

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Friday, September 20th- ReGen Board Meeting- This was our first meeting back after taking August off and there was a lot to cover!

Under recognitions and presentations, Chauncy Hendley celebrated 30 years of service as a heavy equipment operator and we presented a resolution of appreciation for Guy Petraborg who is retiring as our Director of Engineering and Compliance. It's always nice to show appreciation for our dedicated employees! We also received a presentation about the Leadership Development Program that continues to be implemented as well as all the work that's being done for the K-8 outreach to teach students about SB 1383 compliance and composting their food waste (while also properly disposing of their other lunch materials). I LOVE the idea of students taking responsibility for this important task and then bringing it home as a message to their families and then becoming excellent earth advocates as they grow older. Cool stuff.

Next, we received the edited White Paper and public summary versions talking about "Where Waste Travels" and how it has affected the trash we accept throughout the years. These two documents will be posted on our website. We also approved the Reserve Policy revisions as well as the new landfill closure and post-closure reserve funds. These new reserve funds really should have been established long ago, but thankfully we have some time to focus on accumulating funds that will allow the landfill to properly close when it's time and then manage that area for 30 years afterwards. It's a cost that all users should be currently paying for and not leaving these major costs for the generations to come. We also received information on the draft compost operations agreement, which will allow our on-site composter, Keith Day, to continue operating with a 15 year lease which includes two 5-year extensions. With this new agreement, ReGen will take over the state composting permit, which provides us with some security if Keith Day chooses to leave. But as you can see from the proposed lease agreement, he's not interested in leaving anytime soon, which is good because it's an excellent partnership!

Last item of approval was for the addition of a new Power Systems Manager for our landfill gas operations. This person will oversee a few employees and will help us as we work to improve the amount of electricity we produce from our landfill gas and to also help us make sure we stay in compliance with the Air Resources Board.

After the financial and Technical Advisory Committee reports, we then had a FY 2024 Safety Board presentation. The big takeaways for me were that there is some room to grow in terms of increased safety and a decrease in incidents, but we also have a culture of reporting incidents which is important. It sounds like the workforce is well-trained and they're making it fun to stay educated and informed. Sadly we've had some thefts from

people coming onto the worksite after hours, so we also got an update on measures that are being taken to increase security of our equipment.

Saturday, September 21st- California Coastal Clean-Up- Thank you to Sustainable Del Rey Oaks for partnering with Sustainable Seaside, the MPC Environmental Club, and Monterey High to help clean the beach at the end of Canyon Del Rey. I participated in their efforts and instead of walking the beach, I helped clean around Roberts Lake (the area across from Embassy Suites) since trash easily flows right into our Sanctuary from that location. Some of the trash came from the surrounding retail (McDonald's, gas station, etc.) but the majority of the trash came from the unhoused population that spends their time in the dunes and around the lake. Kevin and I collected several bucketfuls of trash and hauled larger items for additional disposal. It felt good to clean this area, but it also left us sad at the larger issue of homelessness that really needs to be addressed.

Saturday, September 21st- Measure A Kick-Off- I was invited to the MPUSD Measure A kick off which brought together many community leaders, residents, and students who were celebrating the hope of passing this bond to support school facility upgrades (classrooms and other infrastructure), expand the career-technical training for students, and provide affordable rental housing for teachers. MPUSD has surplus land that can be used for housing and since they lose so many teachers each year because they can't afford to live here, this bond is the best way to use that land to increase our inventory of affordable housing. I'm fully in support of this bond and look forward to canvassing to talk with others about the benefits.

Tuesday, September 24th- Special MST Board Meeting- This meeting was called because of the Coastal Development Permit granted by the California Coastal Commission for the SURF! Busway and Bus Rapid Transit Project, which will allow the project to move forward with the change of moving the busway to where the railroad tracks are currently located. With that approval, we were required to hold a Public Hearing for the following reasons:

1. Review the Racial Equity Analysis and Project Business Case
2. Find the SURF! Project does not trigger subsequent or supplemental environmental review for the reasons outlined under CEQA
3. Authorize the General Manager/CEO to execute a contract with Kimley-Horn to comply with the Coastal Commission conditions in an amount not to exceed \$1,070,200.

We began this meeting in closed session as there has been a threat of litigation from Keep Fort Ord Wild. Afterwards, we went into open session and began the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either online or in person, so the hearing was closed and we adjourned the meeting.

MST meeting minutes for this meeting are also in our agenda packet.

Tuesday, September 24th- City Council Meeting- We began our council meeting with public comments from resident Scott Morgan who was advocating for grants to help care for the Arroyo Del Rey that runs along Del Rey Park and along the houses on Angelus Way. He'd also like to see no dumping signs on the railings that cross the creek (agreed!) and softer wood on top of the handrails (instead of the pressure treated wood). City Manager Guertin also read a public comment from Mary O'Donnel who was concerned with lighting at night and the tree trimming.

Next we had a very nice presentation of the memorial Resolution for Council Member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin from Assemblymember Dawn Addis and State Senator John Laird. I very much appreciated the work they did to get the Resolution done which allowed the city to spend time honoring Bill for his work. Everyone said such nice words to commemorate Bill and I'm happy his wife, Susan Ragsdale-Cronin was there to receive the Resolution and the comments.

Additionally, we had proclamations for recognizing stormwater awareness week and one that honored National Hispanic Heritage Month.

After the proclamations we had a presentation from Robin McCrae who is Executive Director of Community Human Services which is a JPA of which our city is a member. I'm so grateful for this organization as they provide services for youth and adults who need help with mental health, substance abuse, and homeless services. I appreciate how widespread their services are, covering all of Monterey County, and how they are able to provide focused services to people of different ages and needs.

After passing the consent agenda, we approved the resolution that authorizes the city manager to execute the MOU with the county so they can begin working with our tobacco retailers in the city. This was the next step given that we passed our tobacco retail license ordinance earlier this year.

Lastly, we received a Housing Element Status update from our contract planner, Denise Duffy. She said that she's working with the city manager to update the revisions to our adopted Housing Element. They want to get feedback from the State's Housing and Community Development before they bring it back to the council. I suggested a joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting. Ms. Duffy said that she will be posting the updated Housing Element on our website two weeks prior to our meeting, which will most likely happen towards the end of October.

Monday, September 30th- Monterey One Water Board Meeting- As an alternate for Council Member Bill, I attended the M1W board this month. At the beginning of the meeting, they showed a wonderful tribute slideshow of Bill, spanning the many years he worked for M1W. It warmed my heart to see it and kind remarks were made. It's clear that he will be missed.

After a couple of additional presentations, the majority of the meeting was taken up with one agenda item. This item was addressing the amendment to our water discharge permit that's needed for the brine discharge that would happen if the Cal Am desalination project is completed (Cal Am would be using our ocean outfall pipe). Since the initial EIR for the project, Cal Am has decreased the capacity of the project and this decrease triggered different changes to our outfall pipe to accommodate the brine. These new changes will likely trigger an amendment to the original EIR. Even though this application to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for this new discharge is incomplete (lacking the evaluation of these outfall pipe changes as well as a marine life mortality study), the only way this additional environmental and engineering analysis could be done is to submit the application for the amendment and then have the Regional Water Quality Control Board start to initiate the work. Typically, with public agencies, all of the work would have been done ahead of submitting the application, but since Cal Am is a private agency, working in conjunction with other public agencies (M1W, Monterey National Marine Sanctuary, CPUC, etc.) really the only option we had was to move the application forward. There are definitely some concerns with what is currently being proposed to our one-and-only outfall pipe, but we were assured that the M1W staff would be working with and commenting on the additional environmental/engineering work, so I believe that we won't lose sight of these issues. Moving this application forward also by no means approves the use of our outfall pipe (both Cal Am and M1W made that very clear). We should be hearing more about this application and the next steps at our November meeting.

Wednesday, October 2nd- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- We had two items on this agenda today. The first was a review of the new contract that's being proposed to Keith Day, Inc our on-site composter. ReGen is taking over the state composting permit and in return we're offering Keith Day a 15 year term contract with two 5 year extensions. This longevity allows him to make capital purchases that can be amortized over the longer length of the contract. It also provides us with the knowledge that we have an excellent composter who is committed to our organization. It really is a great working relationship. In the discussion we talked about ReGen's ability to get out of the contract if needed and we ultimately felt that the contract language provided security and paths out, if necessary, for both parties.

Our second item was talking about the need to create an arrangement with Cal Am to start reimbursing our staff for the time they're taking to answer questions and provide feedback for their proposed desalination project. Their plant would be built next to the ReGen facility and may require easements for pipes along our property as they build pipes to move their brine over to M1W and their outfall pipe. It was suggested that staff definitely initiate reimbursement plans for any work that is done by our staff. This will be brought to our next board meeting.

Saturday, October 5th- DRO Fall Picnic- Thanks goes to CAG for putting on a nice picnic as always. Although it was a warm day, everyone was having a great time! I was grateful that ReGen Monterey had a table there to talk about reusing, recycling, composting, and properly disposing of other items. As I was walking up to the event, I saw many people walking off with new composting bins which made me smile!

Monday, October 7th- Watermaster Replenishment Water Ad Hoc Committee Meeting- I was happy to facilitate this meeting that brought together members of our Watermaster Ad Hoc committee who generally have opposing views on water replenishment. Today our only reason for meeting was to hear a presentation from the General Manager of the Marina Coast Water Management District (MCWMD), Rem Sherzinger about some ideas he has about getting water into our basin. For him, it allows him to store water that he'll need later and for us, it provides us with the protection we need to stave off seawater intrusion.

There were three resources that he talked about that could provide water for the basin. The first is 150AF that MCWMD is purchasing from M1W, which is already being put into our basin (good to know!). The second was about 300AF that will eventually come from a desalination plant that MCWMD will be starting back up next year. The last source of water would come from catching water that's flowing out of the Monterey Subbasin (the basin they manage) into the 180/400 ft aquifer that the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin GSA is managing. In general, all of our basins are connected—our Seaside Basin flows into the Monterey Subbasin, which then flows into the 180/400. The idea is to catch it before it flows into the 180/400 and reinject it into our subbasin. The cool thing is that all of the infrastructure exists to complete all of these injections into our subbasin, it's just a matter of working out the finer details. This really was a positive and exciting meeting and I'm happy that we have MCWMD thinking outside the box! That's what we need to come up with solutions and I also love the idea of working together for the benefit of the peninsula. Cool stuff, right?!

Friday, October 11th- DRO Finance Committee Meeting- During our finance committee we reviewed the financials from September which continue to look good (they'll look even better after property taxes start coming in later this year). We also got an update on our annual audit which was excellent news! There were no findings from our audit and everything went smoothly throughout the process. Many thanks goes to Elizabeth, our contract finance person as well as our city hall staff—Karen, Stacey, and Laura for all of their great teamwork and support during the audit time. I really admire their focus on continuously growing and making processes work better for the city operation. Their dedication should be commended and I thank them for all of their work!

Monday, October 14th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST Board Highlights in our agenda packet.

Monday, October 14th- Regional Taxi Authority Special Board Meeting- Today we met to review two new taxi permits for the area. Both companies were being formed by people who already drive taxis but were interested in helping a certain portion of the population. The first taxi company was interested in helping people travel between Salinas and south County (King City, Soledad, etc.). The second taxi service was going to be focused on transporting seniors. As a board, we approved both of these permits and we wished them good luck with their new businesses!

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy

October 22, 2024

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on September 24, 2024

Our council meeting on September 24 was a poignant and reflective evening as we gathered to honor the memory of our dear friend and colleague, **Council Member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin**. Though Bill joined us just two years ago, his impact was profound and lasting. His thoughtful insights and logical approach often brought fresh perspectives to our council discussions, challenging us in ways that inspired admiration and respect.

Bill had a unique way of brightening our meetings with his vibrant personality, often reflected in his signature tie-dye and happy face shirts. Those shirts weren't just colorful attire; they were a reflection of the joyful and compassionate spirit he shared with all of us. Seeing Bill always reminded us to embrace life with color and enthusiasm, much as he did.

As we remembered Bill, we took solace in the many memories he left behind and the undeniable imprint he made on Del Rey Oaks. His presence on the council enriched our work and strengthened our community. We extend our deepest condolences to Bill's family—Susan, Sydney, Tara, and Dharma—and thank them for sharing him with us. Del Rey Oaks is a better place because of Bill, and while he will be dearly missed, his legacy will continue to inspire us.

In addition to this tribute, we took a step back to appreciate the significance of **Stormwater Awareness Week**. Our community has always understood the importance of protecting our natural resources, and it was inspiring to see our city continue this commitment with ongoing training for our municipal staff. Water quality is a priority for us all, and our local efforts contribute to the broader regional goals, such as Monterey One Water's efforts to ensure that every drop counts.

We also celebrated **National Hispanic Heritage Month**, recognizing the many contributions of Hispanic Americans in shaping our nation's history and our local community. From art to education to business, their influence can be felt in every corner of Del Rey Oaks. Our city proudly stands as a beacon of diversity, and it was an honor to commemorate this month with a proclamation.


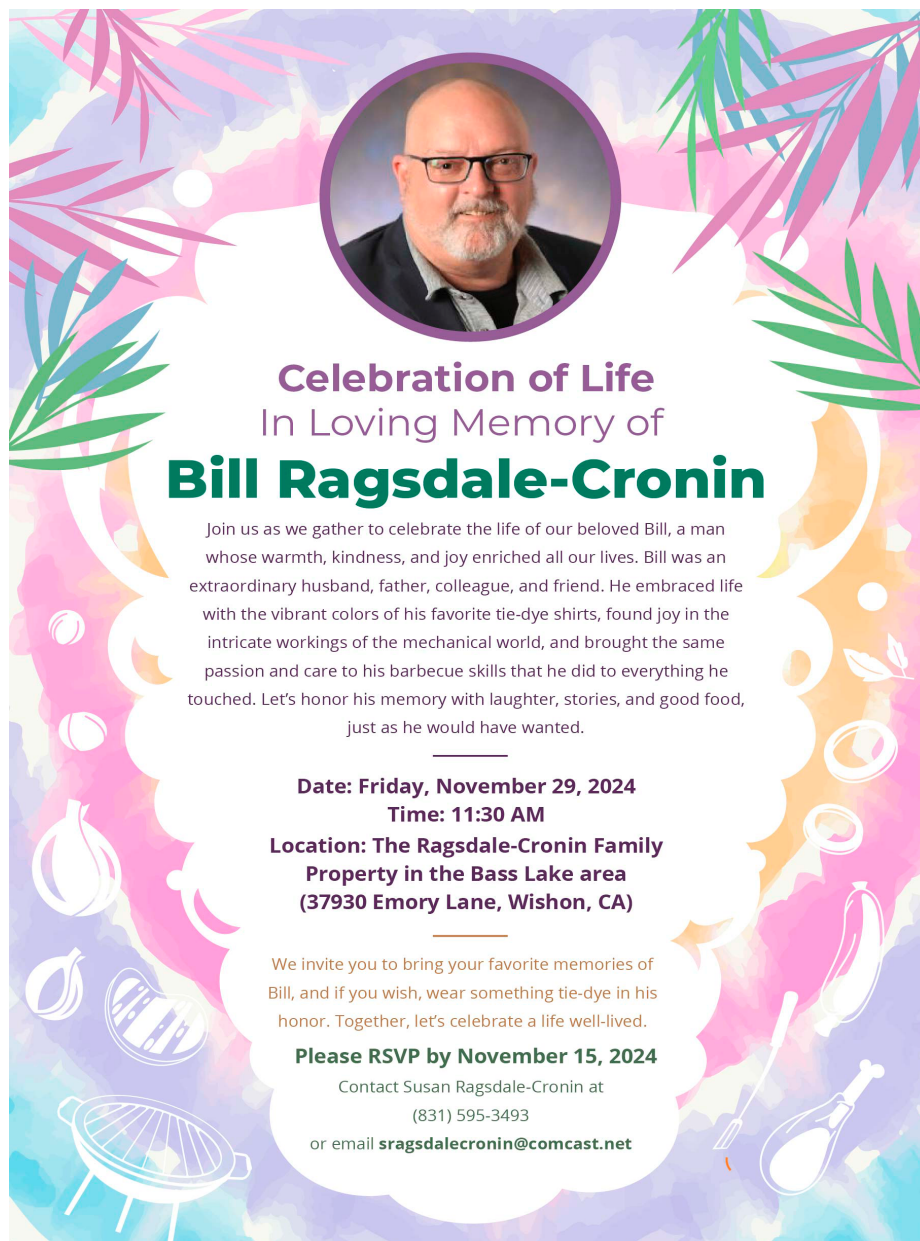
The meeting also featured an engaging presentation from **Community Human Services**, led by Robin McCrae, who shared valuable insights on the essential services they provide to our residents, ensuring that we continue to build a strong, inclusive community.

Lastly, our evening closed with updates on the city's ongoing efforts toward housing and infrastructure. The **Rosita Road project** and our collaboration with **Monterey Peninsula**

Engineering mark significant steps in improving road and drainage systems, ensuring the safety and quality of life for our residents.

As we adjourned the meeting, we took a moment to remember **Council Member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin**, honoring his contributions and steadfast dedication. His spirit remains a guiding force as we move forward together in service to this beautiful community. These moments reminded us of our collective commitment to sustainability, diversity, and community welfare, values that Bill championed throughout his service.

As we move forward, we do so with Bill's light in our hearts, ever grateful for the time we shared and for the indelible mark he left on our community.



Celebration of Life
In Loving Memory of
Bill Ragsdale-Cronin

Join us as we gather to celebrate the life of our beloved Bill, a man whose warmth, kindness, and joy enriched all our lives. Bill was an extraordinary husband, father, colleague, and friend. He embraced life with the vibrant colors of his favorite tie-dye shirts, found joy in the intricate workings of the mechanical world, and brought the same passion and care to his barbecue skills that he did to everything he touched. Let's honor his memory with laughter, stories, and good food, just as he would have wanted.

Date: Friday, November 29, 2024
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: The Ragsdale-Cronin Family
Property in the Bass Lake area
(37930 Emory Lane, Wishon, CA)

We invite you to bring your favorite memories of Bill, and if you wish, wear something tie-dye in his honor. Together, let's celebrate a life well-lived.

Please RSVP by November 15, 2024
Contact Susan Ragsdale-Cronin at
(831) 595-3493
or email sragsdalecronin@comcast.net

II. Council Report: Fall Festival Picnic – October 5, 2024

I had the pleasure of attending the **Fall Festival Picnic** organized by our dedicated **Citizens Action Group** (CAG) on October 5th at Del Rey Park. It was truly a joyful day, filled with the laughter of families, the vibrant colors of autumn, and the spirit of community that makes Del Rey Oaks so special.

CAG put together a wonderful event that had something for everyone—whether it was the Kiddie Parade, family games, photo booth, pumpkins, or the impressive display by our Fire Department. There was an abundance of smiles, and it was heartwarming to see everyone come together to enjoy the music, food, and festivities. The potato bar was a hit, and the photo booth by Funny Bone Photo Booth brought joy to kids and adults alike.

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to CAG for their hard work in organizing such a memorable event. Every detail was thoughtfully planned, and the effort put into making this day a success was evident in the happiness on everyone's faces. Events like these strengthen our community bonds and create lasting memories.

Thank you to CAG and all the volunteers who made this possible. Your dedication brings our city closer together and showcases the best of Del Rey Oaks. Here's to many more celebrations and gatherings that bring our community together with warmth, fun, and friendship.



III. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors - October 8, 2024



The Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, has been canceled.

The next regularly scheduled SCSD board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

IV. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – October 9, 2024

On October 9, I had the privilege of representing Del Rey Oaks at the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting, where we tackled significant regional issues that affect us all in the Monterey Bay area. It was an evening filled with productive discussions and plans for sustainability, community resilience, and regional growth.



The most significant agenda item was the **Final Draft 2026 Regional Growth Forecast**, presented by Heather Adamson, Director of Planning. This forecast, which we accepted during the meeting, is essential for our region as it provides a foundation for future planning efforts and addresses projected growth across Monterey Bay communities.

The growth forecast serves as a strategic tool, helping Del Rey Oaks and our neighboring cities anticipate and prepare for population and employment changes through 2026 and beyond. For our community specifically, this data will guide critical decisions on housing, transportation, and infrastructure development, ensuring we can accommodate growth while maintaining our city's character and quality of life. The forecast also supports our work in aligning with state and regional sustainability goals, fostering a balanced approach that prioritizes both environmental health and economic vitality.

We also advanced other key items, including the **Master Fund Transfer Agreement (MFTA)** with Caltrans. This agreement secures funding for our regional transportation planning, ensuring Del Rey Oaks and the Monterey Bay area have the resources needed to adapt to evolving transportation demands over the next decade.

Additionally, the Board authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for technical consultant services on the **Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Framework**, which positions our region as a leader in sustainable infrastructure. This project is crucial for developing an electric vehicle network resilient to climate impacts and accessible to all. For Del Rey Oaks, this aligns with our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

The meeting also addressed the **Central California Rural Regional Energy Network (REN) MOU**, which aims to bring much-needed energy efficiency resources to underserved rural communities. Through this program, we will work toward equitable energy solutions, further supporting sustainability initiatives across our region.

As always, representing Del Rey Oaks in these discussions reinforces the importance of regional collaboration. Together, we're making strides toward a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive Monterey Bay area, where our community's future needs are met thoughtfully and responsibly.

V. Message of Vice Mayor John Uy on Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 14, 2024

Today, we honor and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, and enduring contributions of Indigenous Peoples across our nation. Indigenous Peoples' Day is a reminder of the deep-rooted wisdom, resilience, and strength of Indigenous communities, whose stories have shaped and continue to enrich our shared heritage.

In Del Rey Oaks, we are committed to acknowledging and respecting the land on which we live and recognizing the stewardship of the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for it for generations. Today, and every day, we celebrate the diversity and vitality that Indigenous cultures bring to our community and beyond. We stand in solidarity, embracing the opportunity to learn from Indigenous voices and uplift their experiences.

As we reflect on this day, let us also pledge to honor and support Indigenous communities in meaningful ways. May we each carry forward a spirit of respect, kindness, and allyship, building a future that values and protects the legacy of all Indigenous Peoples.

To the Indigenous Peoples of our community, I offer my deepest gratitude for your enduring strength, your invaluable contributions, and your unwavering commitment to preserving your culture and heritage. Together, may we continue to cultivate understanding, respect, and harmony as we walk this path together.

Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day!

Happy indigenous peoples' day

HONORING THE WISDOM
OF THE PAST, EMBRACING
THE VOICES OF TODAY,
AND BUILDING A FUTURE
TOGETHER WITH RESPECT
AND UNITY.

-VICE MAYOR JOHN UY

