approved at our recent SCSD meeting.

1. FY 2025–26 Budget Adoption

The SCSD Board unanimously approved the Final Budget for FY 2025–26, which maintains a strong focus on operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, and environmental stewardship. Highlights include:

- a) Continued funding for capital improvement projects to upgrade aging sewer infrastructure.
- b) Maintaining adequate reserves for emergency response and regulatory contingencies.
- c) No new user rate increases proposed this fiscal year—a reflection of solid fiscal management.

2. Engineering and Capital Improvement Updates

The Board received a report on current and upcoming projects, including:

- a) Manhole Rehabilitation and Sewer Line Repair Projects, aimed at reducing inflow and infiltration.
- b) Planning for sewer main replacements in high-priority areas based on condition assessments.
- c) These projects are critical to maintaining the integrity of the wastewater system and protecting public health and the environment.

3. Collaboration with Monterey One Water

SCSD continues to collaborate with Monterey One Water to align with regional wastewater treatment goals, including:

- a) Ensuring compliance with state mandates and discharge permits.
- b) Supporting efforts to expand water recycling and conservation programs across the peninsula.

I want to extend my appreciation to the SCSO staff and fellow board members for their diligent work and partnership. Together, we are ensuring that our sanitation infrastructure meets the needs of today while planning wisely for tomorrow.

V. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – June 11, 2025

As your representative on the **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)** Board of Directors, I am honored to share this update from our most recent meeting held on June 11, 2025. AMBAG plays a vital role in regional planning, transportation, housing, environmental sustainability, and economic development across Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties.



1. Adoption of the FY 2025–26 Budget and Overall Work Program

The Board approved the Final FY 2025–26 Budget and Overall Work Program (OWP), a roadmap for AMBAG’s strategic activities and use of state/federal funds. Key initiatives include:

- a) Regional planning and policy development in land use, housing, and transportation.
- b) Support for the development and implementation of local Housing Elements and RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation) strategies.
- c) Continued coordination with federal and state partners on infrastructure funding and climate resiliency.

2. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Program Update

AMBAG provided a detailed update on the REAP 2.0 grant program, aimed at accelerating infill housing production and reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT). The funding will support:

- a) Technical assistance to local jurisdictions
- b) Regional housing strategies and data tools
- c) Cross-jurisdictional coordination and public engagement

This initiative is vital to helping cities like Del Rey Oaks meet state housing goals while preserving quality of life and environmental integrity.

3. Approval of New Contracts

The Board authorized several contracts that will support AMBAG's planning efforts, including:

- a) A contract with Rincon Consultants for environmental services in preparation for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) update.
- b) A contract with CivicWell for facilitation of stakeholder engagement for the Central Coast Climate Collaborative.

These partnerships will enhance regional collaboration and public participation in shaping our future.

VI. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the City Council on June 24, 2025

With heartfelt sincerity, I want to share that I will be **unable to attend our upcoming Regular Council Meeting on June 24, 2025**, as my family and I will be away for a long-awaited vacation. This trip is especially meaningful because I will be spending precious time with my parents, and most especially, with my father, who is courageously living with cancer.

As many of you know, being a public servant is an honor I hold close to my heart. I've always shown up to serve, listen, and advocate for our city, and I will continue to do so with steadfast commitment. But every now and then, life reminds us to slow down and cherish the people who made us who we are. For me, that means being present for my dad during this deeply personal journey, and making beautiful memories while we still can.

I believe that at the core of public service is something we all share: **love for family, the value of time, and the importance of being there for those who matter most**. These are not just personal values. They are community values, too.

I am confident that the work of the Council will continue seamlessly in my brief absence, thanks to the strength and integrity of my colleagues and the leadership of our city staff. I remain fully engaged before and after the meeting, and will continue supporting our shared goals even while away.

Thank you for your **kindness, understanding, and grace** as I take this short time to be a son, a brother, and a grateful member of a loving family. I carry your trust with me wherever I go, and I'll return even more inspired to serve Del Rey Oaks with the care and passion you deserve.

VII. Council Report: Invitation to the 2025 DRO Contingent at the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade on June 28, 2025

I'm thrilled to invite you to join our **Del Rey Oaks contingent** at this year's **Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade** on Saturday, June 28, 2025, kicking off at 11:00 AM!

This annual celebration is joyful, colorful, moving, and unforgettable, and this year promises to be our biggest and most heartwarming yet. As we walk together in unity and pride, we send a powerful message of love, inclusion, and community, values that define Del Rey Oaks.

Whether you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community or a proud ally, your presence matters. Bring your signs, your energy, your rainbow gear, and most importantly, your spirit! It's fun. It's meaningful. And it's even better with YOU there! We still have a few spots left in our contingent group, and I'd love for you to be part of it!

To join us, simply email me at juy@delreyoaks.org and let me know you're in. I'll share the details on where to meet and how we'll shine together.

Let's show the Peninsula what Del Rey Oaks Pride looks like!

