

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Friday, April 19th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- This was my most challenging board meeting yet, with a packed agenda, including a closed session, and the desire to wrap it up within our usual 3-hour timeframe. OK, so maybe we didn't wrap it up by 12, but I did my best with the hand I was dealt!

After passing the consent agenda items and presenting a resolution of appreciation for Brian McMinn, a retired city of Marina public works director and city engineer who worked on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), we had a lengthy presentation on the Joint Feasibility Study done in collaboration with M1Water. This was the same report I heard at the Ad Hoc Renewable Energy Project on April 5th (see my April council report for the summary). In short, there are four categories of projects that were analyzed based on the managed organics of both organizations. For ReGen, we have already approved the 21kV line that will be a direct connection to M1W and provide cheaper electricity for Pure Water Monterey. There are some additional build outs of this system that can be considered, which would provide additional power to other parts of the M1W campus. Details also need to be worked out with PG&E as backup, but in terms of ReGen Monterey, this project is the most likely one to move forward. The Co-Digestion and Biosolids projects are mainly focused on M1W and their needs. We may eventually supply organics for their co-digestion, but we won't be doing so at this time. Lastly, there's the question of what to do with the extra biogas that both organizations produce. Do we make more energy or do we move forward with the more profitable (but more expensive) plan of producing renewable natural gas for pipeline injection? That will be something we also tackle at a future date.

Next was the presentation on the 2024 Waste Characterization Study. This was a hands-on sample study of trash (they literally hand-sorted trash!) for residential and commercial member jurisdictions, as well as visual sampling done of roll-off/self-haul trash. The table below shows the data from both the collective sampling as well as the sampling associated with Del Rey Oaks. Keep in mind that the sampling from Del Rey Oaks was very small (better to look at the larger data set), but it's still interesting to see where we can do better! This data will ultimately inform infrastructure planning, community outreach needs, and provide a snapshot of our solid waste disposal to help monitor SB 1383 (organic waste composting). I'm always interested in seeing how we can change our habits to better care of our earth's resources. If you'd like to talk more about these numbers, please reach out! (See Table on Page 2)

Material	All Jurisdictions-Residential	Del Rey Oaks-Residential	All Jurisdictions-Commercial	Del Rey Oaks-Commercial
Correctly placed Waste	57%	54%	51%	63%
Should have been recycled	14%	15%	19%	14%
Should have been yard waste	17%	16%	17%	21%
Should have been put in "other"	11%	14%	14%	3%

After the presentations, we had four discussion items (see why this meeting ran long?). The first was a discussion of the draft White Paper. This paper is a long time in the making, but staff is doing a good job of fine-tuning the paper so it comprehensively explains why we've been accepting waste beyond our member jurisdictions. I'm sure this paper will prove to be an excellent resource for the public and the board members as we continue to evaluate future contracts and how we want to collectively move forward in the future.

Next was a discussion on the proposed tip fee increase. We ended up approving a roughly 4% increase in municipal solid waste (from \$74/ton to \$77/ton), as well as an increase in single-stream recyclables for a couple of our regional contracts, and an increase on some of the minimum charges per load and other fees that haven't had increases in a very long time. Some of the reasons for the cost increases include:

- Increasing labor costs
- Rising cost of capital expenditures
- Costs of regulatory mandates and compliance
- Funding of capital infrastructure and capital equipment reserves
- Creation and funding of closure and post-closure liability reserves
- Creation and funding of CalPERS Unfunded Pension Liability Reserve

For DRO residents, this increase in costs will equate to roughly \$0.16/month on our GreenWaste Recovery bill.

The next two items up for discussion pertained to biosolids coming from M1W. The first was a discussion on the rate increase for biosolid disposal for the first part of the next fiscal year (July 1st - Dec. 31st). Historically, M1W has been getting a screaming deal on their disposal of biosolids with minimal increases over the years. They are currently paying

\$42/ton (remember...everyone else is currently paying \$74/ton). After a brief discussion, the board settled on increasing the rate to \$60/ton for the next 6 months of FY24/25.

The second topic of biosolids is a bit more nuanced. The question was should ReGen Monterey continue to accept a smaller portion or any of the biosolids starting Jan. 1st, 2025? The reason why this comes up is that with the SB 1383 regulation, biosolids are also considered "organic waste" and therefore 75% of it needs to be diverted away from the landfill by January 1, 2025. M1W does have a place to take these biosolids, but they will need to truck them to that location. Ultimately, we did not provide an answer and asked that the staff provide some additional information and a recommendation for further discussion. Statewide there may be some room for delaying the 75% diversion rate for 2025 since many jurisdictions in the state are having a difficult time even starting up their composting programs. Some of our board members may also want to weigh the environmental impacts of trucking this material to another location. It will certainly be more expensive to do that, so I'm sure M1W will also be weighing in on this future decision.

Saturday, April 20th- Earth Day Celebration, DRO Park- Although I did not have an official part in the Earth Day Celebration, I did attend to help Sustainable Del Rey Oaks (SDRO) set up their table (after all, those were my composting worms on display!). Besides the worms, SDRO did such a fabulous job covering lots of topics from vermicomposting, a solar battery display, SDRO's Earth Friendly Household program, kitchen organic waste, bees/pollinators, reuse and refillable household cleaners, and pet-safe rodent control. Thank you to Gerry Orton for engaging the kids in making a fabulous bug hotel for the Butterfly Garden. And thanks to Kristi Volmenschky for the always super popular tomato plant seedling giveaways. After set up, I enjoyed walking around and talking to everyone who came to participate in the event. Thank you to the city for organizing the event and thank you to the Citizens Action Group for the ice cream.

Tuesday, April 23rd- City Council Meeting- This month's council began with a proclamation from the Mayor for Arbor Day. In honor of National Poetry Month, our own DRO resident poet, writer, and educator, Patrice Vecchione read a few of her poems for the council (Thank you, Patrice! Your writing always brings me joy!). Next, we honored Police Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin for their support of America's National Guard and Reserve Forces. I appreciate the flexibility they have in supporting our police officers who take time to serve our country.

After we passed the consent agenda, our contract planner, Denise Duffy provided us an update on the 6th cycle housing element. We received a letter of suggestions from the State Housing and Community Development earlier this year and now we need to work on those revisions. Besides program revisions, Denise spoke about clarifying water supply timelines, meeting our RHNA numbers without ADUs and only using ADUs as a buffer, clarifying our shelter ordinance, addressing mitigating constraints around parking, an ordinance on garages, rehabbing units for seniors, infrastructure timelines, and safety

restrictions for the former Fort Ord property. In other words, lots of interesting topics are coming our way. I'd like to see these updates go before the Planning Commission in addition to the Council as I believe their critical eye is important and frankly, the more people who review our documents the better they become.

Lastly, we approved a new Administrative Services Technician for City Hall. This full-time position will alleviate some of our need for contract services, bringing the work in-house. This will ultimately reduce costs and increase efficiencies within City Hall (and how nice it will be for Karen and John to have more help!).

Wednesday, May 1st- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- Our meeting this month was fairly short. Besides approving our minutes from the previous month's meeting, we were given a presentation on our preliminary budget for FY 24/25. With projected operating revenues being almost \$57 million and our operating expenses just over \$49 million, we'll meet our 20% operating reserve as well as our debt service ratio (1.25 required and we'll be at 2.89).

Friday, May 10th- Del Rey Oaks Finance Committee Meeting- After reviewing the April financials (still looking good, and even better with the property taxes in!), we talked about the draft budget for FY 24/25. Staff is calling it a "status-quo" budget while they project no real increases in revenues or expenditures. The good news is that we continue to have a large economic uncertainty fund (\$1.6 million) and a fund balance of over \$1.8 million. City Manager Guertin will be suggesting a reserve policy to address these pots of money, so I look forward to those discussions. I'm also very interested in hearing from residents regarding their thoughts on the use of these monies (how much do we continue to save, what do we save for, do we look at other immediate needs around the city?). City Manager Guertin also reviewed our Capital Improvement Plan, which lays out a five-year plan for projects throughout the city. The ones planned for this next fiscal year are mostly covered by restricted fund categories, which also include FEMA and grants that the city has worked hard to garner over this past year. To see the list of these projects and our budget for FY24/25, please check out the agenda packet for this meeting. Lastly, I did have a few requests for the budget packet. The first was to explain all the financial policies we currently have in the city. I also wanted our long-term debt from the former Fort Ord lawsuit explained within the budget report. And lastly, I asked for a description of all of the current employees for the city since we'll have an additional 2 full-time employees next year. The reason for these requests is to help the public and council members understand the entire picture of our financial situation. Also understanding what financial policies we currently have will help us understand what additional policies we'd like to develop. And finally, transparency, although it's more work, it is an excellent goal!

Saturday, May 11th- Butterfly Garden Clean-Up- The second Saturday is reserved for the Butterfly Garden clean-up through Sustainable Del Rey Oaks. The weeds are always aplenty on this parcel, so it's always a fulfilling project! I can guarantee it will always look

so much better by the time we're done—and we got to chat with our neighbors and friends. It's always such a nice time. I would like to offer extra thanks to my husband, Kevin Raskoff for always being so dedicated to the weed whacking! Council Member Ragsdale-Cronin also offered his time for some weed whacking, too. Thanks for all of the work!

Monday, May 13th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Administrative Performance

Committee- Every other month, I attend this committee meeting prior to our larger board meeting. We always hear from our State and Federal lobbyists, and additionally we may cover a few other topics. In regards to the State budget, we all know that we're contending with a large deficit this year and at the moment, revisions are still in motion with many of the bills. Some of our current funding for the year was "frozen" so our lobbyist and General Manager Sedoryk were going to be meeting with legislative representatives to talk about getting it released sooner rather than later. On the Federal side, thankfully the bulk of our money is intact thanks to the Infrastructure bill which will provide us with \$22 million for the SURF! Project. The rest of the meeting included a presentation on our draft budget for FY 24/25 and FY 25/26. It is a balanced budget (as long as that State funding is received), with an ending surplus of almost \$3.5 million for FY 24/25. Right now, MST is doing well with its reserves, but it anticipates decreased funding in the next few years, in addition to requiring capital improvements such as zero-emission buses and associated infrastructure. Our last agenda topic was reviewing the survey results from polling that was done regarding Measure Q which is a ½ cent sales tax that funds many of our services. This tax will sunset in 2030. Based on the results, MST as an agency was very well received and it's clear people are interested in a tax measure that serves the most needy (seniors, disabled, veterans, etc.). They aren't as likely to vote for a tax increase for environmental reasons (zero emission buses) or to help students with bus passes. Ultimately, with the work that's going into the SURF! Project, staff felt that this was not something we'd pursue this election year, but now they have the information they need to put it on the ballot for Nov. 2026.

Monday, May 13th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST Board Highlights in our agenda packet.

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy May 21, 2024

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on April 23, 2024

I am thrilled to provide you with a recap of our recent City Council meeting held on April 23, 2024. It was a momentous gathering where important decisions were made, and significant updates were shared for the betterment of our beloved community.

The meeting commenced with the adoption of a proclamation celebrating Arbor Day 2024. Arbor Day, a special day dedicated to the planting of trees, holds great significance for our city. We acknowledged the efforts of Tomiko Breland, a long-time resident, who generously donated 20 trees to beautify our community. These trees not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of Del Rey Oaks but also contribute to the economic vitality of our business areas and increase property values. We expressed our gratitude to Tomiko for her thoughtful gesture, which aligns with our commitment to environmental sustainability and the well-being of future generations.

Next in the meeting, we had the honor of the presence of our local renowned poet, Patrice Vecchione in honor of National Poetry Month. Your heartfelt reading of a poem in honor of National Poetry Month truly touched our hearts and illuminated the beauty of language and expression. Your words resonated deeply with all of us, reminding us of the power and magic that poetry holds in capturing emotions and experiences. Your contribution added a special touch to our Council meeting, and we are grateful for your talent and creativity. Thank you for sharing your poetic gift with us and for enriching our gathering with your artistry. Your presence and words have left a lasting impression, inspiring us to appreciate the beauty of language and the depth of human emotions.

During the meeting, we also had the pleasure of honoring Police Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin for their support of America's National Guard and Reserve Forces. Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin, your unwavering support and dedication to America's National Guard and Reserve Forces have not gone unnoticed. Your commitment to honoring and assisting those who serve our country selflessly is truly commendable. Your leadership and compassion shine brightly, inspiring us all to show gratitude and respect to those who protect our nation. Thank you, Chief Bourquin and City Manager Guertin, for your outstanding support and advocacy for our National Guard and Reserve Forces.



Moving forward, we delved into various important matters that impact our city. One significant adoption revolved around the modified Military Equipment Use Policy, in compliance with AB 481. This policy ensures transparency, accountability, and oversight in the acquisition and use of military equipment by our esteemed Police Department. By adopting this policy, we reaffirm our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of law enforcement while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our residents.

Additionally, we considered the addition of the City of Del Rey Oaks as a participating agency to the Monterey Peninsula Special Response Unit (SRU). This regional police team, consisting of specialized units for special weapons and tactics, tactical medicine, and crisis negotiation, plays a crucial role in handling critical field operations. By joining the SRU, we aim to enhance our emergency response capabilities and ensure the utmost safety and security of our community.

During the meeting, we also received and approved financial reports for the month of March 2024. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of our city's financial health, showcasing our commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparency in financial matters. We remain dedicated to managing our resources efficiently and effectively to support the growth and development of Del Rey Oaks.

Furthermore, we had the privilege of hosting several presentations that shed light on important topics. Denise Duffy and Associates provided an update on the Housing Element Update (6th Cycle), highlighting the progress made in ensuring adequate housing for our residents. We also discussed the job description for an Administrative Services Technician and considered amending the FY 2023-24 budget to accommodate this new position, which will contribute to the smooth functioning of our city's administrative services.

In conclusion, our City Council meeting was a resounding success, with decisions made and updates shared that will shape the future of Del Rey Oaks. We remain steadfast in our commitment to serving you, our valued residents, and working towards a prosperous and vibrant community.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in the governance of our city. Together, we can achieve great things and ensure a bright future for Del Rey Oaks.

II. Council Report: ISR Monterey Bay Swim Facility Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 7, 2024

I am delighted to share with you the heartwarming and impactful event that I recently had the honor of attending—the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the ISR Monterey Bay Swim Facility. Hosted by Kerri Williams, the passionate founder and certified Infant Swimming Resource (ISR) instructor, this event marked a significant milestone for our community in Del Rey Oaks.

On May 7th, 2024, amidst the joyous spirit of National Water Safety Month, the ISR Monterey Bay Swim Facility opened its doors at 202 Calle Del Oaks, Del Rey Oaks, CA. The ceremony,

attended by Mayor Donaldson, City Manager Guertin, and myself, among others, was a testament to our collective commitment to water safety and drowning prevention.



The Cause:

Kerri Williams, a devoted mother and former United States Navy Reserves member, shared her deeply personal journey that led to the establishment of ISR Monterey Bay. Witnessing her two daughters undergo ISR training while she was deployed ignited her passion for water safety. Kerri's dedication to preventing childhood drownings, the leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 4, resonates deeply with our community.



The Impact:

Since its inception, ISR Monterey Bay has equipped 359 children in our community with life-saving skills, empowering them to become aquatic problem solvers. Recognized as the best swim lesson provider by Monterey Bay Parent Magazine and the Monterey Herald, ISR Monterey Bay stands as a beacon of excellence in water safety education.

The ISR Approach:

The ISR Self-Rescue method, developed in 1966, integrates swimming skills tailored to young children, teaching them to potentially save their own lives. With over 19 million safe and effective lessons provided by more than 1,000 Certified ISR Instructors worldwide, ISR's impact is undeniable. The comprehensive six-week program ensures that each child is guided safely through the learning process, fostering confidence and resilience.

Community Support:

As we approach the summer season, ISR Monterey Bay's commitment to proactive drowning prevention is more crucial than ever. By offering not just swim lessons but essential life-saving skills, ISR Monterey Bay transforms potential tragedies into moments of empowerment and safety for families in our community.

Conclusion:

I urge our community to rally behind ISR Monterey Bay in its noble mission to safeguard our children and promote water safety. Kerri Williams' dedication and passion serve as an inspiration to us all, and I am confident that together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our residents.



III. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for Teacher Appreciation Day last May 7, 2024

Celebrate the
educators who
shape minds and
hearts every day.

Thank you, teachers,
for all you do!

#HappyTeacherAppreciationDay
#fromViceMayorJohnUy



On this Teacher Appreciation Day, let's take a moment to honor the extraordinary individuals who shape the minds and hearts of our future leaders. From guiding the youngest learners through their ABCs to mentoring scholars on their path to earning PhDs, every teacher plays a vital role in building a brighter tomorrow.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication and passion that teachers bring to their classrooms every day. Your tireless efforts to inspire, lead, and nurture the next generation do not go unnoticed. You are the foundation upon which our society thrives, and we owe you a debt of gratitude for your invaluable contributions.

Thank you, teachers, for your unwavering commitment to excellence and for instilling the love of learning in the hearts of our students. Your impact is immeasurable, and your influence will be felt for generations to come.

Happy Teacher Appreciation Day!

IV. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – May 8, 2024

As your representative to the AMBAG Board, it is my duty to keep you informed about the decisions and discussions that impact our community. I am pleased to share with you the highlights of our recent AMBAG meeting that took place on May 8, 2024.



One of the significant topics discussed during the meeting was the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Project Award Recommendations. This program aims to decrease transportation emissions and promote sustainability. I am delighted to inform you that our region has received funding for several submitted projects that will contribute to reducing carbon emissions. These projects include the implementation of electric vehicle infrastructure, the improvement of multi-use trails and bike lanes, and the enhancement of transit facilities. These initiatives align with our commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable community.

Another important item on the agenda was the adoption of the AMBAG Complete Streets Policy. This policy emphasizes the importance of designing our transportation network to prioritize the safety and accessibility of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation users. By adopting this policy, we are taking a significant step towards creating a well-connected and inclusive transportation system in our region. This will not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but also promote economic development and reduce vehicle emissions.

During the meeting, we also received an update on the Draft 2026 Regional Growth Forecast. This forecast provides projections for population, housing, and employment in our region. It is crucial for us to understand the expected changes in these areas as we plan for the future of Del Rey Oaks. The forecast will guide our decision-making processes and help us develop strategies to accommodate growth while preserving the unique character of our community. Del Rey Oaks numbers are below:

Del Rey Oaks	Actual		Projected	Chg. 2020-2050		Chg. 2023-2050	
	2020	2023	2050	Numeric	%	Numeric	%
Population	1579	1540	1717	138	9	177	11
Housing	739	746	918	179	24	172	23
Employment	670	738	751	81	12	13	2

Lastly, the meeting included a presentation on the Public Draft Monterey Bay Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study. This study focuses on the importance of natural and working lands in mitigating climate change and building resilience. It provides an inventory of carbon stock in our region and recommends adaptation and mitigation strategies. This study will empower us to consider the health of our natural and working lands in our long-term planning efforts and integrate climate mitigation strategies into our climate action planning process.

In conclusion, the AMBAG meeting provided valuable insights and updates on various initiatives that will shape the future of Del Rey Oaks. The Carbon Reduction Program, the Complete Streets Policy, the Regional Growth Forecast, and the Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study all contribute to our goal of creating a sustainable, accessible, and resilient community. I am committed to working diligently to ensure that these initiatives are implemented effectively and that the needs and concerns of our constituents are addressed.

V. Council Report: Special Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors last May 14, 2024



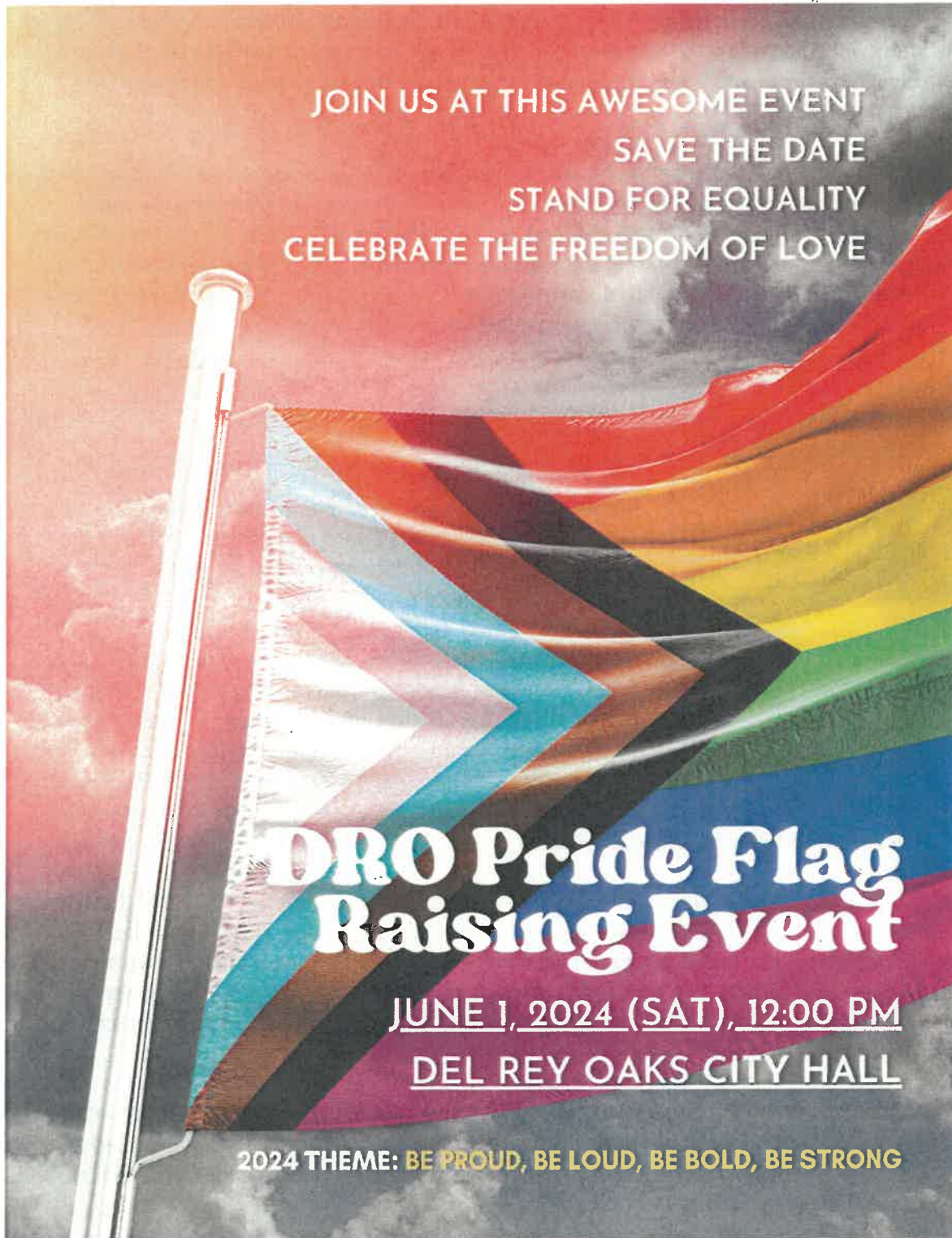
As your councilman and a member of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors, I wanted to provide you with an update on our recent regular meeting held on May 14, 2024.

One of the key items on the agenda was the receipt of the SCSD Operations Report for March and April 2024. This report provided valuable insights into the district's operations during these months, including information on mainline treatments for grease control, stoppage locations, and overflow locations. The report highlighted the ongoing efforts to maintain and improve our sanitation services in the district.

Furthermore, we adopted a resolution approving a budget amendment of \$30,000.00 to the SCSD Administration - Legal Services account for the fiscal year 2023-2024. This amendment was necessary to address the increased legal services required by the district, including matters related to sewer conflicts, capacity fees, and easements. By approving this amendment, we are ensuring that the SCSD has the necessary resources to address legal issues and protect the interests of our community.

In conclusion, the May 14, 2024 SCSD Board meeting was productive and focused on addressing the operational and financial needs of the district. As your Vice Mayor, I am committed to representing your interests and ensuring that our sanitation services are efficient, reliable, and environmentally responsible.

VI. Council Report: Warm Invitation to the Del Rey Oaks (DRO) Pride Flag Raising Event on June 1, 2024, 12:00 PM, DRO City Hall



Our dearest Del Rey Oaks family and the Monterey Peninsula community,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the same excitement and anticipation that I have as we approach a significant event for our city. As your Vice Mayor, it brings me immense joy to extend a heartfelt invitation to you and your loved ones to join us for the **Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising Event on June 1, 2024, at 12 PM at Del Rey Oaks City Hall.**

This event holds a special place in our hearts as it symbolizes not only a celebration of diversity but also a powerful statement of unity and solidarity within our community. Whether you identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, an ally, a parent, a leader, or simply a caring neighbor, your presence at this event is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

At its core, this event is about inclusivity and acceptance. It's about recognizing and honoring the rich tapestry of identities and experiences that make our community vibrant and resilient. It's about standing together, hand in hand, to show our unwavering support for equality and love in all its forms.

The Pride Flag Raising Event is more than just a ceremony; it's a beacon of hope, a testament to our commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all who call Del Rey Oaks home. It's an opportunity for us to come together, share stories, and forge bonds that strengthen the fabric of our community.

I encourage you to mark your calendars and join us for this momentous occasion. Together, let's raise our voices in celebration, let's paint the sky with colors of pride, and let's reaffirm our shared values of acceptance and compassion.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community, and I look forward to celebrating with you on June 1st.

With warmest regards,

John Uy, Ed.D.
Vice Mayor
Del Rey Oaks

