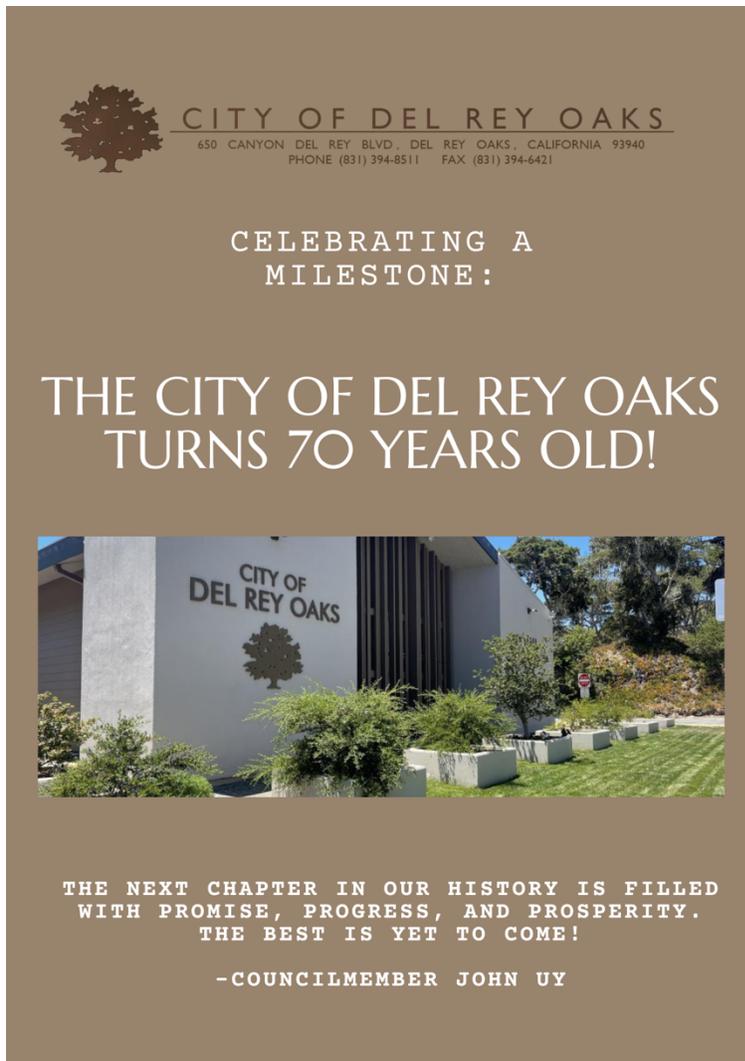


## Council Report from Councilmember John Uy October 24, 2023

### I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on September 26, 2023

#### Del Rey Oaks 70th Birthday



I thank Mayor Donaldson for the wonderful proclamation honoring the 70th anniversary of our beloved City of Del Rey Oaks. It is truly an honor to be one of your councilmembers today and reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought us to this momentous occasion.

Seventy years ago, on September 3, 1953, Del Rey Oaks was incorporated as a city, and in those seven decades, we have evolved and grown in ways that we could only have dreamed of. This anniversary is not just a celebration of the passage of time but a celebration of the spirit and resilience of our community.

Throughout these seventy years, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to unity, progress, and inclusivity. Del Rey Oaks has always been a place where people from all walks of life come together to create something special. Our

residents, businesses, and civic leaders have dedicated their time and efforts to build a vibrant and welcoming community.

One of the hallmarks of our city has been our dedication to preserving the natural beauty of our surroundings. The Frog Pond Wetland Preserve, Work Memorial Park, Del Rey Park, and Butterfly Garden are testaments to our commitment to preserving our environment for generations to come. It is a commitment that reflects our deep connection to the land we call home.



Our city's history is also marked by a strong tradition of public service. City employees and elected officials have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of our residents, to provide essential services, and to make Del Rey Oaks a better place for all. This dedication to public service is a cornerstone of our community, and we owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have served and continue to serve our city.

As we mark this 70th anniversary, it is not just a time for reflection but also a time for anticipation. We have achieved so much, and we should be proud of what we have accomplished. But we must also look forward to the future with optimism and determination. The next chapter in our history is filled with promise, progress, and prosperity, and I have no doubt that together, as a united community, we will continue to achieve greatness.

So, on this special occasion, let us celebrate our past, acknowledge the challenges we have overcome, and embrace the future with open arms. Mayor Donaldson's proclamation reminds us of the pride we should feel for all that Del Rey Oaks has accomplished in its first seven decades. I am confident that with the dedication and spirit of our community, the best is yet to come!

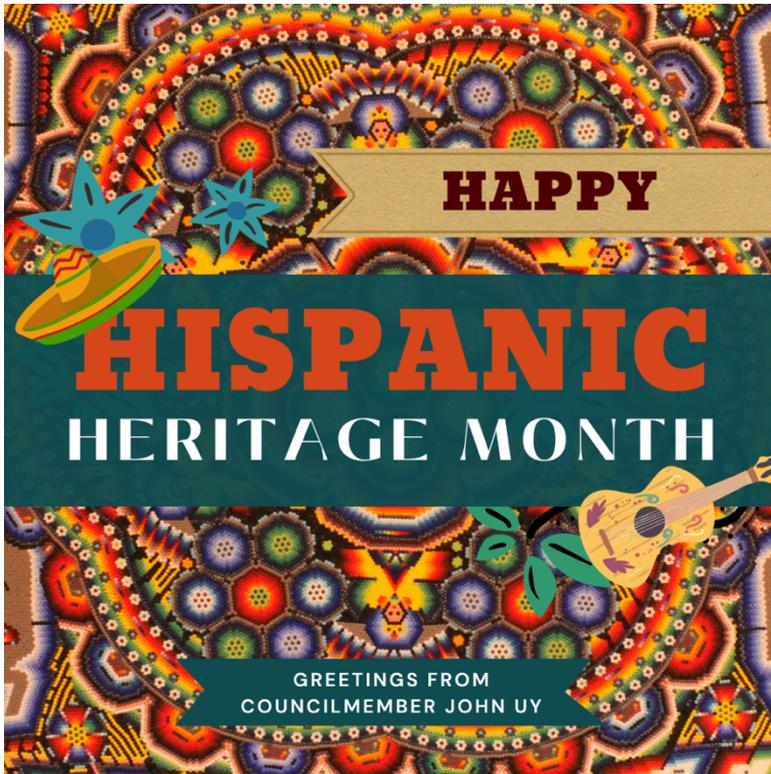
Thank you, and may we continue to thrive for many more decades to come!

### National Hispanic Month

I am honored to join you in celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month. This month provided us with a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the rich and diverse contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities to our nation's cultural tapestry.

Throughout history, Hispanic individuals and their descendants have made significant strides in various fields, from the arts and sciences to business and public service. Their stories are stories of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to progress.

It is essential for us to remember that diversity is not just a source of strength, but it is the very heart of what makes our community and our nation great. By embracing and celebrating the



unique backgrounds, traditions, and experiences of our Hispanic neighbors, we enrich our collective identity and build a more inclusive and harmonious society.

I hope we used this month as a reminder to continue fostering understanding, respect, and unity among all members of our community. Together, we can create a brighter future where diversity is celebrated, and every individual's unique contributions are valued.

I hope you all took part in the festivities and educational events throughout this month, learned about Hispanic culture, and took

the time to appreciate the countless ways in which Hispanic heritage has enriched our lives.

Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month, and may we continue to grow stronger and more united as a community. Thank you!

### Stormwater Awareness Week

I am pleased to acknowledge and celebrate something of utmost importance to our community—the proclamation of Stormwater Awareness Week. From September 25 to September 29, 2023, we dedicated this week to the critical cause of understanding and protecting our water resources.

Our local water quality is not only vital to the sustainability of our communities but also to the health, safety, and well-being of our residents. We recognize that the health of our environment is intricately tied to the health of our community members.

Stormwater Awareness Week provides us with an opportunity to enhance our knowledge and understanding of stormwater and its impact on the protection of our water resources. It's a week where we come together as citizens, staff, civic leaders, and businesses to learn and engage in activities that promote the responsible management of stormwater.

I want to extend our appreciation to our Municipal Staff who play a crucial role in protecting water quality. They are on the front lines, working diligently to ensure that our water resources remain clean and safe for all. Their dedication is instrumental in maintaining the health of our environment.

Stormwater itself is increasingly recognized as a valuable resource for our community. It's a reminder that every drop counts, as demonstrated by its contribution to the Pure Water Monterey project, a testament to our commitment to sustainability.

Since 2002, our city has been a proud participant in the Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program (MRSWMP). This regional collaboration is essential for implementing stormwater regulations consistently and cost-effectively, aligning with the Clean Water Act. It's a testament to our commitment to responsible water management.

This year, we will actively participate in the annual Stormwater Awareness Week training activities, focusing on educating our Municipal Staff, particularly our Building Department Staff, about stormwater and water quality issues. It's an investment in knowledge and expertise that will pay dividends in safeguarding our environment.

In light of these important efforts, I am honored to join my fellow council members in proclaiming the week of September 25 to September 29, 2023, as Stormwater Awareness Week in the City of Del Rey Oaks. We encourage all residents to recognize the paramount importance of water quality and its profound impact on our community's health, safety, welfare, and overall quality of life.

I want to thank everyone for all your commitment to this vital cause, and let us continue working together to protect our precious water resources.

#### Badge Ceremony for Reserve Police Officer Chris Salopek

On this day, we witnessed the addition of a new star to our law enforcement constellation. Reserve Police Officer Chris Salopek, your dedication to service and commitment to our community are truly inspiring.

In your badge, we see the emblem of courage, honor, and sacrifice. As you wear it proudly, may it remind you of the noble duty you've undertaken, and may it always guide you in your pursuit of justice.

To Officer Salopek and your family, thank you for your sacrifice and support. Your presence in our community is a beacon of hope and safety. We look forward to your continued service, and we are grateful for your unwavering dedication.

Congratulations, Officer Salopek, and welcome to our family of brave guardians. Your journey is just beginning, and we are with you every step of the way.

## **II. Council Report: A Glimpse into the "Seeing Others" Webinar by Michèle Lamont (October 3, 2023)**



I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in a thought-provoking webinar, "Seeing Others: How Recognition Works and How it Can Heal a Divided World," hosted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Advances in Learning at Harvard University on October 3, 2023. The insightful presentation by sociologist Michèle Lamont has provided a wealth of knowledge and guidance on how we, as both policymakers and citizens, can work

together to build a more inclusive and harmonious society.

### **Key Takeaways:**

The webinar explored the pressing issues of growing inequality and the erosion of the American dream, which have resulted in a mental health crisis that touches every corner of our society. Through interviews with Gen Z individuals and change agents from various fields, Michèle Lamont revealed the emergence of alternative hopes, emphasizing inclusion, authenticity, and sustainability. These individuals are actively contributing to social movements that seek to extend recognition to the broadest possible audience, even in the face of political backlashes. Their efforts hold the potential to broaden cultural citizenship, not only in the United States but also in other societies.

### **Recommendations for Policymakers:**

Michèle Lamont provided valuable insights into what politicians and policymakers can do to address the pressing issues in our society:

1. **Promote Inclusive Laws:** We must strive to create and advocate for laws and policies that promote inclusivity and equality. This means taking concrete steps to address systemic disparities and discrimination, ensuring that every individual is treated with dignity and fairness.
2. **Redefine Collective Identity:** Our efforts should be directed towards redefining our collective identity, one that is based on shared values of inclusion and acceptance. By

fostering a sense of belonging among all members of our community, we can contribute to the healing of divisions in our society.

**Actions for Citizens:**

As citizens, each one of us plays a crucial role in building a more inclusive and harmonious world. Michèle Lamont offered some practical actions that we can take in our daily lives:

1. **Everyday Choices:** Our everyday choices have a significant impact. We can work to break down barriers by avoiding opportunity hoarding and consciously passing on advantages. This might include sending our children to integrated public schools, promoting diversity and equal opportunities for all.
2. **Collective Conversations:** Engaging in collective conversations is a powerful way to bridge divides. By discussing and highlighting commonalities across differences, we can build stronger connections within our communities.

**A New World is Possible:**

In conclusion, Michèle Lamont left us with a hopeful message: a new world is possible where we can all live harmoniously and heal the divides in our society. The key lies in redefining worth in society and expanding the circle of recognition to include all members. As your councilman, I am committed to working with you to achieve these goals.

Let us remember that the vision of a more inclusive and compassionate society begins with each of us. By expanding our idea of who matters, we can collectively make a positive difference and create a better future for our community.

**III. Council Report: Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival Picnic on October 7, 2023**

I am delighted to share my experience at the heartwarming Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival Picnic, held on October 7, 2023, at Del Rey Park. This delightful event was organized with immense dedication by our beloved Citizens Action Group, a community organization known for their tireless efforts to bring our community together.

**A Day to Remember:**

The Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival Picnic has become an annual tradition that embodies the essence of unity, togetherness, and the celebration of our vibrant community. The festival



featured a range of exciting activities and attractions, including a kiddie parade, family games, a captivating fire department truck display, a presence from the Monterey County Library, live music to uplift our spirits, a delicious potato bar to satisfy our taste buds, and even commemorative t-shirts for sale.



#### **The Citizens Action Group's Dedication:**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Citizens Action Group for their unwavering dedication to organizing this fantastic event year after year. Their commitment to creating an environment where neighbors become friends and families create lasting memories is truly remarkable. It is through their hard work and passion that the Del Rey Oaks community continues to thrive.

#### **Building a Stronger Community:**

Events like the Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival Picnic serve as a testament to the power of community unity. These gatherings offer an opportunity for residents of all ages to come together, share in the spirit of togetherness, and foster the strong bonds that make our community so special. It is in these moments that we remember what truly matters – the people who surround us and the sense of belonging we share.



#### **Your Involvement Matters:**

I encourage each and every one of us to actively participate in events like these. Our presence, enthusiasm, and engagement help make these community gatherings the successes they are. By coming together, we not only create memorable experiences but also demonstrate the strength of our community spirit to the world.



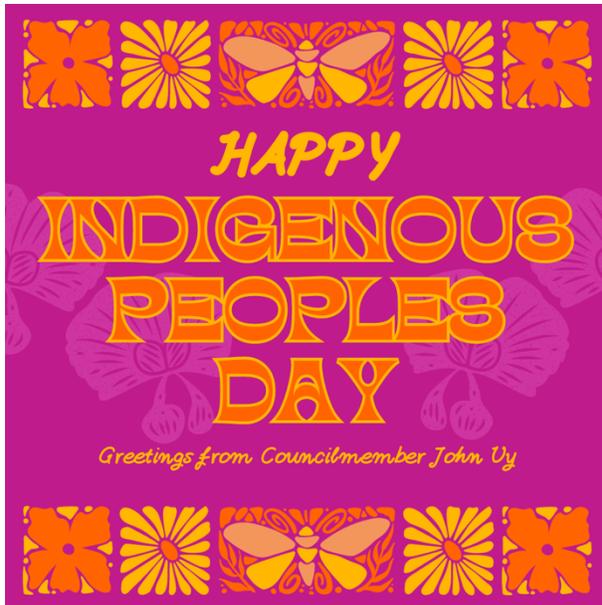
**A Community to Be Proud Of:**

As your councilman, I am immensely proud to represent a community that places such a high value on unity and togetherness. The Del Rey Oaks Fall Festival Picnic is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community stands together.

I look forward to our continued collaborations and opportunities to celebrate our community's strength. Thank you for being an essential part of what makes Del Rey Oaks the wonderful place it is.



**IV. Council Report: Indigenous Peoples' Day Message on October 9, 2023**



As we gather to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 9, 2023, let us honor the rich cultures and histories of the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded our land for generations. Indigenous Peoples' Day is not just a day on the calendar; it is a testament to our commitment to unity and respect. It is a day to acknowledge that the lands we inhabit today were first inhabited by Indigenous communities who have endured challenges and adversity with incredible resilience.

Our nation and our local community are enriched by the diverse Indigenous cultures that have thrived across this land. These cultures are a source of wisdom, traditions,

art, music, and stories that continue to inspire and influence our lives today. As we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, we have the opportunity to recognize these vibrant and enduring traditions.

Indigenous Peoples' Day offers an opportunity to build bridges of cooperation and collaboration. By coming together to celebrate the cultural richness of Indigenous communities, we create a stronger sense of unity within our own community. It is a day to remember that we are all connected, and we all share the same planet and dreams.

I want to express my gratitude to the Indigenous peoples who continue to be an integral part of our community. Your contributions and resilience inspire us all. Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day to everyone, and may this day remind us of the importance of unity, understanding, and respect in our journey towards a brighter future.

#### **IV. Council Report: Seaside County Sanitation District Board Meeting on October 10, 2023**

##### **Meeting Called to Order:**

The Seaside County Sanitation District Board of Directors meeting was called to order on October 10, 2023, by First Vice Chair Jerry Blackwekder.

##### **Roll Call - Sanitation District Board of Directors:**

The following members were present:

- First Vice Chair: Jerry Blackwelder
- Second Vice Chair: John Uy

##### **Review of Agenda:**

First Vice Chair Jerry Blackwekder reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

##### **Addition of Items to the Agenda:**

No items arose after the 72-hour posting deadline for addition to the agenda.

##### **Public Comment:**

Members of the public were invited to address the Seaside County Sanitation District on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. There were no public comments made during this period.

##### **Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approve Minutes from September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting
- B. Receive Seaside County Sanitation District Operations Report for September 2023
  - Purpose: To receive the Seaside County Sanitation District Operations Report for September 2023.
  - Recommendation: Accept the reports. This item is for informational purposes.
- C. Approval of June through September 2023 Expenditure Report for Seaside County Sanitation District
  - Purpose: To approve the expenditures for June through September 2023, totaling \$695,288.47, for the Seaside County Sanitation District.

- Recommendation: Approve the expenditures for June through September 2023 and approve a drawdown request of \$695,288.47.

D. Adopt a Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications

- Purpose: To adopt a resolution approving the plans and specifications for the relocation of a sewer line included in the City of Seaside's City Hall and Library Parking Lot Repave Project.
- Authorize a reimbursement agreement with the City of Seaside for upgrades to the sanitary sewer system as part of the project.

The consent agenda was approved by the Board.

**New Business:**

No new business discussed.

**V. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting on October 11, 2023**

This report provides an overview of the discussions and presentations made during the AMBAG (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) Board of Directors Meeting held on October 11, 2023. The meeting covered two new business topics related to planning.

**Topic A: Draft 2026 Regional Growth Forecast**

**Recommendation:** Information only

**Background/Discussion:** The 2026 Regional Growth Forecast plays a critical role in guiding our regional and local planning efforts. It projects population, employment, and housing numbers for the Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties between 2020 and 2050. This information is vital for various planning projects, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and economic activity analyses.

**Forecast Methodology:** After careful consideration and feedback, we have chosen the Cohort Component Population Growth methodology for the 2026 Regional Growth Forecast. This approach involves using birth, death, and migration data to predict future population trends.

**Feedback and Assumptions:** Feedback from a workgroup, including Planning Directors from each county, highlighted the significance of affordable housing and the implications of ag tech development. We also received input on birth and death rate trends. As a result, our assumptions are informed by regional, state, and national trends.

**Preliminary Results:** The preliminary forecast numbers reflect the region's changing demographics and economy. Population projections have been adjusted based on updated

data, indicating a slow growth pattern. Job projections have been revised lower, reflecting new data. However, housing projections have increased slightly, reflecting growth trends.

**Next Steps:** We will continue to refine the forecast and work closely with local jurisdictions to ensure accurate data is incorporated into our planning efforts. A revised draft will be available for review and discussion in November 2023.

## **Topic B: 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Update**

**Recommendation:** Information only

**Background/Discussion:** We are embarking on the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), a critical long-term plan for our region. This plan guides transportation and land use decisions and is mandated by federal and state law. We are scheduled to adopt the 2050 MTP/SCS in June 2026.

**Draft Vision and Goals:** As a crucial first step, we have established a draft vision and goals to guide the development of the plan. These elements provide the policy foundation for the MTP/SCS and outline our ambitions for the future.

**Vision:** "An accessible and connected region for a safe, resilient, and equitable future."

### **Goals:**

- Mobility
- Environment
- Communities
- Economic
- Equitable

**Next Steps:** We will continue developing the initial components of the 2050 MTP/SCS with the involvement of stakeholders, local jurisdictions, and partner agencies. The Board of Directors will be asked to approve the vision and goals in November 2023.

## **Closed Session Discussion: Evaluation of Performance**

**Purpose:** Government Code Section 54957 - Evaluation of the Executive Director  
In accordance with Government Code Section 54956, we may adjourn to Closed Session to consider specific matters related to the performance evaluation of our Executive Director.

## **VI. Council Report: Equality California Awards in Los Angeles on October 14, 2023**

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I share my experience attending the Equality California Awards in Los Angeles, California, on October 14, 2023. This remarkable event

brought together a diverse and dedicated community of legislators, constitutional officers, advocates, and supporters, all united by a shared vision of creating a more inclusive world for everyone.



**The Power of Unity:**

The Equality California Awards showcased the extraordinary dedication of inspirational leaders and allied organizations who are tirelessly working to make our world a better place. Their selfless efforts serve as a powerful testament to the positive change that can be achieved when we stand together.



**A Common Vision:**

The event underscored the importance of unity and collaboration in driving progress. Regardless of our backgrounds or affiliations, we all share a common goal: to build a society



where everyone is valued, respected, and treated with equality. It is heartening to see such a diverse range of individuals and groups join forces to champion this cause.

### **A Better World for All:**

The work of Equality California and its partners is making a profound impact. It is inspiring to witness their unwavering commitment to advancing the rights and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and the broader community. They are a beacon of hope, demonstrating that positive change

is possible when we work together with passion and determination.

### **A Call to Action:**

As your councilman, I am committed to promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equality within our own community. I believe that we, too, can make a meaningful difference by standing up for what is just and fair, and by supporting organizations like Equality California in their vital mission.

### **In Conclusion:**

The Equality California Awards served as a powerful reminder that unity has the potential to transform lives and create a more inclusive world. Let us take inspiration from this event and continue to work together to build a better future for all. I look forward to our shared journey towards equality, respect, and unity within our community.



## **VII. Council Report: Special City Council Meeting on October 18, 2023**

On October 18, 2023, the City Council convened a special meeting to address a crucial agenda item: the approval of the 2023 5th Cycle Housing Element Update. This update aimed to amend the General Plan and the Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code by adding an affordable housing overlay zone to defined areas within the former Fort Ord.

The City Council also had the responsibility of certifying the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for this action under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Consideration of Agenda Items:**

The City Council considered recommendations from the Planning Commission concerning the 2023 5th Cycle Housing Element Update. This update included amendments to the General Plan and the Municipal Code. The primary objective was to introduce an affordable housing overlay zone in designated areas within the former Fort Ord to fulfill the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements for the 5th Cycle Housing Element Update.

The Council also reviewed and voted on the approval of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Furthermore, they considered the Planning Commission's proposal to certify the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for this action under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Deliberation and Decision:**

After thorough discussions and evaluations, the City Council approved all the items presented for consideration. The Council recognized the significance of complying with state housing laws and the responsibility to provide diverse housing options to meet the regional housing needs. This decision was a crucial step toward ensuring the City's General Plan aligns with state requirements and the commitment to create housing for all income categories and housing types.

The 5th Cycle Housing Element Update was initially sent for a 60-day review, which was conducted from April 24, 2023, to June 23, 2023. During this review, the City worked closely with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to ensure compliance. HCD provided feedback and ultimately approved the emergency shelter ordinance without requiring any changes. The HEU document itself was also reviewed by HCD, and they indicated that the City could adopt the HEU without any requested changes, speeding up the final compliance review process.

The process also involved fulfilling Del Rey Oaks' housing assignment, marking the culmination of a comprehensive, multi-level process that adheres to state housing laws. This process included working with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), which allocates the region's housing assignment to cities and counties through the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process.

The Council recognized the importance of identifying specific parcels of land with the potential to accommodate the assigned units, ensuring proper zoning for residential uses, and meeting affordability criteria. Compliance with state law and addressing the needs of residents in different income categories, particularly "very low" and "low" income groups, was a significant focus of the Housing Element Update.

**Motion for Approval:**

The City Council approved the following resolutions and ordinances:

1. Resolution adopting the City's 2015-2023 General Plan 5th Cycle Housing Element Update, approving the General Plan Amendments, and certifying the 5th Cycle 2015-2023 Housing Element Update EIR, with approval of the MMRP.
2. Approval to waive First Reading and introduction of an ordinance to amend Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code Chapter 17.90 Pertaining to the Affordable Housing Overlay Zone.
3. Direction to publish the ordinance, with publication satisfied by a summary approved by the City Attorney.

**Conclusion:**

The City Council's approval of the 2023 5th Cycle Housing Element Update is a significant achievement in meeting the City's housing needs while adhering to state requirements and fostering a community with diverse housing opportunities.

This decision is a testament to the City's commitment to its residents and its dedication to providing housing for all income categories and housing types. It ensures that the General Plan aligns with state housing laws and fulfills the requirements set forth by the State of California.