

Mayor's Report

I want to take a moment to provide you with an update on the status of our Ft. Ord property and inform you of an upcoming event in May.

The approach we take with our property will involve coordination with multiple agencies, require robust community input and will impact us for years to come. It's very important our residents are informed of the steps involved and are able to provide input throughout the entire process.



We have an opportunity to ensure any potential development is done in a thoughtful way that is environmentally conscientious, economically sustainable and enhances the existing character of our city.

Projects on the former Ft. Ord

The South Boundary Road improvement project is one of the most important projects our city will embark upon in many years. In addition to providing a safer roadway, the upgrade of this road is a critical step toward providing the necessary infrastructure and utilities to our city owned property on the former Ft. Ord to facilitate future development.

I realize that the prospect of development can be anxiety producing and complicated so I wanted to take a moment to let you know what we've done so far and what the path forward would look like.

Most recently, we completed the requirements for the Surplus Land Act. (SLA). Under this law, all cities in California must advertise any undeveloped properties before they can move forward with development. The SLA was enacted with a focus on ensuring home builders have visibility on potential sites to increase the housing inventory in the state. Our Housing Element, the document that mandates where future housing will be located, identifies our Ft. Ord property as the main location to meet our housing needs.

After we advertised our Ft. Ord property, three organizations showed interest: Big Sur Land Trust, Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District and City Ventures – a

developer based in San Francisco. More information about the developer can be found at: www.calcities.org/partner/city-ventures

Our City Manager has spoken with all three organizations to understand their intent and the city can decide whether or not we want to work with any, or all, of the organizations. City Ventures expressed interest in providing housing and revenue producing commercial sites. Because they are a housing provider, the SLA requires the city to negotiate in good faith with them. We are not obligated to enter into an actual development agreement with them, but it provides an opportunity to move forward if we want.

17 Acre Property

This property is located on the north side of Highway 218 across from The Oaks Condominiums. It's often confused with other parcels within the city limits and is not part of the former Ft. Ord.

The 17 Acre property was included in the SLA process and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD) expressed an interest. The developer, City Ventures, did not express an interest and there are no plans to develop this property.

The City Council created an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of two councilmembers and the City Manager to discuss options regarding this parcel with MPRPD, to include potentially selling the property or portions of the property to them. The City Manager has reached out to MPRPD's General Manager to express the city's willingness to meet, and we are waiting to hear if they are interested in discussing potential options. Most importantly, before moving forward with any potential action, the council would discuss the item in open session with transparency and public input.

Development Workshop

To help everyone gain a better understanding of the development process, we have scheduled a workshop on **16 May**. This will allow residents to see what we've accomplished so far and to layout the steps going forward. City representatives from our Environmental Consultant, Denise Duffy and Associates, our City Planner from Economic & Planning Systems and representatives from City Ventures will be on hand to provide presentations and answer questions.

Marina Coast Water District will be providing the water for our property and will have a representative on hand. We will also have a representative from Whitson Engineering to answer any questions pertaining to South Boundary Rd. Some of the other stakeholders invited to attend will include: The City of Monterey, Big Sur Land Trust, the Parks District, LandWatch and the California Native Plant Society.

My intent is to educate and inform our residents in an open, transparent way so we can potentially move forward with the next steps. I also want to emphasize that public input is extremely important throughout the entire process and reassure everyone that the council will not make any decisions until it's discussed during a City Council meeting in open session.

In order to accommodate the expected high attendance for the workshop, it will be held at the **Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks at 6pm on 16 May.**

Leadership Meetings

Since becoming your Mayor, I've had the opportunity to meet with elected leaders at the Federal, State and County levels to discuss ways they can support our potential development plans. Additionally, the mayors of Monterey County meet monthly to help find ways to mutually support one another.

There are ways Del Rey Oaks can benefit from action at the Federal, State and County level and I have expressed the importance of grant funding and support for our South Boundary Road project, as well as the need to find a regional water solution on the peninsula. These are critical items that will support development and help facilitate our efforts to meet the city's housing requirement mandated by the state.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on May 16th!

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy April 23, 2024

I. Council Report: Del Rey Oaks Public Safety Committee Meeting on March 21, 2024



I am thrilled to share with you the highlights of our recent Public Safety Committee Meeting held on March 21, 2024. As a member of the committee, I am proud to report on the important matters that were discussed and the positive outcomes that were achieved.

One of the key agenda items was the consideration and adoption of the modified Military Equipment Use Policy, in accordance with the requirements of AB 481. This policy aims to increase transparency, accountability, and oversight surrounding the acquisition and use of military equipment by our local law enforcement agency. We are committed to safeguarding public welfare, safety, civil rights, and civil liberties while ensuring the effective functioning of our police department.

Furthermore, we discussed the annual reporting requirements mandated by AB 481. The Chief of Police submitted a military equipment report for each type of military equipment available for use. This report is made publicly available on the department website, promoting transparency and accountability.

In addition, we had the privilege of considering the addition of the City of Del Rey Oaks as a participating agency in the Monterey Peninsula Special Response Unit (SRU). This item will be presented to the next City Council Meeting for approval. This collaboration with other law enforcement agencies will enhance our resources and response times in critical incidents that require specialized support. By joining the SRU, we emphasize teamwork, sacrifice, and dedication, ultimately ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Lastly, we had the privilege of receiving an update on the Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) program. This program aims to promote and encourage active bystandership among law enforcement officers, emphasizing the importance of intervening in situations where misconduct or excessive force may occur. By implementing this program, we are taking proactive steps to ensure accountability and promote a culture of ethical and responsible policing within our community.



I am truly inspired by the commitment and dedication demonstrated by our Police Advisory Committee and the Del Rey Oaks Police Department. Their tireless efforts to uphold public safety and maintain transparency are commendable.

As your Vice Mayor, I am proud to serve a community that values open dialogue, accountability, and the well-being of its residents. Together, we will continue to work towards a safer and more inclusive Del Rey Oaks.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on March 26, 2024

Honoring March as Women’s History Month

I am delighted to share with you the inspiring and heartwarming moments that took place during our regular council meeting on March 26, 2024. One particular agenda item that resonated deeply with our community was the proclamation honoring March as Women's History Month, read by our esteemed Councilmember Kim Shirley.

As the sole woman on our current council, Councilmember Shirley's presence and voice hold immense significance. Her dedication to public service and commitment to representing the interests of our constituents is truly commendable. Through her leadership, she has become a role model for aspiring women leaders in our community.



During the meeting, Mayor Scott Donaldson took the opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of women throughout history who have dedicated themselves to advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of society. The proclamation emphasized the need to celebrate the achievements of women who have championed these principles and reaffirmed our commitment to advancing them in our society.

This proclamation holds special meaning for all of us, as it highlights the remarkable women who have shaped our community and paved the way for progress. It serves as a reminder of the importance of acknowledging and honoring the women who have dedicated themselves to advocating for equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We are fortunate to have Councilmember Shirley as a beacon of inspiration, representing the voices and concerns of women in our community. Her presence on the council is a testament to the progress we have made in promoting gender equality and empowering women to take on leadership roles.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us reflect on the achievements of women who have fought against prejudice and injustice, and let us continue to work together to build a more just, equitable, and inclusive world. I encourage all constituents to join us in honoring the remarkable women in our community and to support initiatives that promote gender equality and empower women to reach their full potential.

Together, we can create a community where every individual, regardless of gender, is valued, respected, and given equal opportunities to thrive. I am grateful to Councilmember Shirley for her unwavering dedication and for being a trailblazer for women in our community.



6th Cycle Housing Element Update

I am thrilled to share with you the exciting progress we made during our regular council meeting on March 26, 2024, particularly regarding the Housing Element Update (6th Cycle). This agenda item holds immense significance for our community, as it directly impacts our efforts to address housing needs and ensure a vibrant and inclusive future for Del Rey Oaks.

During the meeting, we had the privilege of hearing from Denise Duffy and Associates, who provided valuable insights and expertise on the Housing Element Update. Their guidance and collaboration have been instrumental in shaping our approach to housing development and meeting the requirements set forth by the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

I am proud to announce that we successfully adopted the 6th Cycle Housing Element last December 2023, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to providing housing opportunities for all residents. This 6th cycle not only addresses our regional housing needs but also aligns with our vision for sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life in our community.

Through extensive public hearings, workshops, and engagement with stakeholders, we have ensured that the Housing Element reflects the needs and aspirations of our constituents. We have taken into account your valuable input and incorporated it into the programs and policies outlined in the update.

Our focus on affordable housing, access to adequate water supply, energy conservation, and housing for special needs groups demonstrates our dedication to creating a diverse and inclusive community. We have also prioritized the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and implemented measures to remove governmental constraints on housing development.

While there is still work to be done to fully comply with the State Housing Element Law, I am confident that our collective efforts will lead us to success. We are committed to ongoing collaboration with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to address their recommendations and ensure that our Housing Element meets all statutory requirements.

I want to express my gratitude to all the residents who have actively participated in this process, attending meetings, providing feedback, and advocating for a housing plan that reflects our shared values. Your engagement is vital in shaping the future of our community, and I encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts and ideas as we move forward.

Together, we can create a Del Rey Oaks that embraces diversity, fosters sustainable development, and provides housing opportunities for all. I am honored to serve as your councilmember and look forward to the positive impact we will make together.

Appeal of Building Official Findings for Tenant Improvement Application at 121 Calle Del Oaks

As a member of this Appeals Board, I have carefully reviewed the appeal of the Building Official's determination regarding the square footage calculations at 121 Calle Del Oaks.

Firstly, it is important to note that this appeal hearing before the City Council is *de novo*, meaning that we are not bound by Mr. Headley's determination and must consider the evidence presented by both parties.

The factual and procedural background of this case is clear. The new owners of 121 Calle Del Oaks applied for a business license to operate an automotive restoration facility and submitted plans to modify the existing structure. However, upon review, Mr. Headley determined that the plans incorrectly stated the building's square footage. This determination was supported by the Plan Review Comment documents provided on June 9, 2023, and July 11, 2023.

In response to Mr. Headley's determination, the Owner's counsel submitted a letter arguing against it. However, the City Attorney, after meeting with Mr. Headley and City Manager Guertin, sent a letter outlining the reasons for the City's position and disputing the contentions made by the Owner's counsel. The City Attorney's letter, dated July 13, 2023, provides a clear and compelling explanation of the City's stance.

One of the key pieces of evidence supporting Mr. Headley's determination is the Commercial Water Inspection obtained by Jeff Davi on February 21st of 2023, which clearly shows that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District determined the premises to contain 9,500 square feet. Additionally, an advertisement from the premises' former owner also listed it as 9,500 square feet. These independent sources further validate Mr. Headley's determination.

Furthermore, the City disputes the contention that the County of Monterey Assessor's Office determination or the data from MetroScan/CoreLogic is binding on the City. I would like to welcome a legal citation to support the claim that these sources should override the determination made by the City Building Official.

The Owner's counsel, Atty. Anthony Lombardo, has raised concerns regarding the accuracy of Mr. Headley's determination. In their letter dated June 16, 2023, they presented several reasons why they believe the determination was incorrect. They also attempted to address the City's issue regarding the stairs or lack thereof. They also presented the "mechanical space" written under the 1978 building code which does not require access by stairs. However, the plans still do not clearly state whether it is a mechanical space or not.

After considering all the facts and evidence presented, I am compelled to uphold Mr. Headley's determination regarding the square footage. It is clear that Mr. Headley's determination regarding the square footage is accurate and should be upheld. The City has provided strong evidence, including the Commercial Water Inspection and the former owner's advertisement, to support this determination. The Owner's arguments, while presented by competent legal counsel, do not provide sufficient and compelling evidence to overturn Mr. Headley's determination.

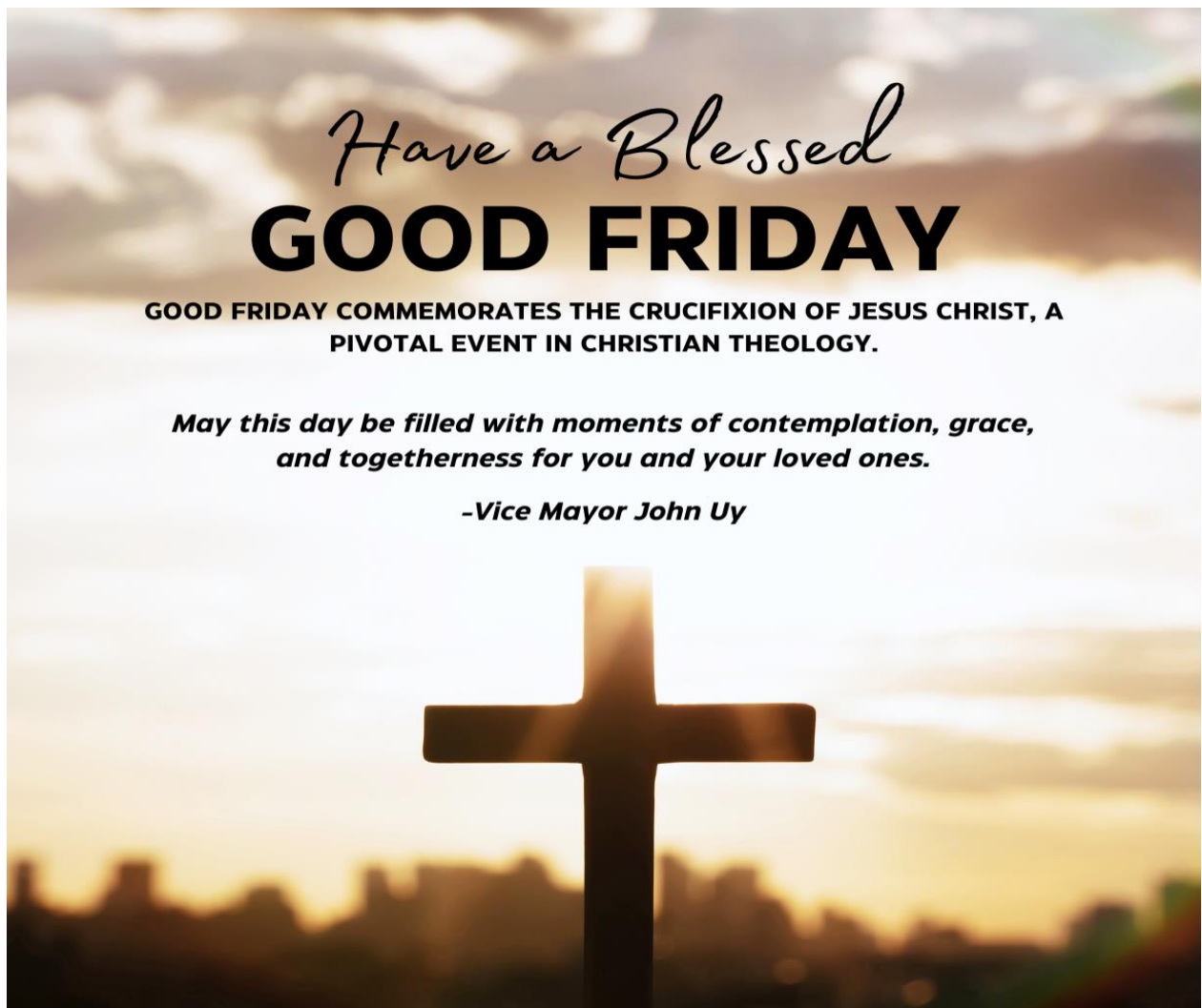
In making this decision, I have carefully considered the facts and evidence presented, and I believe that upholding Mr. Headley's determination is the most reasonable and fair course of

action. This decision is based on the specific findings and evidence provided, and it is in the best interest of all parties involved to uphold the facts and evidence.

I understand that my decision may disappoint the Owner, Mr. Finaldi, but it is important to prioritize accuracy and adherence to records and regulations in matters such as this. I am confident that this decision is supported by the facts and evidence presented, and it is my hope that all parties involved can accept and respect this decision.

I also understand that this decision may have implications for all parties involved, and I offer my sincere empathy to those affected. It is my hope that this decision reflects our unwavering commitment to upholding the integrity of our records and regulations, and ensuring transparency in our decision-making processes.

III. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for the Commemoration of Good Friday on March 29, 2024



As we commemorate Good Friday, a sacred day for our Christian community, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all of you who are observing this meaningful occasion.

Good Friday is a time of reflection, faith, and unity. It's a day that holds profound significance for Christians around the world, reminding us of the ultimate sacrifice and boundless love demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

In our diverse community of Del Rey Oaks and the Monterey Peninsula, we cherish the richness of our cultural tapestry and the various traditions that contribute to our collective identity. Regardless of our individual beliefs, occasions like Good Friday provide us with an opportunity to come together in solidarity and mutual respect.

May this day be filled with moments of contemplation, grace, and togetherness for you and your loved ones. As we pause to remember the significance of this day, let us also embrace the values of compassion, forgiveness, and kindness that lie at the heart of the Easter season.

On behalf of the entire community, I wish you a blessed Good Friday and a joyous Easter weekend ahead.

IV. Council Report: Special Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors last March 29, 2024



I am thrilled to share with you the highlights of our Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Special Meeting, which took place on March 29, 2024. As the First Vice Chair of the SCSD Board of Directors, I am honored to represent your interests and ensure the efficient management of our wastewater collection systems.

One of the key agenda items was the consideration of a letter of commitment to move the district billing to the county tax roll. This move, proposed by M1Water, aims to streamline our billing services and enhance efficiency. After careful deliberation, the board directed the district manager to issue the attached letter of commitment. This decision will not only simplify the billing process but also ensure a seamless transition for our residents and businesses.

Moving the billing to the county tax roll means that the fees for wastewater collection services provided by the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) will be included in the property tax bill of residents and businesses. This change is being proposed in conjunction with Monterey One Water's plan to move their wastewater service fee to the property tax bill as well.

This shift in billing method would have several implications for the residents. Firstly, it would streamline the billing process by consolidating the wastewater service fees with the property tax bill. This means that residents would receive a single bill for both their property taxes and wastewater collection fees, simplifying the payment process.

Additionally, including the SCSD fees in the property tax bill would ensure that the collection of these fees is more efficient and reliable. Property taxes are typically collected by the county government, which has established systems and processes in place for billing and collection. By leveraging these existing mechanisms, the SCSD can enhance the accuracy and timeliness of fee collection.

From the residents' perspective, this change would provide greater convenience and potentially reduce the administrative burden associated with separate billing for wastewater services. It would also ensure that the fees are collected consistently and reliably, as property tax payments are typically mandatory and closely monitored.

Overall, moving the billing to the county tax roll would streamline the payment process, improve fee collection efficiency, and provide residents with a more convenient and reliable method of paying for wastewater collection services.

As board members, we value your input and strive to address your concerns. Therefore, we set aside time for public comments, allowing us to hear your thoughts and ideas. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our district's future, and we appreciate your active participation.

Finally, our next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on April 9, 2024, at 9:30 AM. Join us as we continue to work toward the betterment of our community.

I hope this summary provides you with an overview of our SCSD Special Meeting. Your engagement and support are vital in shaping the future of our district. Together, we can create a cleaner, more sustainable environment for generations to come.

V. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for Easter Sunday last March 31, 2024

Dear Residents of Del Rey Oaks and the Monterey Peninsula,

As we celebrate the Easter Season, I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to each and every one of you, regardless of your faith or beliefs.

Easter is a time of renewal, hope, and joy. It's a beautiful reminder of the triumph of light over darkness, of hope over despair, and of love over everything. In our diverse community, Easter holds significance for many in different ways, yet it unites us in the spirit of celebration and renewal.

May this Easter Season be a time of joyous gatherings with family and friends, of laughter shared and memories made. Let's take a moment to appreciate the blessings in our lives and to extend kindness and compassion to those around us.

As we embrace the symbolism of Easter, may we also reflect on the values it represents – forgiveness, redemption, and the promise of new beginnings. Let's strive to carry these values with us not just today, but every day, as we work together to build a brighter future for our community.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter filled with love, peace, and happiness.

Warm regards,
Vice Mayor John Uy



VI. Council Report: Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors Meeting – April 9, 2024



Given that the SCSD Board convened recently on March 29, 2024, the anticipated regular meeting slated for April 9, 2024, stands canceled. I extend this notice to inform you that the subsequent regular meeting of the SCSD is scheduled for May 14, 2024, at Seaside City Hall. I eagerly anticipate your presence at the forthcoming meeting!

VII. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – April 10, 2024

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the recent meeting of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board of Directors, which took place on April 10, 2024. As your representative on the AMBAG Board, I want to ensure that you are informed about the decisions and actions taken during this meeting, particularly regarding the approval of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) performance measures.



During the meeting, the AMBAG Board of Directors approved the performance measures for the 2050 MTP/SCS. These performance measures are an essential component of the long-range transportation plan and sustainable communities strategy, which guide the development of transportation investments and land use planning in our region. The performance measures allow us to quantify our regional goals, estimate the impacts of proposed investments, and evaluate our progress over time.

The approved performance measures cover a wide range of areas, including mobility, environment, alternative transportation, equitable distribution of investments, and housing mix. These measures will help us track our progress in reducing vehicle delay, commute travel time, and peak period congested vehicle miles of travel. They will also enable us to monitor our efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing alternative transportation trips, and preserving open space and farmland.

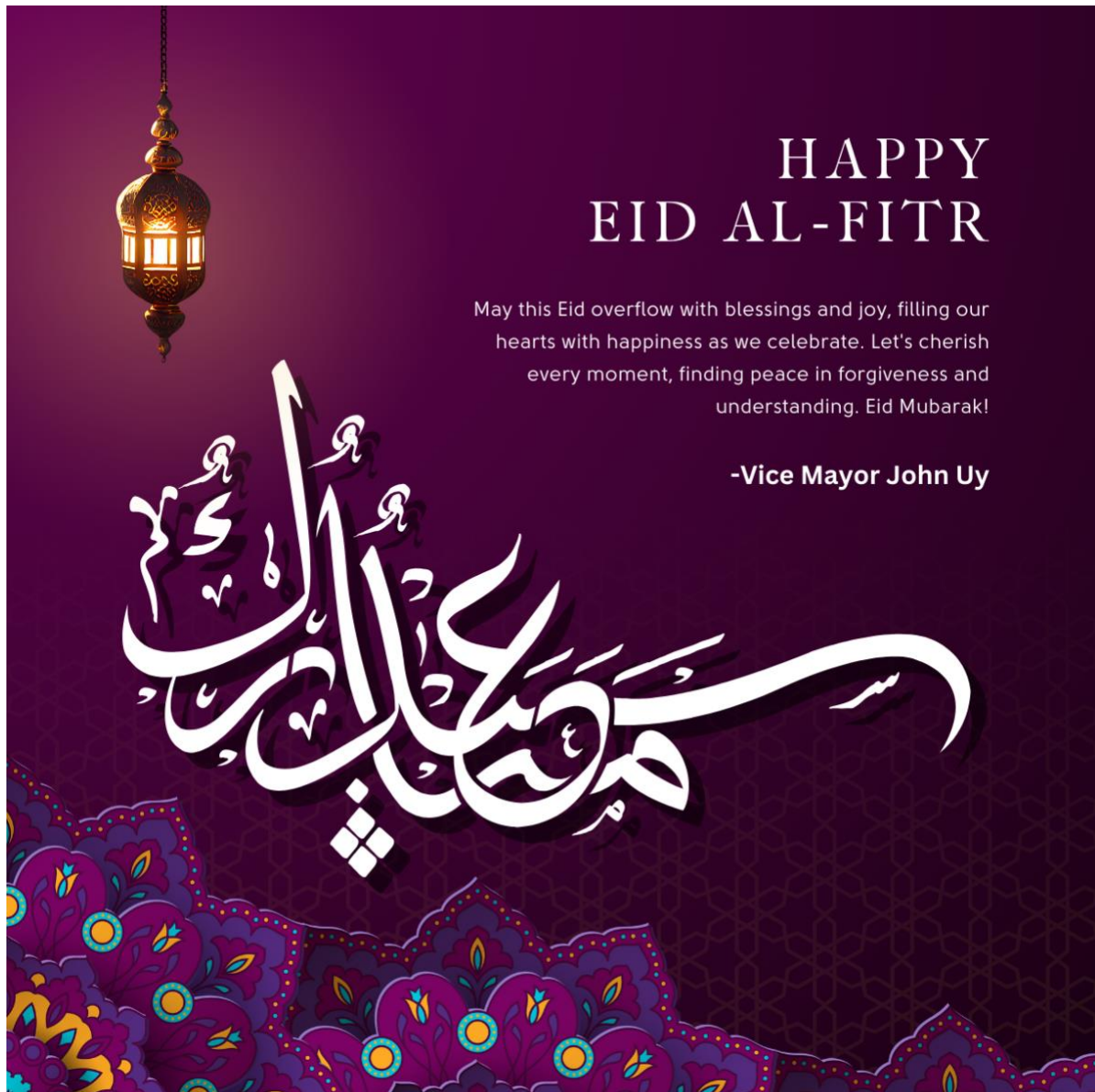
As your representative, I want to assure you that these performance measures are designed to address the unique needs and challenges of our community. They will help us make informed decisions about transportation investments and land use planning that align with our vision for a sustainable and equitable future.

Moving forward, AMBAG staff will finalize the methodologies for calculating these performance measures and continue to develop the other components of the 2050 MTP/SCS. We will work closely with our transportation partners, local jurisdictions, and key stakeholders to ensure that our planning efforts reflect the priorities and concerns of our community.

I encourage you to stay engaged in the planning process and provide your input and feedback as we work towards the adoption of the 2050 MTP/SCS in June 2026. Your participation is crucial in shaping the future of transportation and land use in our region.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our community's planning efforts.

VIII. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for Eid al-Fitr on April 10, 2024



As the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, I extend my warmest greetings to our Muslim community on the joyous occasion of Eid al-Fitr.

This celebration is not just a culmination of fasting and prayer; it's a time for reflection, gratitude, and renewal of faith. It's a reminder of the values of compassion, generosity, and unity that lie at the heart of our community.

In a world where we often find ourselves pulled in different directions, Eid al-Fitr brings us together in solidarity and kinship. It reminds us that no matter our differences, we are bound by our shared humanity and our shared aspirations for peace and harmony.

As we gather with family and friends to mark this special day, let us remember those who are less fortunate, extending a hand of kindness and support to those in need. Let us embrace diversity and celebrate the richness it brings to our lives.

May this Eid bring you and your loved ones an abundance of joy, love, and blessings. May it be a time of happiness and fulfillment as we look forward to a future filled with hope and prosperity.

Eid Mubarak to you and your families!

IX. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Vice Mayor John Uy for Del Rey Oaks' Earth Day Celebration on April 20, 2024



Dear Residents of Del Rey Oaks,

As we approach DRO's Earth Day Celebration on April 20, 2024, I am filled with both excitement and regret. While I am unable to join you in person for our city's Earth Day Celebration this year due to an unavoidable international commitment, my heart is with each and every one of you as we come together to honor and protect our precious planet.

Our Earth Day Celebration, hosted in collaboration with the Del Rey Oaks Citizen Action Group, promises to be a vibrant and enriching event, showcasing the collective efforts of our community to foster environmental stewardship and sustainability. I extend my deepest gratitude to the organizers and exhibitors who have

dedicated their time and resources to make this event possible.

From exhibitors like Cal-Am and MPWMD-Free Mulch Giveaway to ReGen Monterey, Sustainable Del Rey Oaks, and Save the Whales, each participant plays a vital role in promoting awareness and action towards a greener, healthier planet. Your commitment to environmental conservation is truly commendable, and I am immensely proud to stand alongside such dedicated advocates.

Last year, I had the privilege of showcasing a booth centered around the initiative "Choose Bubbles, Not Balloons," a cause close to my heart. While I am unable to personally advocate for this initiative this year, I encourage each of you to explore the various exhibits and engage with the important conversations surrounding environmental sustainability.



"Choose Bubbles, not Balloons" booth at the Del Rey Oaks Earth Day Celebration last April 29, 2023.

As we come together to celebrate Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to caring for our Mother Earth, not just on this day, but every day. Let us inspire one another to take meaningful action toward preserving our planet for future generations. Together, we have the power to make a difference.

I urge you to embrace this opportunity to learn, connect, and celebrate the beauty and diversity of our natural world. Whether it's signing up for the Chess Club, indulging in Ice Cream Sundaes, or participating in Rock Painting, there is something for everyone to enjoy at our Earth Day Celebration.

In closing, I express my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication to environmental conservation. Your passion and commitment serve as a beacon of hope for our community and beyond.

Wishing you all a joyous and inspiring Earth Day Celebration!

CHOOSE BUBBLES, NOT BALLOONS

BALLOONS ARE COMMON MARINE DEBRIS.
HELP KEEP THE OCEANS CLEAN BY CHOOSING BUBBLES INSTEAD
OF BALLOONS FOR FUN AND CELEBRATIONS.

BUBBLE RECIPE

4 CUPS OF WARM WATER
1/2 CUP DISH SOAP
1/2 CUP GRANULATED SUGAR

WHISK INGREDIENTS TOGETHER AND
LET SIT FOR A FEW HOURS
BEFORE USING.

A whale watch boat stops to pick up balloons. Photo: Whale and Dolphin Conservation

NOAA FISHERIES

The graphic features a teal background with several white bubbles of varying sizes. A large, detailed illustration of a humpback whale is positioned in the lower-left quadrant. In the upper-right, a circular inset photograph shows a boat on the water with people and colorful balloons. Logos for 'Whale SENSE' and 'NOAA' are also present.

City Council report for Bill Ragsdale-Cronin

Attended M1W board meeting;

Approved consent agenda. Including being assigned to the Budget and Personnel Committee

Received presentation from Ad-Hoc committee on moving monthly billing to tax rolls.

Received Recycled Water committee minutes.

Approved a contract for repairs to the Fort Ord interceptor at the RTP.

Received update on Pure water expansion project, project is moving forward with directional drilling at well field progressing as anticipated once pipeline construction is completed drilling of the new injection well can proceed.

Received update on Capital Improvement Program.

Attended Joint Ad-Hoc committee (Re-Gen/M1W resource sharing) Received report covering a myriad of opportunities that could benefit both agencies, most of them revolve around sharing energy (electrical and biogas) between the two sites. Recent changes to regulations would allow Re-Gen to sell power to M1W, and if properly prepared sell excess biogas to PG&E, resulting in savings on power and income from biogas sales.

Attended Budget and Personnel Committee meeting;

Approved minutes from previous meeting.

Approved purchasing/budget change limits for the Agencies purchasing policy.

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Saturday, March 16th- Braver Angels "Skills for Disagreeing Better" Workshop- Don't we all want to be heard and understood? This workshop was a masterclass in listening to what someone is saying, letting them know you heard them, and then gently sharing your perspective on a topic (because communication is a two-way street). The four skills we practiced in this class went by the acronym LAPP which stands for Listen, Acknowledge, Pivot, and Perspective. When talking politics, we don't always expressly say it, but what we're often sharing roots back to our values and concerns. And so for the first portion, "listen", we reviewed some common values and concerns from both the conservative and liberal points of view. For me, that was the big takeaway which is a reminder that even though we may not be explicitly stating it, we're all speaking from a place where we have meaningfully held values and beliefs.

In the second portion of LAPP where you "acknowledge" what someone has said, that person feels heard and knows you understand where they're coming from. Acknowledgment can also come in the form of clarifying questions and sharing any agreement you might have with the person.

The third step, "pivot" lets the person know you are about to offer your viewpoint. This also allows you to know whether that person is ready to hear your perspective. Language such as, "Can I offer my thoughts on this?" lets the person know that you're about to offer a different point of view.

The final step is "perspective" and there were some pointers for that, too. Using "I" statements, naming your sources, sharing a life experience, avoiding negative labels, and avoiding lumping people into larger groups were ideas for providing your thoughts in a way that might allow you to be heard, too. Given that it was a workshop, we got to practice all these steps with a partner and then share out with the group. I was grateful for the lessons today and hope to put them to good use as we enter into this polarizing election season. Big thanks to DRO resident Deanna Ross for organizing and DRO resident Carol Kaplan for carpooling with me!

Thursday, March 21st- DRO Public Safety Committee Mtg- This was our inaugural meeting of the DRO Public Safety Committee whose members include myself, Councilmember Ragsdale-Cronin, and Councilmember Uy. The first item was a review of our Military Equipment Use Policy which is required by AB 481. "Military equipment" which is defined in an official list, allows the police chief to review what military equipment we have and how it would be used. This is an annual report that needs to be publicly reviewed prior to going to the council.

The second item was an information item detailing the amendment to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Special Response Unit that will allow Del Rey Oaks to partner in this important police unit, which focuses on specialized support when negotiations or special tactical teams are needed. Regionally, DRO was the only city not participating, so I'm happy that we'll now have access to this service while also providing opportunities for our officers to have this advanced training. I have also been advocating that DRO establish an official and detailed *Emergency Operation Plan* and this can be one piece to the broader plan we need to lay out for our city.

Lastly, we received an update from Chief Bourquin regarding the Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) training that our officers have been doing. Two of our officers were trained as trainers and after two sessions they will have trained our entire police force. They will also be conducting this training in other local police forces. I'm so grateful that Chief Bouquin has been proactive with this training as it's such an important skill to be able to step in and speak to other law enforcement officers, irrespective of rank, whenever they see behavior that may not be appropriate for any given circumstance. Ultimately, all the council members expressed satisfaction and support for all the agenda items in this meeting. I would like to thank Chief Bourquin for putting together a good agenda packet and for his interest in transparency. We are SO lucky to have him!

Friday, March 22nd- ReGen Monterey Board Mtg- This was one of our shortest meetings on record! Things of note on the consent agenda were the approval to purchase a new transport van for our education team so they can give site tours to more people. We also approved a new recycling attendant position for the drop-off area in front of the Last Chance Mercantile. This person will not only educate those who are there dropping off materials, but they can make sure appropriate material is being deposited and also make sure that people are not taking items from the drop-off bins.

During our presentations portion, I was happy to give a 15-year Service Award to Vice Chair, Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado. He's SO dedicated to the environment and the health of our organization, as well as the surrounding community. He's probably picked up more trash than all of us combined! In fact, he was gifted with a golden trash picker in honor of all of his work. Our other recognition went to Jeaneva Frequez who works in the Materials Recovery Facility as a heavy equipment operator for 20 years of service. I'm sure when she started she did not anticipate operating heavy machinery, but she's a wonderful testament to our organization's ability to move people into increasingly more challenging (and rewarding) positions.

Lastly, we voted on a candidate for whom I could cast a vote for the Special District Regular Member seat for the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Monterey County. After some discussion, we unanimously voted for Russ Jeffries who is a commissioner for the Moss Landing Harbor District.

Tuesday, March 26th- City Council Mtg- During public comments, we received a comment from Sustainable Del Rey Oaks (SDRO) member, Anne Auburn who shared the many activities going on this month involving SDRO. There's the April 6th Fort Ord flower walk, the Butterfly Garden clean-up day on Saturday, April 13th, and the Earth Day event on April 20th. For the last four years, SDRO has been sponsoring the Earth Day event and now the city has incorporated this important event to go along with the ice cream social put on by the DRO Citizens Action Group (CAG).

After public comment, Mayor Donaldson gave me the pleasure of reading the proclamation honoring March as Women's History Month while he acknowledged our local professional soccer team (Monterey Bay F.C.) as the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award 2023.

Next, California American Water (Cal-Am) presented its proposed desalination project. I have never favored this project because of the costs to ratepayers, the costs to the City of Marina and the loss of their water (with no benefits), environmental degradation, and the lack of need for a project this size. Ultimately, the private company of Cal-Am and its stockholders will gain the most from this project, while the ratepayers continue to pay increasing water costs. In particular, I was disturbed by several portions of this presentation and my questions reflected my dissatisfaction. In particular, Cal-Am (which is a national company but was presented as a "local" company) overstated how much water is currently used (by over 400 Acre Feet which is not a small amount). They did not state the benefits of our Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) and how much is being saved. They also did not tout the benefits of the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, the recycled water project that provides us with the water we need now (so as to not overdraft the Carmel River and our Seaside Basin). The history of Cal-Am stalling these much-needed projects is appalling. They also did not state the critical information of how much water this desal will produce nor how much it would cost (when asked they said they'd have to wait until 2025 when they bid it out). They seem to think that once all this water is available people will be building out gardens, adding bathrooms, and using water without any worries. Unfortunately, they failed to admit that we already have very expensive water and the water would only get more expensive since we would be the ones paying for this project. Lastly, they also failed to mention the litigation that's happening with the project nor did they mention the CPUC decision regarding demand supply that will determine whether this desal is even needed. So much was left out that I felt it was just all propaganda. Phew. Sorry about that soapbox, but this topic can get me going. I won't deny that we may need a desalination project in the future, but I certainly know we don't need this desal project now.

After passing the consent agenda, we received an update on the 6th Cycle Housing Element and the need for edits as we work through the comment letter we received from the State Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). I know there are several areas we will need to address further and I look forward to Denise Duffy and her

work toward getting this document completed promptly. For those of you reading, please make sure to participate in our Planning Commission and Council meetings regarding this important topic.

Our last item for the evening was continuing the item of appeal from our Building Official's decision regarding the tenant improvements for 121 Calle Del Oaks. After hearing from the appellant and the building official, we discussed further and ultimately voted to deny the appeal. My vote was such that I was given no evidence that showed for certain that the extra space, that had been used over time, was ever permitted before 1985 and therefore was not eligible for the necessary extra water credits.

Wednesday, April 3rd- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Mtg- We had a few big items up for discussion with our finance meeting this month. The first was a discussion regarding the proposed District fee increases for the FY 24/25. We are looking again to raise the disposal fee by 5% in addition to raising some of the minimum rates and other charges for items that come across our scales. While the 5% tip fee equates to \$3 at the gate for self-haulers, the rate increase for residents on their waste hauling bill would only be around \$0.16 and \$1.03 for commercial. The reasons for these increases include the need to keep pace with ongoing costs for regulatory mandates (SB1383), the need to create reserves for future costs (closure/post-closure), and supply-chain and labor cost increases for the next 3 years. Even with these increases, ReGen remains one of the lower-cost options regionally for waste and recycling. Overall, the committee was supportive of these increases.

Next, we discussed the draft White Paper and staff shared the updates they continue to make with the paper. As a reminder, this is a paper that shares the summary of solid waste practices in CA as well as the solid waste practices at ReGen Monterey, with the overarching idea that it will help explain why we take contracts (waste and recycling) outside of our member jurisdictions and how those contracts affect our pricing for members. Even though this paper is a long time coming, our staff has been wonderful at receiving feedback and I look forward to seeing this again at our regular board meeting. I believe it will be an important document for all of the board members as we make future decisions for the District.

Lastly, we learned the history of organics management at ReGen, which led to a discussion of biosolids (received from M1W) and the need to divert 75% by January 1, 2025, to comply with SB1383. Biosolids have had a preferred pricing history (\$42/ton vs our disposal rate of \$74/ton). With that knowledge, we began discussing the potential rate for biosolids for the rest of this calendar year (after the start of our new fiscal year in July) and whether we wanted to continue to accept biosolids in 2025. It seemed as though, at the very least, we would look to raise the rates for the rest of 2024 and then we were questioning the benefits of collecting this waste which needs separate handling. In the end, we provided some feedback to staff and they will come back to us with suggestions on this

topic at our next meeting. At this point in the meeting, we did not have time to finish our last item which was tabled for the next meeting.

Friday, April 5th- Ad-Hoc Monterey Renewable Energy Project Mtg- Back in 2022, ReGen Monterey and M1W agreed to do a feasibility study around renewable energy and the potential benefits both agencies could gain from using our waste products. This was the first meeting of this ad-hoc committee for the 2024 year and my first meeting as I was newly appointed after I became Chair at ReGen. In this joint meeting, our consultants who completed the study provided the committee with an overview of their results which focused on four areas of energy, as well as a path to implementation for these projects.

The first project area reviewed was the “base case electric network” which looks at providing a direct 21kV connection between ReGen Monterey and M1W in addition to other connections that can be made from this main connection and how it all factors in with connections to PG&E. Since ReGen produces more energy than is needed, the plan is to sell our excess to M1W for their Advanced Water Purification Facility (Pure Water Monterey). We’d be selling it for more than PG&E currently pays and it would still be cheaper than what M1W is currently paying for their electricity. In terms of ReGen, this project has already been approved and once the details are worked out in regards to a back up plan and how PG&E might play a part in that, we would like to move forward with this project.

The second project area was focused on codigestion at M1W. They’ve already received a \$4 million grant from CalRecycle for this project but are still in need of a processed organic feedstock for the digesters. The cost to process the slurry is high and so at the moment, ReGen won’t be able to offer what they need, but if it does become beneficial to ReGen then we may become a source of organic waste material for this project.

The third project focused on utilizing the extra biogas produced between both agencies. Beyond using it for electricity, it was decided that the next best use for this resource, based on revenues, would be to turn it into renewable natural gas (RNG). And then based on the market demand, both agencies could adjust their production of electricity and RNG.

The fourth project focused on M1W’s biosolids. Turns out there is a lot of processing that needs to be done to make this usable in the commercial market. There is also a problem with PFAS (forever chemicals) in the product (what does THAT tell you about how much is potentially in our bodies!!) and the fact that the only way to be rid of those is to put it through pyrolysis (a high heat process). At this time, we don’t have the ability to do this in large quantities. PFAS aside, after some processing, this resource could be made into compost. The other options with advanced thermal treatment would be used as pellets or biochar. In terms of ReGen Monterey, this project area would not benefit our organization and falls mainly with M1W.

Next steps, both boards (ReGen Monterey and M1W) will be hearing this final report and providing feedback on where they'd like to go with these projects. Collectively project costs for all areas total in the hundreds of millions of dollars, so we will be taking our time to look at these projects which may take decades to complete (except for that 21kV line...we're hoping for next year on that one).

Saturday, April 6th- Fort Ord Flower Walk with Dr. Dorthy Denning, sponsored by Sustainable Del Rey Oaks- What a beautiful day for a walk! Kevin and I, along with other DRO residents and neighbors from other cities, met Dr. Dorthy Denning and took a lovely 4-mile walk starting at the Jerry Smith trailhead. We crossed both county and Fort Ord Monument lands while viewing not only the vegetation but also various vernal pools. I'm generally not one for flower taxonomy, but it was fun to be with an expert who pointed out flowers I would have normally missed on the trail. I thoroughly enjoyed this time to talk with neighbors while admiring these beautiful spaces! Thank you so much to Alison Kerr and Sustainable Del Rey Oaks for arranging this walk.

Wednesday, April 10th- Fieldtrip to see wells from the Seaside Basin- As a member of the Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster and a member of the Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee, I was invited by our staff person, Bob Jacques, to head out to see some of the wells we talk about in our meetings. After experiencing a meeting where only the engineer who was running the meeting and I were doing most of the talking, I think Bob figured I'd be interested in seeing these things in person, and he was right! Happy to head out the door in my running shoes, Bob and I parked over in the Sand City parking lot and walked over to the dunes where the "ecoresort" has been long in the planning (it's currently locked in a lawsuit, so who knows when or if it will ever get built). In that same general area, we know there's one well on that property with a broken casing which we believe is causing seawater to leak into the basin. We're also seeing an increase in conductivity (indicates potential seawater) in one of our monitoring wells (Sentinal Well #4) which is also in the same general vicinity. While we were out there we also hiked to a couple of other wells that are in the same area but because they're harder to get to with equipment, they have not been logged. We're hoping we can get some data from those wells in the near future so that we can get a better picture of this nearshore seawater profile. At the end of the field trip, Bob also took me to our newest well in Seaside near the Bayonet and Black Horse golf course. I deeply appreciated the time Bob took to show me these sites we've talked about in meetings and now I've got the picture in my mind, too. Very helpful!

Saturday, April 13th- Butterfly Garden Clean Up- Although we were delayed by rain, a few of us from Sustainable Del Rey Oaks were able to get out in the afternoon to do some major weed pulling and weed whacking (thanks Kevin!). The good thing about starting with so many weeds is that after a few hours of pulling—it shows! It felt good to walk away being able to see the flowering plants in the garden once again. I also enjoyed the many lizards, ladybugs, and bees that crossed our paths as we worked. It's a lovely space! Thanks to everyone who helped out that day.

Monday, April 15th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Mtg- Please see the MST Board Highlights in our agenda packet. As a note, we will be covering the SURF! Busway project in our meetings every month. This month we focused on informing the public that this project will NOT preclude railway from ever going into that area. At this point, all of the tracks would need to be replaced, but the busway does leave room for a train if that were to happen in the future. During this meeting, we also established an Ad Hoc committee to nominate the chair and vice-chair for MST for the next two years. I was asked to be on that committee, which was approved at today's meeting.

Monday, April 15th- City Finance Committee Mtg- This was another positive finance committee meeting in that our expenses are being kept under budget, while our revenues continue to match our budget. City Manager Guertin also reviewed the three proposals we received for the fee study which the Council approved at a previous meeting. As a reminder, the fee study will help us gauge what areas we may be undercharging as well as any areas where we're overcharging. Thankfully, one local company came in at the expected cost and its proposal will be sent to the council for approval this month. We're hoping that work will be done by June. Lastly, we had a long conversation about potential capital improvement projects we may want to complete in the next year or so. The good news is that we have a combination of grants, FEMA money, and other sources of funds, beyond our "fund balances" (money in categories that has not been spent or revenue that comes in over budget), that will allow us to tackle many of these projects. Of course, the bad news is that we don't have enough funds to cover all of the projects nor the capacity (after all, Ron can only do so much!) to manage these projects. City Manager Guertin will come back next month with a ranking, timeline, and funding sources for these projects. I encourage anyone interested to attend these meetings. Lots of interesting topics are covered, especially as we talk about the budget for next year. Important stuff!