



Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Kerr Activity Report November/December 2022

Due to a hip replacement surgery, I missed last month's council meeting and the affiliated report. So I am including those activities in this report. With the election and the holidays, activities have been fewer. Similar to the shift in timing for DRO council meetings, other meetings have been shifted to accommodate the holidays.

I went to Safeway to get my shots ... flu and COVID. They make it easy and I feel a lot better heading into what many are anticipating to be a rough flu season. Take good care of yourself!

DRO Resident Tree Planting

Oct 22 - It all started with a conversation in the park in August. Reggie shared with me that for the last several years, his wife Tomiko had been doing tree plantings to celebrate her birthday. Instead of gifts, they ask friends to purchase trees and join them to plant then celebrate. I got her connected with Ron Fucci on where and what kinds of trees he would prefer.

That Saturday, I joined the birthday celebration and helped plant strawberry trees, which are evergreen and produce small fruits that resemble strawberries. We started at the top of Rosita, above the church and butterfly garden. If you drive the back way to the Oaks condominiums the trees in the median were also planted by this group, as well as a few in the park.

Tomiko's family will get to enjoy the trees daily, as a reminder of their mom's contribution to the health and beauty of their hometown. Many thanks. For the wonderful idea and to all of your friends who came to together to celebrate your birthday!



Transportation Agency of Monterey County

Oct 26 - The meeting overview was in last month's agenda packet

Dec 7 - Please see attached overview.

Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) Chili Cook Off

Oct 27 - The city of Del Rey Oaks has an agreement with Marina Coast Water District to supply water to any potential development of our Ft. Ord property. MCWD hosts several fun employee events each year and I was invited to be one of the official judges for this year's Chili Cook Off. The other judges were Matt Zefferman, MCWD and Eric Tynan of Castroville. It is an annual fun and competitive event. I was honored to be asked!

Moose Lodge Halloween

Oct 30 - I volunteered to help with the annual Halloween bash at the Moose Lodge. It was lovely to see so many families gather to play games, and win some fun prizes. Once the kids earned ping pong balls for their gaming efforts, they came to my table where they could select any number of prizes. The place was packed and hopping. I want to thank Mark Arellano for always having family friendly activities that boost community-building.

DRO Parks & Rec Committee

Wed Nov 2 - We discussed a wish list for items needed for upcoming Movie Nights such as permanent Audio/visual items and beverage containers. Discussion then revolved around roughing out a calendar of events and logistics, to include classes offered by our residents and perhaps 1 large project a year. Next year will commemorate the city's 70th birthday, and it makes sense for the P&R Committee to lead that celebration. The idea of an International day was also discussed.

Monterey County Mayors Association

No meeting on November 4.

Dec 2 - The Mayors met for the first time in almost 3 years in Carmel to honor myself and Monterey Mayor Roberson leaving our positions.

Monterey Regional Airport

Nov 4 - The Monterey Regional Airport board met for a strategic planning, tied to their Master Plan and their recent large influx of funding. It appeared that they had not had a strategic planning session for about 8 years. I attended to provide public comment about the necessity of providing clear communication to the jurisdictions that will be affected by whatever plans they come up with. The Airport Roundtable idea is still the best option for this, so the cities surrounding the Airport all hear the same information at the same time.

DRO Values Ad hoc Committee Meeting

Nov 4 - The council created this committee to come up with definitions for the city values the council had identified several years ago. Council members Shirley, Gaglioti and myself are on this ad hoc committee. Identified city core values include, in no particular order, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Fiscal Responsibility, Honesty and Integrity, Open Communication and Transparency, Ethical Behavior, and Responsiveness to Community Needs and Concerns. These values are the basis for both Council and City actions. Ms. Shirley brought initial definitions for each of the city values for the committee to consider. We were able to wordsmith them in our first meeting. Chief Hoyne will be taking these to staff for consideration before they either come back to the committee or are presented to the full council, hopefully in November.

DRO Finance Committee

Nov 11 - no meeting

Dec 9 - no meeting

Traditionally, the annual audit is done in the final quarter of the year, which provides the ending fund balance. This balance is then brought before the council in Feb/March time frame for spending consideration. We are anticipating another several hundred thousand surplus.

DRO City Council Meeting

Nov 15 - I was still recovering from my recent hip surgery so was not able to attend. This was the first meeting I had not attended in the 4 years since I became mayor. Vice Mayor Gaglioti chaired the meeting. The [agenda and video can be found here](#).

A very important agenda item was the Surplus Land Act, which is the process of opening up city owned property. Notices must be sent to low income housing providers, open space and parks entities, educational institutions and other potential interested parties. This notice will be sent on Dec. 14. There is a 60-day process for responses, with proposals. The parcels include:

- Site 1 is approx. 230 acres on the north side of South Boundary,
- Site 1a is approx. 18 acres on the south side of South Boundary,
- Site 2 is what we call the 17 acres across from the Oaks condominiums.

If no one expresses interest, then other parties such as regular developers will be contacted. Stay tuned for more information on these items!

Coastal Commission Meeting

Nov 17 - This was a 16-hour meeting focused on the Cal Am Desal plant. There was passionate public comment from residents from around the county, the majority of which were against the plant due to equity, environmental and monetary issues. At the end of the evening the majority of commissioners dismissed these concerns and approved the Desal plant with approximately 20 caveats that must be met prior to implementation. Since this meeting there was a CPUC meeting that approved the Pure Water Monterey expansion, which would provide the majority of water needed to replace that which has been illegally pulled from the Carmel River. We are nowhere near having a solution to our water woes, but plenty of lawsuits to come.

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Wednesday, November 9th- AMBAG Meeting- After electing new officers, we heard a presentation on the Central Coast Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy which is being funded through a sustainable transportation planning grant from Caltrans. The goal is to identify zero emissions vehicle charging infrastructure for multiple counties, including Monterey. Their focus is to look at rural, unincorporated areas and multi-family units to identify key challenges and equity issues surrounding EV charging. They'll also be looking at securing more funding for future infrastructure needs. One of their big outreach projects was creating a social pinpoint website where people can make suggestions for charging locations. They'll also be conducting focus groups and other outreach, and then creating a report at the end. In terms of DRO, I'd love to see public chargers either at Stone Creek or in the Safeway parking lot. Also at this meeting we approved the 2022 Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, which is reviewed every 4 years and is used for grant applications where the focus is on people with disabilities, seniors, and low income individuals. Lastly, we approved the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 full application for HCD. We'll be receiving just over 10 million dollars for the purpose of providing grants that will accelerate housing infill, affirmatively furthering fair housing, and lowering vehicle miles traveled. 60% of the funds will be for project implementation, 25% will focus on infill development, and 15% will focus on tech assistance, program development, and administration.

Thursday, November 10th- Sustainable Del Rey Oaks Meeting- This was our last meeting of the year. Our main focus for this meeting was discussing our latest workday for the butterfly garden and then looking at how we want to organize workdays moving forward. We'd like to have a weekly/bi-weekly plan for maintenance and then we also talked about having a regular monthly workday on the second Saturday of the month. A volunteer would sign up to lead a workday for that month, so we can rotate through different people, activities, and always provide an opportunity for residents to come out and volunteer on a more regular basis. We're excited about this new plan! We also discussed the coastal commission meeting coming up on the 17th, as well as a volunteer opportunity to help our neighbors in Marina plant native coastal dune plants at Hilltop park on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 10am-2pm.

Monday, November 14th- Monterey Plastic Pollution Coalition- In our updates, I learned that CSUMB is eliminating all single use plastics on campus. Their focus will be on reusables, while trying to move away from compostables (since those just end up in the landfill and aren't really composted). In another update regarding the food scrap composting law, there has been some outreach done and focus groups in Monterey where they talked with people about some of the barriers to the program. One good idea that I learned was that people were interested in having a community place to gather woodchips or greenwaste that they could use to line their yard waste containers before throwing in food scraps (many of the people who were surveyed did not have big yards and therefore have very little greenwaste). This cuts down on the "ick" factor of old food residue in their yard waste container (I know I have a crazy science experiment currently running in our yard waste container at home!). I'm going to ask to see if this is

something we could do in our city. If you'd be interested in this concept, please let me know! Even if you're not interested, let me know, then I'll know that at least one person was reading my report ;) Lastly, we talked about Community-Based Social Marketing for helping people to change their behaviors for food scrap composting. The idea is to identify the barriers people might have (like the "ick" factor) and then increasing benefits so they are inclined to change their behaviors. There will be a big training on this concept at the beginning of next year.

Tuesday, November 15th- City Council Meeting- Our big topic of the night was approving the resolution for the Surplus Land Act. This resolution is focused on city-owned property that isn't currently in use. The idea is to essentially give first-dibs to those who might be interested in building affordable housing and/or parks (or other community type uses). After some questions regarding our current land use agreements (FORTAG and an older 1999 agreement for one of our Fort Ord parcels), we passed this resolution as it is the first step to moving towards talking with developers as well as the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District regarding their interest in our 17 acre parcel. City Manager Guertin will be responsible for sending this resolution to the state Housing and Community Development, as they potentially have a list of developers who may need to be notified. He'll also be notifying local agencies who may have an interest in the property. We won't be required to make a deal with anyone who contacts us, but we will need to go through some initial negotiation. Our other topic for the evening was reviewing the definitions for our Core Values. These definitions had been developed by committee (myself, Mayor Kerr, councilmember Gaglioti, and Chief Hoyne) and then they were reviewed by the city staff and posted on our website for feedback. None was given, so we anticipate being able to approve these definitions with our new council that will be seated in January.

Thursday, November 17th- Coastal Commission Meeting regarding Cal Am's application for their desalination project- I attended this meeting in the morning and early afternoon, as I was there to support an increased time for comment for Public Water Now. As I'm sure we all know the outcome by now, it was a long meeting with very disappointing results for many, many people, including myself. When it comes to water, I believe this resource should be publicly owned, thus my reason for standing with Public Water Now. I also believe we should do everything we can to gain additional water through sustainable practices, such as recycled water. I also believe that water projects shouldn't put an undue burden on disadvantaged people and I hate the idea that the city of Marina would suffer this eye-sore while getting no benefits from the water. Paying them off is not a solution. They already, disproportionately suffer the consequences of many other regional industrial projects, such as the landfill and the waste water treatment plant. There is also a large discrepancy in the projected demand for future water use, so I believe we should go for the more sustainable and cheaper version first (expansion of recycled water). It's true, we *may* need a desal plant in the future, but we definitely don't need this desal plant, which will only put money in the pockets of the Cal Am shareholders and will greatly increase our water bills. The good news is that there are still several hurdles for this project, so it's still very unclear if they'll ever be able follow through with this heinous plan. In the meantime, I will support the buyout, where we can plan for the future in a more sustainable and reasonable manner.

Friday, November 18th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- After approving the consent agenda, we had presentations that really make me happy! First, we acknowledged another long-time employee (I find that we have so many employees that have been committed to our mission for many decades and I think it's a testament to the wonderful work that's being done at ReGen and the great work environment). Next we had a presentation on the grant money that was being awarded to several local organizations who are feeding our communities. These awards were meant to increase their capacity to receive food from the edible food recovery requirement for SB 1383. I just love this idea that more food will be given to our community (less waste with more people being fed!) and I'm grateful for these organizations who do this hard work every day. In addition to these presentations, we also received an excellent draft audit for FY 21/22. Another agenda item discussed the possibility for working with Marina Coast Water District for a potable water source for both ReGen and M1W. Given that we had just received a letter from the County Health Department asking us to focus on the need for potable water, I'd say this topic was well timed! We encouraged staff to explore this possibility with MCWD. We also approved a resolution to purchase a \$2+million dollar bull dozer (very cool!) as well as a resolution that amends an agreement that states that we'll be able to add union jobs when needed. Reports and communications came next, with a discussion about the lower rates we're getting from selling commodity items from the MRF. Seems like it's something we'll need to wait out as it's likely to bounce back at in the future.



Monterey One Water

Providing Cooperative Water Solutions

Councilmember Donaldson Notes:

Pure Water Monterey

- Total PWM water recharged to date about 7,900 AF (~ 2.6 billion gallons delivered).

Source Waters (includes Blanco Drain, Reclamation Ditch & Salinas Stormwater elements)

- Reclamation Ditch PS and Blanco Drain PS are operational.
- Salinas Stormwater Phase 1A & 1B facilities are available for withdrawing Pond 3 water for PWM recycling.

Advanced Water Purification Facility

- AWPf is fully operational.

Water Conveyance Pipeline & Blackhorse Reservoir

- The pipeline & reservoir are conveying purified water full-time to the injection facilities.

Injection Wells Facilities

- The Injection Wells Phase 3 construction contract was formally closed-out August 31st.
- All injection wells are in service; ongoing basin recharge is 275 - 300 AF per month.
- PWM permitting activities with the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the RWQCB continue based on the extrinsic tracer study results and follow-up groundwater modeling. DDW review comments were received August 30th on the Amended Title 22 Engineering Report to permit injection of an additional 600 AF per year. RWQCB approval will be secured after the PWM team addresses DDW's review comments; that final approval isn't expected until early 2023.
- M1W and MPWMD staff continue to work with City of Seaside and Monterey County staff on the final property easement acquisition process for all the PWM and PWM Expansion injection well field facilities.

Expanded Pure Water Monterey

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approval process remains the critical path for execution of the Amended Water Purchase Agreement (WPA); it is a three-party agreement, requiring approval by M1W, MPWMD, and CalAm. Next milestone is the CPUC Judge's draft (aka "proposed") decision no later than September 20th.
- Both PWM Expansion construction bid packages (AWPF expansion and IW Phase 4) are "shovel-ready"; engineering was completed several months ago.
- PWM Expansion funding through the EPA Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan program is progressing. A project-specific loan agreement has been reviewed by M1W with BBK legal support; there are no major loan agreement terms in question. With the WIFIA funding agreement negotiations near completion, the primary outstanding items are securing the Amended WPA and bidding both construction packages so actual construction costs with appropriate contingencies can be incorporated into the funding agreement.
- The PWM Expansion schedule Gantt chart (not attached to this month's Staff Report) will be updated pending firming up the timeline for execution of the Amended WPA.