

## Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

### Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)



April 23, 2025

#### **Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee Annual Audit Report**

Kevin Dayton, Chair of the Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee, presented the results of the Measure X seventh year audit (fiscal year 2023/24) and the Measure X Annual Audit Report to the TAMC Board of Directors.

In the past fiscal year, 2023/24, Measure X generated \$38.8 million in revenues. Of that amount, 60% was distributed to the cities and County for local street and road projects, while the remaining 40% was programmed for regional safety and mobility projects.

The Measure X audit subcommittee conducted an independent audit of the revenues and expenditures of Measure X funds and prepared the Measure X Annual Audit Report. The results of the subcommittee's audit and the Measure X Oversight Committee's Annual Audit Report can be found here: [Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee 2024 Annual Audit Report](#)

#### **Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan**

The TAMC Board of Directors received a presentation on the Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan. Vision Zero is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all.

Each year 46 people are killed and 310 people are severely injured while walking, biking, or driving in Monterey County. The presentation of the Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan provided an overview of the planning process and timeline, including upcoming community outreach this spring.

The Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Action Plan will be a comprehensive county-wide safety action plan developed by TAMC in collaboration with partner agencies and other stakeholders to promote coordinated solutions to reduce fatalities and injuries due to traffic collisions.

The Plan will develop individual action plans for the ten jurisdictions that do not currently have an adopted plan (the Cities of Monterey, Salinas, and Seaside have already adopted or are currently developing Vision Zero or other safety plans). Caltrans District 5 and California Highway Patrol are participating in the plan, and both local roadways and state highways will be included.

The participating jurisdictions are:

1. City of Carmel by the Sea
2. City of Del Rey Oaks
3. City of Gonzales
4. City of Greenfield
5. City of King City
6. City of Marina
7. City of Pacific Grove
8. City of Sand City
9. City of Soledad
10. County of Monterey

In addition to action plans for each jurisdiction, the Plan will include recommendations for regional projects and programs that could be implemented by TAMC or partner agencies. The Plan will include recommendations for engineering projects as well as education and encouragement campaigns and policy and process changes, taking a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to improving traffic safety. The Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan is expected to be completed at the end of 2026.

Adoption of a Vision Zero Action Plan will make jurisdictions eligible for further funding to construct the improvements envisioned in the plan. The Plan will also help TAMC and local jurisdictions focus limited resources on areas with the greatest safety need.

The Monterey County Regional Vision Zero Plan is funded with a \$640,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program and a local matching grant of \$160,000 funded through the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) Reserve funds provided by TAMC.

## Monterey One Water (M1W)

April 28, 2025



### **Informational Update:**

- Received preliminary summary for fiscal year 25/26 proposed budget

### **Board Action:**

- Public hearing held on M1W's vacancies, recruitment and retention efforts
- Regional Treatment Plant Electrical Upgrade and Interconnection Project:
  - Awarded contract to Carollo Engineers for \$3,419,972
  - Awarded contract to TJCAA for \$1,098,400
  - Awarded contract to Royal Electric, totaling \$29,489,400
- Approved two purchase order amendments for Corporate Network Refresh project for a total amount of \$112,680.13
- Awarded professional services agreement to Chandler Asset Management Investment for advisory services for 3 years
- Mountain Cascade contract change approved for pump station upgrades and SEPS Emergency Generator Fuel System to total contingency amount of \$2,979,233
- Eurofins Eaton contract amended for lab testing services for Title 22 drinking water panels for an amount of \$235,723
- Approved Recertification of M1W 2025 Sewer System Management Plan
- Contract increase approved for Larry Walker Associates for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, totaling \$828,859.78
- Executive Officer authorized to execute an interim agreement with the City of Salinas and MCWRA for the City's Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility Effluent

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

May 15, 2025 - Recycled Water  
May 22, 2025 - Budget Workshop  
June 2, 2025 - Board of Directors

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## **Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

**Friday, April 18th- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting-** This month's meeting began with approving resolutions for both of our previous attorneys who were retiring from ReGen. Rob Wellington had been our attorney for 52 years and saw ReGen's evolution from a mere dump to an advanced landfill facility. Bob Rathie had also stepped into the role these last few years to support ReGen and we were happy to show our gratitude to them both.

As is the time of year, we also discussed our preliminary budget for next fiscal year. We are looking at raising disposal costs by about 5% (more for municipal waste as compared to single stream recycling). This increase will allow us to prepare for waste contracts that will end in 11 years while also allowing us to work on projects that will help make us more resilient and less reliant on outside waste contracts. In terms of capital projects, the budget will allow for much needed work in the landfill gas to energy area as we complete the needed maintenance on engines and look towards better management of the system, which may include developing renewable natural gas.

Our next agenda item was scheduling a public hearing for the FY 2025-2026 rate increase for the May board meeting. The board approved moving forward with this hearing since we all realize the importance of moving towards greater independence from outside waste contracts while we work to improve our services.

**Tuesday, April 22nd- City Council Meeting-** Our meeting began with a public comment from Nikki Nedeff, a representative for the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). She was addressing the letter that was sent to DRO city manager and council members over 2 months ago which requested approval to allow CNPS to pull the invasive french broom from the habitat reserve. About this, I'll say two things. First, I'm extremely disappointed that our city hasn't felt the need to respond in a timely manner. Second, I would be so happy if the city could find some way to work together with CNPS to allow them to care for this important habitat. A good working relationship with CNPS will serve us all well.

Next, I was so grateful to have our DRO resident, Patrice Vecchione, share some poetry with us in honor of National Poetry month. She has spent years working in our schools to teach poetry to young people and she shared two beautiful poems that gave us insights into the worries and wonderings of two students in these troubling times. Her message was clear that we not only need to bring awareness for what's happening nationally but it's just as important to bring that same message of transparency and thoughtful engagement to our local government. Thank you, Patrice, for sharing your thoughts and the thoughts of your students.

The only other item of substance on our agenda was a review of our draft operational budget, which is essentially status quo in comparison to last year's budget. No big changes, same services, and a balanced budget which I'm happy about. Not much discussion on this issue since it was pretty straightforward and provided nothing new. I do wish our Mayor and City Manager would have taken this opportunity with such a light agenda, to bring about a larger discussion regarding projects with our reserve funds. I realize this conversation will come later in the finance committee, but I do think it was a missed opportunity to start initiating the discussions with both the council and the public.

City manager Guertin lastly shared that TAMC (Transportation Agency of Monterey County) will be holding a town hall next month (May 29th) to talk about "Vision Zero" which is their initiative to lower traffic accidents. I look forward to hearing more! Mr. Guertin also shared that the "Acorn" will be delivered digitally at the end of this month (Did you get it?).

**Saturday, April 26th- DRO Earth Day and Ice Cream Social Event-** Even though the weather was sometimes on the chilly side, it was great to see so many people coming out to the park for our event. Thanks to the Citizens Action Group (CAG) and our city hall staff for organizing. I was able to table for ReGen Monterey and talk about what goes where in terms of recycling, trash, organic waste, and household hazardous waste. I loved that both adults and kids played the sorting game and walked away knowing a bit more than when they started. As usual, I brought my vermicomposting worms for everyone to explore and learn more about how they can also break down our food scraps and provide nutrient rich castings for the garden.

**Tuesday, April 29th- Zoom meeting with Blue Zone Project Monterey County regarding Tobacco Control Policies-** As the Blue Zone Project works on official Blue Zone certification for peninsula cities and the county, Kendra Howell Senior Policy Lead for the Blue Zone Project Monterey County organized a meeting between myself, Gonzalo Coronado from Monterey County Health Department's Tobacco Control program, and Jaclyn Cheves Director of Policy and Partnerships for Blue Zones. We spent an hour talking about how Gonzalo, myself, and Council Member Hallock brought the Tobacco Retail Licence and No Smoking in Public Spaces ordinances to our city and got them unanimously passed last year. The fact that we were also able to include no smoking in multiunit housing was also a tremendous accomplishment. They were interested to hear how we got it done, what were the things that helped and hindered the process, and what we need moving forward. I appreciated the time to review the process and share our successes. I also realize that it doesn't end with these ordinances. It still takes lots of education outreach to let people know what the rules are and to also provide them support if they need it. Two programs that were brought up were "Kick It California" and "Breathe California" which upon a quick review look like they have excellent resources and information to help people both quit and become educated on these topics. In terms of Del Rey Oaks, I think we could easily put some of this great information in our next edition of

the Acorn and I will be advocating for no-smoking signs with our park and along our FORTAG trail.

**Saturday, May 3rd- DRO Kids Chess Club-** I was honored to help celebrate Coach Mike O'Brien's one year anniversary of his kids chess club! Over a year ago, DRO resident Mike O'Brien decided to take his expertise and give back to the community by forming a chess club for kids. And wow has it taken off! One year later he has 36 kids signed up with an average of about 20-25 kids showing up to play. The kids are all ages (elementary through middle school), coming not only from Del Rey Oaks, but from the entire peninsula. Many thanks goes to Coach Mike and the City for creating this free opportunity for kids to spend time learning a game that not only supports their intellectual minds but also helps them to practice their social skills in collaboration, communication, and interacting with different kids. During the celebration, each participant received a certificate (thank you, Laura!), along with pizza and cake! It's clear that those kids and parents greatly appreciate the time and effort that Coach Mike puts into the group and it was wonderful to see that celebrated!

**Wednesday, May 7th- ReGen Finance Meeting-** During this month's meeting, we were given another look at the more finalized budget for 2025-2026. We've recently learned that a couple of our regional contracts may unexpectedly end during this next year, so I'm happy that we approved the rate increase for this year. We may be pleasantly surprised once we finalize and review the contracts, but I'm happy that staff is moving in a more conservative direction while also focusing on getting the most needed projects completed.

Speaking of regional contracts, we recommended that staff work to either amend or create a new contract with Waste Connections out of San Benito. They may be going to the voters to ask for an expansion of their landfill, but in the meantime, they'll need a place to take their municipal waste. These regional contracts don't generally pay our standard gate rate, so we'll see how this current rate changes with the new negotiation.

We also received an update on the franchise collection planning. Our waste hauler contract will end in 5 years and the Technical Advisory Committee subcommittee on this topic is working on preparing for that looming date. One of the items is to put out a request for proposals (RFP) for a consulting firm that can help us with this process, which they did last month. That subcommittee will be evaluating and choosing a proposal this month, which should come before the full ReGen board later in May.

Lastly, we quickly talked about the lack of additional feedback on the Guiding Principles for Acceptance of Regional Waste. Staff will send out a reminder for additional feedback and bring it back to the board.

**Monday, May 12th- Monterey Salinas Transit Administrative Performance Committee-** To begin, our General Manager, Carl Sedoryk talked about the abrupt stagnation in our ridership beginning in February. Since we implemented the Better Bus

Network, our ridership has been climbing each month by double digits. During March, we saw ridership only increase by 1.3% when compared to last year's numbers. The biggest decrease has been in Salinas, so further analysis needs to be done to find out what's causing the drop. It was suggested that fear of encountering ICE has possibly caused fewer people to go out, causing a decrease in ridership.

We also received the state and federal updates from our representatives. AB 761 sponsored by Assembly Member Addis is moving along in the process of approval. This bill will allow MST to renew our Measure Q tax with an increase of 1/8 cent. That increase puts us over what's allowed for sales tax, and this bill, if we were to decide to go for the higher amount, would allow us to do that. We're also watching to make sure that the Cap and Trade funding is reauthorized since transit receives 15% of that revenue. It was mentioned that there may be a deficit in next year's State budget. The amount is unknown (anywhere from \$10-40 billion). The delayed LA County taxes due to the fires, tariffs, and the stock market are all influences on the final outcome.

The Federal update was essentially that they're way behind in their budget planning, after the President submitted a "skinny" budget (few details, which includes a 25% reduction in non-defense spending). This process will stretch out through the end of this year.

We also got a peek into the MST budget assumptions for FY 25-26. Thankfully our reserve will continue to increase to almost 100% of our budget. We may need to dip into that reserve if we can't get the grants we need for capital projects. MST bus fares will not be increasing. We did talk about the possibility of tariffs on our new electric buses which could potentially be \$50,000/bus (we've ordered 13 of them). We'll see what happens since things are changing daily.

Lastly, we received an update on the College Ecosmart Pass Program. This program provides a "floor" and a "ceiling" for the three local colleges (CSUMB, Hartnell, and MPC) so they can budget for all of their students to easily ride the bus. MPC was dragging their feet a bit in renewing this program, so I tried to help by advocating to our Board Trustees and one of our administrators. I was grateful to find out this morning that MPC will indeed continue the program, which made me so happy because I know that's what is best for our students.

**Monday, May 12th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting-** Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet. One additional note: At the end of the meeting, we got to go for a ride on a double decker bus! We have a few routes that, at times, leave riders stranded because the bus fills and riders are not allowed to stand. Using a double decker bus would allow us to carry twice the amount of people and still only use one driver and not take up any more parking spaces at bus stops. The price for each electric bus is \$2 million (one level electric bus is \$1.3 million) and the build time is 2 years. We don't have money set aside for this yet, but it was fun to ride! MST will be driving it around to

test it on the roadways to make sure it can indeed get to all the places it needs to go. So far, it sounds like all of the roadways were good and the biggest issue was low hanging trees along the streets. I think this could work. It happened to be a beautiful day and riding on that top level was pretty spectacular. I could see tourists and locals riding this just for the views!

## **Council Report from Councilmember John Uy May 20, 2025 Meeting**

### **I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on April 22, 2025**



I wish to extend my sincerest apologies for not being present at our regular council meeting on April 22, 2025. That evening, I had to drive my father to an important medical appointment in San Francisco—an obligation rooted in love and family responsibility that I simply could not forgo. I trust my absence is understood in the context of the deep commitment we all share, not only to our civic duties but also to the well-being of our families, which ground and inspire our service.

Though I could not be with you in person, I did view the full meeting recording and read through the entire agenda packet. I was especially focused on reviewing the Draft Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, the most significant agenda item of the evening.

First and foremost, I want to express my appreciation to City Manager Guertin and the Finance team for their diligence in preparing a budget that reflects both prudence and purpose. The proposed budget demonstrates careful stewardship of public resources while prioritizing the essential services that sustain the quality of life in Del Rey Oaks. With revenue and expenditure levels closely aligned and a positive year-to-date surplus supported by one-time ARPA transfers, the fiscal trajectory appears stable, even as we remain mindful of broader economic uncertainties.

The draft reflects an ongoing commitment to conservative budgeting, necessary maintenance investments (like Rosita Road repairs), and crucial public safety funding. I am especially pleased to see that while expenditures are at 72.7% and revenues at 74.3% of the budget three-quarters through the fiscal year, we are continuing to operate with balance and foresight.

That said, I echo Councilmember Shirley's sentiments about the importance of enhancing a more collaborative, strategic approach to budgeting. I wholeheartedly support the idea of convening planning sessions to identify our shared long-term priorities, especially around infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, and community development. These conversations will empower us to make the budget not only a reflection of current realities but a roadmap for a future that is vibrant, inclusive, and resilient.

Our residents deserve not just transparency, but inspiration and imagination in how we allocate resources. As a city of just over 1,600 people, we have the unique opportunity to be nimble, responsive, and visionary. Let's continue to find ways to engage our community in that vision.

Again, thank you for your understanding of my absence and your continued dedication to our city. It is my honor to serve our Del Rey Oaks community alongside each one of you.

## **II. Council Report: Participation in DRO's Earth Day Celebration – April 26, 2025**

It was my honor and heartfelt joy to participate in this year's Earth Day Celebration on April 26, 2025, right here in Del Rey Oaks—an event so thoughtfully organized by the City of Del Rey Oaks and the Citizens' Action Group and supported by the incredible spirit of our community. I extend my deepest thanks to the organizers and volunteers whose passion, time, and effort made the day not only possible but truly meaningful.



As a Councilmember, I believe our role goes beyond policy and planning. We are also called to inspire awareness, model sustainability, and bring people together. That's why I chose to contribute in a light-hearted yet purposeful way by bringing bubbles and bubble machines to the celebration. From little ones to grown-ups, the reaction was priceless—smiles, laughter, wonder, and joy floated through the air like the bubbles themselves.

But there was also a message I hoped to share with our community: **Choose bubbles over balloons.**

While balloons are often associated with celebration, they can pose serious environmental threats. Many eventually make their way to the ocean, where they are mistaken for food by marine animals. Tragically, ingestion of balloon debris leads to injury and death for sea turtles, birds, and other marine life. A small choice, like opting for bubbles instead, can have a significant ripple effect in protecting our ecosystem.

The beauty of this message is that it demonstrates how fun and environmental responsibility are not mutually exclusive. We can celebrate in ways that delight our children and our planet at the same time. Bubbles offer all the magic of wonder and none of the waste, and they serve as

a perfect symbol of what Earth Day is all about—making choices that preserve beauty, spark joy, and protect life.

I left the celebration feeling grateful, hopeful, and inspired. It reminded me that advocacy can be playful, education can be engaging, and each of us, no matter our role, can be part of the solution.

To everyone who stopped by, smiled, blew bubbles, or shared in a conversation about sustainability: thank you. And to the Citizens' Action Group: your work continues to nurture a greener, kinder, and more connected Del Rey Oaks. I'm so proud to be part of this community and so thankful for the opportunity to serve it on Earth Day and every day.



### **III. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Councilmember Uy on Cinco de Mayo – May 5, 2025**

¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

Today, we celebrate the vibrant spirit, rich culture, and resilient history of the Mexican people. Cinco de Mayo is more than a commemoration of victory at the Battle of Puebla. It is a tribute to courage in the face of adversity, to unity in times of challenge, and to the enduring contributions of the Mexican-American community to our shared story here in Del Rey Oaks and across the nation.

As we gather with family, friends, and neighbors, whether through music, dancing, delicious food, or simply enjoying one another's company, may we also take a moment to honor the deeper meaning of this day: the power of perseverance, the beauty of cultural pride, and the strength that comes from community.

In Del Rey Oaks, we are blessed to live in a place where diversity is not just present but it is embraced, celebrated, and cherished. Cinco de Mayo reminds us of the value of inclusivity, of learning from one another, and of building a future that is enriched by the many cultures that call our city home.

To all who are celebrating today: may your hearts be full, your spirits lifted, and your tables surrounded by laughter and love. Thank you for being part of what makes our city so special.



#### IV. Council Report: Heartfelt Message of Councilmember Uy on Mother's Day – May 11, 2025

Dear Friends, Family, and Neighbors,

Today, we celebrate the heart of every home—the mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, guardians, and all those who have embraced the role of nurturer with courage, grace, and unconditional love.

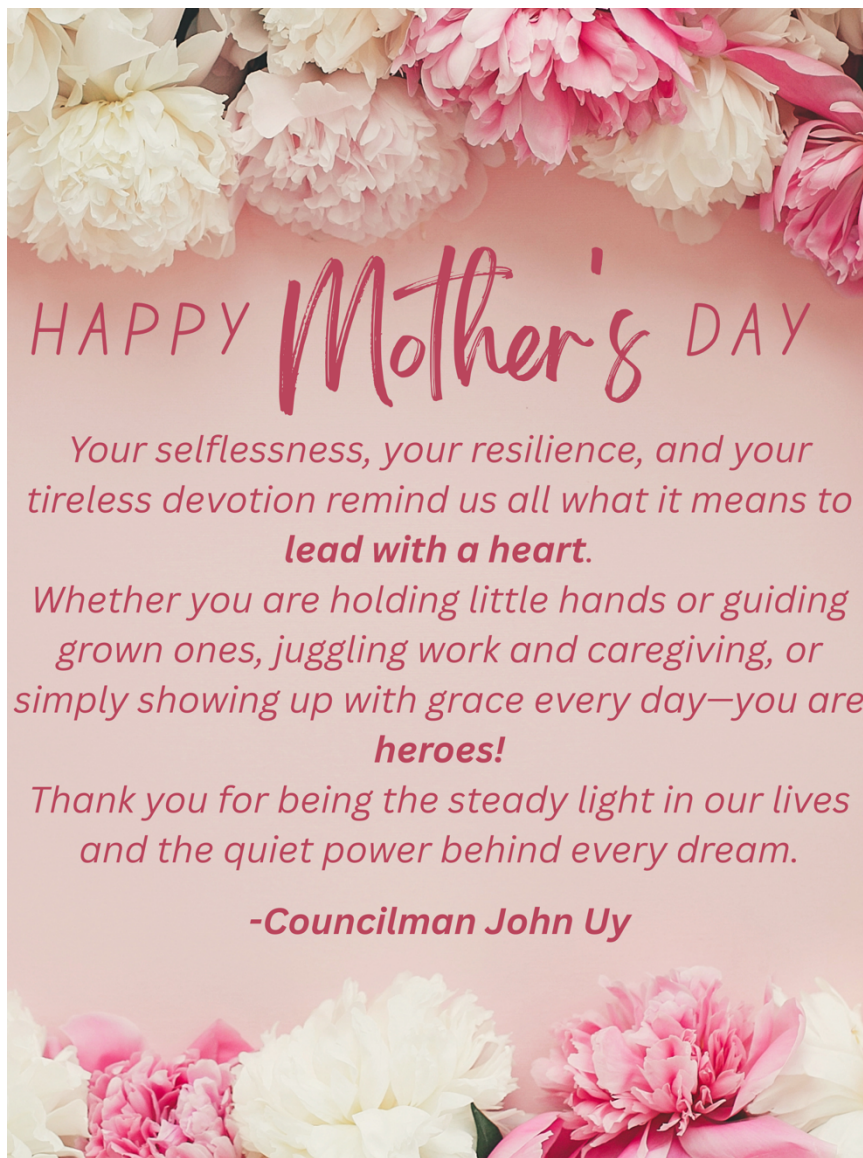
As your Councilman, and as someone deeply moved by the quiet strength of everyday heroes, I want to honor the incredible women in our community who give so much of themselves, often without recognition or rest. You shape lives, build character, and carry hope in ways that ripple far beyond your homes. Your love is the quiet force behind every strong child, every resilient family, and every thriving neighborhood.

To the mothers who wake early, stay up late, carry the unseen burdens, and still manage to share their light—you are nothing short of extraordinary. Your stories, sacrifices, and strength inspire us to be better leaders, better neighbors, and better human beings.

Today, we see you. We thank you. And we celebrate you!

From my heart to yours, Happy Mother's Day!

With heartfelt gratitude and admiration,  
Councilman John Uy



**V. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – May 13, 2025**

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I wish to share an update regarding the May 13, 2025 meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD), where I proudly serve as Chair representing the City of Del Rey Oaks.

Unfortunately, neither I nor my alternate was able to attend the board meeting that morning. I had arranged for my alternate representative in advance since I have to be out of town for a work conference, but prior to the meeting, he, too, was unable to attend due to important responsibilities. I sincerely apologize for our absence and any inconvenience it may have caused to the board, staff, or the public. Please

know that this was not a decision made lightly, and I am truly grateful for everyone's understanding.

Even in my absence, I remain fully committed to the important work of the SCSD and to ensuring that Del Rey Oaks continues to be well-represented in regional decisions about sanitation infrastructure, service operations, and environmental responsibility. I have reviewed the agenda, staff reports, and will continue to stay informed on board discussions and actions taken at the meeting. I appreciate the leadership of our Vice Chairs, fellow board members, and dedicated staff who kept the meeting running smoothly.

Our shared goals of maintaining efficient, safe, and sustainable sanitation services are always at the forefront of my mind, and I look forward to rejoining the board in our next regular meeting to continue this essential work.

**VI. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – May 14, 2025**

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Councilmember Kim Shirley for graciously attending the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board Meeting on May 14, 2025, on my behalf.

As many of you know, I was away the entire week attending a professional work conference out of town—an opportunity to continue growing in service and leadership. Knowing that our city would still be well-represented at the regional level gave me great peace of mind, and for that, I am deeply thankful to Councilmember Shirley.



Her willingness to step in reflects the collaborative spirit that defines our council and our community. We each wear many hats, and when one of us is called elsewhere, it's reassuring to know that we support one another in ensuring Del Rey Oaks remains present and engaged in the important conversations shaping the future of our region.

Thank you again, Councilmember Shirley, for your dedication, presence, and partnership. I look forward to returning and continuing the work we all care so deeply about.

## **VI. Council Report: Invitation to the 2025 DRO Pride Flag Raising**

It is with great joy, pride, and heartfelt hope that I warmly invite you all to join us for the **Del Rey Oaks Pride Flag Raising Ceremony** on **Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 12:00 PM** at **Del Rey Oaks City Hall**.

As we raise the rainbow flag together, we are doing more than hoisting fabric into the sky. We are lifting up a message of **love, inclusion, visibility, and unity**. This flag represents our shared values: that everyone deserves to live authentically, to be seen and celebrated, and to feel safe and welcomed in the place they call home.

This annual tradition is a beautiful reminder that even in our small but mighty city, we stand firmly with our LGBTQ+ neighbors, family members, friends, and community leaders—not just during Pride Month, but always. This event is for everyone, whether you're a member of the LGBTQ+ community or a proud ally.

Let us come together in kindness, color, and community to celebrate love in all its forms and affirm that **Del Rey Oaks is a place where all people belong**.

I look forward to standing beside you on this special day.



## CITY OF DEL REY OAKS

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JOIN US AT THIS AWESOME EVENT  
STAND FOR EQUALITY  
CELEBRATE THE FREEDOM OF LOVE

# DRO Pride Flag Raising Event

JUNE 1, 2025 (SUN), 12:00 PM

DEL REY OAKS CITY HALL