

Del Rey Oaks City Council's Representative to the
Monterey County Mosquito Abatement District (MCMAD) Board of Trustees

Report: February 2024

The MCMAD met at Noon on February 13, 2024. (See attached Jan and Feb Agendas)

The meeting was held at 926 E. Blanco Road in Salinas

The minutes of the January 2024 meeting were approved (attached).

The board reviewed the draft succession plan for the district. The board recommended adding an "emergency back-up" section to the plan. The board will review the modified plan at the March meeting.

The board was briefed on investments options, and requested additional details to be presented at the March meeting.

The board reviewed the draft policy change concerning substance abuse. A number of employees have FAA licenses to fly the districts drones, and apply pesticides with them. This could affect the policy, so additional research was requested.

Monthly Operations Report:

- a. The district received 4 calls for service since the last meeting.
- b. With the recent rains, ponds and other locations are filling with water. These areas of standing water are mosquito larva breeding grounds. District employees treated over 100 water sources.
- c. The district made and uploaded three You-Tube/Tic-Toc videos.

Monthly Administrative Report:

- a. The district is working to get on the "Public Access" TV channels.
- b. The district set up "dedicated" email addresses/services for employees and board of trustee members. This has encountered some issues with accessing by some board members. The matter will be addressed with the district's IT manager.
- c. The FAA has approved the licenses to fly the new (bigger and better) drones. The licenses to use the new drones to apply pesticides are pending.

The next meeting for the Monterey County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees will be at Noon on March 12, 2024, at 926 East Blanco Rd, Salinas, CA 93901.



860th REGULAR MEETING

OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
926 East Blanco Road
Salinas, CA. 93901

January 9, 2024

~AGENDA~

12:00 P.M. Noon

926 East Blanco Road

Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 422-6438 p
(831) 422-3337 f

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Cecilio
Board Chair
County at Large

Don Cranford
Vice Chair
County at Large

Nancy Amadeo
Secretary
City of Marina

Ian Oglesby
Trustee
City of Seaside

Ray Coopersmith
Trustee
County at Large

Mary Ann Carbone
Trustee
City of Sand City

Louise Goetzelt
Trustee
City of Del Rey Oaks

Jim Tashiro
Trustee
City of Salinas

Jeff Glass
Trustee
City of Monterey

We strive to host inclusive, accessible meetings that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the District.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

3. **PUBLIC INPUT: (Limited to 3 minutes)**

The consent calendar includes routine items than can be approved with a single motion and vote. A member of the Board of Trustees may request that any item be pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: November 2023
- B. PAYROLL WARRANTS: November 2023 \$89,167.91
- C. PAYROLL WARRANTS: December 2023 \$87,962.56
- D. COMMERICAL WARRANTS: November 2023 \$81,442.66
- E. COMMERICAL WARRANTS: December 2023 \$260,900.49
- F. UMPQUA BANK: October 2023 \$5,747.32
- G. UMPQUA BANK: November 2023 \$5,116.15
- H. TIME DISTRIBUTION: November 2023
- I. TIME DISTRIBUTION: December 2023
- J. BALANCE SHEET: November 2023
- K. BALANCE SHEET: December 2023
- L. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: November 2023
- M. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: December 2023

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

- A. Welcome of new Trustees Ian Oglesby for the City of Seaside Seat and Jeff Glass for the City of Monterey Seat
- B. Closed Session : Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Government Code § 54956.9 (d) (2)
- C. Per Policy number 4040.30 election of officers in January of even years
- D. Consideration and Approval of FY22-23 Audit presented by BKP
- E. Consideration and Approval of District Cost Sharing CEQA document
- F. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code §54957(b))

6. **MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT:** Paul Palomo, Operational Supervisor

7. **MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Ken Klemme, District Manager

8. **TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Adjournment to: February 13, 2024

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 859th REGULAR
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MONTEREY COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
November 14, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monterey County Mosquito Abatement District was held on November 14, 2023, at the District Office in Salinas, California.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Cecilio, Chair, County of Monterey
Don Cranford, Vice Chair, County of Monterey
Nancy Amadeo, Secretary, City of Marina
Jim Tashiro, City of Salinas
Diane de Lorimier, City of Monterey
Jason Campbell, City of Seaside
Mary Ann Carbone, City of Sand City
Louise Goetzelt, City of Del Rey Oaks
Ray Coopersmith, County of Monterey

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Klemme, District Manager
Mona Sloan, Administrative Assistant
Philip Maschmeyer, Operations Supervisor

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Jeff Cecilio called the 859th Regular Meeting to order at 11:59 PM

2. ROLL CALL:

Administrative Assistant Mona Sloan called roll; it was determined that a quorum was present

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NONE

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: October 2023
- B. PAYROLL WARRANTS: October 2023 \$89,297.07
- C. COMMERCIAL WARRANTS: October 2023 \$30,655.81
- D. UMPQUA BANK: September 2023 \$4,611.90
- E. TIME DISTRIBUTION: October 2023
- F. BALANCE SHEET: October 2023
- G. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: October 2023

With no further inquiries, **Trustee Amadeo moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, Trustee Goetzelt seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

A. Commemoration of Trustee's Campbell and de Lorimier's last Board Meeting and Presentation of Service Appreciation Gifts

Board members took the opportunity to thank Trustees Campbell and de Lorimier for their many years of dedicated service to the Board and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

B. Final approval of the District's 5-Year Strategic Plan

Manager Klemme presented the final corrections for the District's strategic plan. Klemme confirmed that this is a living document that can be revisited to make any edits deemed necessary.

With no further inquiries, **Trustee Goetzelt moved to approve the Strategic Plan as presented, Trustee Amadeo seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.**

C. Discussion of Inter-District Cost Sharing Agreement and Proposed Addendum to Project Agreement

Preliminary talks began as Manager Klemme presented a Cost Sharing Agreement between seven Mosquito Districts regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Klemme stated the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which was completed in 2016 requires updating to add new materials, techniques and equipment to comply with current statutes. The Districts would employ a consultant to review the current agreement and to provide all necessary updates.

D. Dedication of the Carl Hansen Wildlife Museum and Annual Holiday luncheon

Board members were invited to the District's annual holiday luncheon where we will be dedicating the Carl Hansen Wildlife Museum to posthumously honor the District's longest serving Board member who contributed greatly to the functioning of the District from 1974 to 2020. Mr. Hansen's family have also been invited to attend the celebration on Tuesday, December 12th at noon.

6. **MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT: Philip Maschmeyer, Operations Supervisor**

Philip Maschmeyer updated the Board on District activities for the month of October. Maschmeyer informed Trustees that most of our sources are drying up and that we only had (16) service call requests which were primarily for mosquito fish. Mowing has been completed for this season, but unfortunately there were some areas that we weren't able to access. Maschmeyer informed the Board that staff have attended conferences in Lake Tahoe for continuing education units and in Montana. Finally, Mosquito technicians Onofre-Zamudio, Soria & Vazquez will be attending testing in Richmond on November 16th to complete additional certifications for their Vector Control licensing.

7. **MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Ken Klemme, District Manager/Biologist**

Manager Klemme informed the Board that Trustees Coopersmith and Cranford had been approved by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors to the Board for a 4-year term. Klemme also let the Board know that he and several Trustees attended the California Special District's Association (CSDA) quarterly meeting on October 17th. Klemme recently became a Board member of the Vector Control Joint Powers Authority (VCJPA) which covers insurance for (33) Districts. He informed Trustees that the price of workers compensation coverage will be increasing in the next fiscal year.

8. **TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Trustee Goetzelt spoke to the Board about the construction delays on the Fort Ord Regional Trail & Greenway – Canyon Del Rey Segment project and offered to forward information regarding the delays to the District. Lastly, Board Chair Cecilio thanked retiring Trustees de Lorimier and Campbell again for their valued service and contributions to the District.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further inquiries, Board Chair Cecilio adjourned the meeting at 12:40 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2024 at noon.

Jeff Cecilio, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Nancy Amadeo, Secretary



861st REGULAR MEETING

OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
926 East Blanco Road
Salinas, CA. 93901

February 13, 2024

~AGENDA~

12:00 P.M. Noon

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Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 422-6438 p

Office Hours:
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Louise Goetzelt
Trustee
City of Del Rey Oaks

Jim Tashiro
Trustee
City of Salinas

Jeff Glass
Trustee
City of Monterey

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2. **ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

3. **PUBLIC INPUT: (Limited to 3 minutes)**

The consent calendar includes routine items than can be approved with a single motion and vote. A member of the Board of Trustees may request that any item be pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: January 2024**
- B. **PAYROLL WARRANTS: January 2024 \$104,548.28**
- C. **COMMERICAL WARRANTS: January 2024 \$36,748.28**
- D. **UMPQUA BANK: December 2023 \$4,687.34**
- E. **TIME DISTRIBUTION: January 2024**
- F. **BALANCE SHEET: January 2024**
- G. **SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: January 2024**
- H. **FIRST QUARTER 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

- A. **Approval of District's Succession Plan to be integrated with Strategic Plan**
- B. **Discussion of investment options for the District**
- C. **In response to AB 2188, approval to change policy number 2190 Substance Abuse**
- D. **In response to SB 848, approval to change in policy 2040 Leave Time**
- E. **Set up ad-hoc budget committee for the FY 2024-2025 budget**

6. **MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT:** Philip Maschmeyer, Operational Supervisor

7. **MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:** Ken Klemme, District Manager

8. **TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Adjournment to: March 12, 2024

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 860th REGULAR
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
MONTEREY COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
January 9, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monterey County Mosquito Abatement District was held on January 9, 2024, at the District Office in Salinas, California.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Cecilio, Chair, County of Monterey
Don Cranford, Vice Chair, County of Monterey
Nancy Amadeo, Secretary, City of Marina
Jim Tashiro, City of Salinas
Jeff Glass, City of Monterey
Ian Oglesby, City of Seaside
Louise Goetzelt, City of Del Rey Oaks
Ray Coopersmith, County of Monterey

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mary Ann Carbone, City of Sand City

STAFF PRESENT:

Ken Klemme, District Manager
Mona Sloan, Administrative Assistant
Paul Palomo, Operations Supervisor

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jarrod Penner, Bianchi, Kasavan & Pope
Alex Tinoco, Bianchi, Kasavan & Pope

GUESTS REMOTE:

Nisha Dale, Lozano Smith, LLP

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Board Chair Jeff Cecilio called the 860th Regular Meeting to order at 11:58 AM

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Administrative Assistant Mona Sloan called roll; it was determined that a quorum was present

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

NONE

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: November 2023
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- L. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: November 2023
- M. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: December 2023

With no further inquiries, **Trustee Amadeo moved to approve the consent calendar as presented, Trustee Tashiro seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.**

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

A. Welcome of new Trustees Ian Oglesby, City of Seaside and Jeff Glass, City of Monterey

Board members welcomed new Trustees serving on the Board of Directors.

B. Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation Government Code § 54956.9 (d) (2)

Received information; taking action for the Board of Trustees

C. Per Policy Number 4040.30 – Election of Officers in January of Even Years

Following discussion to retain the existing officers in their current positions, for 2024 – 2026, **Trustee Amadeo moved to approve the decision as presented, Trustee Goetzelt seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

D. Consideration and Approval of FY 22-23 Audit presented by Bianchi, Kasavan & Pope

Jarrold Penner, Audit Manager with Bianchi, Kasavan & Pope presented a clean unmodified audit to the Board for fiscal year 2022-2023.

With no further discussion, **Trustee Amadeo moved to approve the audit as presented; Trustee Goetzelt seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

E. Consideration and Approval of District Cost Sharing CEQA Document

Manager Klemme led the discussion regarding a cost sharing agreement with seven other Mosquito Districts to update the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) of 2016 in order to add new materials, techniques and equipment to comply with current statutes, guidelines and decisional law.

After discussion, **Trustee Goetzelt moved to approve the agreement as presented; Trustee Amadeo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.**

F. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code §54957(b))

Information was taken, a decision was reached and voted unanimously on a 5% bonus for Mr. Klemme.

6. MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT: Paul Palomo, Operations Supervisor

Paul Palomo informed the Board of the District's operations performed in December, highlighting that there were minimal service requests. However, the rains are gradually causing some standing water issues. Technicians have been actively addressing the situation by treating the catch basins in the Laguna Grande area, the sewer pond in Oak Hills, and the Vierra's off Hwy 1 in Moss Landing. Furthermore, Palomo reported that all three mosquito technicians have passed Vector Control testing with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Additionally, two are studying for their upcoming tests scheduled for May. Palomo went on to say the District received the two drones that were purchased, one was showcased at the Board Meeting. Finally, he noted that four YouTube videos were posted in December.

7. MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Ken Klemme, District Manager/Biologist

Manager Klemme updated the Board, mentioning that he is actively developing the succession plan & hopes to present at the February 13th Board meeting. Additionally, Klemme also advised the Board that he is working with the Federal Aviation Association (FAA) regarding a Certificate of Authorization (COA) exemption per drone usage as well as working on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); an annual report that allows us to continue to treat waters of the State and the US. Lastly, Klemme touched on the dedication of the Carl Hansen Wildlife Museum and expressed satisfaction with how well it turned out. He noted that it served as a beautiful tribute to Carl.

8. **TRUSTEE COMMENTS:**

Trustee Cranford raised the idea of exploring an investment opportunity with a portion of District funds, aiming to expedite the repayment of the Districts building loan before its maturity. Manager Klemme affirmed his commitment to initiate research on potential items.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further inquiries, Board Chair Cecilio adjourned the meeting at 1:16 PM to the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 13, 2024 at noon.

Jeff Cecilio, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Don Cranford, Vice Chair



MST HIGHLIGHTS
Board of Directors Meeting
February 12, 2024

RECOGNIZED FEBRUARY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The MST Board adopted Resolution 2024-15 recognizing Humberto Hernandez, Coach Operator, as the February 2024 Employee of the Month for his outstanding contribution to MST and the entire community.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The MST Board recognized Humberto Hernandez, Coach Operator for 25 years of service and his outstanding dedication and contribution to MST and to the entire community.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The MST Board recognized Reymund Rivera, Coach Operator for 25 years of service and his outstanding dedication and contribution to MST and to the entire community.

ADOPTED UPDATED MST CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

The MST Board approved resolution 2024-16 and adopted the updated MST conflict of interest code.

APPROVED MEASURE Q OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBER REAPPOINTMENT

The MST Board reappointed Sid Williams and Kevin Dayton as members of the Measure Q Oversight Committee.

AUTHORIZED SALE OF EIGHT HEAVY DUTY SURPLUS BUS TIRE RIMS

The MST Board authorized staff to sell eight (8) heavy duty surplus bus tire rims no longer needed by MST for transit operations.

SURF! BUSWAY AND BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT

The MST Board authorized the General Manager/CEO to execute an agreement with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) for use of the Monterey Branch Line for SURF! Busway construction and long-term transit operations.

NEXT MST BOARD MEETING

The next regular MST Board meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024.



TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY

www.tamcmonterey.org

HIGHLIGHTS

January 24, 2024

TAMC Board Elects New Officers & Executive Committee Members

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County elected the following members to serve as their officers and members of the Executive Committee:

- Chris Lopez, Chair
- Dave Potter, 1st Vice Chair
- Wendy Root Askew, 2nd Vice Chair
- Mike LeBarre, Past Chair
- Luis Alejo, County Representative
- Chaps Poduri, City Representative

Their terms began upon their election at the beginning of the January 24, 2024, Board meeting through the next election of officers.

22nd Annual Transportation Excellence Awards

The Transportation Agency presented their 22nd Annual Transportation Excellence Awards to honor community members, programs and projects that make a significant contribution to improve transportation in Monterey County. This year's awards honorees are:

- Individual: Amir Attia, Associate Professor of Graphic Design; and Gabby Lazarcheff & Monica Ocampo, Graphic Design Students, California State University, Monterey Bay, for developing designs for the first traffic gardens in Monterey County
- Business: Boyds Asphalt Services for striping thirteen traffic gardens across Monterey County
- Program: "Better Bus Network", Monterey-Salinas Transit
- Project: California Avenue Pedestrian Crossing at Marina Heights Drive, City of Marina
- Project: King City Downtown Streetscape, City of King
- Project: Marina Parking Lot Improvement Project, City of Monterey

Summaries of each honoree and their achievements are available on the TAMC website:

<https://www.tamcmonterey.org/2023-transportation-excellence-awards>

Escalating Costs Will Delay the State Route 156/Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project

In what can only be described as “sticker shock,” TAMC’s Board of Directors learned during a presentation by TAMC staff and Caltrans that the cost of the State Route 156/Castroville Boulevard Interchange project has risen significantly, from \$77.5 million in May 2023 to \$114.5 million. The Transportation Agency’s share of this \$40 million cost increase is estimated to be between \$33 to \$35 million, with the State covering the remaining balance. The cost increases are illustrated across all phases of work in the graphic below, which are primarily driven by utility relocations and two new unfunded construction components for landscape planting and bio monitoring:

Project Costs

Phase	Pre-May 2023	May 2023	January 2024
1 – PS&E	\$6,200,000	\$6,200,000	\$8,700,000
2 – RW Support	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$2,000,000
3 – Con Support	\$5,500,000	\$5,500,000	\$8,400,000
4 – Construction Capital	\$27,375,000	\$46,375,000	\$50,375,000
9 – RW Capital	\$18,100,000	\$18,100,000	\$45,000,000
Estimated Total Cost	\$58,575,000	\$77,575,000	\$114,475,000

\$40,275,000 cost increase

A total of \$73.5 million has been secured from various local and state sources to construct the SR 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project. A competitively secured Trade Corridor Enhancement Program grant accounts for \$28 million of the construction funding, along with \$2.1 million of State Transportation Improvement Program funds. Since the last update to the Board in May 2023, Caltrans was successful in receiving a second 12-month time extension to request a funding allocation from the California Transportation Commission for these funds, making the new deadline June 30, 2024. This extension would have allowed PG&E to complete their utility relocation work and keep the project on track to meet the June allocation deadline. However, that is no longer the case with the cost increases. Since the project is not likely to meet its June 30, 2024, funding deadline for construction allocation, these funds will be forfeited back to the State.

After TAMC and Caltrans staff provided a comprehensive presentation of the cost and schedule challenges, the Board evaluated four alternatives to determine what the project’s next steps should be. The four alternatives are shown in the graph below:

Next Steps & Alternatives		
Alternatives	Time Delay	Risk
Fund the increased costs	0 – 6 months	Increased Measure X contribution and potential the project still does not meet funding deadlines.
Reapply for SB1 Cycle 4	6 months - 1 year*	Forfeit current grant; Complete ROW and design with local funds, * potential the project is not awarded a future grant.
Value Engineering	2 – 4 years	Stop the project and forfeit current grant; value engineering results in modest cost improvements.
Reevaluate project	5 – 7 years	Stop the project and forfeit current grant; most time delay of alternatives; possible that no other alternatives meet State goals.

After reviewing the time delays and risks associated with each alternative, the Board of Directors directed staff to move forward with reapplying for Senate Bill 1 Cycle 4 funds. While this will delay the project by 6 months to a year, the timing for the upcoming grant cycle aligns well with the current project schedule. This option will also allow a larger portion of the project’s cost to be covered by the State grant rather than having to be covered by local funds.

The State Route 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is one of the regional safety and mobility projects listed in Measure X and approved by 67.7% of Monterey County voters in 2016. As noted by Supervisor Church there have been plans since the 1960s to do something to improve this congested corridor and the Castroville Boulevard Interchange project “is the closest we have come to getting something done.”

Monterey County Veterans Issues Advisory Committee ((VIAC)

Report to the Del Rey Oaks City Council

The Monterey County Veterans Issues Advisory Committee (VIAC), is part of the Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO). VIAC meets the last Thursday of the month at the Veterans Transition Center (VTA) in Marina.

Approximately 10% of the overall population of Del Rey Oaks is either veterans or active duty military service members. This number increases significantly when spouses and dependents are factored in. VIAC is committed to the wellbeing and welfare of all who have answered the call to our nation's service. If any of you have questions about possible benefits, or have concerns related to your service, please don't hesitate to contact me through City Hall, or email me at rjl.dro@gmail.com.

-Rick Johnson

Date and location of Meeting January 25, 2024, Veterans Transition Center

The following is an overview of issues reported to, and considered at, the January 25, 2024 meeting:

Correspondence

The Committee received a letter requesting support for Christine Maries Star Riders, and equine therapy organization. The organization is in jeopardy of losing lease space and, consequently, not being able to provide services.

Veterans Transition Center (VTC)

- Lightfighter Village remains on track to be able to provide much needed housing for low and extremely-low income veterans, with a target date of January 2025.
- The VTC has approached VA Palo Alto to provide a geriatric program in our area. This is a critical issue as we see an aging veteran population. The request is for six beds.
- VTC is looking to add additional housing units through ADU's

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

- Fernando Pimentel has been named the new cemetery director.
- The Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is hiring for a full-time security guard.
- The unclaimed remains of a veteran and his spouse will be laid to rest in the cemetery on February 5th, 2024.

Cemetery Foundation

- The Foundation is hopeful of receiving the Right of Entry documentation to start construction of the Appreciation Wall very soon, and plan to begin actual construction on February 5th.

Ord Military Community

- Work has begun to add a PX section to the Commissary.

Ft. Ord Retiree Council

- The Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for the third Saturday in July.
- Please note, there are a number of job openings at both NPS and the Presidio. If interested please look on USAJOBS.gov.
- The Retiree Council is meeting on February 1, 2024 at Stillwell Community Center.

Municipalities

- Del Rey Oaks has adopted the City's Housing Element. We will monitor for, and advocate for, veteran housing as possible development moves forward.

Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO)

- The MVAO Annual Activity Report was submitted, please see attached.
- Jack Murphy explained joint work between MVAO and Senator Rubio's Office (Southern California) to make the change to the Los Angeles Housing Authorities rule on Area Median Income (AMI). This change would allow Los Angeles County's 100% Disabled Veterans to obtain housing vouchers which is already in place in Monterey County. They will be drafting a Joint Senate Resolution in the future.

- The MVAO office is looking to update the Veterans Preference Policy, the Military Leave Policy, implement the skill bridge program and Military Spouse hiring preference for the County.
- **Chair Oglesby opened nominations for 2024 Chair and Vice Chair positions. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Ian Ogelsby Chair, and Dan Presser Vice Chair.**



County of Monterey
Military & Veterans Affairs Office



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE
MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT
January 2024



2024
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

3
Outreach Events
40
New Contacts


474
Phone Calls

365
Vet Rep Appointments

463 Claims Actions
238 Unique Veterans
158 Compensation Awards



7 College Fee
Waivers valued
at nearly
\$39,075

New Disability Compensation Awards
\$514,527
Retroactive Payments
\$95,366
Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey
75% Satisfied or Better!





County of Monterey
Military & Veterans Affairs Office



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



Monterey County Activity Report

January – December 2023

Outreach Events

114

Resulting in 1968
New Contacts



7,795

Phone Calls



4,356

Vet Rep Appointments

3,023 Unique Veterans

5,985 Claims Actions

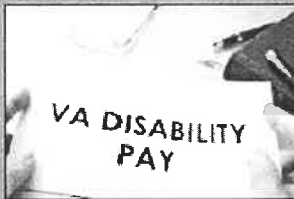
1,203 Compensation



279

College Fee
Waivers Granted
\$1.97 million

Disability Compensation Awards



\$5,635,215

Total Retroactive Payments

\$5,833,539

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

90% Very Satisfied!

www.mvao.org

Serving those who served

(831) 647-7613



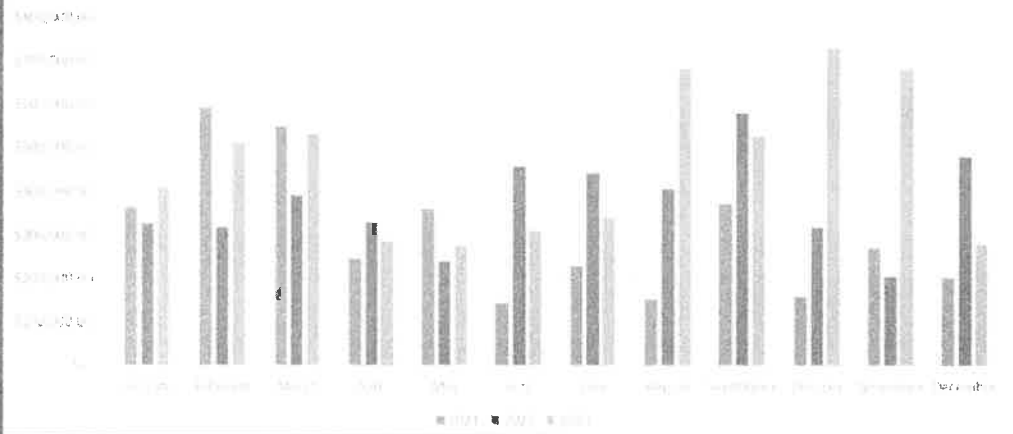
County of Monterey Military & Veterans Affairs Office



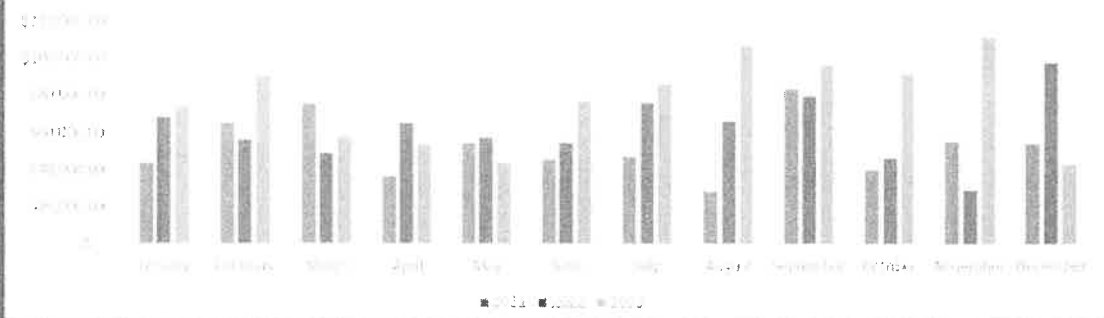
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE Monterey County Activity Report January – December 2023



Retroactive Payments by Month/Year



Monthly Recurring by Month/Year



www.mvao.org Serving those who served (831) 647-7613

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Palo Alto Health Care System
3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94304



In reply refer to:
Phil Torie or Kevin McCann
Recreation Therapist
VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
3801 Miranda Avenue – 11K
Palo Alto, CA 94304

Date: 11/03/2022

To: Marina City Council and Marina City Manager

Subject: Christine Marie Star Riders

Monterey County houses approximately 20,000 veterans throughout the county and the Marina Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic serves veterans of all different capacities across the age spectrum. Recreation Therapy at the Marina VA clinic treats veterans with serious mental illness including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety addressing deficits such as poor emotional regulation tools, poor social functioning, and addressing treatment for veterans with history of substance abuse. The Marina clinic works in collaboration with many different teams including the Housing and Urbanization Development via VA Supported Housing service to address the needs of homeless veterans.

The National Center for PTSD defines Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder as the "result of experiencing a traumatic event during war such as combat, or a non-war traumatic event like a terrorist attack, serious accident, family violence, sexual assault, natural disaster, or serious injury," resulting in symptoms such as anxiety, sadness, fear, and social detachment (National Center for PTSD, n.d.). Having the Christine Marie Star Riders equine assisted therapy program, credentialed by PATH International, local to the Marina VA clinic provides an invaluable service to veterans in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Equine Assisted Therapy is an evidence based modality that has been repeatedly shown to improve a variety of mental health and physical symptoms.

As a partner with the Veterans Affairs, Christine Marie Star Riders provide veterans enhanced goal delineated care through emotional, cognitive, and physical wellbeing. Veterans receive didactic training methodologies with hands on training on how to care for horses, maintain stables, identify potential veterinary health concerns in horses, developing skills in saddling and riding, as well as learn how to partition out meals for the horses. In the midst of veterans' training experiences veterans focus on building outcomes tied to developing tools and skills to build meaningful relationships and roles, healthy transferrable lifestyle habits, creating responsible behaviors, and learn to adapt to and control their environments. Veterans receive an orientation