

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of the board meeting I attended:

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
(TAMC)**

May 27, 2026



TAMC Board Receives Update on State Route 68 Adaptive Signal Pilot Project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors received an update on the State Route 68 Adaptive Signal Pilot Project. The presentation follows the Board's previous authorization of \$1.2 million for Caltrans to conduct a five-year adaptive signal pilot project on State Route 68.

The State Route 68 corridor includes nine signalized intersections that experience significant congestion during peak commute periods. With funding from the Transportation Agency, Caltrans procured a system from Miovision designed to improve traffic flow using real-time traffic data and technology incorporating artificial intelligence (AI). Unlike traditional signal timing, this adaptive system continuously adjusts to changing traffic conditions, allowing it to optimize traffic flow and respond to seasonal traffic fluctuations, special events, and incidents. The system is being evaluated as a five-year pilot program intended to provide real-world performance data while the Agency evaluates whether the benefits of roundabouts justify their cost relative to the adaptive signal system.

The Miovision adaptive traffic signal system was procured by Caltrans last year, and adaptive operations were implemented on May 5, 2026. A preliminary analysis was done on the adaptive operations to reflect typical conditions when local schools are in session. Early results show improved travel times in the prime direction of traffic flow during peak commute times.

During the morning commute, the adaptive system reduced travel times in the primary direction of travel (westbound from Salinas towards the Monterey Peninsula) by over 4 minutes. The average westbound speed during the morning commute increased from 19.5 mph to 21.6 mph due to adaptive signal operations. During the afternoon commute, the adaptive system reduced travel times in the primary direction of travel (eastbound from the Monterey Peninsula towards Salinas) by a little under 1 minute. The average travel speed

eastbound during the afternoon commute increased from 30.3 mph to 31.1 mph after adaptive signal operations were implemented.

Preliminary results indicate that the Miovision adaptive signal system will improve traffic flow along the corridor. The next appropriate time to evaluate signal operations is in the fall when school is back in session and typical driving patterns are prevalent.

This adaptive signal pilot project is important because it establishes a real-world benchmark for evaluating the proposed Phase I Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project, which includes constructing roundabouts at San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra, and Laureles Grade.

Measure X Senior & Disabled Transportation Cycle 4 Award Recommendations Approved

The Transportation Agency received ten applications for the Measure X Senior and Disabled Transportation Program Cycle 4 Program, covering fiscal years 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29. Applicants requested a combined total of \$5,758,119—exceeding the \$1.86 million available for Cycle 4 by \$3,898,119. This made Cycle 4 the most competitive funding round to date.

After an extensive discussion following the Board presentation about the funding and selection process, the Board approved the recommendation by the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee to adopt a resolution to award the Cycle 4 Measure X Senior & Disabled Transportation Program of Projects for Fiscal Years 2026/27 through 2028/29 as follows:

- \$1,116,300 to Independent Transportation Network (ITN) Monterey County
- \$526,328 to Alliance on Aging
- \$50,244 to City of Greenfield
- \$67,128 to Veterans Transition Center
- \$100,000 to Blind & Visually Impaired Center

A summary of proposals and rankings are available at:

<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/files/82d08db5d/Measure+X+Senior+%26+Disabled+-+Cycle+4+Funds+Requested+Summary.pdf>

North Monterey County Regional Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Project

The TAMC Board of Directors received a presentation on the North Monterey County Regional Transportation Vulnerability Assessment (RTVA) Project, which evaluates how climate-related hazards are affecting and will continue to affect the transportation system in North Monterey County.

Findings indicate that precipitation-based hazards, particularly riverine and rainfall-runoff flooding along the Pajaro and Salinas Rivers, are the dominant drivers of transportation vulnerability under existing conditions. Chronic flooding occurs regularly during winter storm events, disrupting mobility, increasing travel times, and limiting access to essential services for residents.

While flooding remains the primary concern today, rising sea levels and coastal processes are expected to intensify impacts after 2050, leading to more frequent coastal and high-tide flooding and compounding inland flood risks. In addition, rising groundwater levels associated with sea level rise will reduce soil infiltration capacity, increasing the speed and extent of surface flooding while accelerating deterioration of roadway infrastructure. Inland and higher-elevation areas, which currently experience fewer impacts, are projected to face increasing risks later in the century from hazards such as landslides, wildfires, and post-fire debris flows as precipitation variability and extreme weather intensify.

Exposure and vulnerability analyses show that transportation assets located in low-lying coastal and riverine areas are particularly at risk, with local roads representing the largest share of exposed infrastructure. Critical corridors (including State Routes 1, 156, and 183, and key local roads such as Castroville Boulevard, Elkhorn Road, and Moss Landing Road) are vulnerable to multiple hazards, which can result in road closures, detours, and system-wide disruptions. These impacts affect not only vehicular travel but also transit service reliability, emergency response, and the movement of goods, particularly for the region's agricultural economy.

The assessment highlights important social and equity considerations. Vulnerability is not evenly distributed across the region, with disadvantaged and rural communities, many of which rely on limited transportation options, experiencing disproportionate impacts from flooding and roadway disruptions. Community engagement confirmed that recurring flooding leads to missed work, limited access to schools and services, and, in some cases, temporary isolation. Traffic demand and the need to maintain reliable transportation access for disadvantaged populations were consistently identified as top priorities in evaluating risk and developing adaptation strategies.

Overall, the RTVA provides a data-driven foundation for prioritizing transportation investments and adaptation projects. By combining hazard exposure, infrastructure vulnerability, and community priorities, the assessment identifies the most at-risk roadway segments and establishes a framework for targeting improvements that enhance system resilience. The findings support a proactive approach to integrating climate considerations into transportation planning, emphasizing near-term action to address existing flooding issues while also preparing for long-term climate impacts through multi-jurisdictionally coordinated, multi-benefit adaptation strategies.

An Update from the Mayor...

June 2026

I'm excited to share with you the latest information on the most important topics and activities happening in our city.

Overall, we are in solid financial shape which allows the city to provide the same high level of services our residents currently enjoy. We are exploring development opportunities on our Fort Ord property and actively seeking additional sources of revenue. Construction and maintenance activities continue to move forward and we've been recognized for our conscientious care of the environment.



Great things are happening throughout the city with exciting prospects on the horizon!

FORTAG

The main focus for the next few months is the undercrossing site near the Public Works yard. Work will also continue on other segments of the trail. You can expect to see activity near the Safeway parking lot soon and crews will be working to connect the road between Carlton Dr. and Highway 218. Based on the current assessment, they expect Carlton Dr. to open sometime before the 4th of July holiday.

The focus as this project moves forward:

- Making sure the city receives a quality product that is built to standard with Del Rey Oaks' best interests in mind so residents can fully enjoy it without the city incurring unnecessary maintenance costs.



- Minimize disruption. As with most projects, delays are unfortunately a normal part of construction. While delays have occurred due to issues beyond the city's control, we remain diligent and are constantly coordinating with the Lead Agency (TAMC), the Project Manager (MNS) and the Contractor (Graniterock) to identify issues early and keep progress on track.

- Smooth opening of Carlton Drive. Our police will provide a presence and emphasize the need to pay special attention to speed and traffic flow as people adjust to the road reopening.

Please check the city website for the latest information and sign up for alerts and updates at: tamcmonterey.org/fort-ord-regional-trail-greenway-canyon-del-rey

Development

We all notice construction activity in cities like Seaside, Marina and Sand City, and I'm often asked... Why can't we have something like that in Del Rey Oaks? Unlike other cities on the peninsula who have developed their Ft. Ord properties, our land comes with unique challenges and issues. Since our property has never been developed before, it has environmental and infrastructure challenges, and unexploded ordnance issues that the other cities don't have.

This has resulted in developers having a difficult time making any project financially viable for our property. The city entered into an Exclusive Right to Negotiate



(ERN) two years ago with a well-established developer (City Ventures) but the company ultimately decided against pursuing a potential project.

Recently, the city council provided direction to the City Manager to reach out to developers who have specific knowledge and skills to deal with the issues and challenges, and have "boots on the ground" experience with Ft. Ord properties. Our economic development team is in the process of assessing

the developers and making a recommendation to potentially enter into an ERN. This item will be coming soon to the city council. As before, the developer would have to determine financial viability before we could potentially move forward with any development plan.

Old Garden Center

The FORTAG contractor (Graniterock) has been using this area to stage some of their equipment, and construction activity on the trail makes it very challenging to begin a



project for long-term use. In order to maintain ownership of this property, any long-term plan will require a public/private partnership between the city and a potential business because we simply don't have the money to make the necessary upgrades to the property. The building itself is in such poor condition that it will most likely need to be taken down.

The city continues to consider short-term uses of the property to generate additional revenue until the site is ready for permanent use. Once we have potential candidates to consider for temporary use, I plan to bring those ideas to the council for discussion and public input.

Rosita Road

The city received a Federal Highway Administration grant last year to repair the shoulder on a portion of the road that has been slipping for many years into the creek below. The grant specified that only native soils could be used for the repair, which is mostly sand in Del Rey Oaks. Our engineer plan reflected that requirement and the road was repaired.



During this past rainy season, the water flowing through the creek below caused erosion and the shoulder began to slip. It has been stabilized and we are waiting until the end of the rainy season to determine the best plan for permanently stabilizing the hillside.

City Finances

Unlike many jurisdictions, Del Rey Oaks continues to have a balanced budget with no need to increase taxes. Most importantly, residents can expect the current level of services provided by the city to continue. This was accomplished by maintaining our current revenue levels and finding ways to cut back as expenditures continue to rise.

Our long-term ability to maintain a balanced budget will become more and more challenging because our revenue sources are limited and our costs and expenditures will continue to rise. That's why our Ft. Ord property is so important. It has been identified as the site to meet our state mandated housing requirements and it will provide much needed economic development to set the city up for success for generations to come.



The solid financial standing of our city has allowed us to potentially move forward on projects that have been deferred for years due to lack of funding. The Rosita Road repair will be the priority and the cost of this project will determine if we're able to proceed with other projects on our list.

We will always try to find grant funding and will focus on the careful use of your money to ensure our little city can provide the services and quality of life that makes our city so special.

Fire Season

Fire season is upon us and the city, along with our neighboring jurisdictions, have addressed the fire threat throughout our area. The city completed an extensive fire fuel mitigation in the City Park and Work Memorial Park. It was necessary to address a fire threat that had been neglected for decades.



We also established an annual routine with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District to address fire fuel concerns along the boundary between houses on Carlton Drive and the Frog Pond. This coordinated effort focuses on clearing dead trees, brush and weeds.

Residents on Rosita Road and The Oaks condominiums face similar fire threats along the shared fence line with the Airport. This area has been neglected for years. Taking a similar approach as with the Parks District, we coordinated with the Monterey Regional Airport to hire crews to clear the area of fire risk. The crews completed phase 1 of the project along the fence line and have begun clearing in the Work Memorial Park area as part of phase 2.

The weeds and brush are relentless but we remain determined to keep it under control.

Environment

In addition to becoming a Tree City, Del Rey Oaks is now a Bee City!

Working with our Public Works Director, Ron Fucci, we integrated pollinator friendly maintenance practices within our City Park and open spaces that will help maintain a healthy environment, and implemented pest management procedures focused on pollinator

We're a Bee City!



BEE CITY USA
A MEMBER OF THE BEES SOCIETY

Photo: Jennifer Hopwood

conservation. We also worked with local businesses to sponsor a pollinator seed giveaway at the Annual Fall Picnic and Earth Day Celebration. Pollinator plants and thousands of seeds were given away to residents and information was provided by the National Wildlife Federation.

These efforts also support my decision to take the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and my ongoing commitment to implementing programs and processes to help sustain the monarch butterfly and other pollinators. I encourage all residents to identify opportunities to create pollinator friendly habitats at your residence.

Spread the Word

- Please share this update with anyone you think might be interested
- Keep an eye out for notifications and check the city kiosks for important messages about upcoming meetings and events
- To sign up for city notifications, go to the City Website and click "Email Subscription" on the main page
- If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at: sdonaldson@delreyoaks.org




Mayor Donaldson

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Tuesday, May 12th- Recycling Presentation at The Oaks- As a wrap-up to the education tabling that Sustainable Del Rey Oaks did to promote food composting at the Oaks, we had GreenWaste Recovery come and do a short presentation for residents at The Oaks during their HOA meeting. I was happy to introduce Emily from GreenWaste (she's our representative for Del Rey Oaks and other cities), who gave an excellent presentation about food composting and recycling, while emphasizing the importance and process of both practices. Emily brought kitchen pails and personal recycling bins that people could put in their houses, which turned out to be very popular. I was pleased with the turnout and the interest in these topics. Del Rey Oaks still has some kitchen pails left, so if you're interested in getting a free pail, please let me know, and I'll be happy to drop one off for you.

Wednesday, May 13th- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Meeting- I attended this meeting as an alternate for John Uy, as he was traveling and was not able to attend. The first agenda item was the required presentation on their job vacancies. AMBAG has a 94% retention rate for positions, and they reported their biggest obstacle in recruitment is competition with nearby employers and the high cost of living in our region. The next (and last) item we covered was approving the draft FY 26-27 Monterey Bay Region Overall Work Program and Budget. In order to receive federal funds, this document is required. It covers all AMBAG work programs and activities and is used as a project management tool for AMBAG staff. It had gone through several reviews, so there was little discussion on this topic, and it quickly passed. This document will now go to Caltrans and federal agencies for their approval.

Tuesday, May 19th- City Council Meeting- We began our meeting with four proclamations celebrating National Public Works Week May 17-24, Professional Municipal Clerks Week May 3-9, the 10th Anniversary of Palenke Arts, and National Pride Month for June.

After passing the consent agenda, our main topic of discussion was the draft budget for this next fiscal year. With rising costs in health care and liability insurance, and very little increase in revenue, it's a budget that will likely operate at a deficit. I was happy to hear that the City Manager planned to have a Special Council Meeting in June that will address projects for next year, which will need to be covered by our fund balance. Besides pointing out things such as a need to budget for the elections and maybe increasing the budget for our public works repair category, which is overrun every year, I also spoke about the elimination of the budget for strategic planning. I view strategic planning as a critical piece to establishing goals for our council, direction for the staff, and an opportunity for residents to share their thoughts on what they'd like to see in the city. In response, City Manager

Guertin talked about that as being something that's "nice to have," and he felt that we'd be able to collectively run a strategic planning meeting on our own, without paying for a facilitator. I spoke about this happening when we did have money in the budget, but now that it's been taken out, it seems we have an even smaller chance of this happening.

Some of the suggestions I made when thinking about increasing money available were whether we'd need to dedicate \$45,000 every year for our police cars, which cost upwards of \$90,000 each (we split the cost with the airport). We don't buy a car every year, so I asked to see how much we've accumulated over the years. I also suggested that we may want to look at selling some of the water we have contracted through Marina Coast Water, which is our water purveyor for the Former Ft. Ord, since it's an amount that we'd never completely use. I also mentioned that I was not interested in increasing our Short Term Rental cap this year, which was brought up as a way to increase revenue, mainly because I see that as a last resort (increasing the number of rentals may take up the supply of homes people can live in, while also increasing the number of discontented neighbors). We'll be passing the budget in June, so there will certainly be more to come!

Friday, May 22nd- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- We began this meeting by passing the consent agenda, although I did pull an item that was about the \$25,000 we contribute to the County for its Litter Abatement Task Force. We agreed to the contribution, but I also asked that we have the County present to our Board about their efforts to hear how we may offer additional assistance or spread our efforts towards more areas on the peninsula (most of the effort is in Marina).

Next we had the presentations for the Artists in Residence, which is one of my favorite things we do at ReGen. CSUMB students are chosen (this year there were 4), and they use materials found on our tip floor as well as the Last Chance Mercantile to savage and create new pieces of art. I love how the artists expand their mediums and integrate sustainability through their artwork. It's the perfect combination of learning, expression, and caring for our planet. It really makes me happy!

Following the presentations, we held a public hearing regarding the increase in disposal rates for next year. This was a topic we've discussed in several meetings and properly noticed the increase in our local papers. We did not have anyone comment on this item, so the next item was to easily approve the rate increases. This led us into a discussion about our draft budget for next year. Our staff has done an excellent job, balancing our budget, catching us up with our reserve policies, and covering the needed capital projects for next year. Our main discussion was addressing the lack of available cash we will have in the future years, but the staff is well aware of this outlook and understands how they will recommend we navigate through the future economic years. Given the ability for additional revenue sources and the loss of one of our largest revenue streams in 2036, it will take a thoughtful approach in the coming years.

Our last agenda items were approving a change order for \$500,000 in new pavement for the covered aerated static pile construction, which will be our new method of composting. This additional pavement was newly added because Keith Day, who does our composting, felt the additional pavement would make his production more efficient, so much so that he agreed to pay for the change order.

Lastly, I'd like to share that during the General Manager comments, we learned that ReGen recently earned some impressive awards from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO), which is the state's leading professional association for public information officers (not just landfills, but all public agencies). ReGen Monterey earned a *Certificate of Excellence* for its battery fire safety campaign. ReGen, Salinas Valley Recycles and local consultant Blue Strike Environmental also received three awards for the Sort with Heart campaign promoting curbside food scrap collection, including an *Award of Distinction* for its bilingual Public Service Announcement, the top *EPIC Award for Best Communications Campaign in California*, and the *Best in Show* honor among more than 500 entries across all categories. It was a very proud moment to learn about these awards, and yet we were not surprised because we know we have a top-notch communications team at ReGen, and they are excellent at creating partnerships for even more enriched communication.

Tuesday, May 26th- City of Monterey, District 4 Community Meeting- I decided to attend this meeting because I knew they'd be discussing the airport, as well as other interesting topics that are essentially in our backyard. The first topic was talking about the housing complex that will be built across from CVS, where the Cork and Bottle liquor store currently resides. There will be 49 housing units built, with 20% of those being low-income. Residents were concerned that they're only accounting for 39 parking spaces, which, given the state regulations, is permissible. Some ideas were discussed, and it gave residents an opportunity to voice their concerns. The next topic was the airport, which garnered complaints about noise and air quality concerns. Director Jonathan Ahmadi was very good at explaining that the FAA is the one responsible for these concerns, and he shared that coming together as a community group and addressing the FAA with a rule change is a potential solution. Chris Morello, the Executive Director of the airport, was there to share information about the new terminal. The last topic that was addressed was the Fairgrounds, which, as you can imagine, coming off of a Cali Roots weekend, there were several complaints about noise, trash, and security. I enjoyed attending this meeting and seeing the engaged residents and their ability to voice concerns while having Council Member Gino Garcia navigate the conversations. Mayor Tyller Williamson and City Manager Dante Hall were also there, so it was good to touch base with both of them. Mayor Williamson gave a very good introduction into the structural deficit facing Monterey, explaining how it got there and the plans for reducing it. Overall, I appreciated all that I learned in this meeting.

Sunday, May 31st- Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising- Big thanks to Council Member, John Uy for another heartwarming Pride flag raising event! We had a nice turnout, and it was wonderful to have Jessica Ansberry, who is the granddaughter of our former Mayor Charlie Benson, along with her partner, Christina Torres, as our resident guest speakers for the event. In addition, we had Mayor Donaldson give opening remarks and a thought-provoking poetry reading by DRO resident/poetry teacher/writer/artist Patrice Vecchione. We also did some community singing, thanks to the guitar and ukulele playing of DRO residents Scott Laxier, Scott Waltz, and Kevin Raskoff. I was honored to provide the closing remarks and so grateful to see the Pride flag flying in DRO. May it bring comfort and greater awareness of our diversity and inclusiveness values within our city.

Wednesday, June 3rd- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- The meeting today was to review the final draft of our budget, which we easily approved for recommendation to the full board. Our financial outlook in the future is deeply dependent on master planning, so we also had some discussions around future capital projects and planning for the build-out of the landfill. It's interesting to talk about economical ways to increase our landfill capacity, while also thinking about our future needs and potential for revenue using our landfill gas. No doubt, there will be many more conversations in the near future as staff continues to work on the master plan.

Monday, June 8th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Monday, June 8th- Special City Council Meeting- Similar to other cities and public agencies, this budget season is turning up short. Fortunately, we're in a good position to weather this storm with a healthy reserve, made up of both our "rainy day funds" as well as money that has not yet been spent and can therefore cover our predicted shortfall. Last year our budget showed a greater deficit, but with a lack of spending in various areas, we may break even. So, needless to say, there wasn't as much discussion around the specifics of the budget since many of the "nice to have" budget items have been cut, but I did want to cover some additional topics.

- I asked about our contributions to our Section 115 trust, which saves money to put towards our unfunded CalPers liabilities. We're not contributing this year, so I asked that we talk about this more in our finance committee meetings.
- I asked for clarification regarding our vehicle reserve, in terms of how much money we have collected and whether that money will provide not only police vehicles but also support the needs of public works.
- I was concerned about the money that was removed for a park consultant, which was one of those "nice to have" items. I know that utilizing the former Garden Center parcel is going to be our quickest way to start bringing in additional revenue, but it seems that we'll be working on finding an interim use of that parcel before we embark on any larger plans.

- Although the council was never allowed to prioritize specific projects, I did pitch the idea that the city work with the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to create parking spaces down in our corp yard, which would provide safe parking for the Frog Pond (instead of parking along Hwy 218) as well as overflow parking for City Hall. Council Member Uy supported the idea, but Mayor Donaldson and Council Member Burger wanted to wait and hear information from the City Manager about this potential project. I was disappointed that there wasn't a stronger push for this timely project, especially since it greatly benefits our residents. With the completion of FORTAG in the Fall, now's the time to have the contractors leave us with a finished parking lot. I do hope our City Manager continues to work with the Park District on this beneficial project.
- I'm looking forward to more discussions about the use of our fund balance (money that hasn't been allocated). It seems that cities begin to face larger deficits when they don't save money for future infrastructure needs, and I'd like to see the city take a closer look at those needs and create a plan which shows how we may address our aging infrastructure.

Wednesday, June 10th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical

Advisory Committee- The bulk of our meeting was receiving a presentation on the updated Sea Water Intrusion Model (SWIM) being used for the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin and the Monterey Subbasin. The original model was created in 2023, and this 2026 version integrates many of the changes that have occurred, providing a more robust model with improved water level calibration. They're finding the model still underestimates water levels in some areas, but collectively it provides a better, more detailed, and more up-to-date view of what's happening in the 180/400 and deep aquifers. This regional model provides some additional information for the Seaside Basin, but to better understand all areas of our basin, we'll need to update our current Seawater Intrusion Model for the Seaside Basin, which was last updated in 2018. Updating our model, now that we have a larger regional model, will also provide benefits to the larger region. The Watermaster will be looking into cost-sharing the work with the Water Management District, so by the time this comes to the full board next month, that should be worked out. The total estimation for this work is \$125,000 and should be completed by the beginning of 2027. One other item of significance was covered during this meeting. Jon Lear from the Water Management District provided an update on the new well we're hoping to install in the area where we've seen an increase in conductivity. This well will be on State Park land, so they've been coordinating with that agency to make sure our well doesn't interfere with their biological goals for the area (for example, making sure to avoid the buckwheat plant as it provides food for a special species of butterfly). At this time, the lawyer for the Water Management District is evaluating what we'll need for the environmental review for the work. It's estimated this well will cost \$80,000, which will be split with the Water Management District.

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
June 23, 2026 Meeting**

I. Council Report: Special Meeting of the DRO City Council on May 19, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

During this reporting period, I continued to focus on community belonging, responsible fiscal oversight, public safety, infrastructure, and transparent local government.

I was grateful that the City recognized National Public Works Week and Professional Municipal Clerks Week. These recognitions honored the dedicated staff members whose work often happens quietly behind the scenes but remains essential to the daily life of Del Rey Oaks. I deeply appreciated the service of our public works professionals, City Clerk staff, and administrative team for helping keep our small city safe, responsive, organized, and accessible to the public.

I was also pleased that the City recognized the 10th Anniversary of Palenke Arts and proclaimed June 2026 as Pride Month. These proclamations reflected the values that make Del Rey Oaks special: kindness, inclusion, culture, dignity, and respect for all residents and neighbors. I remained committed to supporting a community where every person feels welcomed, valued, and safe.

I reviewed the monthly public safety and financial reports with continued attention to service levels, transparency, and long-term sustainability. The Police, Fire, and financial reports helped provide important insight into the City's operations, community needs, and fiscal position. I appreciated the staff's work in presenting these materials clearly so the Council and public could better understand the City's priorities and responsibilities.

I also reviewed the transportation, infrastructure, audit, and budget-related items before the Council, including the SB1 project list, TAMC agreements, pavement management work, sidewalk and paving improvements, audit services, and the proposed FY 2026–27 budget. These items reinforced the importance of careful planning, outside funding opportunities, safe streets, ADA accessibility, and responsible stewardship of public funds.

Overall, I remained grateful for the residents, staff, volunteers, and community partners who continued to care for Del Rey Oaks in meaningful ways. Their service, participation, and commitment helped strengthen the spirit of our city.

II. Council Report: Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising on May 31, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

On Sunday, May 31, 2026, I was honored to organize and help facilitate the Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising Event at Del Rey Oaks City Hall. The event was held under the theme, “Love Lives Here,” and it beautifully reflected the spirit of kindness, belonging, dignity, and inclusion that make our city so special.

The program brought together residents, neighbors, community members, faith leaders, artists, and City representatives for a meaningful afternoon of reflection and celebration. The ceremonial portion included an invocation by Reverend Michelle Jelinch Vargas of Unity of Monterey Bay, the singing of the National Anthem by Reija Massey, opening remarks by Mayor Scott Donaldson, a poetry reading by Patrice Vecchione, and heartfelt remarks from Del Rey Oaks residents Jessica Ansberry and Christina Torres.

One of the most moving moments of the afternoon was the raising of the Inclusive Progress Pride Flag by Jessica Ansberry and Christina Torres, two Del Rey Oaks residents whose presence helped center the event in community, visibility, and love. The ceremony was followed by community singing led by Scott Laxier, Dr. Scott Waltz, and Dr. Kevin Raskoff, and closing remarks by Councilmember Kim Shirley.

After the ceremony, attendees gathered for photos, food, rainbow cake, and fellowship. It was a joyful and heartfelt reminder that public service is not only about policies and infrastructure, but also about creating spaces where people feel welcomed, respected, and seen.

I was deeply grateful to everyone who participated, attended, volunteered, and helped make the event possible. The Pride Flag Raising was a meaningful celebration of our LGBTQ+ community and allies, and it affirmed Del Rey Oaks as a small city with a big heart, where love, respect, and belonging truly live.





III. Council Report: Special Meeting of the DRO City Council on June 8, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

On Monday, June 8, 2026, I participated in the Special City Council Meeting of the City of Del Rey Oaks. The meeting focused on several important items that, while technical in nature, directly affected the daily lives of our residents: accessible public spaces, safe roads, responsible use of public funds, and the long-term financial health of our City.

I appreciated the opportunity to review the Del Rey Park ADA Sidewalk Improvements Project funding source amendment. Accessibility improvements are deeply important because they help ensure that our parks and public spaces can be enjoyed by residents of all ages and abilities. At the same time, the funding change reminded me how essential it is for the City to maintain strong internal controls, especially when grant funding and federal compliance requirements are involved. I remained supportive of improving accessibility while also emphasizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and preventing similar documentation issues in the future.

I also reviewed the amended FY 2026–27 SB1 project list, which identified the Rosita Road shoulder repair as the proposed project. Roadway maintenance may not always be the most visible or exciting part of local government, but it is one of the most practical ways we care for our community. Safe streets, well-maintained shoulders, and thoughtful infrastructure planning matter to residents, drivers, pedestrians, emergency responders, and neighbors who simply want to move through Del Rey Oaks safely and confidently.

The proposed FY 2026–27 budget was the most significant item of the meeting. I appreciated staff's work in preparing a cautious and conservative budget during a time of flat revenue projections and rising costs. My focus remained on ensuring that Del Rey Oaks continues to protect essential services, support public safety, maintain infrastructure, and make thoughtful decisions about the use of fund balance. I also paid close attention to the need for long-term revenue diversification so that the City can remain financially stable and resilient in future years.

Overall, the June 8 Special Meeting reflected the serious but meaningful work of local government. These discussions were about more than numbers, projects, and resolutions. They were about how we protect the public's trust, maintain the places residents use every day, and make careful decisions today so Del Rey Oaks can remain a safe, welcoming, accessible, and fiscally responsible community tomorrow.

I remained grateful to City staff, my Council colleagues, and the residents who continue to stay engaged in the work of our City. Del Rey Oaks is a small city with important responsibilities, and I continue to be honored to serve our community with care, diligence, and heart.

IV. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – June 9, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks neighbors,

On Tuesday, June 9, 2026, I attended the regular meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District as Del Rey Oaks’ representative. The meeting focused on important regional wastewater infrastructure, fiscal oversight, capacity fees, and long-term sewer system planning that directly affect Del Rey Oaks, Seaside, and Sand City ratepayers.

During the meeting, I reviewed the January through March 2026 expenditures and the District’s drawdown request. I appreciated the continued attention to financial accountability, especially because sewer services require careful long-term planning, responsible cash management, and transparent use of ratepayer funds.

I also reviewed the May 2026 operations report with special attention to Del Rey Oaks. I was pleased to see that Del Rey Oaks had no mainline stoppages, no lateral stoppages, and no sanitary sewer overflows reported for the month of May. At the same time, I remained attentive to the need for continued preventive maintenance, timely root-cause review, and fair service coverage across all member jurisdictions.

The Board also considered an ordinance related to proportional sewer capacity fees for accessory dwelling units. I appreciated the intent of aligning the District’s fee structure with state law while also making sure the process remains understandable and fair for homeowners. As housing rules continue to evolve, it is important that residents and applicants receive clear information early in the process so there are no surprises after they have already invested time and resources into a project.

The most significant item of the meeting was the Broadway Avenue Sewer Upgrades project. The Board considered a major investment to enlarge sewer infrastructure along Broadway Avenue in Seaside in coordination with the City of Seaside’s Complete Streets project. I recognized the practical value of coordinating sewer upgrades with roadway improvements so the District can avoid unnecessary future pavement disruption and restoration costs. At the same time, I remained focused on ensuring that District-wide funds are used fairly,

transparently, and with a clear regional benefit to all ratepayers, including residents of Del Rey Oaks.

Overall, the June 9 SCSD meeting was a meaningful reminder that sanitation infrastructure is often invisible when it works well, but it is essential to public health, environmental protection, housing, economic development, and quality of life. I remained grateful to District staff for their technical work and to my fellow Board members for their continued attention to responsible infrastructure planning.

I will continue to monitor SCSD projects closely so that Del Rey Oaks residents are represented with care, fairness, and accountability in regional sanitation decisions.

V. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – June 10, 2026

On Wednesday, June 10, 2026, I attended the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting as part of Del Rey Oaks’ continued regional representation. The meeting focused on important issues that extended beyond any one city’s boundaries, including transportation planning, sustainability, climate resilience, regional growth, fiscal oversight, and long-range coordination across the Monterey Bay area.



During the meeting, I reviewed several consent items that reflected AMBAG’s ongoing role as a regional convener and planning agency. These included the Regional Clearinghouse Monthly Newsletter, the Sustainability Programs Update, the Monterey Bay Area Regional Climate Project Working Group Memorandum of Understanding, Formal Amendment No. 12 to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, the Regional Travel Demand Model technical support contract amendment, and the financial update report. Together, these items showed how much regional planning work happens quietly but meaningfully behind the scenes.

I especially appreciated the sustainability and climate resilience work discussed through AMBAG’s programs. Regional efforts such as energy efficiency outreach, electric vehicle infrastructure planning, climate adaptation, and coordinated grant-seeking are important for small communities like Del Rey Oaks because they help local jurisdictions access expertise and funding opportunities that may be difficult to pursue alone. This kind of collaboration helps ensure that climate resilience is not only a large-city priority, but a shared regional responsibility.

I also paid close attention to the transportation-related items, including the MTIP amendment and the continued support for regional travel demand modeling. Transportation planning

affects how our residents move through the region for work, school, services, healthcare, recreation, and family life. For Del Rey Oaks, it remains important that regional transportation decisions reflect safety, connectivity, accessibility, environmental responsibility, and the needs of smaller cities as well as larger jurisdictions.

The most significant item of the meeting was the Final 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and Final Environmental Impact Report. This long-range planning document helped shape the region's transportation, growth, housing, environmental, and climate strategy through 2050. I appreciated the importance of this work because decisions made at the regional level can influence future funding, infrastructure priorities, greenhouse gas reduction efforts, and how communities across Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties grow together.

Overall, the AMBAG meeting was a meaningful reminder that Del Rey Oaks is part of a larger regional ecosystem. The choices made by AMBAG affect the roads our residents travel, the climate investments our communities can access, the housing and growth assumptions that shape our future, and the regional partnerships that help small cities remain strong.

I remained grateful for the opportunity to represent Del Rey Oaks in these broader regional conversations. I will continue to advocate for planning that is thoughtful, fiscally responsible, environmentally aware, and attentive to the needs of small communities like ours.

VI. Council Report: An Invite to the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade – June 27, 2026

Invitation to Join the Del Rey Oaks Contingent in the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade

I warmly invite our Del Rey Oaks residents, families, friends, neighbors, LGBTQ+ community members, and allies to join the City of Del Rey Oaks contingent in the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade on Saturday, June 27, 2026, in Downtown Monterey.

Our group will gather at 10:00 AM on Polk Street, and the parade will step off at 11:00 AM. This will be a joyful, family-friendly celebration of love, unity, belonging, and pride. Everyone will be welcome to march with us, wave a flag, bring color and kindness, and stand together in support of dignity and inclusion for all.


I hope many members of our community will join us for this memorable day. Together, we will show that Del Rey Oaks is a small city with a big heart, where everyone deserves to feel seen, respected, and welcomed.

JOIN THE CITY OF DEL REY OAKS IN THE
MONTEREY PENINSULA PRIDE PARADE!





March with Pride!

 DOWNTOWN MONTEREY

 SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

 PARADE STEPS OFF AT 11:00 AM

 MEET TIME AT 10:00 AM ON POLK ST

 GATHER YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND BE PART OF A MEMORABLE,
JOYFUL, AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION.

 EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE DEL REY OAKS CONTINGENT.

 LET'S COME TOGETHER—RAISING OUR VOICES, WAVING OUR FLAGS,
AND MARCHING IN UNITY, LOVE, AND PRIDE.
LET'S MAKE IT A DAY TO REMEMBER!

