

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Monday, August 26th- Monterey 1 Water Board Mtg- As the alternate for Council Member Bill Ragsdale-Cronin, I attended the monthly M1W board meeting. We discussed three main items. The first was an audit on the water recycling expense agreement between M1W and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency in relation to the operation and maintenance of the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project (SVRP), the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP), and the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). In summary, there were a total of 7 findings, 4 of which warrant some changes, such as creating consistency between timekeeping and asset management software platforms (all for time records), figuring out the most appropriate formula for calculating costs, and making sure monthly reporting is being done. In the end, it sounds like M1W staff and the county staff are working well together to find solutions that make both happy and reflect the needed changes from the audit.

The second item was approving the revised interruptible source water rates, fixed costs, and revised rates for backwash water. These new rate changes were all based on calculated actual costs versus the previously used “estimates.” These were unanimously approved.

Lastly, we voted to approve a raise for the General Manager which would bring him within 5% of the market median rate for comparable jobs within the industry. His salary, including the added COLA that everyone else received will be \$356,760/yr. His title is also changing to “Executive Officer/General Manager.”

Tuesday, August 27th- City Council Meeting- This was a meeting filled with positive presentations and almost no business. It was called to order by our “Honorary Mayor” of the night, young Mateo Rodriguez. With three gentle wacks of the gavel, we began our meeting, he called for roll, and then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Well done, Mateo! It's great to see young people interested in local government. Next we honored a local Eagle Scout, Jamison Jones who created a couple new kiosks and a park bench for the city. Thank you, Jamison! Finally, we had a presentation by Central Coast Community Energy, which was very informative. At a lower cost than PG&E, they provide mostly renewable energy while also providing lots of various rebates to their customers for electrifying either their rides or their homes. Besides rebates for EV purchases, they also provide rebates for putting in a charger, changing out appliances, panel upgrades, and electrifying ADU's. Their latest push is big rebates for battery purchases. You don't even need to have solar! Sounds like the application process is fairly easy for these rebates, too. Just visit 3cenergy.org for all the details. After that, we passed the consent agenda, listened to some city manager updates, and then we were done for the evening.

Wednesday, Sept. 4th- ReGen Monterey Finance Committee Meeting- Besides the usual approving of the minutes, we mainly had four items that we discussed during today's meeting. The first was a review of the edited version of the White Paper along with a draft summary (the "Reader's Digest" version). I was impressed that staff took the feedback from the board when we approved the document in July and so quickly produced these two versions. Although we approved the "final version" in July there were some grammatical issues that needed to be addressed along with tightening of the language. We also talked about how the public probably wasn't going to read the document, but a shortened, more friendly version would be perfect, and that's exactly what they produced! This will come before the full board this month, but I think these will be two documents that we'll be proud to link to our website.

The second item was reviewing our new compost operations agreement with Keith Day Company. ReGen Monterey will be taking over the permit process for composting (currently held by Keith Day) and in exchange, we will be giving him a longer lease (15 years with two 5 year extensions). He's been an excellent partner for several years and so this arrangement is a win-win for both our agency and his company.

The third item was reviewing the edits to our Reserve Policies and also introducing two new reserve policies—a landfill closure and a post-closure reserve fund. I'm so thankful the staff worked on this as this is something we really should have been planning for long ago. Granted, I realize it's hard to think 125 years out and put money away now to be used for closing the landfill and then maintaining that closure for another 30 years, but I know that our grandkids and their kids will thank us. At this time, it's a fairly loose policy in that we could dip into it if we absolutely needed, but the idea is to put away \$400,000 for closure and \$120,000 for post-closure every year (per the Board's discretion). Ultimately we'll need at least \$60 million for closure and \$20 million for post-closure so this is just a drop in the bucket but will make a big difference when it grows and becomes available for the next generations.

Lastly, we declared one flatbed truck for scrap and discussed the purchase of an excavator and loader which will be on our consent agenda for this month's board meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 5th- Monterey County Homeless Census 2024 Meeting- I joined the zoom call for electeds and other city staff to review the homeless census data that was captured at the beginning of this year. The presentation was given by The Coalition of Homeless Services Providers who are the go-to people in the County in terms of knowledge and outreach.

Here are some of the stats they shared:

- The Point in Time homeless count in Monterey County was 2,436 which is a 19% increase from the previous count in 2022 (counts are done every 2 years).
- Of those 2,436 people, 23% were sheltered and 77% were unsheltered.

- Veteran and youth homelessness were slightly down, while family homelessness was up
- 78% have been homeless for more than 1 year.
- The majority of the contributing factors is a lack of finances and affordable housing.
- Many of the people surveyed are suffering from various mental and physical illnesses.
- Here are the homeless counts for DRO:
 - 2024 = 14
 - 2022 = 2
 - 2019 = 0
 - 2017 = 111
 - 2015 = 55
- Some of the reasons they felt we saw an overall increase in the count include:
 - Reduction of resources (federal/state funding)
 - Eviction moratoriums lapsed
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - It was calculated that for someone to be able to rent a home in Monterey County, they would need to make \$55.37/hr to meet the livable wage.

This meeting was purely informational, but it's a good reminder that we all need to play a part in addressing this humanitarian issue.

Monday, Sept. 9th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Administrative Performance

Committee- In this meeting we learned that MST continues to see an increase in its ridership in all areas (fixed route, Rides, and taxis). Overall, we've had a 24% increase over last year. I was happy to hear that MST is also looking to see if we can create a route to Rancho Cielo as that school has grown to a few hundred students who don't have a lot of personal transportation options.

Next we received the usual updates from our State and Federal lobbyists. For the State update, there are a few transportation bills that are on the Governor's desk to sign, including one that has CalTrans incorporate more "complete streets" in their planning (those are roads that are meant to accommodate all types of travel-bike, pedestrian, mass transit, etc). In the Federal update, it was emphasized that congress is trying to prevent a shutdown before Oct. 1st and that the House is seeking spending reductions overall, which includes transportation funding, so they're looking out for that as some of our local projects (King City Hydrogen facility) are depending on those funds. Lastly, we received a brief update on the unaudited FY 2024 year-end financial report. Overall, MST has a surplus (less than last year, but still a surplus) and they're doing a good job of keeping the money in accounts that give us a good return.

Monday, Sept. 9th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST Board Highlights in our agenda packet.

Thursday, Sept. 12th- California Coastal Commission, Monterey Conference Center-

After having postponed the hearing in August for the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the MST SURF! Busway, we were happy that the Coastal Commission's meeting was taking place in Monterey for this long-awaited agenda item. In addition to writing a letter of support for approval of the CDP the previous week, I also wrote up comments and headed to the conference center to spend the day advocating for this important project. For me, I see this project as a way to more efficiently and reliably help people who need public transportation from lower resource areas (Marina and Salinas) to get to the higher resource areas (Monterey, PG, Carmel). With the use of zero-emissions buses, this busway helps to address climate change and establishes the current rail corridor for mass transit, which will help in the future when we're ready to put in commuter trains (which many people are in favor of). When I spoke, I gave my comments from the perspective of someone who teaches at a Hispanic Serving Institution which serves many of these students who rely on this transportation (all MPC students get to ride the bus for free). And although it's being built in a sensitive dune habitat, I was supportive of it being moved to the most disturbed area of the dunes (the old railway). I also know that this approval comes with mitigation and protection of more dune habitat. Overall, 7 out of 8 commissioners agreed and MST joyously received the CDP.

Friday, Sept. 13th- M1W Budget/Personnel Committee Meeting- With Council Member

Bill Ragsdale-Cronin's passing this past month on August 28th, his committee assignments have gone to me as his alternate on M1Water. The items we covered in this meeting were very straightforward with little discussion from the Directors. First, we recommended the approval of an additional full-time accountant/payroll position. They have been short-staffed and have a greater need for additional accounting tasks, so this ask was warranted. The next two items were recommending the adoption of resolutions that deal with the conflict-of-interest code and designated employees who need to report their financial holdings, as well as a resolution dealing with records retention. Lastly, we recommended approval for purchasing various networking hardware parts that will protect our network. The cost was already incorporated into this year's budget. Lastly, I thanked everyone for including me, although I shared that I was sad it was under these circumstances. We closed with a minute of silence for our friend, Council Member Bill.

Council Report from Vice Mayor John Uy September 24, 2024

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on August 27, 2024

It's my privilege to update you on the latest from our regular City Council meeting held on August 24, 2024. As always, our discussions and decisions are guided by a commitment to the well-being, safety, and future prosperity of our cherished city. Your input and involvement are the heart of our efforts, and it's an honor to serve as your Vice Mayor. Here's a full recap of what transpired during this productive meeting:

Honoring Our Community Heroes

We had the great honor of recognizing Jamison Jones, a remarkable young man who completed his Eagle Scout Service Project. Jamison's hard work resulted in the construction of a park bench and two new community information kiosks, which will serve as vital additions to our public spaces. His project, supported by volunteers, family members, and local businesses, embodies the spirit of community service that makes Del Rey Oaks such a special place to live. Thank you, Jamison, for your leadership and dedication—your efforts will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Investing in Our Energy Future

Sustainability and innovation were front and center as we heard from Central Coast Community Energy (3CE). They provided a detailed overview of how 3CE is reducing emissions and supporting the transition to renewable energy in our region. Exciting projects like solar energy storage and geothermal energy development are well underway, marking our region's leadership in environmental responsibility. These clean energy projects not only help us meet state energy goals but also ensure that our energy costs remain stable and affordable. It's uplifting to know that Del Rey Oaks is part of the movement to protect our environment for future generations while keeping the lights on for all our residents.

Strengthening Our Resilience with Disaster Relief Funding

In response to recent storm-related damage at City Hall, the Council approved Resolution 2024-15, making Del Rey Oaks eligible to receive federal disaster relief funds. This measure ensures that we are prepared to respond quickly to natural disasters and repair vital city infrastructure without burdening local taxpayers. Securing this funding is a proactive step toward safeguarding our city's future.

In addition, we authorized the purchase of pollution and legal liability insurance for our former Fort Ord properties. With this coverage in place, we're not only protecting our community from

potential environmental risks but also positioning ourselves to manage any legal challenges that might arise from this historic site. This is just one more way we are working to secure a bright, sustainable future for Del Rey Oaks.

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility

We reviewed the city's financials for the past fiscal year, and I'm pleased to report that our financial standing remains robust. Our revenue has exceeded projections by 5%, with thoughtful management of expenditures resulting in a budget surplus. This careful stewardship allows us to continue investing in key projects and services while maintaining a balanced budget.

Some highlights from our financial review include:

- Property tax revenues increased by 7%, largely due to growth in the housing market.
- Sales tax collections reached 93% of our target, helping fund essential services like public safety and road maintenance.
- Licenses and permits have brought in 59% more revenue than expected, reflecting increased construction and business activities in our community.

Rest assured, we will continue to manage the city's resources prudently, focusing on long-term financial sustainability and responsible growth.

Looking Ahead: Upcoming Community Projects

While no new business was introduced during this meeting, exciting projects are on the horizon. We are gearing up for several capital improvement projects, funded by grants, that will enhance our infrastructure and improve the quality of life for all residents. Additionally, work is set to begin soon on the development of the former Fort Ord property, with opportunities for community input in the coming months. We want to ensure that this development reflects the values and needs of our residents, so please stay tuned for public engagement opportunities.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued support and trust. The strength of our city lies in our unity and our shared commitment to building a welcoming, resilient, and forward-looking community. Let's continue to work together, supporting one another, and making Del Rey Oaks a place we're all proud to call home.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors last September 10, 2024



I'm delighted to share with you the latest updates from our Seaside County Sanitation District Board Meeting, which took place on September 10, 2024. As your Vice Mayor and First Vice Chair of the Sanitation District Board, it's important to me that you are kept informed about the decisions and developments that impact our community. This meeting was both productive and forward-looking, reflecting our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe, sustainable, and well-functioning infrastructure. Here are the key highlights:

Investing in Our Infrastructure

We discussed several important projects that will directly improve our local infrastructure in the district:

Lincoln Cunningham Park Sewer Line Repairs

We adopted a resolution to approve plans and specifications for the repair of a sewer line within the Lincoln Cunningham Park Phase 1 - Arterial Trail Project. This project, in collaboration with the City of Seaside, will not only enhance the park but also ensure that our sewer system remains strong and reliable. I'm particularly excited about this, as it brings together both environmental and recreational benefits for the community. A reimbursement agreement was also approved, ensuring that costs are shared responsibly between the Seaside County Sanitation District and the City of Seaside.

2023 Pavement Rehabilitation Project Sewer Main Repairs

Another critical item was the approval of plans to repair a sewer main as part of the 2023 Pavement Rehabilitation Project. This initiative will allow us to improve our roadways while addressing the underlying sewer infrastructure. Ensuring our sewer mains are up to date as part of broader street projects is essential to preventing future issues and minimizing disruptions to our community.

Broadway Avenue Sewer Main Repairs

We also approved a contract with Monterey Peninsula Engineering for the repair of a sewer main on Broadway Avenue near Terrace Street. This essential repair, at a cost not to exceed \$44,000, will address a known issue in that area, preventing potential leaks and ensuring the integrity of the system. I want to personally thank Monterey Peninsula Engineering for their continued partnership and professionalism in helping us maintain and improve our infrastructure.

Operational Transparency

We also received the Seaside County Sanitation District Operations Report for the months of May, June, July, and August. These reports give us a detailed look at how our sanitation systems have been performing and highlight areas where we've made improvements. I'm happy to report that, thanks to the hard work of our district staff, we're maintaining a high level of service and responsiveness to any issues that arise.

Why This Matters to You

These projects are about more than just maintaining our sewer system—they're about safeguarding the well-being of our community. Reliable sanitation services mean a cleaner environment, fewer disruptions to your daily life, and a stronger foundation for future growth. The improvements we've approved at this meeting will benefit not only us today but also future generations.

As we move forward, I want to assure you that we're committed to being proactive in addressing any infrastructure needs. Our next regular meeting will be held on October 8, 2024, at 9:30 AM, and I encourage any of you who are interested in learning more or sharing your thoughts to join us.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – September 11, 2024

It is my great privilege to serve as your representative on the AMBAG (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments) Board. I am excited to share important updates from our recent meeting on September 11, 2024. These discussions impact Del Rey Oaks and our neighboring communities, shaping our region's future in sustainability, transportation, and equity.



1. Regional Energy Network (REN) Update

A key focus of the meeting was the progress of the Regional Energy Network (REN), which aims to provide energy efficiency programs specifically for rural and hard-to-reach communities. AMBAG is working to implement the Rural Regional Energy Network (RuralREN), a groundbreaking initiative that helps smaller municipalities access much-needed funding for energy-saving programs. By 2025, Monterey Bay communities will benefit from this network through enhanced support for renewable energy projects, energy-efficient building upgrades, and resources to lower utility costs.

This initiative will significantly reduce our community's carbon footprint, increase energy independence, and help residents save on their energy bills. I am excited about the potential of RuralREN to make Del Rey Oaks a leader in sustainable living while promoting environmental justice across our region.

2. Title VI Program

AMBAG also adopted the 2024 Title VI Program, which ensures that all communities, regardless of race, color, or national origin, have equal access to transportation services and programs in the Monterey Bay region. This program is crucial in promoting equity and preventing discrimination, especially in historically underserved areas.

For Del Rey Oaks, this means that we will continue to see programs that prioritize fairness and inclusivity. From public transportation to infrastructure projects, AMBAG remains committed to ensuring that every resident benefits equally from regional investments, which is something I will continue to advocate for.

3. Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

The Board also approved the Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for fiscal years 2024-25 to 2027-28. This is a comprehensive plan to address transportation needs across our region. It includes investments in road safety, public transit, and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. For Del Rey Oaks, this means better connectivity, safer roads, and enhanced access to transportation options that meet the needs of all our residents.

One of the key highlights of the MTIP is the focus on sustainability and resilience. The program supports projects that will improve not just transportation but also environmental quality, making our region more adaptable to future challenges like climate change. I am proud to represent a city that is part of this forward-thinking initiative.

In conclusion, it is an exciting time for Del Rey Oaks as we continue to work with AMBAG on these impactful projects. The Regional Energy Network will bring significant sustainability benefits, the Title VI Program ensures equity in all transportation services, and the MTIP promises safer, greener, and more efficient transportation systems for all.