

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)



March 26, 2025

Salinas Sidewalk Art Project Provides Safe Route to School

The Transportation Agency Board of Directors received an update on the Salinas Sidewalk Art Project. The project is a community-driven public art project marking safe routes to four schools and community spaces in East Salinas.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) provides Safe Routes to School programming to teach and encourage Monterey County kids to safely carpool, walk, bike, skateboard, and scoot to school. One way to increase the visibility of safe routes to schools programming and create more enjoyable walking routes is through public artwork.

The Transportation Agency partnered with the City of Salinas and were successful in securing Clean California grant funding from the State to develop sidewalk art marking safe routes between schools and public amenities in East Salinas. The project is funded through a Clean CA grant and Measure X matching funds.

The first sidewalk art piece, "One Man Banda" by Augustine D. Escobedo, was installed on the sidewalk in front of Closter Park near the basketball courts in November 2024. The remaining artwork will be installed by June 2025 to meet the Clean California grant deadline. The artwork will be inspected and maintained once a year for five years through TAMC's contract with Artists Ink. Local funds will be used to maintain the artwork.

In addition to the artwork, two TAMC Fellows from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) have developed handouts for each sidewalk art piece to further engage students and families to visit and explore the artwork, learn about their community, and reflect. All handouts have been created to meet school curriculum requirements so they can be used by teachers for class field trips. The TAMC/MIIS Fellowship was approved by the TAMC Board in August 2024.

TAMC Board Receives Update on State Route 68 Adaptive Traffic Signal Pilot Project

Caltrans District 5 and TAMC staff presented an update on efforts to implement an adaptive signal control pilot project in the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor.

Last October, the Board allocated \$500,000 in Regional Measure X funds towards the purchase and installation of adaptive (also known as artificial intelligence, or AI) signal controls as a pilot project at all nine signalized intersections along State Route 68 linking the Salinas Valley to the Monterey Peninsula.

Adaptive signal control technology adjusts the timing of red, yellow, and green lights to accommodate changing traffic patterns and ease traffic congestion. Unlike traditional traffic signals, which operate on fixed timings, adaptive signals use real-time data from sensors and cameras to optimize traffic flow. This technology is particularly beneficial during peak travel times, incidents and special events when traffic volumes can vary unexpectedly. Reduced congestion can also reduce collision rates.

The adaptive signal operations are expected to serve as an interim solution, complementing the roundabout intersections identified as long-term improvements for the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor. Staff have identified potential funding options for the first phase of the roundabout projects, but most intersections along the corridor are expected to remain signalized for the foreseeable future.

TAMC's Board of Directors engaged in a comprehensive discussion to assess the phased approach recommended by staff to use the allocated funding to purchase and install adaptive signal equipment at four intersections located at the eastern end of the corridor, rather than installing the AI signals at the nine intersections along the entire corridor.

At the conclusion, the Board voted to authorize up to \$1.2 million to purchase and install adaptive signal equipment at nine signalized intersections on State Route 68 between Toro Park and Highway 1 over the 5-year life cycle of the project; and to receive a report back on the results after the initial installation.

Caltrans Offers \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

The employees of Caltrans District 5 and the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) are offering three \$1,000 Scholarships to high school seniors. The scholarships are intended to recognize and assist students who are planning to pursue a transportation related career.

The application and directions to apply can be found at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-popular-links/d5-scholarships>

Applications must be received at the District no later than May 15.

Monterey One Water (M1W)

March 31, 2025



Board Presentations

- Update on the Feasibility Studies to Address Seawater Intrusion was presented by Piret Harmon and Sarah Hardgrove from SVBGSA
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Board Actions:

- Approved purchase of 10 Taylor-Dunn Bigfoot S Carts
- Approved a second amendment to H2O Innovations for RO threshold inhibitor contract for AWPf
- Approved an agreement with TJC for engineering services for the SVRP electrical system replacement project
- Approved contract amendment with Kennedy Jenks for additional engineering services during the PWM-AWPf facility expansion project
- Approved contract amendment for CP330 Monterey Pump Station upgrades and CP331 Seaside Pump Station upgrades with Carollo Engineering for engineering services during construction
- Board Committee assignments were confirmed
- BPC meetings will now be held quarterly and as needed, instead of monthly, RWC will continue to meet monthly and PPC will be scheduled as needed
- Received the 23/24 FY Annual Comprehensive Report as well as the Popular Annual Financial Report
- Received information regarding MCWD interest in becoming the billing vendor for MCWD customers

Upcoming Meetings:

- Budget Personnel Committee April 11, 2025
- Recycled Water Committee April 17, 2025
- Board of Directors April 28, 2025

View agenda packets and meetings details at <https://www.montereyonewater.org/192/Public-Meetings>

or to view past meetings go to our channel at

[Monterey One Water - YouTube](#)

MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2025

Jeremy A. Hallock

Vice Mayor – City of Del Rey Oaks

3/10/25- Attended regular monthly meeting Del Rey Oaks Citizen's Action Group (DROCAG) meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month.

3/17/25- Attended regular monthly meeting Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. MPWMD regular meetings 3rd Monday of each month.

3/19/25- Attended Del Rey Oaks Public Safety Committee meeting.

3/20/25- Attended regular monthly board meeting Community Human Services.

(CHS) regular meetings 3rd Thursday of each month.

All boards and committee meetings are publicly noticed, and open to the public for public comment in-person, via Zoom (when available), and/or by written letter form submission.

City Council Members can also be addressed via form submission through the city website; www.delreyoaks.org

Each board or committee represented by City Council Members can be accessed by their respective websites to view publicly noticed agendas, minutes recorded, and links to contacts and further information.

END OF REPORT

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Friday, March 21st- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- We had some big topics on our agenda for this month's meeting. The first was addressing the topic of a rate increase so that staff could incorporate the increase into our budget for FY 2025-26 and also contact the waste haulers so they can incorporate this proposed increase into their budget for next year. This topic of a rate increase was initially brought up during our workshop in February when we talked about a potential \$9 million dollar cliff in 11 years when our contract with Greenwaste Recovery in San Jose ends. In preparation for this decrease in revenue, staff is looking towards 2036 as a target and wanting to do a steady increase, which would be evaluated each year, to help us gain larger financial independence while also preserving our landfill. This extra revenue will also help with infrastructure maintenance and projects which could also bring in new revenue (ex. producing renewable natural gas from our landfill gas). The rate hike would be roughly 5% for waste, 2% for single stream recycling, and 3-4% for organics composting. While it's estimated to bring in an additional \$1.6 million dollars in revenue next year, the increase would cost DRO residents roughly \$.31/month. The board unanimously supported this direction.

The second item was addressing the revisions to our "Guiding Principles" and "Guiding Principles for Acceptance of Regional Waste" documents. These were documents that we talked about at the Finance Committee meeting (see my council report from last month). Feedback was taken from that Finance meeting and the staff incorporated edits which we reviewed at the board meeting. The largest edit was establishing a tiered approach to the life of our landfill. With the previous documents, the view was to provide contracts for outside waste as long as we still had 75 years of life left in our landfill. The new document continues with this policy, but then more clearly defines what to do as landfill life decreases. For instance, when there is 50-75 years of capacity left, then landfill disposals would be limited to our closest county customers (Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and SLO). ReGen would also actively pursue options for future landfill capacity at this point. The third tier with 50 years of capacity or less would preserve our landfill capacity exclusively for ReGen member agencies. ReGen would also pursue landfill site entitlements, permitting or agreements for future landfill capacity. I thought these were good edits to our documents as they provide more granular guidance while planning for the needs of future generations of landfill users. Board members generally liked these edits and this item will be brought back next month for further review.

The third item was awarding the equipment contract for our new covered aerated static pile compost (CASP) project. This \$1,568,200 contract will provide us with the necessary equipment to revamp the way we produce compost by reducing the need to turn the piles (turning the piles introduces oxygen into the mix, whereas this system will pump in oxygen). It will also water the compost and have temperature sensor probes to make sure

the compost is reaching the necessary temperatures needed. This new system will provide for faster decomposition and reduce odors and emissions—truly a win-win situation!

Our next item was our financial audit for 2024, which we also reviewed in our finance committee at the beginning of the month (see my council report from last month for a review). And lastly, we went into closed session and came out with a decision to hire a new law firm for the District. We enthusiastically decided on Debbie Miller from Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger who has experience representing landfills and clearly has a true passion for the topic.

Tuesday, March 25th- City Council Meeting- We began our council meeting with a feel good presentation honoring three local high school students who received a prestigious National Moose Lodge award for their work with young people. Mark, who runs our local Moose Lodge, shared how unique it was to have three of the winners coming from our area. It was so nice to see the students and their families—very proud of them!

Next was our consent agenda, where I pulled our General Plan Annual Progress Report for a few questions, which mainly focused on what we've done with our Housing Element. Several of my questions were asking about implementation of some of the items. For example, we provided a "Housing Resources" page with housing information for the public, but there didn't seem to be a way to actually find the page on our website unless you clicked on the link from our Housing Element or searched "Housing Resources" on our website. I know I ask nit-picky questions sometimes, but it's important for me that I'm clear on what we're reporting out and what I'm ultimately approving.

Next our Old Business was receiving an update on our 6th cycle Housing Element. Denise Duffy reviewed the comments that we've received back from Housing and Community Development (HCD). Many of the comments were asking for edits that provided more specific details and metrics which would allow us to better evaluate our impact with our Housing Element programs. We'll be seeing the work that she's done to address these comments at a joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting in April (This meeting has been postponed after HCD has agreed to take another look at our Housing Element. I'm guessing we'll have this joint meeting sometime in May).

Finally, our New Business was receiving our mid-year budget review and adjustments for FY 24-25. There were minor adjustments that were made and I asked most of my questions ahead of time with the city manager earlier that day. Mainly, I took this time to point out that we will have an accumulated fund balance from previous years and how I'd like to see a FY 25-26 budget process that was more inclusive, collaborative, and robust in terms of inviting the public and having the entire council participate in its development. I realize we don't have a culture of this type of budget development in DRO, but I think it's so important to make space for these larger conversations where we can also talk about council priorities. As I've mentioned before, we haven't done strategic planning in 3 years

and this current council has never established goals or set out budget priorities. I believe that guidance is important for all of us, both staff and the council, and I think it's important that the residents also have an understanding and a stake in what we produce.

Unfortunately, when I requested this new process of meetings last month, it was denied by the Mayor who chooses to have smaller committee meetings that happen during the day. Not all council members are at these meetings and generally mid-day meetings are not well attended by the public. In addition, I don't think that all project ideas fall under topics that these committees address. For these reasons I feel we need to change our process and that's why I felt the need to express my disappointment during this mid-year budget review.

Wednesday, April 2nd- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Workshop-

Watermaster staff created this workshop after a request from the board, as we felt we needed to be refreshed and educated on the basics of our basin and the legal decision from the courts. For me, I was interested in learning how "sustainability" fits with our powers as a Watermaster authority. With that, our staff presented information on what the Watermaster does, which is essentially oversee the use of water and make sure there is no "material injury" to the basin in terms of water quality, quantity, or seawater intrusion. What this generally looks like day to day on the board is evaluating the water usage, establishing charges for over pumping, and continuously looking at data which helps us understand whether there is seawater intrusion.

One of the larger topics that came up is the idea that the Watermaster gives all those who put water into our basin the ability to take out the same amount they put in. There is some disagreement on exactly how much of our basin's water flows out into the Monterey subbasin, but I do think it's important to think about further protection of the basin by holding back water when it's available. I realize that those who take water from our basin don't want to give up any of their allocation, but it's important to understand what we can do as a board to protect our basin when water is available (carryover that's not used). I think as we see more water put into the basin with the expansion of Pure Water Monterey, this issue may be worth investigating.

The interesting thing is that we're not really tasked with creating a "sustainable" basin similar to the state mandates for other water basins in the state. Instead our focus is on "material injury" which seems like we just monitor and make sure nothing bad happens, as opposed to being proactive in ways that will protect the basin. For example, working to achieve protective elevations for our water levels (i.e. making sure our basin water level is higher than sea water to prevent seawater intrusion). Or adjusting the Natural Safe Yield, which was established years ago, to a level that might be more protective for the basin. Really with all of these methods, it's about leaving more water in the basin which is hard to do. But I do know, the even harder thing to do would be to change where we pump from if we do start to see seawater intrusion. That topic will certainly come up in the future as we begin to talk about the updates for the seawater intrusion response plan.

Lastly, we also received information on the basin itself. It's always good to get this information reviewed to understand all the complexities of the basin. There is some disagreement in terms of how much water might be flowing out of the basin. From my understanding, it seems that the adjudicated basin boundary doesn't necessarily match up with the flow boundary so there are some differing views on how much water is actually "leaving" the basin. I'm sure this is another topic we'll be revisiting in the future.

Wednesday, April 9th- Seaside Groundwater Basin Watermaster Technical Advisory Committee- As vice chair, I ran this meeting today as the chair was absent. Much of what we covered were updates of topics we've visited before. Of all the topics covered today, the most interesting was a presentation we received on Cone Penetration vs Sonic Borehole technology. Basically, we need to find a way to sample water at the 900ft level where we're seeing increased conductivity. A water sample would provide definitive data whether we're actually seeing seawater intrusion at one of our wells near the coastline. It was determined that the sonic borehole technology would be the only one that could get to the level we need to sample. Unfortunately, the land near that well is owned by State Parks and also a private landowner—both of which would not be happy to have a new well drilled on their site. After some discussion, we decided that we'll wait until we get back the land based geophysical data which would tell us more information on potential seawater intrusion. If it provides a profile that indicates seawater going further inland, then we'd more easily be able to test the water on the east side of Hwy 1. Given the cost of doing this drilling, it makes sense that we wait to see what information we receive later this year on the geophysical data sample.

Friday, April 11th- Del Rey Oaks Finance Committee Meeting- Today's meeting had two agenda items. The first was reviewing our financials for March. There was nothing out of the ordinary upon review. Just a few clarifying questions from the committee members. The second item was reviewing the proposed draft budget for FY 2025-26. The focus of the review was on the operations side of the budget, which includes the day to day expense categories such as "city council", "city clerk", "city manager", "public works", and "police." Similar to last year, there aren't big changes being made to this portion of the budget. Next time we meet, we'll be covering how we're going to use our reserve funds for various projects throughout the city.

Monday, April 14th- Monterey-Salinas Transit Board Meeting- Please see the MST board highlights in our agenda packet.

Council Report from Councilmember John Uy

April 22, 2025 Meeting

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on March 25, 2025



I'm pleased to share highlights from our most recent City Council meeting on March 25, 2025. As always, it was a night of thoughtful deliberation, heartfelt community recognition, and responsible governance. It was an evening that reflects our shared commitment to keeping Del Rey Oaks thriving, safe, and forward-thinking.

Honoring Tomorrow's Leaders

We opened the evening by recognizing two extraordinary local students—**Kiera Douglas of Monterey High School** and **Victor Torres of Marina High School**—for being selected to attend the 2025 Moose International Youth Awareness Scholarship Program. As only two of seven students from all of California chosen, their achievement is a testament to the incredible talent and promise we have in our own backyard.

Streamlined City Operations: Consent Agenda

Council unanimously approved key items including:

- **City Council minutes** from February,
- **Planning Commission minutes** from January,
- **Monthly fire and police reports** showing our departments' ongoing dedication to public safety,
- And **financial statements** that reflect responsible fiscal stewardship, with 70% of projected revenues already collected and expenditures at 68% as of February.

We also advanced:

- The **2024 Housing Element Annual Progress Report**, a critical step in addressing housing needs,
- And a resolution to terminate a previous agreement with CalTrans, streamlining regional infrastructure coordination.

Housing Element Update

We revisited our **6th Cycle Housing Element**, an ongoing commitment to sustainable growth and inclusive housing. These planning conversations may be technical, but they lay the foundation for a community that supports working families, seniors, and future generations.

Mid-Year Budget Review

Council engaged in a **mid-year budget review**, a time to reflect on our city's financial health and realign spending with community priorities. I'm pleased to report a modest budget surplus, thanks to prudent management and ARPA support, keeping us resilient in changing economic times.

Investing in Infrastructure

Council also approved a **6% contingency increase** for the **Rosita Road Emergency Repair Project** after unexpected conditions were uncovered during excavation. This ensures our work remains within the grant's scope, protecting both safety and taxpayer dollars.

Fair Fees for Fair Services

We adopted an updated **User and Regulatory Fee Schedule**, our first major fee review in years. These adjustments help recover the cost of services like building permits, inspections, and police services while staying in line with neighboring cities. It's not about raising revenue—it's about fairness, transparency, and preparation for future development.

Public Safety and Community Confidence

Our police department continues to maintain a strong presence, with prompt responses and a notable **82% reduction in reported crimes** compared to the same time last year. I remain committed to ensuring our officers have the tools and trust they need to serve our community with compassion and professionalism.

As your Councilmember, I'm proud of the progress we're making—step by step—to preserve the charm of Del Rey Oaks while building a more vibrant, equitable future. Your input, your voice, and your engagement fuel every decision we make.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – April 8, 2025



As Chair of the Seaside County Sanitation District, I am pleased to share a brief report from our regular board meeting held on April 8, 2025. While the question of weighted voting—brought up in March—remained absent from this month’s agenda, our focus shifted toward a topic that impacts every home, restaurant, and street in our community: **sanitary sewer system health and maintenance.**

A Cleaner Future: Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Management Program Update

Our main item of new business centered on a detailed and forward-looking update of the District’s **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Management Program**—a behind-the-scenes, yet crucial initiative aimed at preventing sewer overflows and costly repairs by reducing grease buildup in our system.

Here are the takeaways:

- The District oversees 165 Food Service Establishments (FSEs), most of which are inspected **twice a year**, ensuring compliance with our FOG Ordinance (No. 15).
- Thanks to a 2023 partnership with **Wallace Group**, we now have a stronger, more sustainable program—equipped with updated materials, consistent inspection procedures, and staff training that ensures resilience even with staff turnover.
- Over **280 inspections per year** are conducted to prevent blockages and overflows—an effort that protects both public health and property.
- District staff now use a specialized online software (FOG BMP) to help restaurant staff learn best practices, and we provide hands-on education during inspections.

Key Wins in 2024:

- All FSEs were contacted and provided education materials.
- Two staff members were trained and conducted successful inspections.
- Kitchen posters, grease control signage, and BMP guides were delivered in both English and Spanish.

Remaining Challenges in 2025:

- We need **additional trained personnel** for long-term consistency.
- Updates to the SCSD Code are underway to enhance our ability to **enforce compliance.**

As Chair, I was proud to see our board unite behind the importance of this effort. Sewer spills are not just an infrastructure issue. They're a community health and environmental concern. The work we do now ensures that our system serves us well in the years to come.

Other Items of Business

- We approved the **March 11, 2025 meeting minutes** and received the March 2025 **Operations Report**, which showed continued high performance across the District.
- Notably, **no stoppages or overflows** were recorded in Del Rey Oaks, Sand City, or Seaside this past month. This reflects the strength of our preventive maintenance programs.

A Note on Weighted Voting

As Chair, I want to briefly acknowledge the absence of any further developments on the **City of Seaside's request regarding weighted voting**. Following the clear stipulations approved by the board in March, no new documentation was submitted, and the item was not placed back on the agenda. At this point, it's unclear if or when the proposal will return. Unless substantial new information is presented, our board remains focused on matters with broad consensus and direct operational impact.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – April 9, 2025

I wanted to share a brief update regarding the **April 9, 2025** meeting of the **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)**, for which I serve as your representative.

The meeting was unfortunately **canceled due to a lack of quorum**, a rare but understandable occurrence, especially during a time when many leaders across our region are navigating competing responsibilities and community commitments. These moments serve as a gentle reminder of the human side of governance: behind every seat at the table is a public servant balancing service, schedules, and the shared goal of doing what's best for our cities and counties.



While we didn't gather this month, the work of AMBAG continues through staff coordination, regional planning, and behind-the-scenes efforts that support everything from housing and

transportation to climate initiatives and economic development across the Monterey Bay region.

I look forward to rejoining my colleagues at our next scheduled meeting and to continuing the important regional conversations that shape our shared future.
