

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Friday, January 19th- ReGen Monterey Board Mtg- This was my first meeting as Board Chair and although I was nervous, it all went fairly well! We welcomed two new board members- Council Member Alexis Garcia-Arrazola from Seaside and Peter McKee who is representing Pebble Beach Community Services. In addition, I was able to present a resolution of appreciation to our former Board Chair, Jason Campbell. I miss his guidance and dedication on our Board. We also did three year service awards to County Supervisor Wendy Root-Askew and myself (I can't believe it's been three years!). I've learned so much and am so proud of the work that ReGen does which makes me feel extremely grateful to be a part of an organization that puts our environment first.

Another highlight of this meeting was giving away grants to local nonprofits in support of our edible food recovery efforts. Along with composting food waste, SB1383 also addresses additional food coming from grocery stores and restaurants to make sure that the food gets donated and is used in the community, instead of heading to the landfill. To support that process, ReGen and Salinas Valley Recycles contributed grant funds that supports increased capacity for organizations throughout the region. Fifteen organizations applied and we were able to give out seven grants to a variety of organizations that serve all sectors of our community—from college students, to seniors, veterans, and disabled adults. Representatives of the organizations were in the board room to collect their checks and share how this money will help them as they continue to support the diverse needs of our region.

The two items of discussion were contracts for processing recycling from outside the region. One of the contracts is for processing recycling coming from North San Luis Obispo County and a South Monterey County military contract. Another was to process single-stream recycling from Santa Cruz County communities on an as needed basis.

After staff reports, our last item to address was board appointments. I appointed Peter McKee to the Finance committee. I will also remain on that committee. Additionally, we decided that Alexis Garcia-Arrazola would be appointed as an alternate to the Special Districts meeting (Dr. Kim Barber remains as the primary person for the Special District meetings) and I would take Jason Campbell's place on the Ad Hoc Committee which is addressing potential energy sources between ReGen Monterey and M1Water.

Tuesday, January 23rd- City Council Mtg- Our meeting was run this month by our Vice Mayor, John Uy, who did a great job of keeping us on track, all while maintaining, of course, his happy, caring, and thoughtful nature. During public comments we heard about the desire to have a multiunit smoke-free ordinance (it's coming in February- yay!) as well as accolades for our former Mayor, Joe Russell who recently passed.

The first item of new business was accepting the excellent results of our FY2022-23 audit. The finance committee had already reviewed this report, and so it was nice to bring these positive results back to the council. Again, I'm very grateful for the work staff did to get this completed and the work they've done in past years to get us to this place where we have good financial practices.

The second item, which took most of our meeting time, was reviewing the appeal of the city's determination of square footage for 121 Calle del Oaks. This is a difficult topic and ultimately, three of us were left on the dais to make the decision (Council Member Hallack recused himself and Mayor Donaldson was absent). After the hearing, we ultimately decided to push this decision to the February council meeting to give us more time to review what was presented before us (we had never seen the materials that our building official presented and the appellant's packet was sent to us just the night before the meeting).

Wednesday- Friday, January 24th-26th- League of California Cities- Mayors and Council Members Academy- Lucky for us this year, this annual event took place in our own backyard (Monterey) so it made it very convenient to attend. I'm grateful to the city for supporting these professional development opportunities as there is always something to learn. The League provided 2.5 days of sessions on various topics. I attended all of them except for the last one which was focused on ethics training as I'm currently up to date with my certification. Below are the sessions I attended, along with some highlights and takeaways for me as I reflect on the conference.

Wednesday, I attended the following sessions-

- **Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors and Officials (AB 1661)**
 - Received my certificate after the two hour training
- **An introduction to Cal Cities**
 - A refresher on the League of California Cities leadership team and the organization's mission and structure. The main two things they provide are advocacy and educational tools.
- **Developing an Effective City Council and City Manager Team: The Key to Good Governance and City Success**
 - "Good governance requires building relationships"- ultimately, "Effective Communication = Trust = A Successful Relationship." My biggest takeaway from this session is how vital *meaningful* communication is for building trust between the council and the city manager. **Meaningful communication includes being honest, direct, respectful, and proactive.**
 - The city manager has many responsibilities which includes collaborating and supporting the council to be successful, working with staff to create a positive culture, and engaging with the public to build trust.

- City Managers should communicate consistently and equitably with all of their council members.
- It was made clear that council members meet regularly with the city manager and should hold the city manager accountable for achieving council goals. It's important to note that the council provides direction to the city manager only (not the staff...that's the responsibility of the city manager).
- The session and panel discussion with our very own Monterey Mayor, Tyller Williamson and Monterey City Manager, Hans Uslar got me thinking about the following:
 - **I'd like to have regular council workshops that include the mission, vision, and values and includes a discussion about organizational effectiveness and communication. These conversations can lead to greater fulfillment and increased community confidence.**
 - **The process for putting items on the Monterey agendas was collaborative and respectful. I'd like to revisit that for our city.**
- **Your Legal Powers and Obligations; Open Government and Conflicts of Interest**
 - This session provide some good reminders about being a general law city, the Brown Act (open and transparent meetings), Public Records Act, ethics, and city council/city attorney relationship (city attorneys represent the city not council members-consult the city attorney early and often).

Thursday, I attended the following sessions-

- **Policy Role in Land Use Planning**
 - Lots of information in this session about general plans (the vision for our city!), zoning and other planning tools, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - **I walked away knowing that we need to update our general plan** (the joke was if your general plan can vote (at least 18 years old) then it should be updated!). Ours can not only vote but it can legally drink (last update was 27 years ago!).
- **Effective Advocacy and Key City Issues**
 - We learned all of the advocacy that's happening through Cal Cities with this session. They focus on legislative, legal, and ballot measure advocacy.
- **Social Media/Digital Communications and Civic Engagement**
 - I'm not a huge social media fan and lack much of a presence on social media but it's always good to get a refresher on this form of outreach.
 - It included the reminder that as elected officials we cannot block comments on our social media sites, no matter how offensive, obnoxious, or hateful they may be.
 - The larger takeaway for me was a series of thoughts when it was brought up that we should have a social media policy for the city so that it's clear who's posting during emergencies. As a city we don't have much of a social media

presence (besides Nextdoor), but **that reminded me that our city still does not have an Emergency Operations Plan.**

- **Financial Responsibilities, City Revenues Workshop (Part 1)**
 - Lots of information in this session but my takeaways include:
 - Fiscal policies should be stated in the annual budget report, including statements of plans for capital projects.
 - **The budget reflects the community's priorities and so it's very important to do goal/priority setting with the public before finalizing the budget. This is something that I'd really like to see in our city!**

Friday, I attended-

- **Financial Responsibilities, City Revenues Workshop (Part 2)**
 - This session reviewed many items, one of which described generally what happens in financially "troubled" cities. I'm happy to report that none of the items listed were issues in DRO.
 - The takeaway for me here, besides the nuts and bolts of learning more about Prop. 13, pensions and other post-employment benefits, was thinking about how we should really have a review of our financial policies for the city. I think it would be a good reminder for all of us.

Friday, January 26th- M1Water Tour- My husband and I joined council member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin on the tour of M1W. I've always been an alternate for this board appointment, but had never received an actual tour of the campus, so I appreciated that Bill let us tag along. It was a good reminder of the types of wastewater they're collecting, the processes that happen to treat our wastewater, and the various pathways that the treated water can take. I especially enjoyed seeing the demo building and larger building where wastewater is turned into clean water that can be injected into the Seaside Groundwater basin where it is pulled out for use months later (Pure Water Monterey). I hadn't realized that when they built the facility they literally left space in the building for an expansion. That expansion is currently in the works, and due to supply chain issues and the length of time for delivery of the parts, it's not scheduled to be in full operation until 2025.

Saturday, February 3rd- Braver Angels Meeting- Once again, we came together as Democrats and Republicans to talk about how we engage and reach across the aisle to find common ground. The introduction of this meeting was interesting as we were supposed to share a podcast/website/magazine/book, etc. that we believed was balanced Red/Blue or non-polarizing. I will admit...I had a hard time thinking about any type of media I consumed that was obviously non-polarizing, which made me wonder what exactly is "non-polarizing?" Does it mean it doesn't allow balanced thought and actively denies multiple perspectives? With my anxiety building, I shared my thoughts with the group about my interest in diving deeper into the idea of "polarization." In terms of recommendations, I'm absolutely sure there were some people in the room who probably thought any NPR

affiliated programming was certainly polarizing, but I shared anyways. Afterwards we spent time in small groups to discuss ways to “recruit across the aisle” as well as best practices/common ground. Although I know not everyone in my group believed the same way I do, we had a thoughtful and very meaningful conversation as we shared our experiences and talked about openingly listening to others and finding commonalities that are important for us all. At this meeting, they also announced a local workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 16th. The topic will either be, “Skills for disagreeing better” or “Depolarizing within.”

Wednesday, February 7th- ReGen Finance Committee Meeting- This was our first Finance meeting of the year so we started by electing committee officers. Mayor Peake was quick on the draw, so I was elected chair of the committee with Mayor Peake as vice chair. Next we reviewed our by-laws with the only addition being that the agenda will be decided in conjunction with the chair (Mayor Peake’s suggestions). After the by-laws, staff updated us on their budget planning for FY 24/25. With the anticipation of labor negotiations and a potential increase of \$1.8 million, staff is talking about a 5% tip fee increase for next year. Another agenda item was talking about the White Paper which describes the waste coming into Monterey County and the practice of ReGen accepting waste outside of our member jurisdictions in order to keep fees low for our members. Lastly, we discussed the continued efforts of ReGen to take on the state permits for composting while providing an extended contract for our compost contractor, Keith Day.

Wednesday, February 7th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Meeting- As was requested in a previous meeting, we began our meeting hearing three important presentations. The first was the presentation on the Salt Water Intrusion Analysis Report. Lots of technical information, but the bottom line is that there needs to be some investigation into one of the wells because of an increase in conductivity and other than that, there remains no evidence of salt water intrusion even though it is very likely to happen in the future. Another interesting portion of this discussion was talking about how our basin flows into other basins because of the gradients between basins (even though we’re not currently overdrafting our basin, our levels continue to decline). This certainly highlights the fact that although we’re in charge of our basin, we need to remain cognizant of the connectedness of all of our basins in the region. The engineers ultimately had some recommendations in their report which we voted on moving forward to discuss feasibility of the actions.

Our next two presentations were on the status of the Pure Water Monterey expansion and Cal-Am’s desal plans. The expansion for Pure Water Monterey will give us an additional 2,250 Acre Feet of water per year. They will ramp up construction in the spring and will work on two new deep injection wells to accommodate the extra water, which should be flowing sometime in 2025. Cal-Am continues to work through the conditions that the Coastal Commission gave them when they approved the desalination project. One item is dealing with the brine discharge which will need outfall improvements. This work will be

done in conjunction with M1Water. They anticipate meeting half of the conditions (I believe there were over 20 total) this year and meeting the rest of the conditions in 2025 when they would begin construction. The litigation that's associated with this project was not mentioned, so I'm assuming the timeline they presented is absolutely their best case scenario.

The next item was a presentation from our lawyer talking about various ways the watermaster would be able to pay for replenishment water when it becomes available (no plans for that yet). Turns out the adjudication doesn't provide many funding options, so after comparing other adjudicated basins throughout the state, the lawyer suggested various options such as asking the court to amend the order to allow us to go after "special project" grants or being able to levy assessments as a basin or through another entity such as the Water Management District. Another option, which I find interesting, is using our basin for "water banking" which means if someone nearby has water that they'd like to "bank" they'd put it into our basin and then when they withdraw the water, they would leave a portion in the basin for protective measures (i.e. put in 10 acre feet and only withdraw 5). All interesting discussions in which our lawyers will continue to evaluate.

Our last item of the meeting was deciding on a new format for our meetings. With the idea that we'd like to provide additional access for the public, we'll now we running our meetings in a hybrid format and will meet in the Sand City Council Chamber which graciously offered to let us meet there and use their technology for free.

Monday, February 12th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Wednesday, February 14th- AMBAG Mtg- As an alternate, I attended this meeting in Council member John Uy's place. We began the evening with the presentation for the annual audit for the fiscal Year 2022-23. It was a positive report with no findings related to compliance requirements or violations of applicable laws and regulations. Next, board and committee appointments for 2024 were approved. With some minor committee reports and approval of the consent agenda, we moved onto the two larger items for the evening.

The first was approving the Carbon Reduction Program Draft Project Selection Criteria Adoption. This selection criteria was put together to help grade carbon reduction projects in the areas of bicycle and pedestrian, rail and transit, and zero-emission vehicles that will qualify for the nearly \$7 million dollars of federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the AMBAG Region. The criteria had already been edited based on feedback, so there were only minor edits and it was easily passed.

The last item provided information on AMBAG's Draft Complete Streets Policy. This policy has been released for public comment and will be under review until March 15, 2024, with the final adoption of this policy in May 2024. This policy is a recognition of the importance

of multimodal streets. From the introduction, here's how they describe the policy- "AMBAG's Complete Streets Policy will build upon these previous efforts by promoting a transportation system that is designed to be multimodal to safely and comfortably accommodate users of all ages and abilities, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, bicyclists, shared and micromobility users, motorists, transit and school bus riders, persons with disabilities, freight and commercial providers, emergency responders, and adjacent land users." This balancing of needs for all users, eventually results in streets that are safer and more accessible for travelers of all ages and abilities. AMBAG is encouraging implementation of a "Complete Streets Policy" in all jurisdictions (while also recognizing it won't work for all areas). For me, I'm happy to know they're doing this planning and will be a resource for us as we look at development in our former Fort Ord.

Friday, February 16th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- During this monthly meeting, besides approving the consent agenda and recognizing an employee for 20 years of service in the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), we covered two main topics. The first was a continued discussion of the Draft White Paper which is a document that explains and illustrates the municipal solid waste management practices in California and of our Waste Management District. It also provides some context for the regional waste coming into ReGen's facility from outside of the member agencies. All jurisdictions are responsible for their waste, but not all jurisdictions have regional landfills. With that need, ReGen has been able to accept some of this waste, which has in turn brought in more funding which allows us to keep fees lower for our member agencies. The document also provided the "Guiding Principles" that illustrates the thinking of previous boards and their desire to maintain a 75 year lifespan of our landfill while also accepting waste from outside of the area. Comments were provided to staff and the updated version will be reviewed again in our March board meeting with the final adoption of the document in April.

We also received the audit for fiscal year 2022-23. There were two findings that related to the timing of which a bond refunding payment was made as well as a change in the amount for the closure/postclosure liabilities. These issues caused the financial years of 2022 and 2023 to be restated. Nothing too alarming, but good to know moving forward. The audit did stimulate a note of future discussions regarding closure/postclosure planning and creating a policy for that liability as well as looking at our unfunded pension liabilities.

Friday, February 16th- City Finance Meeting- This meeting provided us an opportunity to review the January financials (still looking good and on-budget!). We also got the first look at our mid-year budget adjustments, which will be coming to the full council this month. In general, it's estimated that we'll have a General Fund operating surplus of \$110,998 which mainly stems from an increase in the interest revenue from our Local Agency Investment Fund, and the receipt of grants and a one-time settlement. In general, fairly minor adjustments were made throughout the budget.

Council Member Bill Ragsdale report.

1/12/24 Attended City Budget Committee meeting, received the city's financial reports, received audit report, and discussed a few items in the financials that could be presented in a clearer manner.

1/16/24 Attended my director's orientation at M1W, Met with General Manager Paul Scuito and he provided a short presentation on where the agency is currently and where it is headed. Did a brief overlook at the current budget, and an update on the Pure Water Monterey expansion project.

1/26/24 M1W provided Council Member Kim Shirley, Her husband Kevin and I, a tour of the Regional Treatment Plant, the Pure Water Monterey demonstration facility and the PWM facility. It was good to be back at the plant after 6 years. The new PWM production facilities are very impressive and operating as designed.

1/29/24 Attended M1W Board of Directors meeting, where I was introduced to the rest of the Directors. Board Chair Tom Moore read a proclamation honoring Mayor Scott Donaldson for his service to the district.

Received a report from Dave Stoldt on the current water supply calculations, and where the district is with getting the cease-and-desist order removed from the Regional Board, and the steps to get the water hookup moratorium issued by the CPUC removed.

Appointed committee members for the Chair and committee assignments.

Received a status update on the PWM expansion project, Contractor has all material for the plant expansion ordered and is awaiting delivery. The nano and R.O. filter skids have a significant lead time; manufacturing of these items is on schedule.

Construction of phase 4 injection well is under construction.

Reviewed the City's documentation related to the appeal concerning 121 Calle Del Oaks.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Ragsdale-Cronin

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy February 27, 2024

I. Council Report: Meeting of the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee of the League of California Cities

As an appointee to the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee of the League of California Cities, I am pleased to provide you with a report on the first meeting of the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee, which took place on January 18, 2024. As the representative for the Monterey Bay Division, I am honored to serve on this committee and advocate for the interests of our city.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from Chair Kuldip Thusu and Vice Chair Kevin Bash. We were also fortunate to have speakers such as Cal Cities President Dan Parra and Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman, who provided valuable insights and updates on the organization's advocacy priorities.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the discussion on Cal Cities' 2023 Advocacy Priorities. We learned about the importance of safeguarding local revenues and bolstering local economic development, especially in light of the anticipated state budget deficit. It was emphasized that Cal Cities will use every tool at its disposal to fight against any threats to local control and funding.

Another significant topic of discussion was the 2023-24 State Legislative and Budget Review. Lourdes Morales, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst from the Legislative Analyst's Office, provided us with valuable information on Cal Cities' revenue and taxation bills for 2024, as well as the state's fiscal outlook. We also received updates on notable November ballot initiatives, including ACA 1 and ACA 13, which have the potential to impact local government financing and voting thresholds.

The City Managers Sales Tax Working Group provided an informative update on their progress, highlighting the importance of collaboration and coordination among city managers to address sales tax issues effectively. We had the opportunity to review and adopt the 2024 Policy Committee Work Plan, which will guide our future efforts in advocating for our city's interests.

Looking ahead, the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee remains committed to promoting Cal Cities' advocacy priorities, including safeguarding local revenues, strengthening climate change resiliency, improving public safety, and expanding investments to prevent and reduce homelessness. We will continue to monitor legislative developments and engage in the regulatory process to ensure that our city's needs are represented.

In conclusion, the first meeting of the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee was inspiring and productive. The discussions and decisions made during the meeting will guide our future efforts in advocating for our city's interests. I am confident that our committee's work will contribute to the overall success and well-being of our city. I look forward to sharing further updates and progress with you in the future.



II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on January 23, 2024

I am pleased to provide you with a report on the regular City Council meeting that took place on January 23, 2024. As the Vice Mayor of Del Rey Oaks, I had the honor of presiding over this meeting in the absence of our Mayor. It was a productive and inspiring gathering where important matters were discussed, and decisions were made for the betterment of our community.

One of the key agenda items of the meeting was the proposed ordinances related to tobacco use and smoking regulations. We approved the second reading of the ordinances, which were presented to the Council in October 2023, and held the first reading in December 2023. These ordinances aim to align our City with the Blue Zones Project's Tobacco Policy, promoting a healthier and smoke-free environment for all residents. We ultimately passed Ordinance No. 316, which amends the Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code by adding a chapter on "Tobacco Retailer License." Additionally, Ordinance No. 317 was passed, amending the Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code to regulate smoking and tobacco use in public places. These ordinances will come into effect 30 days after their adoption.

In addition to these important ordinances, we also reviewed and approved the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on December 13, 2023, and the Regular City Council Meeting held on December 19, 2023. It is crucial to ensure accurate documentation of our meetings and decisions, and these minutes serve as a record of our proceedings.

Furthermore, we approved to authorize the City Manager to publish a Request for Proposals for a comprehensive review of the City's fees for appropriateness. It has been a long time since such a review had taken place, and it was necessary to ensure that our fees align with the

current needs and demands of our community. This review will help us maintain transparency and fairness in our fee structure.



January 23, 2024 City Council Meeting

During the meeting, we also approved the award of the contract for the Calfire Grant Funded Fire Prevention Project to Community Tree Service, which was part of the California Climate Investment Fire Prevention Grant Program, for which the City had applied. I am pleased to announce that the City was awarded \$317,931.90 in grant funding for the Del Rey Oaks Fire Prevention Program. This funding will enable us to enhance our fire prevention efforts and ensure the safety of our residents. The project is expected to reduce fire fuels along Work

Memorial Park (from Via Verde to Fremont Blvd). The Treatment Influence Zone covers approximately 41 acres, including proximity to over 300 homes. The project area is located near Highway 68 and the former Fort Ord, both of which are designated as high-fire threat areas according to the Monterey County Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Additionally, we reviewed and approved the City's annual financial audit report for the year ending June 30, 2023. The report provided an overview of the City's financial performance and position. We are pleased to report that the financial statements present a fair and accurate representation of the City's financial activities. The report is available for public review, and any questions or requests for additional information can be directed to the City of Del Rey Oaks.

The meeting adjourned with a moment of silence and a heartfelt adjournment in honor of Former Mayor Joseph Russell. We paid tribute to his dedicated service to our City and expressed our gratitude for his contributions. It was a poignant reminder of the impact that individuals can have on our community.

In conclusion, the January 23, 2024 council meeting was a productive and inspiring gathering. We made significant progress in promoting a healthier and smoke-free environment, secured grant funding for fire prevention, and ensured transparency in our financial reporting. I am proud to serve as your Vice Mayor and to be a part of a Council that is dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we will continue to make Del Rey Oaks a wonderful place to live, work, and thrive.

III. Council Report: My Attendance at the Cal Cities' Mayors and Council Members Academy Conference on January 24-26, 2024

It is with great pleasure and profound gratitude that I share with you the enriching experience of the 2024 Mayors and Council Members Academy, held in the picturesque city of Monterey, California. Hosted by the League of California Cities at the exquisite Monterey Marriott, this event transcended mere professional development; it was a gathering of hearts and minds dedicated to the noble cause of public service.





From January 24th to 26th, over 200 mayors and council members congregated from every corner of our beloved state, converging upon this coastal haven to partake in a symphony of knowledge-sharing, camaraderie, and inspiration. Whether seasoned veterans or freshly elected officials, each attendee brought with them a unique perspective, fostering a vibrant tapestry of ideas and experiences.

Throughout the academy, we delved into the foundational pillars of our roles as stewards of our communities: the legal intricacies, the financial responsibilities, and the practical applications essential to effective governance. But beyond the classroom sessions, we discovered something even more invaluable—the power of connection.

As we engaged in lively discussions, exchanged best practices, and forged new friendships, we realized that our collective strength lies not only in our individual expertise but in our ability to collaborate and support one another. The bonds we formed within those hallowed halls of learning will undoubtedly serve as the bedrock upon which we build a brighter future for our cities and towns.

Moreover, the academy provided a platform to stay abreast of crucial legislative matters and to gain a comprehensive understanding of the myriad services offered by Cal Cities. Empowered with this knowledge, we return to our respective communities with renewed vigor and a deeper sense of purpose, ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.



Lastly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to DRO City Hall staff, the event organizers, sponsors, and fellow attendees who made this event possible. Together, we have ignited a flame of inspiration that will continue to illuminate our path as we strive to create thriving, inclusive, and resilient communities across the Golden State.

III. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for the Lunar New Year last February 10, 2024

Dearest Residents of Del Rey Oaks and City Hall Staff,

Happy Lunar New Year to all!

As we celebrate the first day of the Year of the Dragon, let us embrace the spirit of renewal and optimism that this auspicious occasion brings.

To our vibrant and diverse community, may this new lunar cycle be filled with boundless opportunities, prosperity, and happiness. Let us continue to cherish our cultural diversity and come together in unity, understanding, and mutual respect.

To those celebrating the Lunar New Year, may your homes be filled with warmth and laughter, your hearts with joy and peace, and your lives with abundance and success.

As Vice Mayor, I am continually inspired by the strength, resilience, and spirit of unity that define Del Rey Oaks and the Monterey Peninsula. Together, let us embark on this new year with unwavering determination, compassion, and solidarity.

Wishing you all a prosperous, healthy, and joyous Lunar New Year!



IV. Council Report: Seaside County Sanitation District Board of Directors Meeting – February 13, 2024



I am pleased to provide you with a summary of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) regular meeting that took place on February 13, 2024. The meeting was held in the City of Seaside Conference Room and was attended by all directors, including Jerry Blackwelder, Ian N. Oglesby, and myself, John Uy.

The meeting began promptly at 9:30 AM, with Chair Jerry Blackwelder calling it to order. Roll call was conducted, and all directors were present. We then proceeded with the public comment period, where members of the public had the opportunity to address the Board on matters within our jurisdiction.

The first agenda item of the meeting was a presentation on the Tax Roll Implementation Plan from Monterey One Water (M1W), of which SCSD is a member entity. According to the presentation, M1W can collect wastewater fees on the property tax roll pursuant to Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 5473 et seq. They also presented the implementation schedule, steps, and the collection agreement that aligns with the County agreement.

Next, we moved on to the consent agenda, which included the approval of minutes from previous meetings and the acceptance of the Seaside County Sanitation District Operations Report for January 2024. The Board unanimously approved the consent agenda as presented.

Additionally, the Board considered the acceptance and filing of the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023 Annual Financial Report for the Seaside County Sanitation District. The report, which had been audited by Maze and Associates, received a clean opinion, reflecting the district's sound financial management.

One of the key items on the agenda was the consideration of continuing our participation in the FOG Public Education Program for the Southern Monterey Bay Dischargers Group. After careful deliberation, the Board adopted a resolution authorizing the District Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Monterey One Water for participation in the Annual FOG Public Education Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. We believe that this program will contribute to our ongoing efforts to maintain the highest standards of sanitation in our county.

Overall, the February 13, 2024 SCSD meeting was productive and successful. The Board made important decisions regarding the District's operations, financials, and participation in key programs. We appreciate the engagement and collaboration of all directors and staff members in making this meeting a success.
