

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings:

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



March 25, 2026

TAMC Board Approves Request to Program Funds for the Toro Park Lane Closure Project

The Board of Directors of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) approved a request from the County of Monterey to program Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Fair Share Allocation funds for the Toro Park Lane Closure Project in the amount of \$20,888.86.

The Toro Park Lane Closure Project proposes installing permanent measures, including a remotely operated gate and centerline delineators, to continue efforts to help the community stay safe during school pick-up and drop-off hours and reduce conflicts with cut-through traffic to Route 68.

TAMC receives RSTP funds, which total approximately \$6 million per year, and distributes them to the Cities and County in two methods: fair share and competitive share. TAMC distributes \$1.2 million per year as the fair share component to the cities and County based on population and lane miles. The County of Monterey has a balance in its fair share reserve in the amount of \$20,888.86 and has requested the balance of these funds for the Toro Park Lane Closure Project.

RSTP was established by the State of California to utilize gas tax revenues on a wide variety of local transportation projects. TAMC receives these funds and is tasked with reviewing projects proposed for fair share monies and approving the funding if the project is deemed eligible under state law.

Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan

TAMC's Board of Directors received a presentation on the development of the Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. Vision Zero is a global strategy to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries in a certain timeframe by treating them as preventable events.

In the U.S., the Vision Zero strategy led to the adoption of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Safe System Approach. This is a holistic roadway safety guide that recognizes that humans make mistakes, that our transportation network should be designed to prevent fatal mistakes from happening in the first place, and to minimize the injury severity when a crash occurs.

The Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan will be a comprehensive, data-driven roadmap that unites agencies and communities to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries through targeted strategies, infrastructure improvements, and the Safe System Approach. As part of this work, the Agency must adopt a goal statement, and this is expected to be a template for the safety action plans for other jurisdictions.

TAMC is developing the Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan and individual safety action plans for the following jurisdictions that do not already have one: Carmel by the Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Marina, Pacific Grove, Sand City, Soledad, and the County of Monterey (note: the Cities of Monterey, Seaside and Salinas have already adopted comprehensive safety action plans, or are in the process of developing safety action plans using federal Safe Streets for All funds). This comprehensive project reflects collaboration with partner agencies and other stakeholders to promote coordinated solutions to reduce fatalities and injuries due to traffic collisions in Monterey County.

Following the presentation and a robust discussion, the Board of Directors adopted the following goal statement for its safety action plan and recommends other agencies use it as a template:

TAMC and Monterey County jurisdictions believe that everyone deserves to travel safely. To achieve this vision, TAMC has set an ambitious and achievable goal to reduce fatal and serious injuries by 30% by 2030 with the goal of eliminating fatal and serious injuries by 2040.

State Route 68 Corridor Status Report

TAMC's Board of Directors received a status report on two projects currently being developed to address traffic issues along State Route 68 linking the Salinas Valley to the Monterey Peninsula: implementing adaptive signal operations at all signalized intersections; and constructing roundabouts at the intersections of Corral de Tierra, San

Benancio, and Laureles Grade. The two projects are intended to address traffic issues without adding roadway capacity in this environmentally sensitive area.

Adaptive Traffic Signal Project

TAMC has allocated \$1.5 million towards the project to upgrade signal equipment for adaptive traffic signal operations. This technology uses artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically adjust signal parameters in response to changing traffic conditions. Caltrans procured and installed the adaptive system at all nine intersections along the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor.

The project team is collecting performance data to establish baseline (i.e., "before") project conditions. Caltrans staff will start adaptive operations once training is completed in March, and adjustments will be made through April. The team expects the adaptive operations to be optimized in early May when traffic data will be collected to establish "after" conditions while schools are in session. TAMC hired a third-party consultant team, GHD, to conduct a "before and after study" that will use travel times and other signal performance measures to evaluate traffic signal operations along the corridor and quantify the benefits of the adaptive signal project.

Phase 1 Roundabout Project

After a lengthy environmental analysis compliant with state and federal laws, Caltrans selected the long-term traffic solution along the Scenic Highway 68 corridor to be the construction of roundabouts at all nine signalized intersections and five wildlife crossings under the state highway. Phase 1 of this project will construct two wildlife crossings and roundabouts at the three eastern intersections of the corridor: San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra, and Laureles Grade. Caltrans anticipates using the "hybrid" roundabout project design like that constructed at the intersection of Highway 1, Holman Highway, and the Pebble Beach gate. The Phase 1 Roundabout Project is funded through the design phase and the construction bid package is expected to be ready for listing before December 2027.

Next Steps

Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Grant: Applications will be due in November 2026 for the next cycle of funding. To qualify for the SB 1 grant, the project bid documents must be ready to list by December 2027. The current schedule has this work being completed by October 2027. The critical path schedule relates to design work, and Caltrans expects to complete the 95% plans before the end of 2026.

Benefit-Cost Analysis: The team expects to complete the benefit-cost analysis in May and present it to the TAMC Board at the May or June meeting. This item is expected to include a staff recommendation regarding the continued effort to complete designs and the SB 1 grant application.

Monterey One Water (M1W)



March 30, 2026

Informational Items:

- A new alternate representative for the City of Sand City, Marliee Diaz was announced
- Board of Directors received their Committee Assignments for April 2026 - March 2027
- Director Smith reported on his attendance at the Annual WaterReuse Symposium in Los Angeles, CA, March 8 - 11, 2026
- The FY 24/25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) was presented
- Wildan Financial Services presented on the Wastewater Rate Study for FY 2027 - FY 2031. The Board continued the Wastewater Rate Study item to a future Special Board meeting upon completion of the study for further evaluation prior to directing staff to prepare a Proposition 218 notice

Board Actions:

- Approved participation in the OMNIA Partners Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract # 2018011-02 and Approval of a SaaS Services Agreement with MentorAPM for the Implementation and Licensing of an Asset Performance Management Platform for the CMMS Upgrade/Replacement Project in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$605,589.00
- Approved Construction Contract with GEMS Environmental for the CIP 371 Castroville Pump Station Diesel Aboveground Storage Tank Project in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$294,869.48
- Approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Salinas to Provide Pre-treatment and Water Quality Monitoring Services, and Operation and Maintenance for the City of Salinas Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Approved Second Amendment to the Outfall Capacity Negotiation, Cooperation & Funding Agreement between Monterey One Water & California-American Water Company
- Approved authorization for the Executive Officer to Submit a Coastal Development Permit Amendment Application for Modifications to the Monterey One Water Outfall to the California Coastal Commission Related to the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Friday, March 20th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- This month's meeting began with public comments from the CEO of GreenWaste Recovery, who shared more about their outreach/education plans and their efforts to address performance issues. He did this while also requesting that we move forward with an amended franchise agreement, which will be addressed at next month's meeting. We also had a comment from one of the labor unions, which was also giving support for an agreement with GreenWaste.

After the consent agenda, we moved on to the main topic for this meeting, which was a discussion regarding a rate increase for the FY 26-27. The reason we needed to address this topic early in the budget season is that ReGen needed to notify the waste haulers so they could incorporate this increase into their rates for the new fiscal year, and so ReGen could use the anticipated changes in its budget planning, too. I reviewed this topic in last month's Finance Committee report, so let me copy and paste it here in case you missed it:

"We're looking at a roughly 5% increase for solid waste and other waste materials, recycling, and commercial food scraps, and a 10% increase for clean wood and residential organics. This equates to a \$0.44 increase for residential services in DRO and a \$2.75 increase for commercial. This increase still keeps us well below the average rate for disposal when compared to other local landfills in Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, and San Jose. Several reasons for this increase include funding our CalPERS unfunded liability costs, increasing cost of capital expenditures, higher cost of employment, regulatory mandates, and inflation. Another large consideration is working little by little to close a future funding gap we'll experience when our largest outside waste contract ends in 2036. Slowly increasing our rates so that we're essentially self-sufficient at that time allows us to lessen the impact of that loss, while also building revenue that can help fund infrastructure maintenance and new projects that will provide us with a return on investment (landfill gas projects). It also allows us to negotiate favorable out-of-district contracts when we reduce our reliance on those contracts."

After a discussion, the Board unanimously voted for the rate increase and showed much appreciation to the staff for their considerate planning for the future of our agency.

Next, we got the latest update on the 2030 Collection Franchise Planning. The subcommittee of our TAC has been working hard to collect the needed information to make a recommendation to the Board. In April's Board meeting, they will be providing us with a summary of the public outreach that was done (thanks to those who completed the surveys!). They'll also be providing a recommendation for our Board. In May, the member City Councils will need to vote on this recommendation. Ideally, all of the member jurisdictions will agree with the recommendation, so we can move forward together, which

undoubtedly will get us a better outcome, whether that's an amended contract or a new RFP.

The last item on the agenda was voting for the alternate member for our LAFCO representative. One of the candidates, Bill Lipe, attended our meeting and provided public comment. We were also able to ask about his positions, and with that, a motion was made to vote for Bill, which was a unanimous vote in support of moving him forward.

Tuesday, March 24th- City Council Meeting- We began our meeting with a proclamation honoring the American Red Cross for March. Following that were three presentations. The first was the swearing in of Guy Dobine, who is our newest reserve police officer in Del Rey Oaks. He comes from LA and is very experienced, so our city will benefit from the knowledge he'll bring. Next was a presentation from Community Human Services talking about their services, specifically Casa De Noche Buena and Shuman Hearthouse, which has a very high rate of successfully sheltering women and their families and getting them the services they need to be able to find housing of their own. Their main talking point was sharing their financial shortfall, because of changes in their funding structures, mostly coming from the state and federal government. It made me wonder how much we contribute as a city, so I made a note to talk about this during our budget meetings. Our last presentation was from the CEO of Montage Health Systems. I was happy to hear they're focusing on increasing access to medical care, as I know finding a doctor on the peninsula is often a very difficult and time-consuming process. They're also working on making it easier for their workforce to live on the peninsula. In addition, he spoke about partnerships, as well as their acquisition of the orthopedic and sports medicine, and the new stroke care they're now offering. I was very happy to see that in the end, the CEO made a note about reaching out to Community Human Services, since having Community Human Services operating to their full capacity ultimately saves Montage money through fewer hospital visits from the unhoused population.

Next was passing our consent agenda. I asked to pull our annual General Plan progress report because I had the following questions.

1. Can the newly created "Housing Resources Page" on our website have a direct link from the homepage? I see that it's listed on the "Community" section of our website, which is great, but there is no direct link to housing information on the "Community" drop-down list from the homepage.
2. What's the plan for having the housing information translated into Spanish?
3. Will this housing information be provided in the next Acorn? If so, when will it be published?
4. In program C.2, it was noted that the "City provides updates on the number of new ADU's that are being built each year in the APR..."- Can you point out where that's located in the report?

5. It was noted in the report that "The City drafted a Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance; The City is in the process of completing." I'm wondering when we might see this, especially since this was supposed to be done by the end of 2025.

After asking my questions, City Manager Guertin said that he couldn't answer my questions and asked that I email them to him, which I did the next day. Disappointingly, I never received a response, so I asked him again in person, several weeks later, after our finance meeting. Here are his responses:

1. He will have Laura Batra work on this when she can, but she's very busy, so not sure when it will be done.
2. There is no plan to translate the housing resources information because it is too expensive (even though we said we'd do it in our annual report).
3. I didn't reask this question. I'm going to assume it will be in the next Acorn.
4. He could not tell me where to find this number in the report.
5. The City Manager did not know what the Reasonable Accommodation Ordinance was.

Side Note: A month ago, I also emailed the City Manager to ask to be sent the letter that went out to the developers who showed interest in our Ft. Ord Property. The City Manager never replied to my email, and as of 4/20/26, I have not received anything (even after asking him again when I was getting my questions answered about annual report questions). I'll keep asking.

After passing all of the consent items, we moved on to New Business and started with the mid-year budget adjustments. We had reviewed this item at the Finance Committee meeting, so all of my questions were answered there, and I did not have any further questions.

Our last item was approving a resolution allowing our City Manager to sign a contract for ADA sidewalk improvements in Del Rey Park. Although it wasn't noted in the staff report, we used Community Development Block Grant funding for this project. This item was unanimously approved.

Wednesday, April 1st- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Board Meeting- After passing our consent agenda, our first item was approving new legal services for the Watermaster. Luckily, there was another lawyer in the same firm who had experience dealing with adjudicated basins and who was willing to represent us at the same cost. Staff had interviewed him and felt he would work well, so after meeting him over Zoom, we approved the change.

The next item was a bit complicated, agenda-wise, so it took much discussion and a few motions before we settled. The issue was that one of our producers, Mission Memorial Park, did not replace the meter when the well was put back into production last September, and therefore, they were not able to provide production data for the first quarter. With the help of our new legal counsel, the staff provided the board with an added policy to our

Rules and Regulations to guide us in deciding how to assign a production amount when there is no working meter. After discussing some of the specifics of the language and receiving public comment from MPWMD speaking to the ease of estimating water usage based on neighboring comparisons, we directed staff to finalize the language of the policy (essentially tabling the item for next time) and approving the idea of working with the producer to finalize the estimate. It's amazing to think that this had not happened before, so I'm glad that we're working on a policy to address this issue.

Our last item before getting into the informational reports was honoring Laura Paxton for her service to the Watermaster. Everyone had many thoughtful things to say about her many years of dedication to the Watermaster. She had a very important job, which she took very seriously, and we were all so grateful for the work she had done for our basin.

Monday, April 6th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Wednesday, April 8th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- Our first discussion item today was receiving an update on the new shallow monitoring well that the Watermaster and MPWMD would like to install near our Sentinel well #4. Representatives from both parties had just met with State Parks, which owns the land where our Sentinel well #4 is located, to share the importance of this new well and the need for it to be located very close to well #4. Unfortunately, the road that leads up to our Sentinel well #4 is being "rewilded," so it sounds like it will take some additional discussions before everyone can reach a consensus on exactly where the new well might be located.

Our next item was a discussion about whether we'd want to perform the same geophysical imaging in the area of Sentinel well #4 that we did last year. After the staff spoke with several hydrogeological experts, everyone was of the same opinion that it was not necessary at this time. Moving ahead with the monitoring well, and if we see an increase in conductivity with our induction logging, then that may be the time to conduct another round of imaging. Staff will budget this for 2027, but it was voted that we would not perform the imaging this year.

Our last item was receiving a status report on the update to our Seaside Basin Groundwater Model. This work has been on hold while the seawater intrusion model for the Salinas Valley Basin comes to completion. Once that's done, our consultant will be able to review the model and prepare recommendations for the update of our model. Since we are skipping our May meeting, our consultant will take that time to develop a scope of work and present his recommendations for the proposal at the June TAC meeting.

Monday, April 13th- City Finance Committee Meeting- The only item on our agenda was talking about budget projections for next year. The short story is what you might

imagine. Expenses are going up, especially with insurance costs, and our revenues will likely only increase by a fraction (1-2%). With that in mind, there won't be many changes to our budget, although the City Manager did mention a 5% increase for our Police Chief since he did not receive the same raise as others have in previous years. It seems that all of our revenue is spent on operations, and the few reserves we have are for police cars and technology replacements. The good news is that we have a "rainy day" reserve that would essentially cover us for one year of police service. We also have a decent amount of fund balance or money that has not been spent but can be used for projects within the city. That money is also in an interest-bearing account and accounts for our 5th-highest revenue source, which seems like a discussion that the council should have regarding the amount we might want to leave in versus the amount we want to spend on capital projects. And since we don't have a reserve fund for capital projects, our capital projects will be the place where we should be having the most discussions. With that in mind, I have asked for descriptions of the capital projects we will need to review. I'm hoping we'll see that at our next finance meeting in May. I also asked about smaller projects, such as no-smoking signs for the park and new trash cans for the park. I was told projects such as those would come out of the Public Works budget, and so I asked for a brief narrative that shares information such as that, so the public and the council will know additional smaller projects that will be happening in the city. This past year, the city purchased a new budgeting software, so I'm hoping we'll see the benefits of this software with informative visual graphs and additional information that will help residents and council members to interpret these topics that are not always easy to grasp.

Wednesday, April 15th- M1Water Special Board Meeting- I'm an alternate for Mayor Scott Donaldson on M1W, and he was not able to attend this mid-day meeting, so I was happy to attend. We were receiving a rate study that had been done to project the rates they would need to charge for the next 5 years in order to meet all of their operational and maintenance requirements, as well as their capital projects for wastewater. I was happy to hear they slimmed their budget by 5% and cut over \$28 million in capital projects to come to their final numbers, which raises the rates by 8-9% every year for the next 5 years. They did make several financial assumptions in order to come to this rate structure, so this does reflect the maximum amount they'd be able to raise our rates. The Board in future years could decide to go lower if its financial outcome changes. The Board accepted and passed this rate study after a few questions, and now M1W will initiate the Proposition 218 process, where they will notify customers in May, asking for feedback, and then hold a public hearing in June as the final step.

Friday, April 17th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- To begin today's meeting, we introduced our new Director of Finance and Administration, Roseanna Guerrero. After passing the consent agenda and receiving the financial report (looking good), we recognized two employees who work in our Materials and Recovery Center as Sorters, for their 20 years of service.

Our first discussion item was a big one, where we received a report from the Technical Advisory Committee's Franchise Agreement Subgroup recommending that a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) be initiated for a new waste hauler since our contract with GreenWaste Recovery ends in 2030. Our consultant, Rob Hilton from HF&H, whom we've hired to help us through this process, provided the overall survey results from their outreach to residents, multi-family units, and commercial. Although the surveys showed generally positive results for service, one of the main concerns was cost. Given that issue and after presentations from GreenWaste Recovery and other interested haulers, the subcommittee decided not to extend the contract for GreenWaste and instead invited them and others to submit a proposal for an "RFP" (request for proposal) process. The committee felt this would be the most transparent, public process, which would help us to arrive at a competitively priced contract. After questions from the directors and public comments from GreenWaste and Recylogy, a waste hauler who is interested in bidding, the board of directors agreed with the recommendation and unanimously voted to accept the recommendation. They will now be taking this recommendation around to the jurisdictions that have the ultimate say in the process for their own city, but in all likelihood, will vote for the RFP process in order to take advantage of this economy-of-scale process. In addition, the cities will also be asked to pass a "Process Integrity Policy" which dictates when we can speak to waste haulers as they go through the bidding process. I appreciated the work our subcommittee did to arrive at this process and was happy the board supported it as well.

Our next item was a bit of a no-brainer. We collect the methane gas that's produced in our landfill, and this item was voting to award a contract for the construction of a gas collection system that will improve our current collection. It will start in this fiscal year and end in the next, so we'll be able to use both budgets to cover this work.

The last item of discussion was approving to move forward with a public hearing for May 22, 2026, for our disposal fee increases, which we discussed and approved last month.

Sunday, April 19th- Seaside's Earth Day Event- Wow, what a fabulous day! I spent the day tabling for Sustainable Del Rey Oaks, and with the wonderful weather and the joint event celebrating 50 years of Laguna Grande Park, it was a busy 3-hour event. We focused on the future opening of the DRO portion of FORTAG, with people very interested in viewing the renderings after having driven past much of the construction this past year. They are excited to both use it and visit the Frog Pond. I ran an art activity by repurposing nature cards, cutting out animals and plants that could be used for personal collages. Kids and adults both enjoyed the opportunity to sit, look through the piles of beautiful pictures, and create their own artwork. I also had a gratitude board where people can share what they were grateful for, because I don't know about you, but I need those small reflections of gratitude more and more these days.

Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
April 28, 2026 Meeting

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on March 24, 2025



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

At our March 24, 2026 regular City Council meeting, the Council considered a number of important items that directly affect the quality of life in Del Rey Oaks, from public safety and health care access to homelessness response, fiscal stewardship, housing reporting, code enforcement support, and accessibility improvements in our public spaces. The agenda included a proclamation for American Red Cross Month, presentations from Community Human Services and Montage Health, several consent items, and two significant new business items: the City’s mid-year budget adjustments and an ADA sidewalk improvement project at City Park.

One of the evening’s uplifting moments was the swearing in of a new Reserve Police Officer, Guy Dobine. In a small city like Del Rey Oaks, every public safety professional matters. Recruiting people who are willing to serve our community is important, and I am grateful for those who step forward to help protect our residents. This kind of investment in local service helps strengthen the safety and responsiveness our community expects and deserves.

We also received a presentation from Community Human Services regarding Casa de Noche Buena and Shuman HeartHouse, which serve women and families experiencing homelessness. The presentation showed that these shelters are producing outcomes that exceed the statewide benchmark for transitions to permanent housing. Casa de Noche Buena reported a three-year average of 50% of clients moving to permanent housing, and Shuman HeartHouse reported a two-year average of 57%, compared with a statewide benchmark of 23%. At the same time, the presentation made clear that both programs are facing serious and growing funding gaps beginning in fiscal year 2026–27, with potential consequences that could include service reductions, loss of case management, conversion to overnight-only sheltering, or even closure.

For me, this issue is about both compassion and practical governance. When a program is helping vulnerable women and families stabilize their lives and find permanent housing, the question is not only whether we care, but whether we are willing to understand the higher cost of doing too little. If funding cuts reduce case management and housing navigation, those costs do not disappear. They often reappear elsewhere — in emergency rooms, law enforcement contacts, and broader public system strain. That is why I believe homelessness discussions must be grounded not just in sympathy, but in accountability and long-term thinking. My focus is on making sure we ask hard questions about outcomes, sustainability, and what underfunding today may cost all of us tomorrow.

The Council also heard a presentation from Montage Health. The presentation emphasized three broad themes: access to care, economic and workforce vitality, and partnership with local communities. Montage highlighted its primary, specialty, and urgent care system; more than 30 specialties; approximately 230,000 annual patient visits in the Montage Medical Group; 48,000 annual visits through MoGo Urgent Care; new stroke care capabilities; educational partnerships with MPC and CSUMB; and programs intended to help support workforce recruitment and retention, including a home loan program for employees.

This was an important conversation because health care is not abstract. It affects our seniors, working families, employees, and residents who need timely care close to home. From my perspective, regional growth in a health system is meaningful only if communities like Del Rey Oaks actually feel the benefit in practical ways, such as improved access, shorter wait times for medical appointments, and better preventive care. I also believe there is room for deeper partnership between health institutions and cities, especially around prevention, behavioral health navigation, and senior wellness. A healthier community is not built only inside hospitals. It is also built through strong local collaboration.

One of the more important business items was the FY 2025–26 mid-year budget adjustment. According to the staff report, the City’s mid-year review uses actual revenues and expenditures through December 31, 2025. The proposed adjustments would increase General Fund estimated revenues by only \$1,850, while increasing appropriations and transfers by \$158,800. The February financial report also states that the City had a healthy cash balance of \$13,246,360, though much of that balance is restricted for specific purposes.

My concern on budget matters is always to be responsible, careful, and honest with the public about the difference between one-time adjustments and ongoing obligations. It is not enough to say that the City has cash on hand. We also have to ask how much is truly flexible, whether current spending pressures could carry into the next fiscal year, and how we preserve our ability to respond to future uncertainties. Good budgeting is not only about balancing numbers in the present. It is about protecting the City’s long-term stability, maintaining essential services, and avoiding decisions that quietly create pressure down the road. That is the lens I bring to budget review.

The Council also considered Resolution 2026-04 authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Coastal Paving and Excavation for ADA sidewalk improvements at City Park. This project involves ADA-compliant sidewalks, curb ramps, and related improvements within the park footprint, funded through a Community Development Block Grant administered by Monterey County, with a contract amount of \$69,450 and a 10% contingency of \$6,945.

I strongly support improving accessibility in our public spaces. ADA improvements are not cosmetic. They are about dignity, mobility, and ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities can safely use and enjoy our shared facilities. At the same time, I believe it is important to ask practical oversight questions whenever grant-funded construction is involved: Are

reimbursement and compliance requirements well managed? What unexpected conditions could affect cost? And does this project fit within a broader accessibility strategy for the park and the City as a whole? In a small city, every capital dollar matters, so we should always aim to make each improvement part of a larger, coherent plan rather than a stand-alone fix.

More broadly, what stood out to me from this meeting is that many of the issues before us are connected. Public safety, homelessness, health access, responsible budgeting, code enforcement, and ADA improvements may appear as separate agenda items, but they all speak to the same question: what kind of city do we want Del Rey Oaks to be? I believe our residents want a city that is safe, caring, fiscally responsible, transparent, and thoughtful about the future. That is the standard I continue to bring to my work on the Council.

Thank you, as always, for staying engaged in the work of our City. Local government matters because it is where daily life becomes policy, where budgets affect services, where infrastructure affects access, and where community values are translated into action. I remain committed to asking careful questions, advocating for practical and people-centered solutions, and serving Del Rey Oaks with integrity and heart.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – April 14, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks neighbors,

At the April 14, 2026 meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District Board, we reviewed important operational and maintenance updates that may not always be visible to the public, but are absolutely essential to protecting public health, keeping our sewer infrastructure functioning, and preventing costly failures before they happen. While sanitation work often happens underground and behind the scenes, it is some

of the most important work we do as public servants because residents depend on these systems every single day.

One of the main items before the Board was the March 2026 Operations Report. According to the report, the District continued significant system maintenance activity during the month. Districtwide, 10,790 feet of main line were jetted in March, bringing the fiscal year total to 346,523 feet. The report also shows 2,545 feet of main line video inspection in March, and 6,922 feet of grease-control treatment, with a year-to-date total of 64,280 feet treated. These numbers matter because preventive maintenance is one of the best ways to reduce blockages, overflows, and emergency repairs that can disrupt neighborhoods and create much larger costs later.

For Del Rey Oaks specifically, the report shows that 494 feet of sewer main line were jetted in March, with a fiscal year total of 37,257 feet. The report also shows 262 feet of grease-control treatment in Del Rey Oaks during the month, for a year-to-date total of 3,662 feet. Importantly, the March report indicates no mainline stoppages, no lateral stoppages, and no overflow locations in Del Rey Oaks for the month covered by the report. That is encouraging and reflects the value of steady, disciplined maintenance work.

Another important item before the Board was the Quarterly FOG Inspection Report and Annual Report Update. “FOG” refers to fats, oils, and grease, which are a major cause of sewer blockages when not properly managed by food service establishments. The report states that the District’s FOG Management Program includes routine inspections of food service establishments once or twice per year, depending on facility type. The packet notes that there are 165 food service establishments within the District, and that staff conduct 285 routine inspections annually, not including follow-up inspections for violations.

For the third quarter of fiscal year 2025–26, staff reported that they performed 34 inspections between January 1 and March 25, 2026, and notably, none of those inspected locations had FOG and solids over 25% in their interceptors. That is a very positive sign. It suggests that compliance efforts, inspections, and education are helping reduce risk in the system. Preventing grease buildup before it enters the sewer network is one of the most cost-effective forms of infrastructure protection, and it helps avoid backups and spills that can affect residents, businesses, and the environment.

I believe this meeting was a strong reminder that good government is not only about major public projects or high-profile debates. It is also about the consistent, technical, and often unnoticed work that keeps essential services running. Sewer maintenance, grease inspections, video inspection, and flushing schedules may not always make headlines, but they are exactly the kinds of responsibilities that protect community health, preserve infrastructure, and save public money over time.

As a Board member, I remain committed to supporting practical, preventive, and fiscally responsible infrastructure management. My priority is to make sure that the Sanitation District continues to operate in a way that is proactive, accountable, and focused on long-term reliability. Residents deserve confidence that these basic systems are being maintained carefully and professionally, and that is the standard I will continue to support.

Thank you for staying engaged and for taking an interest in the work of the Seaside County Sanitation District. Even when this work is out of sight, it should never be out of mind. Reliable sanitation infrastructure is one of the foundations of a healthy and well-functioning community.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – March 11, 2026

The regularly scheduled meeting of the AMBAG Board of Directors has been canceled due to a lack of business items for discussion.

