

## **Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

**Saturday, August 20th- Communities for Sustainable Monterey County (CSMC) Quarterly Zoom Brunch-** This meeting is a wonderful opportunity to hear what is going on with all of the other LAGs (Local Area Groups, such as Sustainable Seaside or Sustainable Monterey). Some of the ideas people reported out included a woman with Sustainable Monterey and her son who are working on planting 1,000 trees! Sustainable Seaside is giving out free trail maps for hiking in Fort Ord. They'll also be participating in the Coastal Clean Up day on Sept. 17th by cleaning up Laguna Grande park, and they've been invited to participate in Seaside's General Plan update. Sustainable PG is hosting an "Art in the Garden" in their community garden on Aug. 27th, and Marina is doing lots of work on their Oak Woodland behind the Marina Library. For the second half of the meeting, we were given a presentation on the Blue Zones Project. This presentation was given in hopes that CSMC would qualify as a Blue Zone participating organization. Given that many of our members already follow many of the researched tenets, we were invited to submit examples of our activities so that we can qualify. This was truly an inspirational presentation and a good reminder of how important it is to have a strong sense of purpose, engage in social activities, and make sure that we're having lots of movement throughout our day. I would love to have the Blue Zones Project give a presentation at our council and look into the city becoming a Blue Zones City!

**Tuesday, August 23rd, City Council Meeting-** During our August meeting, the contract for Regional Government Services (RGS) was pulled to discuss the contract amount and division between financial and HR services. Since we rely heavily on RGS for these services, it's imperative that we continue with RGS as we continue to work on our financial procedures. Given that we don't have any HR personnel, this contract is very important for those reasons, too. The New Business for this meeting included approving a commercial lease agreement with the Carmel Honey company. They'll be renting and renovating the city building which is in our public works yard. The council was happy to approve this lease as it'll be great to diversify our revenue and it's nice to begin a relationship with a growing, local business. In addition, we also adopted a resolution in support of the County's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Wednesday, August 31st, Tour and Training at Monterey County Office of Emergency Services-** This was an opportunity provided by County Supervisor Wendy Root Askew to all electeds in District 4 to learn more about our Emergency Operations Center out in Salinas. This was all new to me and I was grateful to have the chance to learn more about how this operation center helps coordinate emergencies throughout our county. In general, there is a duty officer there 24/7 to receive calls from dispatch or to receive messages from the state/federal system. This is the place that may send out reverse 911 calls, text alerts, social media alerts, email messages, push notifications on phones, or radio/tv announcements. The messages they send all depend on the level of the emergency. Although they will coordinate efforts, it was a good reminder that "all emergencies are the responsibility of the jurisdictions" and therefore we need

to be prepared for all phases, including prevention/mitigation, preparedness, and response. It was also brought to our attention that our staff and electeds are all disaster service workers, so preparation is key. I learned that we should have an Emergency Operation Plan for the City. I wasn't aware of this, so I've asked City Manager Guertin to look into this, as it should have lots of valuable information for how our city will respond in a disaster. When I asked what's the best thing we can do to help protect our residents, they suggested that everyone sign up for "Alert Monterey County" to make sure that people are easily made aware when emergencies are announced. The bonus to this morning was learning that the excellent emergency services planner who did the presentation is actually a resident of DRO! Thank you for your excellent presentation, Kelsy!

**Wednesday, September 7th, ReGen Monterey Finance Subcommittee Mtg-** Several topics were included in today's meeting including looking at the committee's purpose, responsibilities, and draft bylaws which will ultimately go before the full board; discussing the current certificate of transparency that the District has earned and talking about additional ways of being transparent, including mtg videos on our website; discussion and support for the request of raising the purchasing limit for the General Manager to \$75,000; supporting a new janitorial service contract; supporting a recommendation for professional development for the leadership team and other staff members from Frew and Associates; supporting the move towards no cash payments at the scales; and reviewing the draft Microgrid Co-Op Agreement between Monterey One Water and ReGen Monterey. I look forward to discussing many of these topics at our next full Board Mtg.

**Wednesday, September 7th, Parks and Rec Committee Mtg-** I joined this meeting to see the TAMC presentation on their latest design options for FORTAG. This was a very pleasant and positive meeting with good questions and great information. I appreciated the fact that TAMC is soliciting feedback for the look and feel of the trail amenities. We were able to choose from modern, rustic, or coastal. "Coastal" was the top vote getter with "rustic" coming in second. Several people expressed the desire to have a blend of the two (I agree!). I look forward to hearing the presentation again at the council this month.

**Thursday, September 8th, Sustainable Del Rey Oaks Mtg-** This was a mostly planning meeting in that we reviewed details for our citywide trash clean up on Sept. 17th (Coastal Cleanup Day) as well as our plans for the Fall Festival. We also gave updates on our ongoing projects.

**Friday, September 9th, Special City Council Mtg-** This was a short meeting to review a closed session item. In the end, we ended up rejecting the worker's compensation claim from our previous police officer, Chris Lawson.

**Sunday, September 11th, 9/11 Commemoration Ceremony in Seaside-** This was the 2nd annual commemoration ceremony for 9/11 and, similar to last year, Fire Chief Gutierrez and Police Chief Borges created a very touching and special opportunity to recognize the life-saving

efforts of the first responders and to honor those lost. There were some very nice remarks from Mayor Oglesby and Seaside City Manager Jaime Fontes. The most heart-wrenching moment was having Police Chief Borges signal to the various fire trucks and police cars to turn on their sirens all at once to simulate what it would have sounded like at ground zero. I'm so grateful for Fire Chief Gutierrez's invitation to the Del Rey Oaks Council. I was happy to have the opportunity to share how much we appreciate having Seaside as our fire department.

**Monday, September 12th, Monterey Peninsula Plastic Coalition-** At this meeting I learned that the County is still working on their plastic ordinance. There was also lots of discussion about AB619 which is the legislation that allows customers to bring their own containers for take out. It sounds like there are still many restaurants (mainly in Seaside) who are looking to the County Health Dept. for verification that this law can be resumed (it was temporarily stopped during the pandemic). I appreciate this coalition as it brings together people from all areas so that we can have these kind of conversations across different agencies and enact changes much sooner than if we were all working independently. We also had a discussion about getting training in "Community Based Social Marketing" which is a method used to help people make behavior changes that will benefit sustainable practices. We're thinking about it in terms of SB 1383 (food scrap composting) and are looking into bringing together waste haulers, landfill representatives, non-profits, and local action groups, to learn more so that we can help initiate positive change in our communities.

**Wednesday, September 14th, League of Women Voters, "Update on Monterey Peninsula Water Issues" by David Stoldt-** This was such an informative and interesting talk by David Stoldt, General Manager for the Monterey Regional Water Management District. He presented information regarding the current supply of water and the demand of water, both present and future. He also gave an update on Measure J, which was the ballot initiative that won handedly in favor of looking at the feasibility and eventual buy out of our currently privately owned water delivery system. Some highlights include that we currently have the lowest demand for water since 1958. We're 54% of the demand we had in the peak year of 1987. We've reduced our water usage by 28% since 2009 when we were given the cease and desist order by the state. He shared that for calculating future demand, they used the unbiased, well-tested growth forecast that is developed by AMBAG. It's updated every 4 years but still includes the current 6th cycle of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation. In general, taking into account this population growth forecast as well as business growth, it looks like we'll need an additional 786 Acre Feet of water which can be easily accommodated by the expansion of Pure Water Monterey (the recycled water project). This is, of course, disputed by Cal Am, which uses different rules to calculate supply and demand. In terms of the buyout, they'll have a final appraisal done by December and will be able to make an offer in January 2023. Knowing that Cal Am will not accept the offer, they'll need to have a "Hearing of Public Necessity" in mid-Feb and then will file a condemnation in March 2023. No doubt, 2023 will be a big year for water in our area!

**Wednesday, September 14th, AMBAG Board Mtg-** The big vote for this meeting was to make official the final determination of appeals for Sand City and Greenfield for the draft 6th cycle

Regional Housing Needs Allocation. At our last meeting, we heard the appeals and both were denied. Staff then went back and wrote up the denials and in this meeting we supported those votes and the staff recommendation for denying the appeals. Not everyone was pleased (definitely not a unanimous vote), but I voted for the staff recommendation both times as they did not satisfy the requirements for the appeal. We also adopted the draft Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program which covers FY 2022-23 through FY 2025-26. This is our short range transportation improvement program which needs to be updated every 2 years to be eligible for federal funding. There's a total of \$1.6 billion dollars planned for all three counties. We also voted to release the draft Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, which specifically looks at transportation that supports those who are disabled, seniors, and/or low-income. This plan is updated every 4 years. Lastly, we heard information on the Regional Early Action Grants Program (REAP 2.0) which will eventually fund projects associated with reducing vehicles miles traveled, infill, or affirmatively furthering fair housing. The funds must be expended by 6/30/26 but we can't apply for the funds until Summer/Early Fall in 2023.

**Saturday, September 17th, SDRO City Trash Pick-Up-** Sustainable Del Rey Oaks joined forces with the Environmental Club at MPC and did a trash pick-up for the Coastal Clean Up day. Volunteers spread out through Del Rey Park, focusing on the creek and up along 218, and then another group walked down to Work Memorial and cleaned up along the highway and behind the trees in the back of Safeway. We had just a couple of buckets of recycling, but the rest was 4 large garbage bags of trash. Besides the ever present cigarette butts, we also found a lot of food wrappers, receipts (especially behind Safeway), plastic shopping bags, newspapers, and fast food wrappers. We also found a frying pan, a shoe, a duffle bag with random trash items, some large metal pieces, and wood waste. It was a satisfying haul and so nice to leave our city cleaner than when we started!

**Tuesday, September 20th, Board of Supervisors Water Forum-** This 3-hour meeting was the second in a series for the Board of Supervisors with Chair Mary Adams bringing together water representatives and elected leaders from all over Monterey County. The meeting began with an introduction from Donna Meyers from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Brent Buche from the Monterey County Water Resources Agency. From there, representatives from Panetta's office and Ana Caballero's office spoke along with John Laird and Robert Rivas. After those talks, began 5 min presentations from 11 Special District water agencies and regulated utilities. Public comment came next and then comments from the Board. For me, the common thread was the need for collaboration as there are so many different needs and potential projects on the horizon. Supervisor Adams is hoping for, at the end of this series in December, to have a formalized commitment from these agencies and utilities to go into a facilitated process to help with that collaboration. I think this is a wonderful idea, but I do think that collaboration has a long way to go, given that it's clear different agencies can't even agree on the basics. What is our water demand? What is our current supply? What are our future supply needs? There are also social and equity issues that must be addressed. Some ignore them, while others see those as big issues that should prevent certain projects from moving

forward. I do think that maximizing our recycled water as much as we can is the way to go, as was pointed out by several speakers. There may be multiple projects needed, but what those are, will need to be determined through that advanced collaboration. And of course, this is all separate from the process of working to purchase CalAm, which would absolutely change that collaboration for the better. Without the need to satisfy shareholders those conversations can then focus on the needs of the public. Stay tuned!