




PSALM 106:1

Give thanks
unto the Lord;
for He is good.

Expressions
FROM


Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

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Dear Del Rey Daks City Council
Members to you all from the
H.E.M (Hamilton, Ellis + Martin) Plaza
Apartments located in Seaside
This note of thanks is long over-
due, but the Holiday Committee
at the H.E.M would like to express
our sincere thanks and gratitude
to Sgt. Shyman and Del Rey
Daks P. D. for their unwavering
support with supplying warm
winter jackets and shoes to
countless families over the past
five (5) years. Their impeccable
service and generosity needs to
be recognized. Thanking you all
so very much once again, and
we do appreciate you all for
your service ~

Sincerely,
Lisa Daks
Gene Daks
H.E.M Plaza Holiday Committee



MST HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2025

RECOGNIZED AUGUST EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The MST Board adopted Resolution 2026-04 recognizing Greg Burchell, Operations Supervisor, as the August 2025 Employee of the Month for his outstanding contribution to MST and the entire community.

RECOGNIZED SEPTEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The MST Board adopted Resolution 2026-05 recognizing Kelly Soriano, Mobility Specialist, as the September 2025 Employee of the Month for her outstanding contribution to MST and the entire community.

APPROVED AMMENDMENT #1 TO TAMC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The MST approved Amendment #1 to the memorandum of understanding (MOU) among the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), the City of Salinas, and MST regarding use of the Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center.

APPROVED DISPOSAL OF THIRTEEN MST SURPLUS VEHICLES

The MST approved a list of thirteen (13) MST-owned vehicles as surplus property and directed staff to dispose of the vehicles using the most economical method available.

APPOINTED MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

The MST Board appointed Thomas De La Cruz to the Mobility Advisory Committee for a 3-year term.

RATIFIED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN ATU AND MST

The MST Board ratified the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225 (ATU) employees and the Monterey-Salinas Transit District (MST).

RECEIVED MST LAND UTILIZATION STUDY

The MST Board received a presentation on an MST Land Utilization Study and provided direction to staff.

AWARDED CONTRACT FOR GENERAL COUNSEL AND SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES

The MST Board authorized the General Manager/CEO or their designee to enter into a five (5) year contract with De Lay and Laredo for general counsel and labor negotiations, and a five (5) year non-exclusive contract with Hanson Bridgett for special counsel services, both with the option to extend for two (2) additional one (1) year terms.

NEXT MST BOARD MEETING

The next regular MST Board meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2025.



880th REGULAR MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

926 East Blanco Road
Salinas, CA. 93901

September 9th, 2025

~AGENDA~

12:00 P.M. Noon

926 East Blanco Road

Salinas, CA 93901

(831) 422-6438 p

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Cecilio
Board Chair
County at Large

Don Cranford
Vice Chair
County at Large

Nancy Amadeo
Secretary
City of Marina

Ian Oglesby
Trustee
City of Seaside

Ray Coopersmith
Trustee
County at Large

Mary Ann Carbone
Trustee
City of Sand City

Louise Goetzelt
Trustee
City of Del Rey Oaks

Jim Tashiro
Trustee
City of Salinas

Jeff Glass
Trustee
City of Monterey

We strive to host inclusive, accessible meetings that enable all individuals, including individuals with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact the District.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. AGENDA MANAGEMENT:

C. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

D. PUBLIC INPUT: (Limited to 3 minutes)

The consent calendar includes routine items than can be approved with a single motion and vote. A member of the Board of Trustees may request that any item be pulled from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration

E. CONSENT CALENDAR:

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: July 2025

B. PAYROLL WARRANTS: July/Aug 2025 \$255,098.85/ \$84,373.14

C. COMMERCIAL WARRANTS: July/Aug 2025 \$114,068.98/\$230,049.10

D. UMPQUA BANK: July/Aug 2025 \$5,613.14/\$2,586.95

E. BALANCE SHEET: July/Aug 2025

F. SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES: July/Aug 2025

F. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Adoption of Resolution No. 2526-01 Approving District Bylaws
- B. Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Adoption of Resolution No. 2526-02 Rosenberg's Rules of Order as the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure for Board Meetings
- C. Consideration, Discussion, and Possible Adoption of Amended Surplus Vehicles Policy # 3080
- D. Notification: November Regular Board Meeting Falls on Veterans Day
- E. SDA Meeting October 7th Speaker is Chris Morello from the Airport District

G. MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Ken Klemme, District Manager

H. TRUSTEE COMMENTS:

Adjournment to: October 9th, 2025

**From the Monterey Herald, 9/1/25:
Bird's Beak and Genista Do Battle in Del Rey Oaks,
by Patrice Vecchione**

There's the "letter of the law" and then there's its intent, and between the two a gulf as tall and wide as the most aggressive Genista, aka French broom, weed may exist. This is the story of such a gulf concerning the 4.6-acre plant reserve at the northeast corner of General Jim Moore Blvd. and South Boundary Rd. and the city of Del Rey Oaks that owns the property.

And though this story actually began way back in 1967 when the Monterey chapter of the California Native Plant Society reached out to Fort Ord Base Commander which led to the establishment of what's called the Native Habitat Reserve Number 1 North, we're going to start in the almost-present tense. But just know it's been a slog to get even this far. And because I've made my home in this small city for nearly 30 years, for me this is a very personal story, a very personal gulf, a story about respect for and commitment to open space, care for the environment, and about behaving with honesty and integrity, and a lack of all three. Respect for the earth, as expressed by caring for the land, and doing the right thing are human attributes that are in jeopardy not only in my city, but, at present, in our country.

In May of 2023, a settlement agreement, that had been negotiated over three years, was signed by the City of Del Rey Oaks and the California Native Plant Society regarding the 4.6-acre parcel, California Native Plant Society's Plant Reserve Number 1 North. This land is home to a rare and protected native plant with a funny name: Seaside bird's beak, so named because it was first discovered next door in Seaside. It's not a particularly pretty plant—it's unassuming, sits close to the ground and could easily go unnoticed, but that's not the point. The point is that there's a weed that you may not know by name but you certainly know by sight Genista. It grows tall and wide, and when in bloom, has pretty little yellow flowers, but its flowers belie the truth of its identity—Genista is an invasive weed. Frankly, it's a killer that steamrolls whatever plants are in its way.

What is a native plant reserve, anyway? It isn't just a bunch of trees, bushes, and grasses, rather a native plant reserve is a living history museum! This particular reserve is Maritime Chaparral, an unusual habitat type that exists only in little patches along the California Central Coast. Each of these areas is comprised of rare plants that grow only there. None of them attempts to overtake the others; rather they grow companionably.

And this particular patch is just beyond my own backyard. My home that was built decades ago—and all the homes in Del Rey Oaks—was built on land that looked just like it. So, by observing this area in its original state, we can come as close as possible to the experience of local time travel. This property has been deemed a Native Plant Reserve because it is an asset, not only to Del Rey Oaks, but to the wider area; it's a testament to local nature.

At the heart of the agreement between CNPS and Del Rey Oaks this is stated: “The Property is hereby protected in perpetuity for its conservation values... No vegetation modification shall be allowed on the Property... “Protected in perpetuity” shall mean that nothing shall be done that may degrade or adversely impact the Property and its conservation/biological values in perpetuity...”

Enter invasive, rapid-growing Genista. The margins of Plant Reserve #1 North are overrun by this weed, and in order to preserve the health of the land and the native plants growing on it, the Genista needs to be removed. The settlement agreement states that the city of Del Rey Oaks isn't responsible for upkeep of the land. No problem there—CNPS's volunteers are at the ready to dig out and remove the homewrecker. However, the city has decided, after much delaying and a repeated lack of response to emails and phone calls, that it won't allow the volunteers to do the right thing.

According to Del Rey Oaks Mayor Scott Donaldson, in an email on July 7, 2025, “It's important to emphasize the city must comply with a legally binding settlement agreement. CNPS insisted on a stipulation in the agreement that no vegetation modification shall be allowed. The city must adhere to that requirement or risk becoming vulnerable to potential, costly litigation.”

Here's where the gulf comes in. Exactly who would sue the city for doing the right thing and allowing the CNPS volunteers to remove the invasive weed? Nobody because such action would support the essence of the agreement! If we look closely at it, we read, “This Habitat Reserve is protected in perpetuity by the City of Del Rey Oaks,” demonstrating that, in fact, the city does have a responsibility to care for the reserve! To protect this land, the weed needs to go. Pretty simple, isn't it?

Could the agreement have been more clearly written, could it have been written more simply and with greater clarity? Sure. But without more wrangling, this is what we've got. So, come on Del Rey Oaks, my beloved home, do the right thing and allow the volunteers to get rid of this weed, would you? The longer it remains, the bigger the problem is going to get.

Through knowledge and understanding and by honoring history—in this case natural history—we will understand our past and present and find guidance to move into the future. Apparently, a whole lot of guidance is needed right now about caring for our home. The guidance to care for this parcel of land has been given, and it couldn't be easier to respectfully respond to it.

Patrice Vecchione

<https://www.montereyherald.com/2025/07/23/patrice-vecchione-guest-commentary-birds-beak-and-genista-do-battle-in-del-rey-oaks/>