

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

Wednesday, June 12th- Seaside Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee-

As usual, this was an interesting meeting since we covered some cool science topics along with talking about sea water intrusion. To begin, the leadership of the committee changed with the retirement of our Vice Chair. With the need of a new Vice Chair, I volunteered and was chosen as the new Vice Chair (upon which I immediately took over running the meeting because our Chair, Jon Lear from the Water Management District needed to run off to another meeting!).

The next big item was a presentation about Stationary Transient Magnetic Imaging (sTEM), which was a very fascinating topic! OK, let's see if I can sum it up. Basically, this type of imaging can be used to look vertically through our coastal areas to see if the resistance numbers calculated can indicate if we have sea water intrusion. This similar type of imaging (electromagnetic) is generally done with a helicopter, but it can't be done where there are tall buildings and electrical lines. The beauty of this stationary system is that researchers can walk to the area that needs to be analyzed, lay down two squares of portable coils (a larger one and a center spaced, smaller one), create the magnetic fields, and then measure the various levels of electrical resistance that is received once it bounces back from the ground. The benefit is that we'd be able to take a peek underground in an area where we have a well that is showing increased conductivity. As you might imagine, it's critical that we detect seawater intrusion sooner rather than later, so this can be another tool we use to help us determine next steps. I'm excited about bringing this to the Watermaster and talking about financing this needed research.

The following topics we discussed related to actions we need to take in regards to some of our sentinel wells showing increased conductivity. The presentation that we saw today was one of those actions we could take. Some of the other actions are looking at data from the past and gathering new induction data from different locations to help us understand trends. We're also working at trying to get access to a well that's on private property which is currently in litigation. We know it has a case that's leaking, which can be a source of seawater into the aquifer. Lastly, we're also looking at updating our Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP) which hasn't been updated since 2009. What would actually trigger the SIRP and the actions once it has been triggered need to be reviewed. Given that this Plan is 15 years old, we discussed various parts and decided that it indeed needs to be revised.

Friday, June 14th- Del Rey Oaks Finance Committee Meeting- This was our final review of the budget before it heads to the council for approval on June 25th. City Manager Guertin introduced to the committee the educational incentive pay for having an Associate's (\$100/month) or a Bachelor's (\$200/month) degree in addition to the longevity

pay increase for employees who have worked for DRO for at least 10 years (2%). I was happy to see these incentives that will help us retain our staff. There was also a broader fiscal policy document that was introduced at this meeting, which contains general fiscal policy ideas as well as specific policy directions for the following categories: Operating Budget, Capital Improvement Program, Revenues, Expenditures, Debt Management, Fund Balance Classification, Reserves, Property Management, and Financial Reporting. This document still needs to be reviewed and was largely cut and paste from similar documents that were found in other jurisdictions. It seemed maybe I was the only one with comments/edits for this document, so I suggested I review them with the City Manager at another time. I do know Mr. Guertin wants to focus on new Reserve Policies, so I'm sure we'll be revisiting this document at a future date.

Friday, June 21st- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- Lots of items covered in this meeting! After passing a full consent agenda, we presented a resolution to Mike Niccum who is the retiring General Manager for the Pebble Beach Community Services District. Mike has worked for over 30 years and contributed his expertise regionally, not only to our organization but to other jurisdictions in terms of helping with franchise agreements. He was also critical in the formation and establishing the culture and operation of our regional Technical Advisory Committee for SB 1383. This committee brings together ReGen staff, along with staff from the haulers, Salinas Valley Waste, and representatives from the jurisdictions. It is the very reason we have been so extremely successful at SB 1383 implementation so it was wonderful to honor Mike for all of his work he's done for the region.

Next we held a Public Hearing for the gate rate increase and other minimums that we've been discussing. No one from the public commented, so once that was closed, we approved the fee increase. The next item was related in that there were a few additional items that needed rate changes, so we authorized the public hearing for those items for our July meeting.

The next three items were financial in nature. We adopted our budget for FY 2024/25. We also approved the negotiated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for our management unit. An appreciation I have for these negotiations was the desire to bring all of our employees to within 10% of the market rate for each position. For those that are above market rate, that means giving them only a 1% raise for the next three years so they can fall closer to what we're trying to achieve for other employees. This contract is a 5 year contract. In addition we approved the pay schedules for the Operating Engineers Allies Unit and the Management Unit to incorporate cost of living increases.

Our next item was discussing the latest draft of the White Paper. As I've mentioned before, this document reviews waste management practices in CA and then zeros in on ReGen and our history of waste practices in terms of collection from our member agencies, rate hikes, and the collection of waste from regional contracts. The staff did a great job of

incorporating our comments from previous discussions and everyone was happy with the result. One of the takeaways is the acknowledgement that many of our surrounding landfills have a life of less than 30 years when we're still calculating our landfill life somewhere between 119-130 years. It's clear that we'll need to understand how best to move forward with the possibility of taking on additional waste while we continue to manage the financial and membership needs of our own landfill.

The last three items were fairly quick in their approvals. The first was linked to the White Paper in that we were authorizing staff to begin conversations with San Benito County as they will be looking for places for their additional waste in the near future. Next, we approved a year extension for the BioChar pilot program. The Board is looking forward to an update on that program soon. Sounds like there's been a few bumps in the road, but it's overall been successful, but there are still some questions to be answered. The last item was voting for the person who was running to be a representative for the Special Districts Association Board of Directors for Coastal Network. None of us knew the two candidates, so we made our decision based on their applications and chose the incumbent.

Tuesday, June 25th- City Council Meeting- In DRO terms, this was a meeting packed with important items! The first joyful item was a proclamation recognizing our City Clerk, Karen Minami for her 20 years of dedication to DRO. It was important to recognize Karen who has been so steadfast and resilient in her time at city hall. Throughout the years she has weathered all kinds of ups and downs in city hall, all the while improving her skills and taking the necessary steps to move into the City Clerk position. It's clear that everyone is so appreciative of her work and kindness to our city.

After passing the consent agenda, we approved a resolution for a Nov. 5th ballot measure to allow the council to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to 12% and up to 14% in the future. Right now our TOT is 10% which is among the lowest in the area. With our short-term rentals in the city, TOT is becoming one of our larger sources of revenue. With this increase, besides bringing in more money for services, we'd also be able to hire a service that will help us manage the short-term rental income while also making sure that all rentals are properly permitted. As a reminder, the council has capped the unhosted short-term rentals at 25 with an unlimited number of hosted short-term rentals. This resolution was unanimously approved with strong support from all of the council members. The next agenda item was historical for us in that we approved an Exclusive Right to Negotiate with the developer, City Ventures for our Former Fort Ord parcels. This was also well supported by all of the council members, especially since we're required to negotiate with this developer as they were the only developer who responded to our Surplus Land Act letter that was put out in Feb. 2023. I appreciated the work staff did to put together a contract that does a good job of balancing the needs of the developer while having really no risk for the city. I also appreciate that the developer is providing us with \$10,000 to help with much of the costs we've already incurred. Additionally, they'll be providing the city with at least \$75,000 to cover costs associated with their planning and research. The contract is

for 6 months with 2 three month extensions. We should be getting an idea of their thoughts within the next 4 months, so I encourage everyone to stay involved! I did ask the City Manager to think about how he will communicate both to the council and to residents as we start to progress in this negotiation. It's important that we include residents and their thoughts as we move forward and I want to make sure everyone stays informed.

Our last item was approving our FY 2024-25 budget, along with a required appropriations limit for 2024/25, a new salary schedule, and the city investment policy. Everything presented was pretty much the same that was discussed in the finance committee although it did reflect the new educational incentives and longevity pay. These were all easily approved!

Saturday, June 29th- Monterey Peninsula Pride Event- What a fantastic day to celebrate love and inclusiveness! I was honored to be asked to walk in the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade and so grateful for Councilmember John Uy and his excellent organizational and celebratory skills. Councilmember Uy took it upon himself to make DRO shine with our own fabulous banner that we were able to carry as we danced down the street. He also helped coordinate several DRO residents to walk with us in celebration. This is honestly one of my most favorite events of the year, as there really is no other place where everyone can feel accepted and loved no matter who you are, how you're dressed, what you look like, or who you love. I was also very proud of my daughter who was asked to be one of the speakers during the talks after the parade. Their courageousness for standing up for who they are and talking about how important love and support is for those in the LGBTQIA+ community absolutely makes my heart soar. Big thanks to all of our friends who joined us for this lively and accepting event!

Saturday, June 29th- Meeting with Assemblymember Dawn Addis- I was honored to meet with Assemblymember Dawn Addis after the Pride festivities (she was also there to celebrate with all of us). She asked about how things were going in Del Rey Oaks and I was able to share several items such as our latest news regarding signing an ERN (exclusive right to negotiate) with City Ventures for our former Ft. Ord property, our groundbreaking for the FORTAG leg through Del Rey Oaks, and our no-smoking ordinances for public spaces and multiunit housing that we passed earlier this year. We also talked about how we're working on finishing our 6th cycle Housing Element. Councilmember Uy already had her mark her calendar for the Pride Flag raising in DRO for 2025, so I shared that I knew it would be an event she would not want to miss. I found Assemblymember Addis very easy to talk with and I enjoyed the time I had to share with her and was grateful that she reached out.

Monday, July 8th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Administrative Performance Committee- This is a committee which meets prior to our larger board meetings every other month. In these meetings we generally have time to talk about the latest performance reporting (basically bus ridership and overall bus stats) and we get updates

from our State and Federal legislative advocacy people. Not much to report with this meeting other than our ridership continues to go up! We're seeing an increase of over 20% in comparison to this time last year. In terms of State updates, we're able to maintain our transit funding, but there is a longer appropriations time. In terms of Federal, it was noted that we need to get all of our permits for the new SURF! Busway by mid-Sept., so that our Federal funding for that project could be guaranteed prior to the new Administration.

Monday, July 8th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST Board Highlights in our agenda packet.

Monday, July 8th- Regional Taxi Authority Meeting- This meeting happens once a year and convenes all of the cities (including the airport) where taxis operate. We reviewed the latest taxi updates (we currently have 77 vehicles registered). Unfortunately, none of them are ADA accessible. We also discussed the progress for moving taxi service into the south county. Only Yellow Cab has enough drivers to provide that expansion. The different ordinances and business permits still need to be acquired, but they are hoping to expand into King City, Gonzales, Greenfield, and Soledad. Those cities wouldn't become members of the Taxi Authority but their residents would gain the benefits of taxi vouchers and taxi service that everyone else enjoys.

Other items on the agenda included approving one new taxicab permit application as well as honoring a taxicab driver with a resolution for his emergency services he rendered when picking up a customer. In terms of the budget, there will be a shortfall for next year that will be covered with cash reserves instead of taxi license fee increases. Unfortunately, we will be looking at an increase for next year.

Tuesday, July 9th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- At this meeting, after introductions and updates, we revisited the proposal for the electromagnetic land-based imaging to look at the area near Sentinel Well #4 where we're seeing increased conductivity which may be an indication of seawater intrusion. I spoke in favor of completing this work since this can provide us with new information about that area, filling in gaps in our data. It's also not too expensive (about \$15,000). All members ultimately were in favor as well and suggested that we move this forward to the full board and include it in our 2025 Monitoring and Management Plan. We also received information on some work that needs to be done to increase the number of wells we'll be collecting data from (all were approved). Lastly, we had a discussion regarding the draft of the Monitoring and Management Program. I had a few clarifying questions, but in general, it looked good. It will be coming back to the TAC next month and then it will go to the full board for approval in the Fall.

Wednesday, July 10th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Meeting- For the first time, the Watermaster met in the Sand City council chambers so that we could also facilitate a Zoom portion of our meeting. This was the first time board members and visitors

could participate remotely, which I think is a great service to the public and anyone interested in our meetings. Thank you Sand City!

Things to note in this meeting...I pointed out that it had been almost 6 months since we've received an update on the Pure Water Monterey Expansion project as well as the Cal Am desalination project. In February it was mentioned that we should have project updates every 6 months, so I wanted to bring it to staff's attention to think about bringing them back in the next month or two. The rest of the agenda had two items. The first was basically much of what we had reviewed in the TAC. The board also approved the items, including wanting to update the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (SIRP). Director Root Askew also asked for a presentation on the SIRP since the report hasn't been updated since 2009.

The second item was something I had encouraged at a couple of TAC meetings ago and it was decided to bring it to the board. Last year, the Watermaster sent a letter to the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) to essentially ask that when they decide on a solution for their seawater intrusion, that the water they gain also be put into the Seaside Basin (our basin already "leaks" into their basins). After that letter, the SVBGSA, mentioned at one of their own meetings that our basin was outside of their jurisdiction and would not be considered for water. Since the Watermaster had not gotten a formal response and I believe that direct communication is the best, I suggested we invite SVBGSA to come to our Watermaster Meeting to do a presentation on what they're considering for a solution to their seawater intrusion. Everyone agreed that we'd like to have them present.

Saturday, July 13th- Tuesday, July 16th- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Transit Board Member Conference in San Jose- Since it's fairly rare to have this conference so nearby, several MST board members took advantage and traveled to San Jose to learn more about transit from a board member perspective. And that's really the first thing I appreciated was that this conference focused on the questions that board members might be asking/thinking.

I arrived Saturday afternoon and left Tuesday late morning and every daytime minute was taken up by a talk and then the evenings were nice social gatherings with some good field trips thrown in.

The talks I went to and some interesting takeaways included:

- **Setting Your Board Up for Success-** Good to think about our governance philosophy. High performing boards are: Strategic, Mindful of risk, Hold the long view, Assessment focused, and Partners with the CEO. Here are several strategies that could be brought to the board to enhance effectiveness and value added:
 1. Buddies for new board members
 2. Reviewing our strategic goals

3. Assessing our board on how we're engaging and following through with our strategic goals
4. Reviewing a code of conduct and how we get through hard discussions
 - These are great ideas for any board!
- **Transit in the Bay Area-** Lots of work going on in the Bay Area. Other ideas that came out of this session for me included: Surveying our hospitality industry to see if they'd be willing to purchase bus passes for their workers. Could be a great way to increase ridership. Also, connecting more with Caltrain to increase our ridership to Gilroy (advertise getting up to the Bay area)
- **A View from Washington: Priorities and Strategies for Federal Transit Advocacy**
- **Making the (Business) Case: Quantifying and Communicating Transit's Economic Value to Your Communities**
- **Developing an Effective TBM (transit board member)-CEO Partnership-** our own General Manager, Carl Sedoryk and Soledad Mayor and former Board Chair, Anna Velazquez presented and did a great job!
- **The Board's Role in Agency Procurement**
- **Want to Buy a Bus? Navigating a Challenging Bus Procurement Landscape and the Road Ahead-** fun fact, after the pandemic, there were only two bus manufacturing companies in the U.S. that survived.
- **Innovations in Transit for an Increasingly Digital. Tech-Savvy World**
- **Addressing Public Employee Security: Effective Community-Focused Strategies-** Made me think about our own safety and security plan. Something that was memorable was hearing the Public Safety Officer from Portland saying that people were more safe riding their mass than walking the streets of Portland because help was so readily available on mass transit. Interesting thought.

Besides a nice evening event at the San Jose Tech Museum, I also took advantage of a field trip which took us to the San Jose Diridon Station to walk through the new all electric Caltrain that's coming to the Bay area. This station is billed as the "Grand Central Station" west of the Mississippi. These new electric trains will initially travel between San Francisco and San Jose (how cool would it be if it eventually comes further south?!). It will become the first electrified commuter rail system on the West Coast, replacing 75% of the existing diesel fleet with the high-performance electric trains.

Afterwards, we went to visit the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, aka the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Light Rail Facility. We spent some time in their memorial garden at their rail yard which honors the lives lost from the 2021 mass shooting. We also saw the area where they work on the trains and the "Operations Control Center" which was super cool to see (picture a room filled with screens with streets lit up and someone at a desk that's coordinating it all...basically, what you might see in a movie). Our next stop was at the Milpitas Bart Station which was beautiful! It provides multi-modal transit connections with VTA Bus and Light Rail and BART. We ended our tour at the Mexican

Heritage Center for dinner and entertainment. Seeing all of these transportation opportunities in San Jose made me realize how wonderful it would be to have greater access to this type of transportation linking the Monterey Bay area to South Bay/San Francisco.

Side note...I was in LA at the end of the summer and because of these talks I was certainly more interested in riding mass transit and in fact, made a point of riding the LA subway and train to get to a concert. It worked out beautifully!

Friday, July 19th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- Today's meeting began with a very quick meeting of the Monterey Regional Waste Management Authority which is required twice a year. Creating the joint powers authority allows us to issue bonds which provides us with this additional financing. These meetings are typically quick and today it included adopting a resolution which establishes our investment policy guideline for the authority for FY 24/25.

We then moved onto the regular meeting of the board of directors. After approving the consent items we held a public hearing on tip fee increases for a few additional items that we missed at the last board meeting. There were no comments and we easily passed these increases to things such as logs and stumps, tires, and a few other waste items.

Next we approved the MOU for the Operating Engineers Local 3 (OE3), along with a new pay schedule for this unit and a couple of other units. This wrapped up our negotiations for the year and are pleased to have gotten these 5 year contracts in place.

We also received the final draft of the White Paper- "High Level Summary for Municipal Solid Waste Practices in California and of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District dba ReGen Monterey, Monterey County California." I've written a lot about this document and I know we were happy to see the final draft. There were some discussions about additional edits, but in general, the board felt that it accomplished what it was meant to do, which is to educate board members on our practice of taking on regional contracts.

The board also approved renovation plans and updates that will be made to the Scale House and Public Restrooms. Initially this was a project that came in way over budget. Staff changed their approach and with some help from their own construction management staff, altered the design a bit and are contracting out portions which brings the project to \$450,000 which is \$750,000 below the original quote. I'm very grateful for their creative thinking!

We also got an update on the Module 7 Phase 3 project which is the next modular portion of the landfill that's being prepped for waste. Unfortunately, there were some expensive change order requests that needed to be made in the subdrain/leachate management systems (there's more water there than expected!).

Lastly, similar to what we did in negotiations with other positions who came in below market rate (-5%) in comparison with other organizations, we provided a compensation adjustment to our general manager, who had come in 15% below market rate.

Wednesday, August 7th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster- To begin, we received three presentations, the first of which was an update on the Pure Monterey Expansion status. Things seem to be moving along nicely. They're at 20% completion, which will increase quickly with some of their actions in August. The completion date will be August of 2025. The second presentation was an update on the desalination project from Cal Am. They are working on new extraction wells and are anticipating that they will satisfy all of the Coastal Commission requirements by September 2025 with construction starting in October of 2025. It was pointed out that they will still need to go back to the Coastal Commission for final approval after they've met all of the requirements, so that may delay the start of the construction. They're planning on submitting a brine permit by the end of this year. Lastly, we had a quick presentation on the 2009 Seawater Intrusion Response Plan (actually the same presentation that was given back when it was first created). It was noted that there are a few areas that need to be updated such as the indicators for seawater intrusion that will be used to initiate the plan and clarification regarding who will pay for moving production wells if that is necessary. Also, we need to figure out if we (Watermaster) have the power to actually stop pumping from occurring in areas where we see seawater intrusion. This plan will likely be updated in our 2025 budget.

Next we discussed whether we supported having our staff member become a member on the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Monterey Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Committee. Our staff member was included in the committee that helped create the plan they're trying to implement. And, given that the basins are connected, we all felt it was important that we also have a seat at the Implementation Committee table.

Lastly, in Old Business we had a discussion about the different ways we could obtain money for water replenishment for the basin. Three methods were considered. The first is to work with our partners on the language for amending the legal settlement which would allow us to collect money for replenishment water. The second is to come up with an MOU among the parties for the specific purpose of getting money either directly from the users or through grant funding. The third is having the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District create new zones that would allow an extraction fee to be taken to pay for water. After a long discussion, we basically agreed that before we talk with any of the parties, we really need to come up with a good understanding of what we're asking for. Are we trying to get money for an extra 10,000 Acre Feet of water/year or do we need 40,000 Acre Feet of water (just throwing those numbers out there)? Obviously, it's not clear where this water would come from, but the idea is that we need to be in a position to pay for water if/when it

is produced. I think the majority of the board felt that the best option would be to get our legal settlement amended, but again, it would take going to all of the parties first to get their buy-in so we have a better case in court. Staff received this information and will produce some additional presentations and data which will help us develop the story we need to tell.

Wednesday, August 14th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical

Advisory Committee Meeting- OK, this is always the meeting where I learn something new and today was no exception. The main topic today was hearing a presentation on the updated groundwater modeling being performed by the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability agency (SVBGSA). In conjunction with Marina Coast Water, Cal Am, and the MC Water Resource agency, they are collecting geophysical data from various sources to develop a hydrogeologic conceptual model of the Salinas Valley Basin and the associated sub basins. This knowledge provides them with a better understanding of the hydrology that's happening between the basins. With this knowledge they'll be incorporating the data into the new Seawater Intrusion Model, which will also tell how this connects with our Seaside Basin. The ultimate question will be to use this model to look at feasibility of the two projects that will help SVBGSA deal with seawater intrusion (either reinject desalinated water or take water from the Salinas River and inject that into their basin).

Next we agreed that the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan for the Seaside Basin needs to be updated, so that request will go to the full board at the next meeting. We also discussed updating the Seaside Basin Groundwater Model in 2025. Doing so will help us understand the in and out flows from the Seaside Basin and will help us in updating the Seawater Intrusion Response Plan. It was noted that we need to consider the "flow divides" with other basins which changes over time and is influenced in terms of weather and pumping changes. This update was also approved (still needs to go to the full board).

Lastly, we approved the Monitoring and Management Program for FY 2025 as well as the FY 2025 Operations and Capital budgets that go along with the program.

Monday, August 19th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Special Board Meeting- Last month, the California Coastal Commission was supposed to make a decision on the Coastal Development Permit needed to move the SURF! Busway Project forward. Unfortunately, the staff report on the project came out with a recommendation to deny the permit and even more unfortunately, did so in a way that also included 41 statements that were either false or misrepresentations of the facts. After the staff report came out, but before the Coastal Commission meeting, it was requested that the agenda item be delayed to September which will take place in Monterey. In addition, MST staff has been working with both state representatives and Coastal Commission staff to try and correct some of the facts and work towards a solution.

With all of that, MST staff put together a letter to the Coastal Commission that would serve as a factual document that points out all the many errors and provides evidence and clarification. Our job today was to approve that letter and ask that the General Manager continue to work with the Coastal Commission staff to hopefully arrive at a different staff report for the September meeting. It was a unanimous vote as all the board members see this as a very beneficial project for now and especially into the future.

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy

August 27, 2024

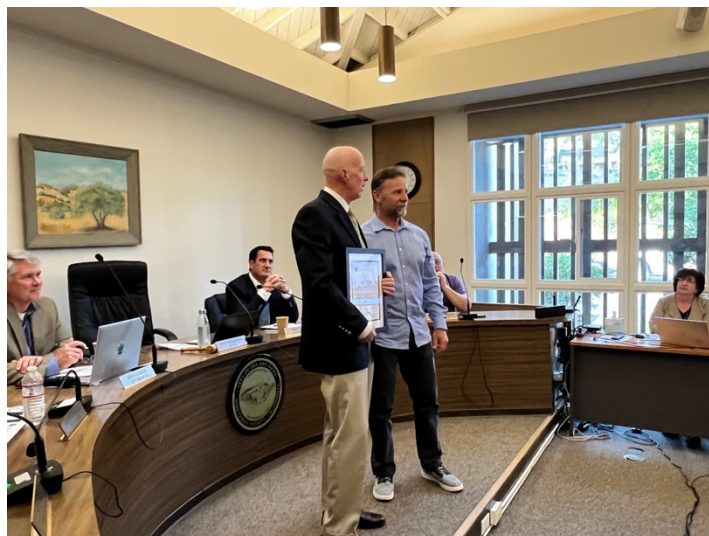
As Vice Mayor of Del Rey Oaks, this summer has been an inspiring season of growth, community engagement, and collective progress. From May through August, I had the privilege of representing our city at numerous events, connecting with residents, and advocating for initiatives that reflect our shared values. The energy and dedication I witnessed throughout these months reaffirm my belief in the strength of our community and our commitment to building a brighter future together. This report reflects the collaborative spirit of our city, highlighting the milestones we've achieved and the work that lies ahead.

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on May 21, 2024

In the spirit of transparency and community engagement, I am honored to share with you a report from our City Council meeting held on May 21, 2024. This meeting was a testament to our collective commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking community. Here are the key highlights and decisions that were made:

****Proclamation of Pride Month, June 2024:**** We proudly proclaimed June 2024 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, reaffirming our dedication to creating an inclusive environment where every individual is valued and respected. This proclamation is not just a declaration but a reflection of our ongoing commitment to support visibility, dignity, and equity for all our residents, including the LGBTQ+ community.

****Public Works Appreciation Week, May 19-25, 2024:**** We took a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for our public works professionals, Mr. Ron Fucci and Mr. Sherman Low. Their dedication to maintaining and improving our city's infrastructure is invaluable. From ensuring our roads are safe to maintaining public spaces, their hard work significantly contributes to our quality of life in Del Rey Oaks.



****Introduction of New City Staff:**** We warmly welcomed Stacy Matthews and Laura Batra to our city staff. Their expertise and passion for public service are commendable, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have on our community.

****Del Rey Oaks 6th Cycle Housing Element Sites:**** The Council discussed the 6th Cycle Housing Element Sites in the vicinity of Del Rey Oaks, emphasizing our commitment to addressing housing needs and promoting sustainable development. This discussion highlighted the importance of thoughtful planning to ensure affordable and accessible housing options for our residents.

****Investing in Our Infrastructure:**** The Council adopted resolutions to approve projects funded by SB1 for the fiscal year 2024-25 and to amend the MOU between ReGen Monterey and Member Agencies. These decisions are steps toward enhancing our city's infrastructure and ensuring a high quality of life for our residents. They reflect our commitment to maintaining essential services and ensuring the sustainability of our resources.

****Del Rey Oaks FY 2024-25 Draft Budget:**** The Council discussed the draft budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, a crucial step in ensuring the financial health and strategic direction of our city. This budget reflects our priorities and goals, focusing on essential services, infrastructure maintenance, and community development.

****Looking Ahead:**** We also approved a bid award for a comprehensive fee study, a move that underscores our commitment to transparency and fiscal responsibility. This study will help us make informed decisions that align with our community's needs and priorities.

As we reflect on the discussions and decisions made during this meeting, I am reminded of the strength and resilience of our community. Your engagement and input are vital to our success, and I encourage you to continue participating in our city's governance.

As we move forward, I want you to know that your thoughts, concerns, and aspirations are always at the forefront of our decision-making. Together, we are building a Del Rey Oaks that cherishes its past, celebrates its present, and eagerly anticipates its future.

Thank you for your trust and support. Together, we are making Del Rey Oaks a better place for all who call it home.

II. Council Report: Monterey Bay Division Budget Meeting Briefing on May 22, 2024

I attended the Monterey Bay Division Meeting of the League of California Cities last May 22, 2024, to hear from experts on the CA state budget proposal and what it could mean for our city. As your representative, it is my privilege to share insights from the recent California State Budget Briefing for the fiscal year 2024-25. Last May 10, 2024, the Governor of California



released his May revised budget facing a concerning state budget deficit. In these times of fiscal challenges and opportunities, our state's budget is a testament to our collective resilience and commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all Californians.

****Facing Challenges with Determination****

The Governor's May Revision of the budget has outlined a sobering reality: California is navigating through a \$27.6 billion budget deficit. Such a challenge requires difficult decisions, but it also presents us with an opportunity to reaffirm our priorities and values as a community. It is in these moments that our resolve to support one another and advance toward a brighter future is truly tested and demonstrated.

****Commitment to Health and Equity****

Despite the fiscal constraints, the budget maintains a steadfast commitment to health and human services, ensuring that Californians continue to have access to essential care. A notable highlight is the continued funding for the Medi-Cal Expansion, which now includes coverage regardless of immigration status. This expansion is expected to provide coverage to an estimated 764,000 adult enrollees, a move that underscores our state's dedication to inclusivity and health equity.

Moreover, the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) receives a significant boost, with a proposed increase in funding by \$1.5 billion. This initiative is crucial for expanding telehealth access, allowing more Californians to receive healthcare services remotely, a necessity that has become ever more apparent in our digital age.

****Addressing the Behavioral Health Crisis****

The budget acknowledges the behavioral health crisis, particularly among our youth, exacerbated by the pandemic. While there are reductions in funding for certain initiatives, the commitment to addressing this crisis remains evident. The Children Behavioral Health Initiative, although facing reductions, continues to be a priority, reflecting our collective concern for the well-being of our younger generation.

****Strengthening Our Healthcare Workforce****

The budget also addresses the critical healthcare workforce shortage, a challenge amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. While adjustments have been made, including reductions in funding for certain healthcare workforce initiatives, the budget's focus on this area highlights the importance of building a robust healthcare system that can meet the needs of all Californians.

****Looking Ahead with Hope****

The Legislature is mandated to draft and present a "balanced budget" to the Governor no later than Saturday, June 15, 2024. To meet the requirement that a bill must be available for public review for at least 72 hours prior to any legislative action, expect the budget bill to be in print by Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Both houses of the Legislature must approve the Budget Bill with a majority vote before it can be forwarded to the Governor for final approval.

Upon passage by the Legislature, the Governor has until the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 2024, to sign the budget bill into law.

In addition to the main budget bill, the Legislature typically utilizes supplementary policy-specific bills known as "trailer bills" to provide further details on the expenditures outlined in the budget. These trailer bills are not subject to the June 15 deadline and can be passed throughout the summer, concluding before the Legislative Session ends in August. Similarly, the Legislature may opt to amend the main budget bill with a "budget bill junior" before the Legislative Session's conclusion in August.

In closing, I am inspired by the resilience and solidarity of our community. The path ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with opportunities for growth and transformation. Together, we can overcome these challenges and build a brighter, more equitable future for all Californians.

III. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for Memorial Day last May 27, 2024

On this day, we come together to remember and honor the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Their courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to protecting our freedoms are the foundation upon which our nation stands.

Memorial Day is more than a time for remembrance; it is an opportunity for reflection and gratitude. Let us take a moment to appreciate the precious freedoms we enjoy every day—freedoms secured by the selfless acts of our fallen heroes. Their legacy lives on in the values we hold dear and the community we continue to build together.

In Del Rey Oaks, we are blessed with a strong sense of unity and support for one another. This day reminds us of the importance of coming together, not only in times of celebration but also in moments of solemnity. As we honor the memory of our service members, let us also extend our gratitude to their families, who have endured immeasurable loss with grace and resilience.

Let us commemorate this day by fostering a spirit of service and compassion within our community. Whether through acts of kindness, volunteerism, or simply taking a moment to

reach out to a neighbor, we can all contribute to the legacy of those who gave everything for our country.

May this Memorial Day inspire us to live with purpose and gratitude, always remembering the sacrifices that allow us to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear. Together, let us continue to build a community that honors the past, cherishes the present, and looks forward to a brighter future.



IV. Council Report: Groundbreaking Ceremony in Del Rey Oaks for the Construction of the First Segment of the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG)



It is with immense pride and a heart full of hope following a momentous occasion in the history of our beloved community. On Wednesday, May 29, 2024, I had the honor of witnessing the groundbreaking ceremony for the Canyon Del Rey segment of the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project. This event, held in the parking lot of our City Hall, marked the beginning of a transformative journey for Del Rey Oaks and our neighboring cities.

The FORTAG project is a testament to the power of collaboration and vision. Together with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), Caltrans District 5, the City of Seaside, and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, we are embarking on an endeavor that promises to enhance the connectivity, safety, and recreational opportunities for our community. The Canyon Del Rey segment, stretching 1.5 miles through our city and Seaside, will offer a new, safer corridor for pedestrians, bicyclists, and people with disabilities, connecting them to parks, schools, and natural preserves.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of distinguished speakers, including TAMC Executive Director Todd Muck, TAMC Board Vice Chair and Mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea Dave Potter, Mayor Scott Donaldson of Del Rey Oaks, Mayor Ian Oglesby of Seaside, and Dr. Kevin Raskoff, Board President of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. We also had the privilege of

hearing from FORTAG founders Professor Scott Waltz and Professor Fred Watson, whose vision and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

As your Vice Mayor, I was deeply moved by the sense of community and shared purpose that permeated the event. It was a reminder of what we can achieve when we come together with a common goal. The FORTAG project is not just about building a trail; it's about creating pathways that connect us to each other and to the natural beauty that surrounds us. It's about enhancing our quality of life and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.

The construction of the Canyon Del Rey segment is scheduled to begin in June 2024 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026. This timeline marks a period of anticipation and excitement, as we look forward to the many benefits this project will bring to our community. From promoting active transportation and improving safety to boosting local tourism and economic activity, the impact of the FORTAG project will be far-reaching.

I encourage each of you to embrace this project and the opportunities it presents. Whether it's by staying informed about its progress, participating in future events, or simply sharing the news with neighbors and friends, your involvement is crucial to its success. Together, we are not just building a trail; we are forging a legacy of community, connectivity, and care for our environment.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported and will continue to support this project. Your enthusiasm and commitment are the foundation upon which the FORTAG project stands. As we move forward, let us do so with the same spirit of collaboration and hope that brought us to this pivotal moment.



V. Council Report: Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising Event on June 1, 2024

I am overjoyed to share the wonderful experience we had at the Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising Event held on June 1, 2024. Through the dedication and support of our incredible community, we came together to honor and celebrate our commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and unity.



The event, themed "Be Proud, Be Loud, Be Bold, Be Strong," truly captured the essence of what makes our community exceptional. From the warm welcome and introduction to the moving invocation by The Reverend Elaine Gehrmann of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, the day was filled with moments that touched our hearts and lifted our spirits.



The powerful rendition of the National Anthem by Jasmine Vega set a majestic tone for the day. Following this, Mayor Scott Donaldson offered heartfelt opening remarks, highlighting our

community's unwavering support for the LGBTQ+ community. The talented Patrice Vecchione graced us with a beautiful poetry reading that resonated deeply with everyone present.



We were honored to hear from esteemed guest speakers, including Seaside Councilmember Alex Garcia-Arrazola, Monterey County District 4 Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, and Taylor Davis, the District Representative for U.S. Congressman Jimmy Panetta. Their insightful words underscored the importance of unity and the progress we continue to make together.



Resident guest speakers, Councilmember Kim Shirley and her daughter, Sophia Raskoff, added a personal and touching element to the proceedings. The highlight of the ceremony was

undoubtedly the raising of the Inclusive Progress Pride Flag by Councilmember Kim Shirley and Sophia Raskoff, symbolizing our community's steadfast commitment to inclusivity and diversity.



DCherry Clown's dazzling performance concluded the ceremonial portion with joy and excitement, captivating the audience with her unique flair. As we transitioned to the reception, the atmosphere was filled with fellowship, delicious food, and colorful refreshments, including a delightful rainbow cake that was enjoyed by all.





Throughout the reception, we were treated to inspiring speeches and performances by DCherry Clown. Notable figures such as Councilmember Bill Ragsdale-Cronin, former Mayor Alison Kerr, and Beth Walker, co-chair of the board of Monterey Peninsula Pride, shared their thoughts, adding depth and meaning to our celebration. Beth Walker also extended a warm invitation to the upcoming Monterey Peninsula Pride event on June 29th, further strengthening our community ties.



The event continued with electrifying performances by DCherry Clown, ensuring a memorable conclusion to our celebration. Our fabulous emcee, Trashy, infused the event with dazzling charisma and infectious energy, making the Pride Flag Raising an unforgettable celebration of joy and unity.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who attended and participated, making this event a true reflection of the spirit of Del Rey Oaks. Your presence and support made this celebration even more special, creating cherished memories for all.





As we continue to honor Pride with pride, let us remember the importance of inclusivity, diversity, and unity in our community. Together, we can build a brighter and more inclusive future for all.



VI. Council Report: City of Monterey Pride Flag Raising Event on June 5, 2024



On June 5, 2024, I had the honor of attending the City of Monterey's Pride Flag Raising Event, a moment that beautifully showcased our region's commitment to inclusion, love, and respect for all. Standing in solidarity with our LGBTQ+ community, I felt a deep sense of pride as the rainbow flag was hoisted high—a powerful symbol of unity and acceptance. This event was not just a celebration of diversity, but a reaffirmation of our shared values and the progress we continue to make toward equality. The warmth and joy that filled the air were a testament to our collective belief that everyone, regardless of who they love, deserves to live with dignity and respect. I am inspired by the courage and strength of those who continue to advocate for equal rights, and I remain committed to supporting and uplifting all

voices in our community. The Pride Flag Raising Event was a shining example of the power of love and solidarity, and I am grateful to have been a part of this meaningful celebration.



VII. Council Report: City of Seaside Pride Flag Raising Event on June 6, 2024



On June 6, 2024, I also had the privilege of attending the City of Seaside's Pride Flag Raising Event, where the spirit of inclusivity and unity shone brightly. As a neighboring city to Del Rey Oaks, Seaside's commitment to celebrating diversity and standing up for equality resonates deeply within our own community. The event was a vibrant and uplifting gathering, filled with the colors of the rainbow and the shared belief that love transcends all boundaries. Watching the Pride flag ascend, I was moved by the collective strength and resilience of our LGBTQ+ neighbors and allies. This event was a powerful reminder of the importance of standing together in solidarity, not just within our own city but across the entire region. I am inspired by Seaside's dedication to fostering an environment where everyone feels seen, valued, and loved. The Pride Flag Raising in Seaside was more than just a ceremony—it was

a celebration of the progress we've made and a commitment to the work that still lies ahead. I am proud to stand with Seaside in this journey toward a more inclusive and compassionate future for all.



VIII. Council Report: City of Pacific Grove Pride Flag Raising Event on June 10, 2024



On June 10, 2024, I was honored to join the City of Pacific Grove for their Pride Flag Raising Event, a heartfelt celebration of diversity and inclusion within the Monterey Peninsula. As the rainbow flag unfurled against the sky, I felt a profound sense of community and pride, knowing that our region stands united in its commitment to equality for all. Pacific Grove, with its deep-rooted history and charm, showed that embracing love and acceptance is at the heart of who we are. The event was filled with warmth, joy, and a shared vision for a future where everyone can live authentically and without fear. Being part of this celebration was a reminder of the strength that comes from standing together and supporting one another across all the cities that make up our beautiful peninsula. The Pride Flag Raising in Pacific Grove was not just a ceremony, but a powerful affirmation that our communities are

dedicated to nurturing a culture of respect and belonging. I am inspired by Pacific Grove's unwavering commitment to these values, and I am proud to have been a part of this meaningful and uplifting event.

IX. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – June 12, 2024

I had the privilege of representing the City of Del Rey Oaks at the June 2024 meeting of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). This gathering was not just another routine meeting; it was a celebration of the collaborative spirit that defines our region and an inspiring showcase of what we can achieve when we work together.



Key Highlights:

1. **Regional Collaboration for Sustainable Growth:** The meeting emphasized the importance of regional collaboration to achieve sustainable growth and development. AMBAG's initiatives on transportation, housing, and environmental conservation reflect a shared vision that aligns with Del Rey Oaks' commitment to preserving our unique community character while fostering responsible growth. It was exciting to see how our small but vibrant city can play a crucial role in larger regional strategies, particularly in promoting sustainable practices that benefit all residents.
2. **Innovative Solutions for Transportation:** One of the most inspiring discussions centered around innovative transportation solutions. AMBAG's plans to enhance public transit and reduce carbon emissions are not only forward-thinking but also essential for the future well-being of our region. As representatives of Del Rey Oaks, we have a unique opportunity to advocate for these improvements, ensuring that our community is at the forefront of these exciting developments. The potential for a more connected, efficient, and environmentally-friendly transportation network is something that all of us can look forward to.
3. **Affordable Housing and Community Resilience:** Housing affordability continues to be a significant challenge across the region, and AMBAG's commitment to addressing this issue was evident. The strategies discussed, including increasing the availability of affordable housing while maintaining the character of our communities, are particularly relevant to Del Rey Oaks. I left the meeting inspired by the collective resolve to ensure that everyone in our region has access to safe, affordable housing, and I am eager to explore how we can bring these ideas to fruition in our own city.
4. **Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action:** AMBAG's dedication to environmental stewardship and climate action resonated deeply with me. The discussions around reducing

greenhouse gas emissions, preserving open spaces, and promoting sustainable land use practices are directly aligned with our values in Del Rey Oaks. This meeting reinforced my belief that we are part of a larger movement towards environmental sustainability, and I am excited about the possibilities for our city to lead by example in these efforts.

5. Advocacy for Homeowners Insurance Accessibility: One of the crucial actions taken during the meeting was the approval of a letter to California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara. This letter, strongly supported by AMBAG, addresses the growing concerns over homeowners insurance accessibility in our region and throughout the state. As natural disasters and climate risks become more prevalent, it is imperative that our residents have access to affordable and reliable insurance coverage. The letter urges the Insurance Commission to take immediate steps to resolve these ongoing issues, ensuring that homeowners in the AMBAG region are not left vulnerable. This advocacy is vital for protecting our communities and aligns with our broader goals of fostering resilience and security for all residents.

In conclusion, attending the AMBAG meeting was an inspiring experience, and it reinforced the importance of our city's role in the broader regional context. The initiatives discussed are not just theoretical—they are actionable plans that have the potential to enhance the quality of life for all residents in Del Rey Oaks and beyond. I am filled with optimism and excitement about the future, knowing that we are part of a collaborative effort to create a more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant Monterey Bay Area.

X. Council Report: Supervisor Series of Monterey County Business Council Event on June 14, 2024



On June 14, 2024, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Monterey County Business Council's Supervisor Series Event, where our dedicated District 4 Supervisor, Wendy Root Askew, was the featured guest speaker. Hosted at Tarpy's Roadhouse, the luncheon was a warm and engaging gathering, bringing together leaders from across the county to discuss the issues that matter most to our communities.

Supervisor Askew, with her deep roots in Monterey County and her tireless

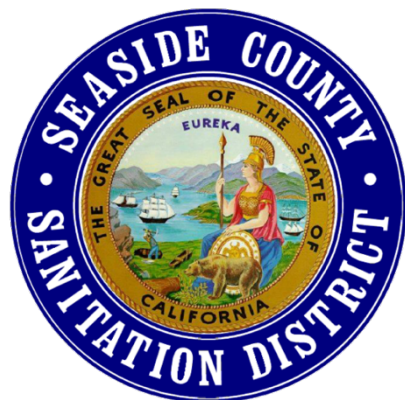
commitment to our district, shared her insightful perspectives on advancing policies that support families, promote community well-being, and protect our natural resources. Her passion for serving our diverse communities—spanning Sand City, Del Rey Oaks, Marina, and beyond—was evident as she spoke about her work on critical issues such as homelessness, housing, and county communications.

It was truly inspiring to hear from a leader who not only understands the unique challenges we face but also actively seeks creative solutions that foster safe, connected, and thriving communities. Supervisor Askew's dedication to our district and her collaborative approach to governance are invaluable assets to our region. I left the event with a renewed sense of purpose and appreciation for the work we are doing together to build a stronger future for all.

I am grateful to the Monterey County Business Council for inviting me to this enlightening and enriching event, and I look forward to continuing our collective efforts in partnership with Supervisor Askew to advance the well-being of Del Rey Oaks and the entire district.



XI. Council Report: Special Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors last June 25, 2024



As Vice Mayor and a member of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board, I'm pleased to provide a summary of our special meeting held on June 25, 2024. This meeting showcased our commitment to responsible governance and community service.

The meeting began promptly at 9:30 AM in the Seaside Council Chamber, with all board members present. As your First Vice Chair on the SCSD Board I was honored to participate in discussions that will shape our community's future.

One of the key items on our agenda was the consideration of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed SCSD Annual Operating and Capital Budget. This budget reflects our dedication to maintaining and improving our wastewater infrastructure while ensuring fiscal responsibility. The Board carefully reviewed the proposed budget, keeping in mind the best interests of our residents and the long-term sustainability of our services.

A significant topic of discussion was the proposed change in wastewater billing practices. Monterey One Water (M1W) has proposed to transition from direct billing to utilizing the Monterey County Tax Roll for annual billings of wastewater sewer charges, effective July 1, 2024. This change, while not initiated by our District, requires careful consideration and action

on our part to ensure a smooth transition for our residents. However, M1W leadership reported during the meeting that M1W was not pursuing this proposed change anymore based on the turnout of their Board's vote the night prior.

In light of this breaking news, we still discussed entering into agreements with the County of Monterey and M1W to facilitate the collection of wastewater service charges through the property tax roll. These agreements aim to maintain efficient service delivery while minimizing impact on our residents.

It's important to note that while we discussed these items, the SCSD Board did not approve the new business item A regarding the annual billings agreement, nor did we approve public hearing item A concerning the amendment to the SCSD Code for collection of sewer service charges through the property tax roll. These decisions reflect our commitment to thorough consideration and due diligence in matters that affect our community.

We also held a public hearing on the wastewater collection service fees on the tax bill. This hearing provided an opportunity for our residents to voice their opinions on this important matter, demonstrating our dedication to transparency and community engagement.

As we move forward, we remain committed to providing high-quality wastewater services while adapting to changing circumstances. Our discussions and decisions are always guided by what's best for our community, ensuring that Del Rey Oaks continues to be a great place to live and work.

I'm proud of the thoughtful deliberations that took place during this meeting, and I look forward to continuing to serve our community as we navigate these important issues.

XII. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on June 25, 2024

As your Vice Mayor, I'm pleased to share highlights from our recent City Council meeting on June 25, 2024. It was a productive and inspiring session that showcased our community's progress and commitment to a bright future.

We began with a heartwarming recognition of our dedicated City Clerk, Karen Minami, celebrating her remarkable 20 years of service to Del Rey Oaks. Karen's unwavering commitment to our city exemplifies the spirit of public service that makes our community strong.

City Clerk Minami - Acknowledgement of 20th Year of Service to the City



I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Karen Minami for her two decades of dedicated service and exemplary contributions. Her unwavering commitment, professionalism, and genuine care for our city and its people have been truly inspiring.

Karen, your hard work, integrity, and passion have left an indelible mark on our community. We are incredibly fortunate to have had you as our City Clerk, and we are grateful for the

positive impact you have made during your tenure.

Thank you, Karen, for your unwavering dedication, your warm and caring nature, and for being an exceptional role model for all of us. We wish you continued success and fulfillment in all your future endeavors.

Our financial health remains robust, with the May 2024 report showing a healthy cash balance of \$13,446,413. This fiscal responsibility allows us to invest in our city's future while maintaining stability.

We made significant strides in planning for our city's growth and development. The Council approved an Exclusive Right to Negotiate agreement with City Ventures for the development of our parcels on the former Fort Ord. This exciting step brings us closer to realizing new opportunities for our community.

In a move to support our local economy and tourism industry, we provided guidance to place a measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot to increase our Transient Occupancy Tax rate. This decision reflects our commitment to balancing revenue generation with maintaining Del Rey Oaks as an attractive destination.

Looking ahead, we approved the FY 2024-25 Budget, demonstrating our dedication to fiscal responsibility while investing in critical areas such as public safety, infrastructure, and community services.

I'm particularly proud of our continued focus on transparency and good governance, as evidenced by our approval of an updated City Investment Policy. This ensures that our city's funds are managed with the utmost care and integrity.

As we move forward, I'm inspired by the collaborative spirit of our Council and the engaged participation of our citizens. Together, we're building a Del Rey Oaks that honors its past while embracing a promising future.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. It's an honor to serve this remarkable community.

XIII. Council Report: Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade on June 29, 2024

On June 29, 2024, the Monterey Peninsula Pride Parade turned into a spectacular celebration of joy and unity, with Del Rey Oaks shining brightly as a beacon of pride and love. As the Vice Mayor of Del Rey Oaks, I had the honor of leading our contingent for this momentous event, and it was an absolute joy to see our community come together in such a meaningful way.

With our Progress Pride Flags held high, our LGBTQ+ members and allies from Del Rey Oaks marched with pride and enthusiasm, embodying the spirit of inclusivity and acceptance that defines our town. The parade was a vibrant display of the love and solidarity we share, and it was inspiring to see everyone come together to celebrate our shared values.

The energy was electric, and the sense of community was overwhelming. Each step we took, and each cheer we shared, was a testament to the unity and respect that our community stands for. Del Rey Oaks truly sparkled with Pride that day, reflecting our collective embrace of love and unity.

Leading our contingent in the parade was a deeply moving experience, and it was a beautiful reminder of how far we've come and the bright future we are building together. Our participation was not just a show of support, but a heartfelt expression of the vibrant, inclusive community that we cherish.

Here's to more moments of joy and togetherness as we continue to champion the values that make Del Rey Oaks a shining example of pride and love.







XIV. Council Report: 4th of July Message Released on July 4, 2024



🇺🇸 Happy 4th of July, Del Rey Oaks! 🇺🇸

Today, we come together to celebrate the birth of our great nation, a day filled with pride, joy, and gratitude. As we gather with family and friends to enjoy patriotic songs, barbecues, and festivities, let's also take a moment to reflect on the values that make our country so special – freedom, unity, and resilience.

As an immigrant who came to the United States with dreams and hopes, and now serving as the Vice Mayor of our wonderful city, I am particularly moved by the opportunities and freedoms that this country offers. My journey is a testament to the boundless possibilities that America holds for all of us. It's a reminder that regardless of where we come from, we all have a chance to contribute to and shape our communities and nation.

This Independence Day, I am filled with hope and optimism for our community and our nation. Despite the challenges we face, our spirit of togetherness and our commitment to a brighter future remain strong. Each of us plays a vital role in shaping the future of Del Rey Oaks and the United

States, and together, we can continue to build a community and a country where everyone feels valued and free.

Thank you for your unwavering support and for making Del Rey Oaks such a wonderful place to live. Let's celebrate today with joy and gratitude, honoring the sacrifices of those who came before us and embracing the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and inspiring 4th of July! 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

XIV. Council Report: PASA Annual Picnic Event on July 27, 2024



On July 27, 2024, I had the distinct honor of joining the Pilipino-American Solidarity Alliance (PASA) for their annual picnic right here in Del Rey Oaks' beautiful park. The day was filled with joy, camaraderie, and the kind of fellowship that makes our community truly special.

As the Vice Mayor of Del Rey Oaks, I found it heartwarming to see our park come alive with the laughter and vibrant spirit of the PASA members, their families, and friends. The picnic was a celebration of culture, unity, and the strong bonds that connect us all. From sharing delicious

food to engaging in lively conversations and enjoying fun activities, the event was a perfect reflection of the values that make our community so unique.

The sense of togetherness was palpable, as everyone came together not just as neighbors but as extended family. It was a day of warmth and connection, where old friendships were strengthened and new ones were formed. The smiles, stories, and shared experiences reminded us all of the importance of community and the joy that comes from being part of something bigger than ourselves.

Being invited to this wonderful event was a true privilege, and it reaffirmed my pride in serving a community that values inclusivity, respect, and togetherness. The picnic was more than just a gathering; it was a celebration of the vibrant, diverse, and welcoming spirit that defines Del Rey Oaks.

As we continue to come together in events like these, we build stronger connections and a brighter future for all. Here's to many more moments of joy, unity, and fellowship in the years to come!

XV. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – August 14, 2024

As Vice Mayor and a board member of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) I'm pleased to provide an inspiring summary of our August 14, 2024 meeting. This gathering demonstrated our region's commitment to collaboration and forward-thinking planning.



The meeting, held at the Monterey Bay Air Resources District Board Room, brought together leaders from across our region. We embraced both in-person and virtual participation, ensuring broad accessibility while adhering to the latest Brown Act regulations.

A key highlight was the public hearing for the Draft Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for FFY 2024-25 to 2027-28. This hearing provided our community with a valuable opportunity to shape the future of our region's transportation infrastructure.

We received an update on the Regional Early Action Planning Grants 2.0 Program, demonstrating our commitment to sustainable and equitable development. Despite a state-mandated budget reduction, we're working diligently to ensure these funds continue to benefit our communities effectively.

The California Central Coast Sustainable Freight Study update showcased our dedication to environmentally conscious economic growth. This study is crucial for balancing our region's freight needs with sustainability goals.

Perhaps most exciting was the presentation of the Revised Draft 2026 Regional Growth Forecast. This forecast is a vital tool for planning our region's future, ensuring we're prepared for population changes and economic developments.

Our meeting also covered important administrative matters, including financial updates and program reports reflecting our commitment to transparent and responsible governance.

As we move forward, I'm inspired by the collaborative spirit and innovative thinking displayed at this meeting. Our work at AMBAG is shaping a bright future for the Monterey Bay Area, balancing growth with sustainability and quality of life for all our residents.

It's an honor to represent our city in these important regional discussions, and I look forward to continuing our work to make our community and region thrive.
