

## **Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, September 23, 2025**

**Friday, August 22nd- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting-** It was nice to be back at the ReGen board this month after missing last month's meeting due to my knee surgery. After passing the consent agenda, the next big item was a presentation on the sitewide signage program. I'm just so grateful for our excellent communications team. Updating and reviewing our signage is a big task, yet it's so important not only for the safety of our employees but also for the safety of our customers, too. In our packet, they had examples of some of the signs that were found on our campus, and frankly, they were embarrassing! They were dirty, not descriptive, and some were handwritten! So this team documented all 93 signs and then came up with 109 signs that improve navigation and information delivery. Of course, they're all color-coded and include the colors of our rebranding. They are still working through this project, so we'll expect another presentation at a later date. Thankfully, they have already put up some of the signs, so if you make your way out to the landfill, you'll already see the evidence of their work.

Our one discussion item for the meeting was approving the franchise collection planning agreement with HF&H, along with a public opinion survey that will be used in this 5-year planning cycle. Del Rey Oaks is just one of 7 cities that will be benefiting from this collaborative effort as the ReGen TAC and HF&H work on collecting data and deciding to either move forward with an RFP process (selecting a new trash hauler) or extending our contract with GreenWaste. This MOU works out to be about \$76,374 for each jurisdiction, spread out over the next 5 years. This takes the work off of our city staff and firmly puts it in the hands of the experts, allowing them to get us the best contract possible.

The next items were informational, where we received an update on our compost facility improvement. Next month, we'll be approving the contractor who will be building out the new covered aerated static pile system (CASP). We also received a safety report, which included the work they're doing to train employees for greater safety standards. Lastly, we talked about a notice of violation ReGen received from the Monterey Bay Air Resources District. This was unfortunate, but as we increase our technology at our landfill, we'll hopefully have these violations be a thing of the past.

The final portion of our meeting was a field trip out to the new scale house for a ribbon cutting (my first time using big scissors...they were amazing!). This was a project ReGen completed in-house at a much lower cost than what was originally bid. It provides lots of workstations for our employees and will be a nice change for everyone—customers included!

**Tuesday, August 26th- City Council Meeting-** After public comment, where Kristin Clark announced the City Wide picnic on October 4th, we began our meeting with a

proclamation for “Garage Sale” George Jaksha for his 34 years of service on the Planning Commission. It truly is a commendable length of time to have spent in public service. His love of Del Rey Oaks (and dad jokes) always shines through, so it was nice to acknowledge him and his dedication to the city.

After passing the consent agenda, we moved on to new business, where we approved new budget software (ClearGov) that will make creating the budget much easier for the staff and will create budget reports that are much more accessible to the public (imagine colored graphs and lots of descriptions). Everyone was enthusiastic for this upgrade. I’m hoping it also provides some colorful graphs for our monthly financial reports, but that remains to be seen. Regardless, I’m happy we’ll have a yearly budget report that can easily be read by the public and council members.

Our last item was approving a memorandum of understanding with ReGen Monterey for our participation in the waste hauler franchise agreement that we’ll be preparing for in 2030 (see my description of this in my ReGen report). This agreement will cost us up to \$76,374 spread out over the next 4.5 years. This will allow HF&H to gather feedback from our residents about their thoughts on our waste hauler. At the end of the period, in collaboration with the other local jurisdictions, we’ll decide to either go out for an RFP (request for proposals) to decide on a new waste hauler, or we’ll extend the contract for Green Waste. Overall, this is a big task that really should be left to the people who are experts in this industry, so I’m grateful our city is choosing to take part in this collaboration, as it relieves our staff from this burden.

Lastly, in City Manager Guertin’s report, he shared that we received official recognition from HCD (State Housing and Community Development) that our 6th Cycle Housing Element has been confirmed. Now we have the big task of implementing all of the items we said we would, so I’m looking forward to the work. He also announced that the City will be holding an Open House on Saturday, September 6th, from 11-2 pm.

One thing I’d like to add about this meeting is that I was disappointed the topic of strategic planning was not on the agenda. As you may remember, I tried to have this conversation with the other council members in June, asking them if they felt strategic planning was a valuable task, after all, we budget for it every year, but have not done it in over 3 years. I was asked to stop the discussion because it was not specifically on the agenda (our budget was the agenda item). I then asked for it to be placed on a future agenda. I guess this meeting was not it, we’ll see if we see it next month. Stay tuned!

**Wednesday, September 3rd- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Meeting-** It’s been several months since this board has met, so it was good to gather for some updates. After passing the consent agenda, the first item was a report from Director Tim O’Halloran, representing California American Water, on their progress in satisfying California Coastal Commission conditions for their desalination project. The big item that they’ve been

working on is reengineering M1W's outfall pipe so that it will allow them to discharge the brine. They've now submitted their request to the state for a permit for this discharge. They expect to hear back in Spring, which, at that time, they'll also have to get final approval from M1W. Overall, the message was that they would have all conditions met in Spring 2026. In addition, I asked about their timeline for the actual desalination plant, which is outside of the coastal zone, and is planned for the parcel next to ReGen Monterey in Marina. Tim said that they were doing some environmental review, and they expected to be moving dirt by November.

Our new business was reviewing the draft version of the updated seawater intrusion response plan (SIRP). This plan was reviewed in the Technical Advisory Committee last month. Unfortunately, I had COVID and couldn't attend, but I did ask that the meeting be recorded so I could view it later. I'm grateful I did because that gave me the foundational knowledge I needed to hear the presentation again and to help guide the conversation. Basically, our SIRP will be using several chemical indicators that, when collective benchmarks are met, will trigger the Wastewatermaster to declare that our basin is seawater intruded. Once we reach that point, we'll need to greatly reduce pumping and maybe move our wells into parts of the aquifer that are not contaminated with seawater. Thankfully, this SIRP creates a "part 1" plan that uses modeling to predict where we might have wells that will become seawater intruded and does some planning around where we can redistribute our pumping. Part 1 is expensive (around \$80,000) and can't be done until our modeling is done, but I think it's smart to get this big picture, worst-case-scenario planning done before actually declaring seawater intrusion. In terms of edits, my requests all centered around clarifying the verbiage in sections. If there's any time where the Watermaster needs absolute clarity, and that's if/when we need to declare our basin intruded with seawater, and the actions that will come as a result. Our board is interested in seeing the final draft, with these edits, hopefully at our next board meeting in October.

One of the last items was reviewing the steps for hiring and appointing a recruitment committee for our administrative officer, who is retiring at the end of December. Chair Oglesby appointed Vice Chair Mary Ann Carbone and me to this committee.

**Monday, September 8th- Monterey Salinas Transit Administrative Performance Committee-** This is the meeting where we hear updates, and today we learned that our ridership is up, as it has continued to be since the Better Bus Network was implemented. Salinas is even seeing higher numbers of riders than during pre-COVID times. The other exciting news is that there is a higher percentage of people using "tap to ride" (using a phone or credit card to tap to pay) compared to people using monthly passes. During this meeting, we also received the state and federal updates. Lastly, we received a presentation on the unaudited fiscal year 2025 year-end results, which show a surplus.

**Monday, September 8th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting-** Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

## Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

### Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)



August 27, 2025

### **California Transportation Commission Chair Grisby Presents \$90.6 Million Ceremonial Check for Highway 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project**



In what can only be described as a defining moment for the start of a long-anticipated project, California Transportation Commission Chair Darnell Grisby, presented a ceremonial check representing the \$90.6 million in Senate Bill 1 funding awarded to the State Route 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project.

The \$90.6 million awarded by the Transportation Commission in June 2025 is a combination of \$80.3 million from the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program and \$10.3 million from the Local Partnership Program. Along with Measure X and other funds committed to the project, the \$136 million project is now fully funded and on track to begin construction in 2026.

The State Route 156 Castroville Boulevard Interchange project is one of the regional safety and mobility projects listed in Measure X and approved by Monterey County voters in 2016. The Transportation Agency has successfully leveraged Measure X to secure funding for the project, which will provide safety improvements by removing the existing signalized intersection, constructing a new roundabout interchange to separate traffic movements, and improving the connection between the Castroville bike and pedestrian bridge and the existing pathway for students traveling to North Monterey County high school.

## **TAMC Board Approves \$11 Million for Competitive Grant Program of Projects**

The TAMC Board of Directors approved \$11.407 million of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds to the Mid-Cycle Competitive Grant Program of Projects.

The Mid-Cycle Competitive Grant Program establishes a new, one-time funding opportunity prior to the 2026 Competitive Grant Program with the objective of expediting the disbursement of available RSTP funds. The unprogrammed RSTP funds were generated by revenue on interest, project cost savings that were returned to the Competitive Grant Program fund account, and variances between the adopted RSTP Fund Balance and what was received from the State.

To expedite the use of these funds, the TAMC Board of Directors approved funding the following thirteen “shovel-ready” projects:

- City of Carmel – Conglomerate Paving Project: \$243,706
- City of Gonzales – Fifth Street Truck Ban Signage: \$113,512
- City of Greenfield – Walnut Avenue Pedestrian and Bikeway Improvement Project: \$100,000
- City of Greenfield – Citywide Street Rehabilitation Project: \$100,000
- City of King – U.S.101/Broadway Street at San Antonio Drive Roundabout Improvement Project: \$1,488,000
- City of Marina – Imjin Parkway & 3rd Avenue Signal Improvements Project: \$450,000
- City of Monterey – Madison/Hermann/Larkin Traffic Circle: \$130,000
- City of Salinas – Boronda Road Congestion Relief Project (Phase 1): \$1,000,000
- City of Sand City – West End Improvement Project: \$2,000,000
- City of Seaside – Broadway Corridor Improvements: \$4,000,000
- City of Soledad – West Street Road Diet and Complete Streets Project: \$882,480
- County of Monterey – Laureles Grade/Carmel Valley Road Roundabout: \$450,000
- Monterey-Salinas Transit – Enhancing Mobility Innovation Discounted Transit for Temporary Eligibility with Open Loop Fare Payment: \$450,000

For more information, see: [2023 Competitive Grant Program - Guidelines and Application](#)

## **Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway Project Segment Update**

The Transportation Board of Directors received an update on the Measure X funded and voter approved Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project, with emphasis on the three segments that are currently funded and in progress by agency staff:

### **FORTAG Canyon Del Rey/State Route 218**

The Canyon Del Rey/State Route 218 Segment involves construction of the trail through the City of Del Rey Oaks from Fremont Boulevard to Del Rey Woods Elementary in the City of Seaside. This segment includes an undercrossing below State Route 218 that will connect near Del Rey Oaks City Hall and the Frog Pond and a raised pathway to connect trail users from the undercrossing to Carlton Drive, followed by a multi-use sidewalk on the west side of the road, which continues along Plumas Avenue up to Del Rey Woods Elementary. Construction is expected to be completed by Fall of 2026.

### **FORTAG Jerry Smith Trailhead**

The Jerry Smith Trailhead segment was awarded funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant program. The project will provide a multi-use bike and pedestrian trail in Marina, between Imjin Parkway / Imjin Road connecting to the Jerry Smith Trailhead; there by providing direct active transportation access to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fort Ord National Monument from California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) and nearby Marina residents. The project is currently at 70% final design and has construction funding programmed in 2028.

### **FORTAG California Avenue**

An Active Transportation Program Cycle 6 grant was awarded to fund another portion of the CSUMB Loop North Segment, which closes the gap on California Avenue between the City of Marina and CSUMB, and connects to the FORTAG Jerry Smith Trailhead segment.

This 1.4-mile shared use path will provide an all ages and abilities connection between the City of Marina, CSUMB, future development, the Fort Ord Trail system, and the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail via paved, separated bikeways. The FORTAG California Avenue segment is currently in final design with construction funding programmed for fiscal year 2025/26 with estimated completion in June 2027.

With the use of \$15.4 million in Measure X, TAMC has successfully leveraged an additional \$25 million in state and federal funding for the regional trail project.



August 25, 2025

**Informational Items:**

- *Pure Water Monterey Expansion and Projects update presented by Dave Lindow*
- *Federal, State and Local Advocacy Update presented by Yohana Vargas and Rachel Gaudoin*

**Board Actions:**

- Adopted Resolution, Authorizing the Executive Officer to act as the Authorized Agent for M1W to execute the applicant declaration form and Match Commitment letter for the Community Energy Reliability & Resilience Investment (CERRI) Program
- Approved a second amendment to the contracts with Brenntag Pacific for Calcium Chloride in the not to exceed amount of \$378,168.88 and Sodium Bisulfite in the not to exceed amount of \$81,369.40 for the Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) for a total not exceeding \$459,538.28
- Approved a second amendment to the contract with Univar Solutions for Sodium Hypochlorite in the not to exceed amount of \$362,802.50 for the AWPF
- Approved a contract to Univar Solutions USA for Sodium Hydroxide for the AWPF in the not to exceed amount of \$97,715.93
- Approved a contract to Brenntag Pacific Inc. for Sulfuric Acid and Hydrogen Peroxide Chemicals for the AWPF in total not to exceed \$707,273.58

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy  
September 23, 2025 Meeting**

**I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on August 26, 2025**



Dear DRO neighbors,

Below is my summary of actions and highlights from the August 26, 2025 regular meeting of the Del Rey Oaks City Council.

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**Ceremonial item**

**Proclamation honoring George “Garage Sale George” Jaksha (34 years of service).**

The Council recognized Commissioner Jaksha’s decades of leadership on the Planning Commission and his community-building through the Citywide Garage Sale. The proclamation text notes the City’s gratitude and bears the Mayor’s signature date of August 26, 2025.

**Consent calendar (noticed items)**

The agenda’s consent section included: approval of prior minutes; receipt of **June/July** Police, Fire, and Financial reports; and several administrative/contract actions (summarized below).

- **Short-Term Rental (STR) Program Management – Avenu Insights & Analytics.** A three-year agreement (effective **Aug 1, 2025**) to provide end-to-end STR identification/monitoring, a 24/7 complaint hotline, a permitting and tax remittance portal, and compliance outreach. **Fiscal structure:** Yr 1 = \$2,500 setup + **\$15,000 (or \$255/property, whichever greater)**; Yr 2 = \$15,750; Yr 3 = \$16,500; optional audits on a per-examination basis.
- **FY 2025–26 Salary Schedule.** Citywide schedule effective **July 1, 2025** (e.g., council stipends, educational incentives, wellness benefit, and other standard provisions).
- **Annual Landscape Maintenance – Smith & Enright Landscaping, Inc.** Annual services (mowing, trimming, irrigation monitoring, debris removal) **effective Sept 1, 2025**; **annual cost: \$18,480.**
- **On-Call Planning & Environmental Services – Denise Duffy & Associates (DD&A).** As-needed support for CEQA review, long-range planning (including former Fort Ord), staff reports, and permit processing; agreement dated **Aug 26, 2025** with **7-day** termination clause; billed at approved hourly rates.
- **Police Department Server – Dell.** Materials in the packet include a **PowerEdge R660xs** quote (**\$13,858.27** + est. tax **\$1,019.64** = **\$14,877.91** total) and a TELP financing illustration (36-month option).

## New business (policy & transparency)

- **Electronic Budget Platform – ClearGov.** Staff recommended adopting ClearGov’s suite (Operational & Capital Budgeting + Digital Budget Book) with onboarding to produce the City’s first **interactive digital budget book for FY 2026–27**. **Fiscal terms:** one-time setup **\$3,000**; annual subscription **\$11,000** (three-year initial term) with **3% annual increase** during the term; **30-day satisfaction guarantee**.
- **Regional MOU – ReGen Monterey (Franchise Agreement Assistance).** Framework for coordinated planning, public engagement, procurement support, and negotiations for the next generation of solid-waste franchise agreements across seven member agencies. **Del Rey Oaks’ share: \$76,374 (14.29%)** of the **\$534,620** multi-year budget; invoices issued annually for actual costs. A draft **Resolution 2025-15** in the packet memorializes approval and authorization.

If you have questions about any item or if there’s an issue on your block that needs attention, please reach out. I’m committed to transparent budgeting, reliable core services, and practical partnerships that keep Del Rey Oaks safe, clean, and neighborly.

## II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – September 9, 2025



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It’s an honor to serve as your Chair and to work alongside our partners in Seaside, Sand City, and Del Rey Oaks to keep our wastewater system reliable, safe, and out of sight—in the best possible way.

### What we acted on

**Consent Agenda:** We approved the **August 12, 2025 minutes** and **received the Operations Report for August 2025**. These

items keep our records current and ensure everyone can see the work we’re doing month to month.

### System health at a glance (August 2025)

- **Zero spills, zero stoppages.** No mainline or lateral stoppages and **no SSOs** district-wide—exactly what we want to see.
- **Proactive maintenance:** Crews **jettied 53,923 feet** of main line and performed **4,295 feet** of CCTV inspections across the District. This targeted cleaning and camera work helps us spot small issues before they become big (and expensive) problems.

- **Where we focused:** The **flush map** for July–August shows the specific zones we addressed to stay ahead of seasonal build-up and coordinate with local paving schedules.
- **District scale:** Our system spans **~385,440 feet** of mains across Seaside, Sand City, and Del Rey Oaks—so this monthly work adds up to meaningful coverage over the year.

### Why this matters to you

- **Public health & environment:** Every month without spills protects our creeks, Monterey Bay, and neighborhood streets.
- **Cost control:** Preventive maintenance (jetting, CCTV, root treatment where needed) is the most cost-effective way to extend pipe life and avoid emergency repairs.
- **Good coordination:** By aligning sewer work with roadway projects, we reduce “dig once” disruptions and save taxpayer dollars over time.

### Gratitude

I’m grateful to our **operations and engineering teams** for the steady, unglamorous work that keeps everything flowing—and to our partner cities for the coordination that makes this possible. Keeping a regional system humming takes teamwork, and our residents benefit every day.

### Stay involved

- **Next SCSD meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 9:30 AM** (Seaside Council Chamber).
- **Accessibility & participation:** Meetings are open to the public, with options to attend in person or join online/phone. Your questions and feedback help us plan smarter and serve better.

If you have ideas, concerns on your block, or simply want to learn more about how our wastewater system works, please reach out. I’m here to listen and to make sure your voice is part of every decision we make.

### III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – September 10, 2025

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Last September 10<sup>th</sup> evening felt like classic regional teamwork—three counties, many cities, one shared table. We met at the Air District in Monterey with a simple aim: keep our planning smart, our finances steady, and our doors open for public voice. I’m grateful to represent Del Rey Oaks in this work, and I want to share what mattered in a way that’s useful to you.



#### **The cadence of the evening**

We opened with the pledge, a quick Brown Act/AB 2449 check-in on remote participation, and roll call. From there, the room settled into that comfortable rhythm where mayors, councilmembers, county supervisors, and agency partners compare notes, ask candid questions, and push the work forward.

#### **What we moved through—plainly and briefly**

**Consent items:** We kept the house in order—last month’s minutes, the regional Clearinghouse newsletter, a Sustainability Program update, and our financial snapshot. None of these grab headlines, but they’re the scaffolding for everything else we do.

- **Clearinghouse:** Two Capitola items stood out—coastal resilience updates (Cliff Drive, sea-level rise, public access) and zoning changes tied to housing implementation. This is the kind of early coordination that prevents conflict later.
- **Sustainability:** AMBAG’s work with the new **Central California Rural REN** is now officially launched (business plan approved 8/28). Staff are helping residents, small businesses, and public agencies tap energy-efficiency upgrades, while a **Monterey Bay EV Climate Adaptation & Resiliency** effort advances to make our charging network both equitable and hardened against climate risk.
- **Finances:** Our June 30 snapshot shows **sufficient current assets** to cover obligations, with a **positive net position** and the usual timing differences between budget and reimbursements. It’s steady stewardship—exactly what we want from a regional agency.

#### **The big planning work under the hood**

The headline item was an update on the **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy**—the long-range blueprint that aligns our transportation investments with housing, climate, safety, and equity goals. Staff are polishing the draft chapters now, running scenarios through the regional travel model, and preparing a **draft Plan and**

**Programmatic EIR for public review in November 2025, with workshops and hearings in January 2026.** Translation: your comments this winter can still shape what gets funded over the next 20 years.

### **Why this matters at the neighborhood level**

- **Safer, simpler trips:** The 2050 Plan is where we prioritize safer corridors, reliable transit, and everyday fixes that make walking and biking feel normal.
- **Climate and cost:** Energy-efficiency programs and resilient EV planning lower bills for families and small businesses while preparing us for heat, storms, and outages.
- **Good governance:** Clear reports and careful finances keep trust intact; early inter-agency review (through the Clearinghouse) keeps projects moving without surprises.

### **A word of thanks**

Regional planning isn't glamorous; it's patient. Thank you to Executive Director **Maura Twomey** and the AMBAG team for the steady work—modeling, meetings, memos—that turns big goals into practical projects. And thank you to residents who show up, write in, or stop us at the grocery store. Your lived experience makes our plans better.

### **Stay involved (your voice changes the plan)**

- **2050 MTP/SCS:** Watch for the **draft Plan & EIR in November** and public workshops in **January**, I'll share dates and links as soon as they post.
- **Clearinghouse items:** If you care about coastal resilience, housing, or local zoning updates, these notices are your early-warning system to weigh in thoughtfully.
- **Access:** Voting members must attend in person for quorum; the public can join online/phone. If you ever need accommodations, AMBAG will work with you.

### **What's next**

**Next AMBAG meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM** (MBARD Board Room, Monterey). If there's a corridor you avoid, a stop you want safer, or a climate concern on your block, tell me. I'll bring those specifics into the regional conversation.