

Mayor Donaldson Report

Below is a summary of board meetings I attended:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

August 26, 2026



TAMC Board Receives Update on the Scenic Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Board of Directors received an update on the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project, including performance of the Adaptive Traffic Signal Control (ATSC) pilot project and a report on traffic operations and a benefit-cost analysis for the Phase I project, proposed roundabouts on SR 68 at San Benancio Road, Corral de Tierra Road, and Laureles Grade. The goal of the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project is to improve safety and traffic flow between Monterey and Salinas while preserving the corridor's environmentally sensitive setting.

Caltrans completed an evaluation of the Phase I roundabout project using updated traffic data and conditions reflecting the implementation of adaptive signal operations as the baseline. The analysis confirms that the Phase I roundabout project is expected to improve safety and traffic operations along the corridor. Based on this evaluation, the Phase 1 improvements are projected to reduce the potential for serious injury and fatal collisions by simplifying intersection movements and lowering travel speeds.

Following the nearly two-hour presentation and discussion period, the TAMC Board of Directors authorized staff to work with Caltrans to submit a Senate Bill 1 grant application to the California Transportation Commission for the construction of the Scenic State Route 68 Corridor Improvement Project Phase 1. Combined, the design, right-of-way, and construction phases of the Phase I Scenic Route 68 Project are projected at \$102 million. With the leveraging of \$22 million in Measure X funds, applying for the SB 1 grant would provide \$64 million in SB 1 funds for the project, with the remaining \$16 million provided through other funding sources.

TAMC Awards \$15.4 Million for 2028 Competitive Grants Program of Projects

The TAMC Board of Directors awarded \$15.4 million of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Transportation Development Act (TDA) 2% funds to the 2026 Competitive Grants Program of Projects. The funding includes \$2.4 million for Quick-Build and Pilot Projects and \$13 million for Competitive Projects.

In establishing the RSTP Competitive Grants program, the Transportation Agency seeks to fund projects that advance the goals of the Transportation Agency. Agency goals include delivering projects of regional significance that improve safety, provide maintenance for existing facilities, or support the development of a multimodal transportation network utilizing the principles of Complete Streets. The Agency considers fair geographic balance and cost-effectiveness of the proposed projects when awarding grant funds.

The following six applications were awarded funding through the Competitive Grant Program for a total of \$13 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program grant funding:

- City of Monterey - The North Fremont Gap Closure Project - \$2,862,000
- City of Gonzales - Gonzales Citywide Multimodal Improvement Project - \$3,219,773
- City of Seaside - Coe Avenue and General Jim Moore Boulevard and Seaside Middle School Intersection Improvements - \$2,231,000
- County of Monterey - Prunedale Roundabout Project - \$2,868,546
- City of Pacific Grove - Walkway, Sunset Drive - \$200,000
- Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) - MST High-Capacity Bus Replacement Project - \$1,634,103

The following four applications were awarded funding through the quick-build program for a total amount of \$2.4 million:

- City of Gonzales - Gonzales Quick-Build Project - \$187,000
- County of Monterey - San Juan Road Improvement Project - \$870,000
- City of Soledad - Citywide Ped and Signal Upgrade Project - \$965,000
- County of Monterey - Moss Landing Road Pedestrian Path - \$386,532



August 31, 2026

Informational Items:

- Director of Engineering, Matt Thompson provided an update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permit Process

Board Actions:

- Approved the Central Coast Long-Term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN) Budget for FY 2026/2027 in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$186,599
- Approved Amendment to the Energy Services Agreement with Anaergia Technologies, LLC for Additional Design Scope and Cost in the Amount of \$162,766.07 for Various Changes Required for Project Closeout
- Approved Contract Amendment for CP330 Monterey Pump Station Upgrades and CP331 Seaside Pump Station Upgrades Design Contract with Carollo Engineers for Engineering Services During Construction (ESDC) in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$229,882
- Approved Funding for the Second Year of Amendment No. 1 to the Energy Services Agreement with Anaergia Technologies, LLC For Food Waste Procurement, Management, and Operations Services, In the Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$760,140
- Approved of a FY 2026/27 Budget Amendment in the Amount of \$300,000 for Department 58 – Pure Water Monterey (PWM), Funded from Available Reserves, for Repairs to Deep Injection Wells 1, 2, and 3 and Associated Unforeseen Repair Costs
- Awarded Contracts to Brenntag Pacific, Inc. for Sodium Hydroxide; Hill Brothers Chemical Company for Calcium Chloride; and Univar Solutions USA, Inc. for Sodium Hypochlorite and Sodium Bisulfite for the Advanced Water Purification Facility, for a Total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,364,718.23
- Approved a First Amendment to Brenntag Pacific, Inc. for the Hydrogen Peroxide contract for the Advanced Water Purification Facility in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$89,464.82
- Authorized the Executive Officer to Submit Written Rebuttal to Testimony Received in the State Board's Hearing to Consider Modification of California American Water Company Cease and Desist Order, Specifically Related to Clarifying Details about the Pure Water Monterey Project
- Approved of a Contract Amendment with Larry Walker Associates for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Services for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$290,149
- Approved a Contract Amendment with Brown & Caldwell for Outfall Improvements Projects for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, in the not to exceed amount of \$625,000
- Rejected PENCCO, Inc.'s Bid for Sulfuric Acid as Nonresponsive and Awarding a Contract to Brenntag Pacific, Inc. for Sulfuric Acid for the Advanced Water Purification Facility in the Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,178,589.00

Kim Shirley's Council Report for Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Friday, August 21st- ReGen Monterey Board Meeting- We returned this month after taking July off, and welcomed a new board member, Mayor Mary Ann Carbone, who is replacing our former board member, Sand City Council Member Jerry Blackwelder. After passing the consent agenda, we had two recognitions for twenty years of service (so dedicated!) and a resolution appreciating a retiring employee of 25 years, who gave a wonderful speech about the benefits of working at ReGen. Our last resolution was an appreciation for former Director Jerry Blackwelder. Many of the directors and staff had wonderful things to say about his dedication to our agency.

Our next item was approving the new position of “Communications Associate” and the associated pay schedule. Looking at the future communication needs and realizing that much of our school outreach needed to be done by the trash haulers, while also being down an employee, our communications team offered a new position to better meet the needs of their department. After a few staff reports and the general manager's comments, we decided on members for our ad-hoc committee that will be working on the power sale agreement between ReGen Monterey and Monterey One Water. Wendy Root-Askew nominated me to this committee, and after some discussion, Mayor Bruce Delgado was also asked to volunteer. We'll be meeting weekly with the ReGen staff to hopefully get to a new power purchase agreement since our old agreement is no longer viable. It's been a long time coming, so I hope we'll be able to sell power to M1W by the end of the year.

After the closed session, we were able to return to open session and approve an increase in pay for our General Manager, Felipe Melchor. His pay increase was partly COLA (3.8%) and partly a need to bring his pay closer to the market median based on a compensation study done in 2024. The increase to market median was 5%. Both increases will be retroactive to July 1, 2026.

Tuesday, August 25th- City Council Meeting- We began our meeting with a proclamation in memory of our former council member Pat Lintell. Her son was in the audience, and everyone was given an opportunity to share their remembrances and nice thoughts about her service to DRO. Next, we had a presentation from Chess Coach Mike, who spoke about several of his players (mostly DRO kids) and one of his adult helpers, while he presented those kids with medals, and the kids presented the council members with pictures of their club. We are so lucky to have Coach Mike, who is so dedicated to providing this opportunity for kids to play other kids as they increase their thinking skills while playing chess. The time, effort, and heart he puts into this endeavor is truly incredible. Our next presentation was an NPS professor who presented a certificate of appreciation to Chief Bourquin for his adoption and use of “Ethicards” which provide small opportunities for our police officers to talk with each other as they discuss scenarios with

ethical conundrums. Research is showing that small doses of peer-to-peer discussions are more effective than longer training, so I'm very grateful that Police Chief Bourquin has committed to this training for our officers. And speaking of officers, our next item was swearing in a new police officer. John O'Neil and his family were there to celebrate his arrival to the DRO police force.

The only item of business was holding a hearing and reviewing our updated Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. It had been at least two years since we'd updated our last ordinance, and this new one was bringing our ordinance up to date in accordance with state law. After a brief discussion, we passed this ordinance, and it will get its final review at next month's council meeting.

Saturday, August 29th- "Dusty Shoes Tour" Monterey Airport Walk Through- This morning, several dozen people were able to tour the construction site of the new terminal. After a brief introduction, we gathered in groups and systematically toured through the different spaces within the terminal, with each space having a representative to talk about that space along with a rendering to help visualize the outcome. Notable characteristics include the fact that travelers will be able to park their car, check in, and walk onto their plane all on the same level—no stairs needed. The building is shooting for LEED Platinum certification, so there are lots of windows for light, which include nice views of the forest off of Hwy 68 and, on clear days, peaks of the bay. The ceiling has a wood finish, which is very beautiful and ties in with their goal of making the space feel connected to the natural environment. They will be keeping the old terminal, which will retain the use of office space, boardroom, and restaurant. The airport board will be deciding other uses of the old terminal building. With this new terminal, they aren't gaining any new parking spaces, but it was mentioned that they have the ability to expand into the Fenton and Keller parking area since they own that space, so we'll see if this new terminal building comes with an expansion of flights and an increase in parking.

Weekly Ad Hoc ReGen Monterey Meetings- As I mentioned in my ReGen Monterey Board report, I was appointed to the ad hoc committee that will be looking at the power purchase agreement between ReGen Monterey and Monterey One Water. We've been meeting weekly as we discuss the details of this new agreement. We also have been discussing the potential future uses of our landfill gas. Currently, we use a percentage of our landfill gas to create electricity, which runs our facility and is also sold to 3CE (the company that provides sustainable energy to our area). The rest of the methane that's collected needs to be flared off, which is essentially money going down the drain. With the hope of using 100% of this resource, we're also discussing other things we can do that will use this resource, provide a steady revenue stream, while also being low risk for the agency. These are exciting conversations, and I look forward to sharing more once we work through the plans.

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

**Council Report from Councilmember John Uy
September 22, 2026 Meeting**

I. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the DRO City Council on August 25, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

Our August 25 City Council meeting was a good reminder that local government is about both the big picture and the small details. We honored someone whose service helped shape our community, welcomed a new police officer, heard from residents and community partners, reviewed our public safety and financial reports, worked through an important update to our housing regulations, and discussed the future use of City property.

Some of these matters may sound technical. But behind every ordinance, contract, financial report, and property decision is a simple question: **How will this affect the people who live here?**

That is the perspective I try to bring to the Council table.

Remembering Pat Lintell and a Legacy of Service

We began on a deeply personal note by honoring former Councilmember **Patricia “Pat” Lintell**, who served on the Del Rey Oaks City Council from 2014 to 2023.

Pat was much more than an elected official. She was a neighbor who walked our streets, talked with residents, listened to what mattered to them, and remained active in our community well into her later years. She served on the Monterey County Community Human Services Board, participated for a decade in DROCAG, and, at age 84, helped organize “The Pony Express” to distribute community information throughout Del Rey Oaks.

There is something worth remembering in Pat's example: public service begins with knowing your neighbors. Policies matter, but so do relationships, listening, and simply showing up.

Our meeting was ultimately adjourned in her honor.

Community, Ethics, and Public Safety

We also heard presentations from **Mike O'Brien of the Del Rey Oaks Chess Club** and **Bradley Strawser, founder and CEO of Compass EthiCards**, and witnessed the swearing-in of **Del Rey Oaks Police Officer John O'Neil**.

I especially appreciated the range of these presentations because they reflect different pieces of a healthy community: opportunities for people to connect with one another, thoughtful attention to ethical decision-making in government, and the public safety professionals who serve our residents every day.

For transparency, the City's July financial register also shows a **\$1,250 expenditure for one year of access to Compass EthiCards**. As with any City expenditure, I believe residents should be able to understand not only what we are purchasing, but the value it is intended to provide.

Our Police Department reports also show how much day-to-day work occurs behind the scenes. The department recorded **179 calls for service in June and 300 in July**, along with 32 and 40 case reports respectively. One month by itself does not establish a long-term trend, but the numbers help us understand workload and why staffing, retention, training, and community policing continue to deserve our attention.

Updating Our ADU Ordinance and Why One Word Matters

One of the most substantive discussions involved the City's **Accessory Dwelling Unit, or ADU, ordinance**.

California's ADU laws have changed significantly, and the City's written municipal code needed to be updated to reflect current state requirements and guidance from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The City's staff report explains that Del Rey Oaks has been administering ADU applications under current state law, but our older written ordinance had not yet caught up with those changes.

That may sound like legal housekeeping, but accuracy matters.

During my review, I flagged language dealing with impact fees for smaller ADUs. Current Government Code §66311.5 states that an ADU with **750 square feet of interior livable space or less** cannot be charged an impact fee; proportional impact fees apply when an ADU has **more than 750 square feet**.

That distinction matters because saying “under 750 square feet” instead of “750 square feet or less” potentially treats a **750-square-foot home differently than state law does**.

This is one of those small examples of why careful review matters. A single phrase in an ordinance can eventually affect a homeowner's application, costs, or rights. My goal is not simply to pass ordinances efficiently. It is to make sure that what we adopt is clear, accurate, and defensible.

The City's own packet also reflected the state's updated guidance that ADUs with **750 square feet of interior livable space or less** are exempt from impact fees.

Why These Details Matter

Local government rarely turns on one dramatic decision. More often, good government is built through hundreds of smaller decisions: reading the fine print of an ordinance, asking where public money is going, making sure a lease protects public property, examining public safety data, and remembering the people who helped build the community we inherited.

That may not always be exciting work. But it is important work.

And I continue to believe that Del Rey Oaks is at its best when we combine fiscal responsibility with compassion, growth with thoughtful planning, and progress with respect for the character of the community we call home.

Thank you to everyone who attends our meetings, writes to us, stops us while walking through the neighborhood, asks difficult questions, or simply takes the time to stay informed. Your participation makes local government better.

II. Council Report: Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District (SCSD) Board of Directors – September 8, 2026



Dear Del Rey Oaks neighbors,

I attended the **September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Seaside County Sanitation District Board of Directors**, ready to participate in the Board's scheduled business.

Unfortunately, I was the **only one of the three Board members able to attend**, which meant that we did not have the quorum required to legally conduct the meeting or take official action.

While it was disappointing that we could not proceed with the agenda, I believe showing up still matters. Public service carries a responsibility to be present, prepared, and ready to do the work entrusted to us. I was there on behalf of the communities we serve and prepared to address the matters before the Board.

Because there was no quorum, the Board could not conduct official business at this meeting, and the pending matters will need to be considered when a quorum is available. I look forward to returning to the table with my fellow directors so that we can continue the District's work responsibly and with the attention our ratepayers and communities deserve.

Sometimes public service is as simple as showing up—and I will continue to do just that.

III. Council Report: AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting – September 9, 2026

Dear Del Rey Oaks Neighbors,

I attended the **September 9, 2026 meeting of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Board of Directors**, continuing to represent Del Rey Oaks in regional discussions that extend well beyond our city limits but ultimately affect how our residents travel, how public investments are prioritized, and how our region prepares for the future. AMBAG brings together local governments from **Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties**, so having Del Rey Oaks at the table ensures that even as one of the region's smaller cities, our community remains part of these important conversations.



A major item before the Board was the **Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for federal fiscal years 2026-27 through 2029-30**. This four-year regional program identifies projects proposed for federal, state, and local transportation funding, including **public transit, highways, bridges, local streets, bicycle facilities, and pedestrian improvements**. The meeting packet describes an overall regional investment of approximately **\$1.52 billion across 103 transportation projects**, underscoring how consequential regional coordination can be in bringing transportation dollars back to our communities.

We also received updates on AMBAG's sustainability initiatives. These include the **Central California Rural Regional Energy Network**, a \$36 million multi-agency effort focused on expanding access to energy-efficiency programs in underserved communities across 14 Central California counties. Another promising initiative is **Ride Forward Monterey**, supported by a \$500,000 state grant to develop plans for community e-bike lending libraries that could provide more affordable and accessible mobility options. AMBAG is also developing a regional framework to assess how climate impacts could affect electric-vehicle charging infrastructure and how future investments can be made more resilient.

The Board's agenda also included routine but important organizational oversight, including AMBAG's financial position and a proposed five-year information-technology support agreement. The financial report showed that AMBAG had sufficient current assets to meet its known current obligations as of June 30, 2026.

For Del Rey Oaks, participation in AMBAG is important because many of the challenges we face—**transportation, infrastructure, energy, mobility, environmental resilience, and access to state and federal funding—do not stop at our city boundaries**. Regional decisions can eventually translate into very local impacts.

I will continue to participate in these regional conversations with Del Rey Oaks in mind, listening carefully, asking questions, and making sure our small but very special community has a seat at the table as decisions affecting the Monterey Bay region move forward.