

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

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



October 22, 2025

TAMC Board Receives Presentation on Monterey County's Share of State Transportation Improvement Program Funding

At its October meeting, the TAMC Board reviewed and provided input on the funding proposal for the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), a key component of the agency's Integrated Funding Strategy. The RTIP is a biennial document submitted to the California Transportation Commission that outlines how regions plan to use their share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. STIP funding is generated primarily from state and federal gas taxes and is allocated on a five-year cycle to support capital improvements in transportation infrastructure, including highways, local roads, transit, and intermodal facilities.

The proposed RTIP includes three major projects. The first is the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Phase 1, which is proposed to receive \$5.0 million in STIP funds for the right-of-way phase. This phase focuses on safety and congestion improvements at Corral de Tierra, Laureles Grade, and San Benancio Road — key intersections along a heavily traveled corridor between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula.

The second project is the US 101 South of Salinas Corridor, which is recommended for \$10.6 million in STIP funding to support final design of the US 101 interchange at Chualar. TAMC is working with Caltrans to pursue a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) delivery method to accelerate project delivery.

The third project is the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub, which is proposed to receive \$8.8 million in STIP funds for final design. Located in the unincorporated community of Pajaro, the station will serve as a regional hub for Santa Cruz County residents accessing passenger rail service to the Bay Area.

Staff will finalize the RTIP proposal for Board consideration in December and then submit it to the California Transportation Commission. “These projects highlight our region’s urgent transportation needs,” said Executive Director Todd Muck. “By aligning our funding strategy with state priorities for climate resilience and multimodal initiatives, we’re positioning Monterey County to compete successfully for limited resources and deliver improvements that enhance safety, mobility, and access for our communities.”

Coast Rail Project Update

The TAMC Board received a comprehensive update on the agency’s rail program, with a focus on the Coast Rail project and related planning efforts to expand passenger rail service along the Coast Mainline rail corridor between San Jose and San Luis Obispo. The presentation highlighted progress on several key components that together form a regional strategy for improving rail access and connectivity in Monterey County.

The King City Multimodal Transportation Center is fully funded and currently in the design phase. This future station will provide southern Monterey County residents with access to intercity rail service. The project includes plans for a passenger platform, parking facilities, and bus connections, and is intended to serve as a regional mobility hub for the southern part of the county.

The Salinas Rail Kick Start Project is advancing through final design for its remaining components. Package 1, which included improvements to the Salinas station, has been completed. Package 2 will construct a layover facility for train storage, and Package 3 will upgrade tracks in Gilroy to support expanded service. These improvements are critical to enabling new passenger rail service between Salinas and the Bay Area.

The Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub is currently in environmental review. Located in the community of Pajaro, just 1.5 miles from downtown Watsonville, the station will serve as a key connection point for Santa Cruz County residents accessing rail service to the Bay Area. The project is designed to support future transit-oriented development and provide a new transportation hub for the region.

The Castroville Multimodal Station remains a priority for future development. It will connect the Monterey Peninsula to the Coast Mainline and serve as a transfer point for future service on the Monterey Branch Line. Environmental review and design work are currently paused pending additional funding.

The Board also received updates on coordination with the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and ongoing efforts to position these projects for future grant opportunities. Staff emphasized the importance of aligning environmental documentation and project readiness with state and federal funding cycles. “Expanding passenger rail service along the Coast corridor is a long-term investment in regional connectivity,” said Executive Director Muck. “Each of these station projects plays a vital role in building a network that serves residents across Monterey County and beyond.”

Monterey One Water (M1W)



October 27, 2025

Informational Items:

·Utility of the Future Today Recognition Program

M1W was recognized by the Water Environment Federation as a Utility of the Future Today. This national recognition celebrates innovative utilities leading the way in sustainability, community engagement, and resource recovery.

·Leading Water Resilient Company

M1W received the International Desalination and Reuse Association's award for Leading Water Resilient Company. This recognition highlights entities creating a circular water economy through water recycling and who exemplifying water stewardship practices.

·SCADA Upgrade

A Professional Services Agreement was awarded to SOAP Engineering for a project to upgrade M1W's SCADA infrastructure. Funding for the project comes from a US EPA grant. The proposal was under the threshold requiring board approval – no action was required.

·Expansion of Pure Water Monterey

The permit to operate the Pure Water Monterey Project at its expanded capacity was adopted by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on October 9, 2025. Construction activities are complete and increased production has commenced. Celebration events occurred earlier in the month to recognize this historical community milestone.

Board Actions:

·Approved a contract amendment with Brown & Caldwell for Outfall Improvement projects for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, in the not to exceed amount of \$1,364,262.

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Friday, October 24th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- This month, we received a very interesting report from the Illegal Dumping and Litter Abatement Task Force, which is run through the county, but is basically a volunteer organization that receives some funding through the county and other waste associated organizations (ReGen being one of them). Their approach is to focus on the 3 E's- Enforcement, Eradication, and Education. To help with enforcement, they've installed cameras in strategic areas and increased the fines for dumping. Maria Ferdin, who leads this task force, is very sleuthy with her use of cameras, bringing in law enforcement and Google images. Unfortunately, the number of citations they've given is low, and she didn't think that anyone had paid the associated fines (\$2,500). Ironically, the most commonly dumped items, which are tires, mattresses, and TVs, can all be dropped off for free at the landfill. ReGen already has a nice partnership with this task force, and we offer free disposal vouchers for organizations that do clean-ups. With the amount that is still being dumped, it does seem that we may need to extend this partnership out to jurisdictions and maybe work towards offering more free opportunities for easy drop-offs within our communities of these more common items.

Our two items that were up for discussion at this meeting were our draft compensation philosophy, which was developed by our Personnel committee, as well as a revised personnel policies document that addresses employee job duties and pay schedules. This document establishes clear parameters for making permanent changes to employee job duties and permanent changes to pay schedules.

Tuesday, October 28th- City Council Meeting- We began our meeting with four proclamations: Filipino-American History month, Breast Cancer Awareness month, City of Marina's 50th Anniversary celebration, and LGBTQ+ History month. After passing our consent agenda, which included approval of Del Rey Oaks becoming a BEE CITY USA affiliate and approval of our Memorial Bench Policy resolution, we addressed our new business of the night, which was talking about sidewalks. More specifically, we were doing a first reading of an ordinance that amends our municipal code, referencing the definition of "Superintendent of Streets" and sidewalk maintenance and repair, and liability for injuries. This amendment establishes our City Manager (or mainly who he designates) as the Superintendent of Streets. It also makes clear that property owners are responsible for maintaining proper sidewalks (if they have them) and are also responsible for any injuries that occur if those sidewalks are not maintained. This item was fairly straightforward, but it provided an opportunity to explore the topics of new sidewalks throughout the city.

Staff provided three options for creating new sidewalks throughout the city (besides the city being the sole source of new sidewalks). The first was requiring new sidewalks for new developments. The second was requiring new sidewalks when a house is transferred to a

new owner. The third was requiring new sidewalks when a certain sized remodel is done. I think we pretty much all agreed that the second and third options would prove to be too expensive for homeowners and would take generations before we have contiguous sidewalks throughout the city. The first option certainly would be important in areas of new development, such as the former Ft. Ord, but it just didn't seem to apply to our current residential neighborhoods. Ultimately, the Mayor suggested this topic move to the Planning Commission, and the City Manager suggested it start in the Public Works Committee. I do appreciate the discussions about making our streets safer, but I'm not sure where else they'd take this discussion, as there didn't seem to be many ideas that were viable.

Wednesday, November 5th- ReGen Finance Committee Meeting- Today's meeting was filled with interesting discussions, which really makes me feel so grateful for being in the room. The first topic was discussing a possible power sales agreement with 3CE (Central Coast Community Energy, which is the agency working to provide 100% clean and renewable energy). ReGen Monterey currently sells the electricity that's produced to another company, whose contract will be expiring soon. With that comes an opportunity to look locally to see how our electricity can fit into the portfolio of 3CE. In addition, their expertise would help us as we explore options for using our landfill gas. Rob Shaw, the CEO of 3CE, was there for the meeting, and it was great to have his input and to hear that 3CE is interested in working locally for the benefit of both agencies and for the increased benefits for the community. I look forward to hearing more about the specifics of the power agreement in the next couple of months.

The other topic of discussion, which is related to our first, was more discussion about our possibilities moving forward with the utilization of our landfill gas. We are in the very early stages of the study, and that's why it's so beneficial to have additional experts (3CE) who can provide their feedback on energy markets as we decide how we might best utilize our landfill gas. In summary, our electrical power that we could produce will cover the following: our electrical needs at ReGen (.54 MW), the power that we'll sell to M1W (1.8 MW), and 5.0 MW that we could sell to another company. That would max out the infrastructure (power lines, etc.) for our electricity, but we'd still have additional methane that could be either flared off (we'll always have a flare, but wouldn't it be nice to use ALL of the gas that we produce?) or it could be developed into renewable natural gas (more costly to produce, but also more revenue generating in comparison to electricity). And projecting out another 23 years, we'd only see the amount of our landfill gas grow. Lots of variables to consider as we study and plan, which brings about questions such as—do we operate with the idea of maximizing returns? How much risk do we want to take? Can we predict what the markets will look like? For me, I want to make sure the board has a clear understanding of how staff are making these decisions, and as a board, we also need to have clear guidance and focus to make sure we're making the best decisions based on our strategic goals and values of our agency. Much more to come on this topic as we await the final draft of the initial study.

Wednesday, November 5th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Meeting- Our meeting today was mainly focused on our closed session, where we held interviews for the new administrative officer for the Watermaster, who will replace Laura Paxton, an employee who's been at it since the start! She's going to be hard to replace. During the open session, our main agenda item was approving the declaration that there was no "artificial replenishment water" for this past year. Additionally, Supervisor Root Askew asked that the Watermaster receive an update at the beginning of 2026 from the Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SVBGSA) and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) on the work they are doing towards the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (the state requirement for sustainability).

Monday, November 10th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Administrative Performance Committee Meeting- At today's meeting, we received the State and Federal updates from our legislative advocates, and we reviewed the draft advocacy programs for 2026.

Monday, November 10th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
November 18, 2025 Meeting**

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on October 28, 2025



Our City Council gathered once again with a spirit of collaboration, respect, and dedication to the progress of Del Rey Oaks. It was an evening that reminded me of how our small city continues to reflect the big hearts of our residents, ones that value history, inclusivity, and community-driven growth.

Celebrating Heritage and Inclusion

I had the distinct honor, through the kindness of our Mayor, to read aloud two proclamations that are deeply meaningful to me both personally and culturally: the **Filipino–American History Month** and the **LGBTQ+ History Month** proclamations.

As a proud Filipino-American immigrant and a member of the LGBTQ+ community, standing at the dais to read these proclamations was a moment of gratitude and reflection. It symbolized how far our community has come in embracing diversity and honoring the stories of those who paved the way for greater representation and understanding. Filipino-Americans have long contributed to the rich tapestry of California’s history, and the LGBTQ+ community continues to be a vital force in advocating for equality and compassion.

I thank my fellow councilmembers, our city staff, and the Mayor for recognizing the importance of these proclamations, not merely as ceremonial gestures, but as affirmations that **Del Rey Oaks stands for inclusion, respect, and belonging.**

Strengthening Our Streets and Sidewalks

Under **New Business**, we approved the **first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 12.04** of the Del Rey Oaks Municipal Code. This amendment clarifies the definition of “*Superintendent of Streets*” and updates important provisions related to **sidewalk maintenance and repair, liability for injuries, and right-of-way maintenance.**

While this may sound technical, it is fundamentally about road safety, responsibility, and care for our shared public spaces. We are ensuring that our municipal code keeps pace with the real conditions of our streets and neighborhoods.

A Call for Community Dialogue on Sidewalk Policy

Equally important was our discussion on providing **policy direction regarding potential additional requirements for new sidewalk construction**, whether in new developments, property transfers, or major building permits.

In sharing my perspective, I emphasized that **our residents' voices must shape this conversation**. Every street, every block, tells a story, and the people who live and walk there every day know those stories best. I suggested that this topic be brought before our **Planning Commission** and possibly also our **Public Works Committee**, as thoughtfully proposed by our City Manager. This layered approach will allow for a rich exchange of ideas and perspectives before the matter returns to the Council.

Our goal is not only to talk about sidewalks, but to build **consensus and creativity**—to find solutions that make walking in Del Rey Oaks safer and more enjoyable for everyone. During my own walks and conversations with residents, I have heard many express concerns about uneven sidewalks, missing segments, and the challenges of sharing narrow streets with parked cars and moving vehicles. Parents, seniors, joggers, and dog walkers all deserve safe passage.

By bringing this issue into a broader community dialogue, we are affirming that **public safety and neighborhood livability go hand in hand**.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the season of gratitude, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in a city where **kindness meets civic duty**, and where every conversation, whether about history, inclusion, or infrastructure, is rooted in a shared desire to make Del Rey Oaks better for all.

Let us continue to build a city where every resident feels seen, valued, and safe. Together, we are not just maintaining our streets; we are paving the way toward a stronger, more connected Del Rey Oaks.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – November 11, 2025



Our regularly scheduled meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors for **November 11, 2025** was **cancelled in observance of Veterans Day**, a national holiday honoring the courage, service, and sacrifice of our veterans.

Honoring Our Veterans

While we did not convene formally, this day of reflection and gratitude reminded us that the work we do in public service is part of a greater continuum of dedication to community and country. Veterans Day is a time to pause and acknowledge the men and women who answered the call of duty, protecting the freedoms we enjoy and exemplifying the highest ideals of service. Their legacy of commitment continues to inspire us as local leaders to serve our residents with integrity, humility, and purpose.

To all the veterans in our community, especially those here in Del Rey Oaks and across the Monterey Peninsula, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your courage has built the foundation of the freedoms we safeguard every day in our civic duties.

Looking Ahead

Although this month's meeting was canceled, the SCSD Board continues to focus on maintaining and improving the essential sanitation and wastewater services that support our region's health, sustainability, and quality of life. Our next **regular meeting will be held on December 9, 2025**, where we will resume our ongoing discussions and planning to ensure that the infrastructure and environmental stewardship of the district remain strong and forward-looking.

Commitment to Service

Even in moments of pause, the mission of public service continues—quietly, consistently, and compassionately. The work of sanitation and wastewater management may often go unnoticed, but it is fundamental to public health, environmental protection, and the everyday comfort of our residents. As a member and Chair of the SCSD Board, I remain committed to fostering collaboration among our partner cities and agencies, ensuring that our decisions reflect both fiscal responsibility and a long-term vision for sustainability.

Let us carry forward the same spirit of dedication that our veterans embody—serving not for recognition, but for the greater good of the community we are honored to represent.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – November 12, 2025

It was an inspiring evening with my fellow regional leaders at the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), as we continued our collective mission of building a more connected, sustainable, and resilient Monterey Bay region. The discussions during this meeting reflected not only our shared commitment to responsible growth but also our dedication to ensuring that every voice, from our smallest city to our largest community, has a place in shaping our region’s future.



Item 11A – 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)

One of the most significant items discussed was **Item 11A**, focusing on the development of the **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)**. This long-range regional plan will define how we move, grow, and thrive together across the next 25 years.

This evening, the Board advanced the release of the **Draft 2050 MTP/SCS and its Draft Environmental Impact Report** for **public review beginning November 17, 2025**, and agreed to **hold public hearings in January 2026**.

The MTP/SCS aims to integrate **transportation, housing, land use, and environmental goals** into a single cohesive strategy so that our communities remain accessible, sustainable, and equitable for generations to come. As a board, we emphasized the importance of **public participation** in this process. The plan belongs not just to planners or policymakers. It belongs to the people.

I strongly encourage the residents of **Del Rey Oaks** to **learn more and share their ideas, hopes, and concerns** by visiting the AMBAG website:

www.ambag.org/plans/2050-metropolitan-transportation-plan-sustainable-communities-strategy

Your input can help shape how our transportation systems evolve, whether that means improving walkability, enhancing public transit, supporting electric vehicle infrastructure, or preserving our natural landscapes. Your voices matter in ensuring that the vision for 2050 truly reflects the people who live, work, and raise families in our communities.

As your representative, I will continue to advocate for a **balanced approach that prioritizes both environmental stewardship and everyday accessibility**, so that every resident, regardless of age or background, can travel safely and efficiently throughout the region.

Item 11B — Final 2025 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP)

The Board considered **final approval** of the region’s **Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan**, which is the roadmap for meeting the mobility needs of **older adults, people with disabilities, veterans, low-income riders, and transit-dependent neighbors**. This plan positions our cities and service providers to compete for state and federal funding, close service gaps, improve first/last-mile options, and expand accessible trips for medical care, jobs, and education.

For Del Rey Oaks, this means stronger partnerships and better eligibility for grants that can support paratransit, volunteer driver programs, on-demand shuttles, travel training, and seamless regional connections. I voiced support for moving swiftly from plan to **implementation**—prioritizing safety, frequency, accessibility, and dignity in every ride.

Item 12 — Programs Update: Central California Rural Regional Energy Network (CCR REN)

We received an update on the **CCR REN**, a multi-county effort (with AMBAG as a partner) delivering **no- and low-cost energy-efficiency and electrification programs** for homes, small businesses, and public facilities, especially in underserved communities. This work lowers utility bills, cuts emissions, and supports reliable community facilities—benefits that ripple directly into Del Rey Oaks.

Reflections

As I sat in this meeting, I was reminded that every decision, big or small, ripples outward to touch lives in Del Rey Oaks. Whether we’re discussing transportation corridors, housing frameworks, or climate resilience, these regional conversations ultimately shape how safe our children’s walk to school will be, how accessible our jobs are, and how livable our neighborhoods remain.

I am proud to represent our city in this regional forum and to bring back not just information, but **opportunities for collaboration and civic engagement**. Let’s continue to make Del Rey Oaks a model of sustainability, inclusion, and forward-thinking leadership within the Monterey Bay region.

IV. Council Report: Thanksgiving Holiday Message from Councilmember John Uy

Dear neighbors and friends of Del Rey Oaks,

Advance Happy Thanksgiving! As we gather around tables big and small, I'm reminded how fortunate we are to call this beautiful, close-knit city home. From morning walks in our parks to the friendly waves on our streets, Del Rey Oaks is a place where community still means something, and where kindness shows up in a thousand quiet ways.

This year, I'm especially grateful that the federal government shutdown has ended, and that families, workers, and small businesses can enter the holiday with a little more peace and certainty. To our federal employees, service members, veterans, and first responders: thank you for your steadfast service. To our teachers, healthcare workers, and city staff: thank you for keeping our community healthy, learning, and moving forward. And to every volunteer, coach, caregiver, and neighbor who lends a hand without being asked: you are the heartbeat of Del Rey Oaks.

Thanksgiving is also about widening the circle. If you have an extra seat at your table, consider inviting a neighbor who might be alone. If you can, support our local small businesses and nonprofits that lift up families year-round. A simple check-in, a warm meal, or a donated can of food can make all the difference.

As we celebrate, let's carry a spirit of gratitude and unity, patriotism rooted not just in flags and fireworks, but in everyday acts of care for one another. May we keep faith with the values that make our country strong: fairness, hope, and the promise that tomorrow can be better when we work together.

Wishing you safe travels, joyful gatherings, and plenty of second helpings. From my family to yours: Happy Thanksgiving, Del Rey Oaks! I am honored to serve you.

With gratitude and respect,
Councilmember John Uy

WARM COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Happy Thanksgiving Wishes



FROM COUNCILMEMBER JOHN UY