

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
(TAMC)**

June 24, 2026



TAMC Board Receives Update on the Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors received an update on the Scenic State Route 68 Adaptive Traffic Signal Control pilot project and preliminary results analyzing the effectiveness of the proposed Phase 1 roundabouts project.

Phase I of the Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project would install roundabouts on State Route 68 at the intersections of San Benancio Road, Coral de Tierra, and Laureles Grade. The project includes new wildlife crossings beneath the highway and avoids adding mainline lanes. An independent assessment of the project is being conducted to compare project costs and expected benefits to determine the economic viability of this project. The recently installed adaptive signal project is now the baseline for this analysis.

An evaluation of the Phase I roundabout project has been completed using updated traffic data and conditions reflecting the implementation of adaptive signal operations as the baseline. The analysis confirms that the Phase I roundabout project is expected to improve safety and traffic operations along the corridor. Based on this evaluation, the proposed roundabouts at San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra Road, and Laureles Grade are projected to reduce the potential for serious injury and fatal collisions by simplifying intersection movements and lowering travel speeds.

These results indicate that while adaptive signal operations have provided measurable operational benefits, the Phase I roundabouts are expected to further improve safety outcomes and improve traffic throughput during peak periods. The higher traffic throughput expected from the hybrid roundabout design will shorten queues and reduce the peak period duration (i.e., congested conditions will occur for a shorter period of time).

Caltrans is the lead agency in charge of the Phase 1 roundabouts project design and is considering co-sponsoring with TAMC an upcoming Senate Bill 1 (SB1) grant application. The Benefit-Cost Analysis comparing Adaptive Signals versus the Phase 1 roundabouts project and recommendations for next steps will be included in TAMC's August agenda.

Combined, the design, right-of-way, and construction phases of the Phase I Scenic Route 68 Project are projected at \$98.6 million. In March 2025, TAMC approved \$1.2 million of Measure X funds towards a five-year pilot project to install Adaptive Traffic Signal Controls at nine intersections on State Route 68 between Toro Park and Highway 1.

The goal of the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project is to improve safety and traffic flow between Monterey and Salinas while preserving the corridor's environmentally sensitive setting.

TAMC Board Adopts Resolution to Support Pilot Rail Service Connecting Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2028 Olympics

As a member of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, which advocates for improved passenger rail along the Central Coast rail corridor between San Jose and Los Angeles, TAMC's Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of a proposed passenger rail pilot service connecting Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area for the 2028 Olympics.

The pilot service is intended to leverage legislative interest in the Olympics to demonstrate the value of new passenger rail service in the Central Coast Rail Corridor and complement the Monterey County Rail Extension and planned expansion of service to San Luis Obispo from the north.

TAMC's Rail Policy Committee discussed the Olympic passenger rail pilot service proposal at its June 1, 2026, meeting and recommended that the Board of Directors approve a resolution supporting implementation of this service, which is consistent with TAMC's ongoing support for the Monterey County Rail Extension and implementation of new passenger rail service options and transit connections to communities across the County.

TAMC Board Adopts 2026 Regional Transportation Plan

The TAMC Board of Directors adopted the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan during their meeting. TAMC adopts a Regional Transportation Plan every four years to provide a basis for allocating state and federal funding to transportation projects in Monterey County. The 2026 Plan reflects changes in revenue forecasts and updated project lists from the local

jurisdictions. TAMC prepares the plan in coordination with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) to be consistent with the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy.

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) includes three main components: 1) A Policy Element communicating goals and measurable objectives for improving the transportation system, 2) a Financial Element that includes a forecast of revenues over the life of the plan, and 3) an Action Element that includes a list of projects to be funded within the capacity of the funding forecast, which meet the goals and objectives identified in the document. The RTP does not approve any specific project but does review the environmental impacts of all proposed projects at a "program level."

The Regional Transportation Plan serves as Monterey County's long-range vision for a safe, efficient, and sustainable transportation system, guiding priorities over the next several decades. By establishing a coordinated and financially constrained roadmap, the RTP positions local agencies to compete for and secure critical state and federal funding, ensuring that regional and local projects can move forward. This plan not only aligns transportation investments with community goals but also provides the foundation for delivering improvements that support economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for residents throughout the county.

There was no TAMC Board Meeting in July.

Monterey One Water (M1W)



June 29, 2026

Public Hearings:

- **Delinquent Charges and Lien Process**

Adopted a resolution declaring liens against real property for delinquent sewer user charges

- **Five-year Wastewater Rate Schedule Approved**

Following the Proposition 218 Public Hearing, the Board adopted the maximum allowable wastewater service user fee schedule for Fiscal Years 2026-27 through 2030-31, pursuant to California Proposition 218, with Fiscal Year 2026-27 rates taking effect July 1, 2026

FY 2026-27: Residential Rates \$57.27 (6.1%)

Board Actions:

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating and Capital Budget and Wastewater Rates

- Action: Approved through resolution

NEW Residential Low Use Variance Program Established

- Action: Approved through resolution to establish the new Program and policy, and authorize the program for 2026-27, effective July 1, 2026

Reauthorization of Residential Low-Income Customer Assistance Program

- Action: Approved through a resolution
Adopted Policy No.002 administering the Program and Approving the Program for Fiscal Year 2026-27, effective July 1, 2026
- Approved Blanket/Open Purchase Orders to Vendors over \$135,000 or more for Fiscal Year 2026/27
- Adopted Resolution No. 2026-10, Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for General Employees' Bargaining Group for FY 2026-27
- Adopted a Resolution Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for Management Employees' Bargaining Group and Executive Staff for FY 2026-27
- Adopted a Resolution Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for Mid-Management Employees' Bargaining Group, Confidential and Limited-Term Employees for FY 2026-27
- Adopted a Resolution Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for Operations Employees' Bargaining Group for FY 2026/27
- Adopted a Resolution Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for Mid-Management Employees' Bargaining Group, Confidential and Limited-Term Employees for FY 2026-27
- Adopted a Resolution Establishing Salary Classifications and Ranges for Operations Employees' Bargaining Group for FY 2026/27
- Approved a Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Monterey for Services Related to the Preparation of the City's Annual Report Required for the Collection of the City's Sewer Service Fee on the Monterey County Tax Roll

- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Castroville Community Services District for Services Related to the Preparation of the District's Annual Report Required for the Collection of the District's Sewer Service Fee on the Monterey County Tax Roll
- Adopted a Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Capital Asset Policy to Better Reflect Best Practices, and incorporate Current Accounting Standards
- Approved a First Amendment for Biosolids Hauling and Disposal Services with Synagro West, LLC in the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$1,300,000
- Approved a First Amendment for Bird Abatement Services for the Regional Treatment Plant (RTP) to All American Avian Abatement in the Amount Not to Exceed \$107,100.84
- Approved Second Renewal of the Professional Services Agreement with TM Process & Controls, Inc. for 1-year (52 weeks) of SCADA/PLC Support in the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$367,988.00
- Approved Change Order No. 1 for Public Education and Outreach Services for the Monterey Regional Stormwater Management Program with Environmental Innovations in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$159,105

July 27, 2026

Board Actions:

Capital Improvement:

- Approved certification for the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Coral Street Pump Station Electrical Relocation Project
- Awarded a Professional Services Agreement to TJC and Associates, Inc. to Provide Engineering Services for the Coral Street Pump Station Electrical Relocation Project in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$991,960

Business Matters:

- Approved a Budget Adjustment for \$400,000 for the Advanced Water Purification Facility Membrane Replacement Project
- Approved the Third Amendment to USP Technologies for the Full-Service Sulfide Control Program for the Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,560,605.32
- Approved Change Order No. 1 for Outreach Consultant Services with Bodewell Group, LLC, previously Southwest Strategies LLC, in the amount of \$87,380

Informational Items:

- Community & Legislative Affairs Manager, Rachel Gaudoin, presented the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Legislative Advocacy report for Quarter 4

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Friday, June 19th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- As Chair, I began this meeting with an acknowledgement that we were meeting on Juneteenth and that it was a holiday that requires reflection as well as celebration. Next, I also shared that our meeting was being held in memory of two important people who had recently passed—Gary Bales, who was a 52-year member of our board and who we honored by the naming of our board room. The second person was Jay Ramos, who was our former beloved Director of Operations. Needless to say, it was an emotional start to the meeting! In terms of items addressed, we held a required public hearing on our vacancies, approved our final budget, and authorized the purchase of new equipment for our Material Recovery Facility, and a contract for Master Planning that needs to be done for our landfill. We also approved new pay schedules for all of our staffing units.

Tuesday, June 23rd- City Council Meeting- Besides the required vacancies report by Chief Bourquin, our other big item was approving a recommendation for our development team to begin working towards an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with Shea Homes. I appreciated the work that went into interviewing the developers who responded to our proposal letters, and given the information provided, it seemed very clear that Shea Homes was going to be our best option. It's anticipated that we'll be approving the negotiation agreement in August that will allow Shea Homes to investigate their feasibility for building on our Ft. Ord property. This is just the beginning of a much longer process, so I hope everyone stays engaged and participates in this important project for our city.

Saturday, June 27th- Monterey Peninsula Pride- Thank you to Council Member John Uy for organizing our place in the parade! It was so nice to be surrounded by Del Rey Oaks residents and friends as we danced down the parade route with our sign, bubbles, and music. I deeply wish every day was treated like a Pride event with everyone spreading love and acceptance!!!

Wednesday, July 1st- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Meeting- There were two main items on today's agenda. The first was approving the contract to update our modeling that needs to be done for our basin. This work will help us better understand the potential risks for seawater intrusion and will provide us with the information needed to complete our Seawater Intrusion Response Plan. It will also integrate into the regional modeling that's being done to better understand the basins connected to the Seaside Basin. The second item was deciding how we were going to assign an amount of water production for a well that lacked a meter at the beginning of the year. After some discussion and clarification, we decided to use the highest amounts for that producer during their last three years of production. This seemed fair while also creating a bit of an

incentive to have a working meter. This decision will help us create a policy that will be brought to our next meeting.

Monday, July 6th- Marina Odors Town Hall- Tonight's meeting was hosted by County Supervisor Wendy Root Askew and Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado and was an opportunity for Marina residents to hear from various agencies and the agricultural industry regarding what they're doing about odors. I attended because ReGen Monterey was one of the presenters and I was curious to hear from the other agencies as well as from the residents. This was a very informative meeting with presenters from the Monterey County Air Resources Board, the County Agricultural Commissioner, ReGen Monterey, M1Water, and Ramco, which is one of the largest berry growers in the nation. I learned something from all of the presenters, and I appreciated the willingness of the Air Resources Board to investigate all odor complaints. It seemed there were more agency representatives there than residents, but the meeting was recorded and will serve as a great resource for anyone who wants to learn more about odors and what our public agencies are doing to diminish odors as they compost or bury our waste and treat our sewage.

Wednesday, July 8th- Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee Meeting- Today's meeting was fairly quick. We received an update on the well that needs to be destroyed on the new eco resort that will be built in Sand City. The owner is working with the County Environmental Health to destroy the well and install a new one. For this item, Jon Lear from the Water Management District also gave us an update on the monitoring well that's also on this property, which will be moved to a location that is easily accessible, yet very near the old well. The well will be upgraded so that we can not only sample water but also continue to do our induction logging.

The main item of discussion today was reviewing the draft 2027 Monitoring and Management Program. Many of the items didn't have updated price tags, so that will be reviewed at our next meeting, but the TAC was pleased with the items that were included in the program, several of which are new items that may need to be completed after we update our basin modeling at the end of this year.

Monday, July 13th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Monday, July 13th- Regional Taxi Authority Meeting- Please see the Regional Taxi Authority board highlights in our agenda packet.

Friday, July 31st- Meeting with Police Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin- I initiated a meeting with Police Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin to ask questions about the recent ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) activity at the Monterey Airport. I was grateful they were willing to sit down to talk with me, as I was curious about the incident and was interested to know how the city would respond to future calls from

ICE. Although the Police Chief was notified before ICE agents made their arrest at the Airport, legally he was not allowed to share this information with anyone outside of law enforcement. He told me that our police officers were going about their jobs that day and did not witness the arrest. He was only allowed to share this information with the airport and others after the arrest occurred. Chief Bourquin did share that if this were to occur in the future, he'd more quickly inform the public when it was appropriate. ICE is not required to notify our police department when they will be at the airport, so we can only hope they will continue notifying them in the future.

Wednesday, August 5th- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- Our meeting this morning was mostly an update on potential revenue opportunities as well as power generation agreements. It's interesting to think about the value of our landfill space, something that is of high value now, which will ideally decrease in value as we move towards the future with improvements in both policy and advancements in technology rendering our landfill space obsolete (one can dream, right?). So with our established guidelines of allowing outside contracts for trash disposal as long as we have over 75 years of space available, we talked about the opportunities and our willingness to seek out agreements that can bring needed revenue for future capital projects, infrastructure maintenance, and the ability to fill in for other sunseting regional contracts. Our landfill has the longest life in comparison to other nearby landfills, so as regional landfills close, we will find ourselves in a good position to negotiate these contracts.

We also talked about our current power generation agreement with 3CE, as well as our upcoming agreement to provide power to M1W. As a reminder, staff is also working on our master plan that will determine how we best move forward with our landfill gas utilization. In the meantime, we're still having issues with downtime for our engines, which are taking our landfill gas and converting it to electricity. Turns out the gas is too "dirty," with water and sand collecting in the engines—not good for smooth-running engines. We talked about what we'll need to do to clean up the gas to improve those run times. Additionally, we talked about the M1W power agreement that's been in the works for years now, and how we may have to update it. For now, it looks like we'll be terminating the existing agreement and entering into another agreement with terms that reflect our current needs and potentially new direction for our landfill gas.

Wednesday, August 5th- State of the City Address by Mayor Donaldson- Thank you to Mayor Donaldson and City Manager Guertin for their presentation on the State of the City. I was happy to see it so well attended

Monday, August 10th- Press Conference with Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Monterey Bay Aquarium CEO Dr. Jenny Gray on Offshore Oil/Gas Drilling- I was honored to join our local leaders as they spoke about the efforts towards protecting our coast from the Trump Administration's actions to begin drilling in our Sanctuary. The press conference included Monterey Mayor Tyller Williamson, County Supervisor Kate Daniels,

Executive Director of Save Our Shores Katie Thompson, and Janine Chicourrat, the Managing Director of the Portola Hotel. Many other local elected officials (Council Member John Uy!) were there, and it was a great opportunity to show our unified front to this potential travesty, which would affect not only our natural environment, but also our economy, which depends so much on a healthy coastal ecosystem. I'd like to see our city council join with other peninsula cities to show a unified front to push back against this threat by joining the Outer Continental Shelf–Save My Coast Coalition. If you'd like to see this, too, please reach out to the council.

Wednesday, August 12th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- In today's meeting, we continued to talk about the progress towards installing a new well that could be used for water testing near the sentinel well #4, which has been showing a change in the induction logging that may indicate seawater intrusion. We learned that environmental analysis will need to be done before the installation, so this will likely take longer than we first hoped. The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District is taking the lead on this project. They're also working on installing additional monitoring wells within the basin, so this project will be wrapped in the larger well installation project.

We also received an update on Cal Am's desalination project. They have already begun clearing and grading the land where the facility will be built and plan on beginning heavy construction in the Fall. They anticipate meeting all of their coastal permit conditions for the project by Spring 2027, then drilling the slant wells in October 2027, and finally commissioning the project by December 2029.

The rest of the meeting was focused on approving the Monitoring and Management Program (M&MP) for 2027, along with the Operations and Capital Budgets for the M&MP. We also approved Requests for Services (RFSs) for our main consultants who will be working within the M&MP in 2027.

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
August 25, 2026 Meeting**

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on June 23, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

On Tuesday, June 23, I participated in our regular Del Rey Oaks City Council meeting. It was an especially important meeting because many of the decisions before us were not simply about running City Hall for another year—they were about the **long-term financial health, services, growth, and future character of Del Rey Oaks.**

For me, the question behind each item was simple: **What does this mean for the people who live here?**

Keeping Our City Financially Responsible

One of the most important items was the **Fiscal Year 2026–27 City budget.** The economic outlook remains challenging, particularly for a small city like ours with limited revenue sources. The budget was prepared conservatively while continuing to prioritize essential municipal services, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. Sales tax accounts for approximately 23% of City revenue, which means even relatively small changes in consumer spending can significantly affect our finances.

What matters to residents is that we continue providing the services you depend on without spending beyond our means. Del Rey Oaks does not have the same financial flexibility as a large city, so thoughtful budgeting, healthy reserves, and long-term planning are especially important.

At the same time, **cutting expenses year after year is not a long-term strategy.** We need to continue looking for responsible ways to diversify City revenues so that the cost of maintaining quality services does not increasingly fall on our residents.

That connection between today's budget and tomorrow's economic development became particularly clear during another major discussion of the evening.

Former Fort Ord Property: An Important Step Toward Del Rey Oaks' Future

Perhaps the most consequential discussion involved the City's approximately **235 acres of former Fort Ord property** and the proposed selection of **Shea Homes** as the City's development partner for purposes of negotiating an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement.

This property represents one of the greatest opportunities—and responsibilities—Del Rey Oaks will face in the coming years.

Thoughtfully developed, it has the potential to bring new housing opportunities, commercial and employment-generating uses, public amenities and open space, and, importantly, a stronger and more diversified tax base for our City.

After evaluating three qualified development teams through written submissions, interviews, follow-up discussions, and reference checks, City staff concluded that Shea Homes presented the strongest overall combination of financial capacity, development experience, knowledge of former Fort Ord, infrastructure expertise, and ability to work collaboratively with a public agency.

I believe residents should understand an important distinction: **negotiating with a developer is not the same thing as approving a development project.** The proposed Exclusive Negotiating Agreement would establish a process for exploring what may be feasible and negotiating potential business terms. Any future development proposal would still require its own public process, environmental review, and subsequent City consideration.

For me, this distinction matters enormously.

Development of this property should not simply be about how many buildings can be constructed. It should be about creating lasting value for Del Rey Oaks. We need to ask what kind of community we want there, how development will affect traffic and infrastructure, how water and environmental constraints will be addressed, what public amenities can be provided, and—critically—whether the development generates enough revenue to pay for the municipal services it will require.

Growth should help strengthen Del Rey Oaks, not create a future financial burden for the people who already live here.

As this process moves forward, I will continue advocating for transparency, meaningful community participation, environmental responsibility, fiscal sustainability, and protection of the character that makes Del Rey Oaks special.

Recognizing That City Services Depend on People

The Council also considered the City's first annual staffing-vacancy report required under **AB 2561**. The new state law requires local governments to publicly discuss vacancies as well as their recruitment and retention efforts.

This may sound like an administrative requirement, but it has a very practical connection to residents.

When a small city has an unfilled position, there are fewer people available to answer calls, process permits, maintain infrastructure, provide public safety, prepare reports, administer grants, and perform all the other work residents expect from their local government. Our proposed staffing plan contains only 15 positions Citywide, with one authorized police officer position identified as unfilled.

That is why recruitment and retention matter. In a city our size, every employee makes a difference.

Maintaining Open and Accountable Government

The meeting also included routine but important good-government responsibilities, including preparations for the **November 3, 2026 General Municipal Election** and the City's periodic review of its Conflict of Interest Code. These processes help protect transparency, accountability, and public confidence in local government.

These may not be the issues that generate the most attention, but good government often depends on precisely this kind of work—clear rules, public disclosure, fair elections, careful financial management, and decisions made openly.

Looking Ahead

What struck me most about this meeting was how closely our **day-to-day decisions are connected to the long-term future of Del Rey Oaks**.

Our budget determines whether we can continue delivering the services residents expect. Our staffing determines whether we have the people necessary to deliver them. Our economic development decisions determine whether future City revenues will be strong enough to sustain those services. And decisions involving the former Fort Ord property could influence the financial health and physical character of Del Rey Oaks for generations.

That is why I believe we must think beyond the next budget year or the next Council meeting.

We have an opportunity to build a future in which Del Rey Oaks remains **safe, financially sustainable, environmentally responsible, welcoming, and unmistakably the small community**

we love—while creating a stronger economic foundation for those who will call this city home long after us.

I remain grateful to our City staff, my fellow Councilmembers, and especially the residents who continue to participate, ask questions, and care deeply about our community.

Del Rey Oaks may be a small city, but the decisions we make today can have a very big impact on tomorrow. I will continue working to make sure your voice, your quality of life, and the long-term interests of our community remain at the center of those decisions.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – August 11, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks neighbors,

The regularly scheduled Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board meeting on August 11, 2026, was canceled, so there were no Board actions or new District business to report for that meeting. The next meeting will be on September 8, 2026.

While sanitation meetings often take place quietly in the background, the work of the District directly affects something every household and business depends on every day: a safe, reliable sewer system. As Del Rey Oaks' representative, I continue to keep an eye on District operations, infrastructure planning, costs, and decisions that may affect our residents and ratepayers.

Sometimes, the best news from our infrastructure agencies is simply that the systems we rely on continue working as they should. I will continue representing Del Rey Oaks at future SCSD meetings and will keep our community informed when matters arise that directly affect our neighborhoods, services, or costs.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – August 12, 2026

Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

On Wednesday, August 12, I attended the **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board of Directors meeting** as Del Rey Oaks' representative. AMBAG brings together cities and counties throughout Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties to work on issues that do not stop at city boundaries—especially transportation, sustainability, climate resilience, regional planning, and access to state and federal funding.



For a small city like Del Rey Oaks, having a voice in these regional conversations is important. Many of the roads we drive, transit systems we use, environmental challenges we face, and funding opportunities available to us are regional in nature. **Our city may be small, but our residents should still have a seat at the table when decisions affecting the Monterey Bay region are being shaped.**

Turning Long-Range Transportation Plans into Real Projects

The most significant discussion for residents was the **Draft Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for Federal Fiscal Years 2026–27 through 2029–30.**

The name sounds technical, but the idea is straightforward: the MTIP identifies transportation projects expected to receive federal, state, or local funding during the next four years. It includes investments in **roads, highways, bridges, public transit, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian projects** throughout Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.

The proposed program represents approximately **\$1.52 billion in transportation investments across 103 projects** throughout the three-county Monterey Bay region.

That does not mean \$1.52 billion is coming directly to Del Rey Oaks. Rather, it represents the broader regional transportation network that our residents depend upon every day.

Why does this matter to us?

Most Del Rey Oaks residents do not remain within our city limits all day. We travel to Monterey, Seaside, Marina, Salinas, and elsewhere for work, school, medical appointments, shopping,

recreation, and family activities. A traffic bottleneck, unsafe intersection, unreliable transit connection, or deteriorating roadway somewhere else in the region can still affect the quality of life of someone living in Del Rey Oaks.

I therefore view regional transportation planning through a very local lens: **Will it make it safer, easier, and more reliable for our residents to get where they need to go?**

The August meeting provided the public an opportunity to comment on the Draft MTIP before its anticipated consideration for adoption in September. This public review process is important because transportation plans should not simply be lists of projects created on paper—they should reflect how people actually move through and experience our communities.

Bringing Energy-Efficiency Opportunities Closer to Communities

I also reviewed AMBAG's sustainability work, including implementation of the **Central California Rural Regional Energy Network (CCR REN)**.

The program has a **\$36 million budget** and involves partners working across 14 Central California counties to expand access to energy-efficiency programs, particularly in communities that historically have not participated as fully in these opportunities. AMBAG's recent work has included outreach involving residential energy modeling, energy-efficiency kits, assistance to local jurisdictions and special districts, and programs aimed at small businesses.

For Del Rey Oaks residents, programs like these matter because regional partnerships can bring resources, technical expertise, and funding opportunities that a city of our size would have difficulty developing entirely on its own.

That is one of the greatest advantages of regional cooperation: **Del Rey Oaks can remain proudly small while still benefiting from the resources and expertise of a much larger regional network.**

Preparing EV Infrastructure for the Future

Another sustainability initiative that caught my attention was the **Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Framework**, or EV CAR Framework.

AMBAG and Ecology Action received a **\$750,000 Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant** to develop this work. The objective is not simply to install more electric-vehicle chargers. It is to examine whether current and future charging infrastructure can remain reliable as our region experiences climate-related risks and to identify strategies for building a more equitable and resilient charging network. Staff has been developing 12 adaptation measures for the framework.

As transportation technology changes, I believe planning ahead is far better—and ultimately less expensive—than trying to correct problems after infrastructure has already been built.

Competing for Outside Funding Instead of Going It Alone

The Board also considered continued support for the **Monterey Bay Area Regional Climate Project Working Group**.

Since its creation in 2022, this regional partnership has helped develop projects and funding applications that have resulted in **more than \$33 million in successful grant awards**, including work involving EV charging infrastructure and resiliency centers.

AMBAG considered an agreement of up to **\$315,680 with Farallon Strategies** to provide management support for this regional effort. The consultant was selected following a competitive procurement process, and the work is already programmed within AMBAG's FY 2026–27 budget.

What I find especially valuable about this approach is the leverage it can create. Smaller jurisdictions often do not have dedicated teams whose full-time job is pursuing complicated state and federal grants. By collaborating regionally, our communities can compete more effectively for outside dollars that might otherwise go elsewhere.

For me, **regional collaboration makes the most sense when it brings resources back to our communities, avoids unnecessary duplication, and gives taxpayers more value from the dollars already being invested.**

Why AMBAG Matters to Del Rey Oaks

Many AMBAG agenda items can sound distant from everyday life—MTIP, regional modeling, energy networks, resiliency frameworks, clearinghouses, and grant programs.

But behind those acronyms are very practical questions:

How safely can we get to work?

Will transportation funding reach our region?

Can our communities access energy-efficiency programs?

Will future infrastructure withstand changing conditions?

Can small cities successfully compete for state and federal grants?

Those are issues that ultimately affect our household expenses, commute times, public infrastructure, environment, and quality of life.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to represent Del Rey Oaks in these regional discussions. I will continue advocating for decisions that are **fiscally responsible, environmentally thoughtful, transparent, and fair to smaller communities like ours.**

Del Rey Oaks may occupy only a small part of the Monterey Bay region, but **our residents deserve a strong voice in shaping the region we all share—and I will continue making sure that voice is present.**

IV. Council Report: A Personal Note on Public Service and the Next Chapter

Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

With the August 7, 2026 filing deadline for local office now behind us, I want to share something personal with our community: **I have decided not to seek reelection to the Del Rey Oaks City Council.**

This was not an easy decision.

Serving as your Councilmember has been one of the most meaningful and fulfilling experiences of my life. When I first stepped forward to run for office, I did so because I believed that local government could be more personal, more welcoming, more inclusive, and more connected to the people it serves. I wanted to listen, contribute, ask questions, bring new ideas to the table, and do my part for the little city that I have been fortunate to call home.

What I received in return was far greater than I ever expected.

I learned that public service is ultimately about **people**—the neighbor who stops you on the street to share a concern, the resident who sends an encouraging message after a difficult meeting, the volunteers who give countless hours without recognition, the City employees who quietly keep everything working, and the community members who show up because they genuinely care about what happens here.

I have had the privilege of being part of decisions involving our streets and parks, public safety, finances, regional partnerships, housing, infrastructure, environmental stewardship, community events, and the long-term future of Del Rey Oaks. Some decisions were easy. Others were difficult. There were moments of agreement and moments when thoughtful people saw things differently. But through all of it, I have tried to remember that the position was never *mine*. **The seat belongs to the people of Del Rey Oaks, and I was simply entrusted with it for a period of time.**

Why I Am Not Running Again

After considerable reflection, I realized that seeking another term should never be something an elected official does simply because they *can*.

Another four-year commitment deserves the same energy, availability, enthusiasm, and wholehearted attention that I wanted to give when I first took office. My family life, professional responsibilities, and personal commitments are entering a new chapter, and I know that the coming years will require more of my time and presence in those areas.

I could have filed for another term. But I believe public service deserves more than simply holding onto a position. **It deserves someone who can look at the next four years and say, without hesitation, “I am ready to give this everything it requires.”**

For me, the more responsible choice is to recognize that this is a natural moment to pass the opportunity to someone else.

This decision is therefore not about walking away from our community. It is about respecting the office enough to know when it is time to create space for another resident to step forward with fresh energy, new ideas, and their own commitment to service.

I will always care deeply about Del Rey Oaks, and public service will remain part of who I am. Service does not begin with an election certificate, and it certainly does not end when someone leaves elected office.

To Anyone Who Has Ever Thought About Running: Please Do

One of the strongest messages I want to leave with our residents is this:

If you have ever thought about running for public office, please consider doing it.

You do not need to know everything before you begin. I certainly did not.

You do not need to come from politics.

You do not need to be the loudest person in the room.

You need to care about your community, be willing to listen, do your homework, ask difficult questions respectfully, and remember that behind every agenda item are real people whose lives may be affected by the decisions you make.

Local government especially needs ordinary residents who are willing to step forward.

We need parents, teachers, engineers, small-business owners, retirees, young professionals, longtime residents, newcomers, renters, homeowners, and people from every walk of life. A healthy democracy works best when elected offices are not viewed as positions reserved for a particular kind of person, but as opportunities for **neighbors to serve neighbors**.

Running for office can feel intimidating. I understand that. But I can also tell you from experience that it can be extraordinarily rewarding.

There is something deeply meaningful about sitting at the Council table knowing that your neighbors trusted you to represent them. There is satisfaction in helping solve a problem that may seem small on a government agenda but matters enormously to one family. There is fulfillment in watching an idea discussed at a meeting eventually become something tangible in the community.

And perhaps most importantly, public service gives you a much deeper appreciation for the place you call home.

Gratitude

To everyone who voted for me, encouraged me, supported me, disagreed with me respectfully, challenged me to think differently, sent me an email, stopped to talk with me, attended a meeting, volunteered at an event, or simply offered a kind word along the way: **thank you**.

Thank you for trusting me.

Thank you to our City staff for your professionalism and dedication. Thank you to my fellow Councilmembers, past and present, for the conversations, collaboration, debates, laughter, and shared responsibility of governing our small but wonderful city.

And thank you to the residents of Del Rey Oaks for giving me the extraordinary privilege of serving you.

Being a Councilmember was never something I took for granted. There were difficult days, certainly, but there were far more moments that reminded me why public service matters.

I leave this chapter with tremendous gratitude, not because I accomplished everything I might have hoped to accomplish, but because **I had the opportunity to contribute**.

That opportunity itself was an honor.

A New Chapter, but Not Goodbye

There is a healthy rhythm to democracy. People step forward, serve for a time, contribute what they can, and eventually make room for others.

I believe that is something worth celebrating.

My hope is that the next Council will include people who love Del Rey Oaks, respect its unique character, value kindness and inclusion, understand the importance of responsible fiscal stewardship, and are willing to think carefully about the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Our city will face important decisions in the coming years. I encourage our residents not only to pay attention to those decisions, but to participate in them. Attend meetings. Ask questions. Volunteer. Serve on a committee. Get to know your neighbors.

And someday, perhaps, **put your own name on the ballot.**

You may discover, as I did, that service asks a great deal of you, but gives you something remarkable in return: a stronger connection to your neighbors, a deeper understanding of your community, and the knowledge that for a little while, you helped care for a place that means something to you.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the people of Del Rey Oaks.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Councilmember. Thank you for believing in me. And most of all, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve a community that I will always hold very close to my heart.