



AGENDA NO: 7.d

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2024

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

DATE: March 6, 2024

FROM: Yvonne Kimball, City Manager

SUBJECT: Report on attendance at the 2024 C-MANC Washington Week Meetings

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive and file.

ALTERNATIVES

None

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Council authorized the attendance at the 2024 C-MANC Washington Week meetings. Three members of city officials were approved to attend. The attendance is largely funded by the Central Coast Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee.

C-MANC annually hosts Washington Week meetings, where representatives of California Ports and Harbors have the opportunity to remind Congress and various other agencies of the importance of dredging projects, commercial fishing, ocean and coastal management and other coastal-related issues in California. The City of Morro Bay is a long-standing member of C-MANC, and for over 25 years has sent representatives to the "Washington Week" meetings.

While in DC, city representatives usually engage with city's federal lobbyist to advocate city's distinct interest. This includes addressing critical concerns such as harbor dredging, seawall repair, pier maintenance, water reclamation along with other infrastructure needs. Additionally, discussions often extend to broader Morro Bay interests with national implications including the protection of marine lives, the perseverance of the MB National Estuary, and our partnership with local tribes.

Mayor Wixom, Mayor Pro-temp Landrum and City Manager Kimball represented the City in 2024's DC week. Enclosed includes:

- a post meeting report outlining three days filled with meetings and actions,
- meeting schedules
- briefing paper (which were used in every meeting attended)
- funding requests submitted to Senator Padilla, Senator Butler and Congressman Carbajal

Prepared By: _YK _____

Dept Review: _____

City Manager Review: __ YK _____

City Attorney Review: _____

Staff recommends Council receive and file the above reports. This delegation would like to express appreciation to the Joint Cable Fisheries Liaison Committee for the grant funding, to Harbor and city hall administrative staff for applying for the grant and coordinating travel details, to the Public Works Director and the Harbor Director for compiling the briefing paper, attending meetings remotely and follow-ups to ensure funding. The Delegation would have not been able to have a productive trip without these dedicated staff do what they do.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. post meeting report
2. meeting schedules
3. briefing paper
4. Funding Requests

2024 DC Meeting Report

Prepared by Yvonne Kimball

Meeting Dates: February 12 to 16, 2024

City Delegation: Mayor Carla Wixom, Mayor Pro Tempore Landrum, City Manager Yvonne Kimball

Purposes:

Participate in CMANC meetings at DC – It's a 25-year tradition that CMANC members travel to DC connecting to meet with federal agencies and advocate for California's harbors and ports; while in DC, Morro Bay delegation also coordinates with city's federal lobbyist to advocate for City specific interests, including:

Harbor needs and interest - continued funding for dredging, T-pier and other infrastructure, Morro Bay commercial fisheries, marine lives, estuary, sanctuary

Infrastructure needs in light of storm damages focusing on revetment and seawall repairs

Update on Offshore Wind activities at Morro Bay, community feedback, and city's needs for capacity to evaluate environmental, technical and social economic impacts

Update on WRF as the project received federal grants and loans.

Meeting Summaries and Highlights:

Tuesday, February 13

1. Meeting with Carissa Bunge, Policy Advisor on Environment and Public Land; Matthew Ceja, Policy Advisor for Energy, Transportation and Climate
Office of Laphonza Bulter, US Senator

This was a meeting jointly scheduled by CMANC lobbyist (Carpi & Clay) and city's lobbyist (The Ferguson Group). This meeting met both CMANC goals and city's needs. We discussed the need for continued earmark support to harbor dredging and funding to repair T-pier.

Understanding Senator Bulter is leaving the Senate seat upon completion of this term, we

wanted to ensure that earmark dollars will be supported by her office as it has been critical for California harbors, including Morro Bay.

We also discussed the uniqueness of Morro Bay, including being a small working harbor for commercial fishermen, national estuary being one of the few in the nation, harbor infrastructure that needs repair after storm damages. We pointed out that the US Coast Guard is stationed in our harbor, which would help Morro Bay securing funding for dredging. Given their roles and expertise, it was appropriate to touch upon the potential OSW initiative impacts on the community, harbor and our fishery industry. They appeared to be surprised by Morro Bay's close connection to OSW innovation. Additionally, Mr. Cajé came from Cayucos and was familiar with city's culture. He asked about the WRF project and we gave an update. Mr. Cajé told us that his colleague had enjoyed a visit to Morro Bay's harbor and the new wastewater reclamation plant.

The meeting ended by Ms. Bunge and her colleagues expressing their commitment to continue supporting earmark funds for needed projects, like dredging and other things that we had brought up. They also indicated that they were aware that fisheries were not supportive of floating OSW.

2. Meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division

This was a meeting jointly scheduled by CMANC lobbyist and city's lobbyist. Meeting discussions met both CMANC goals and city's needs. We discussed the need for harbor dredging and funding to repair T-pier, and revetment.

Regarding dredging, we received money from previous years. The back bay dredging is delayed due to steelhead salmon migration from Chorro Creak. Army Corps of Engineers along with other agencies are tracking the salmons and other endangered species. The dredging is delayed to late 2024 and hopefully contract will be awarded in 2025. Given many steps of a dredging operation, mobilization logistics and cost are considerations that could further delay process.

We also asked ACE about Morro Bay harbor's revetment and seawall repairs following last year's extensive storm damages. We pointed out that the infrastructure continues to deteriorate. Revetment was originally built by Army Corps of Engineers. US Coast Guard is still stationed in Morro Bay. SPD division administrator Susan Lucus shared that if the seawall was built 50 years ago or before, to rebuilt or repair could qualify for a large project which could qualify for federal funding with a 25% to 35% local matching. Our lobbyist said he would follow up on that information.

3. Meeting with Director Elizabeth Klein, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

This meeting was arranged by city's lobbyist, focusing on harbor health, environmental issues and OSW initiative. We talked about marine life management, protecting fishery interest, BOEM's sanctuary designation process. BOEM acknowledged that there is no other city like Morro Bay in terms of our location and being a host of floating OSW initiatives. Three

leaseholders have gained leases off Morro Bay's coast. BOEM director said that they were cautious of next steps in the central coast and mindful of lessons learned from the east coast. We talked about the need for early stakeholder engagement in Morro Bay. BOEM said Department of Energy and NOAA are also regulatory agencies. They acknowledged that MB should have some help to navigate the OSW innovation activities. However, they have no funding to share. But they will keep Morro Bay posted in their stakeholder engagement efforts.

Later that week, I met with two reps from BOEM at a CMANC function. They both are assigned to Morro Bay wind areas. One has reached out.

Wednesday, February 14

1. With Cong. Carbajal

We met Cong. Carbajal at his office. His Deputy Chief of Staff / Legislative Director Joanna Montiel joined us. We thanked him for earmark funding for dredging and T-pier repairs. We talked about possible revetment repair as a large project and relayed what learned from the Army Corps of Engineers the day before. He asked his staff to follow up. He understood that FEMA process is not effective for small agencies.

We also let him know that the commercial fishermen are very concerned of the floating OSW at this point. Cong. Carbajal was very aware of Morro Bay's uniqueness, including US coast guard presence, our native heritage, estuary and our commercial fishing history. He pointed out that the Sanctuary discussion is still unresolved at NOAA. City's need for capacity to respond to OSW needs was brought up. Cong. Carbajal advised us to continue to ask SLO County and the State to help and use available "civic tools" to let county and state know that Morro Bay community needs to be engaged and city needs resources to do so. His SLO office followed up this week.

2. Meeting with Bureau of Reclamation, Assistant Deputy commissioner Mathew Moucieri, Senior Counselor John Watts, and CGB Liaison Ankur Bhattacharya

We followed the same priority list. John Watts was the Chief of Staff for late Senator Dianne Feinstein. Senator Feinstein was supportive of harbor's dredging and T-pier fund. So we took time to thank Mr. Watts for that funding and remember his long-time boss.

Bureau of Reclamation provided funding for the city's WRF project. We gave them an update on WRF. Public Works Director, Greg Kwolek, joined the meeting remotely. Bureau of Rec staff indicated that they believe city's WRF is a good project and let us know about a new funding. Nothing to follow up at this time.

3. Meeting with EPA WIFIA staff Lesile Temple

This meeting was for updating WRF project. Greg joined remotely to provide an update that the project moves along to final closure. Ms. Temple visited site before and has been in very close contact with the MB team. She said the low interest loan would not change regardless of any future complications. I stated that the project is a huge project and with any mega project,

this one could run into complicated close-out. She acknowledged that it is a very expensive project for a small community like Morro Bay. She also said the loan interest rate MB received is so low that it was unheard of; the same low interest rate is no longer available. She also indicated that her office is interested in collaborating with city of MB to work up a success story article to showcase the project. Her office has reached out to Greg for news articles.

4. Evening CMANC social event

We met CMANC staff, CMANC lobbyists, and conference attendees. I learned that Ventura Harbor has real estate lease operation. They operate it in house with an excel spreadsheet to track lease progresses. They have a larger number of leases than us. They acknowledge that their system needs improvement but not sure there is money to do so efficiently. It sounded like Morro Bay.

I also spoke to a few folks about OSW and impacts on their ports. In general, other ports seemed to covet Morro Bay's location as the hub and focal point for floating OSW. Once we explained our uniqueness, including commercial fishing, native heritage, marine life, etc., they seemed to understand Morro Bay's complication; some offered to assist.

Thursday, February 15

CMANC

The CMANC delegation visited a total of 17 US representative and senator offices. My group visited 9 offices to speak to staffers except for the meeting with Cong. Kevin Mullin (CA-16). See the attached schedule (Group Red). Our messages were consistent – keeping federal earmark money for dredging, advocating for fisheries, and asking for funding flexibility for small harbors, like Morro Bay. The group also touched upon OSW and its impacts on the communities and fisheries. CMANC's advocacy voice was unified despite the differences among all ports, including sizes, budgets, purposes and culture. Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach, and Port of San Diego are major ports, but they understand the importance of Morro Bay harbor, and include our special interest in the advocacy message.

During our visits to the Capitol, we also visited the offices of Cong. Rob Wittman from Virginia and Cong. Chellie Pingree from Maine respectively. Apparently, they have either jointly introduced or were supportive of a bill called "Keep America's waterfronts working Act" or H.R. 6641, which intended to protect fishermen's interests. This bill has gained national attention. CMANC wanted to express its support. Fishermen on the east coast and Morro Bay share commonalities.

CMANC has a message that big and small ports rely on each other. Port of LA, Port of Long Beach and Port San Diego need Morro Bay Harbor because no one port can do it all. CMANC connects small and large ports to advance a set of collective interests in federal funding and polices. I learned that in other states, the harbors and ports are the state dept of transportation's responsibilities. But in California Caltrans does not handle ports and harbors,

resulting in alliance efforts like CMANC. In addition to traditional dredging fund, CMANC's other area of focus include infrastructure funding, energy independence, aquaculture, fishing and recreation.

It was interesting to hear others' perspectives and their daily challenges. For example, the County of Los Angeles Community Development handles beaches in LA county. Their ocean front projects and operation are much larger in scale than ours, but facing similar frustrations, such as dealing with the coastal commission, and the difficulties of retaining employees. The City of Morro Bay has been a CMANC member for 25 years. CMANC administrator and lobbyist said they enjoyed working with Morro Bay, and offered to be a continued resource for us.

Attachments:

Briefings and handouts

Schedules



CALIFORNIA MARINE AFFAIRS AND NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

February 14th & 15th, 2024

Important Phone Numbers

Jim Haussener (925) 828-6215 (Text)

Julie Minerva Cell (202) 361-5564

Clay Bryan Cell (267) 280-6129

Wifi: 4th-Floor-Conf-Ctr; Password: Polinger

Wednesday, February 14th: Agency Day (all meetings at 601 New Jersey Ave NW, Floor 4)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 8:15 am | Conference Room Open <i>For elevator access, call/text Clay Bryan – (267) 280-6129</i> |
| 8:30 – 9:00 am | Breakfast |
| 9:00 – 9:45 am | Day One Briefing |
| 10:00 – 11:00 am | Deputy Director Walter Cruickshank Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Walter.Cruickshank@boem.gov , (907) 334-5324 |
| 11:00 am – 2:00 pm | Meet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eddie Belk, Director of Civil Works• TAB Brown, Chief of Program Integration• Tom Smith, Chief of Operations and Regulatory Division• Jase Ousley, Dredging Program Manager• Sarah Moore, Environmental Planner• Susan Lucas, Deputy Chief of South Pacific Division RIT• Julia Harvey, Senior Program Manager, SPD-RIT Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Around the horn with CMANC Members• Annual O&M funding for navigation• Contracting• Beneficial Use of Dredged Material• Hearing from USACE Leadership about USACE priorities/initiatives |
| 3:00 – 4:00 pm | Wade Morefield, Infrastructure Development Program Manager Office of Port Infrastructure Development, Maritime Administration (MARAD) U.S. Department of Transportation Wade.Morefield@dot.gov , (202) 366-8921 |
| 4:00 – 4:30 pm | Day Two Briefing |
| 5:00 pm | Meetings Conclude |

Thursday, February 15th: Hill Day (all meetings on Capitol Hill)

9:30 – 10:00 am **Nick Melcher, Staff Assistant**
Representative Ted Lieu (CA-36)
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Nick.Melcher@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-3976

10:00 – 10:30 am **Representative Grace Napolitano (CA-31)**
1610 Longworth House Office Building
POC: Melvin Sanchez, Scheduler and Legislative Aide
Melvin.Sanchez@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-5256

10:00 – 10:30 am **Elise Sugarman, Legislative Director**
Office of Representative Pete Aguilar (CA-33)
108 Cannon House Office Building
Elise.Sugarman@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-3201

11:00 – 11:30 am **Matt Dernoga, Legislative Director**
Office of Representative Nanette Barragán (CA-44)
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Matt.Dernoga@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-8220

11:00 – 11:30 am **Representative John Garamendi (CA-8)**
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
POC: Ashley Therien, Scheduler
Ashley.Therien@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-1880

11:30 – 11:50 am **Kara Verma, Senior Legislative Assistant**
Office of Representative Josh Harder (CA-9)
209 Cannon House Office Building
Kara.Verma@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-4540

11:30 am – 12:00 pm **Matthew Ceja, Policy Advisor for Energy, Transportation, and Climate**
Office of Senator Laphonza Butler
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Matthew_Ceja@Butler.senate.gov, (202) 341-2300

12:00 – 12:30 pm **Andrew Bower, Legislative Director**
Office of Representative Robert Garcia (CA-42)
1305 Longworth House Office Building
Andrew.Bower@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-7924

1:00 – 1:30 pm **William Ahlquist, Legislative Assistant**
Office of Representative John Duarte (CA-13)
1535 Longworth House Office Building
William.Ahlquist@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-1947

1:00 – 1:30 pm **Will Sroka, Legislative Director***
Office of Representative Rob Wittman (VA-1)
2055 Rayburn House Office Building
Will.Sroka@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-4261
**H.R. 6641, Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act*

Group 1 – Jim

Group 2 – Todd

Senate Group - Julie

Elevator Access to Tunnels

- Cannon – B
- Longworth – B
- Rayburn – SB

1:30 – 2:00 pm **Lisa Pahel, Policy Advisor***
Office of Representative Chellie Pingree (ME-1)
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
POC: Karen Sudbay, Scheduler
PingreeSchedule@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-6116
**H.R. 6641, Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act*

1:30 – 2:00 pm **Representative Julia Brownley (CA-26)**
2662 Rayburn House Office Building
POC: Cole Brown, Director of Scheduling
Coleman.Brown@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-5811

2:00 – 2:30 pm **Angela Ebiner, Policy Advisor^**
Office of Senator Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Angela_Ebiner@Padilla.senate.gov, (202) 515-6375
^10-person limit for reserved conference room

2:30 – 3:00 pm **Eric Henshall, Legislative Director**
Office of Representative Anna Eshoo (CA-16)
272 Cannon House Office Building
POC: Caroline O'Connor, Scheduler
Caroline.OConnor@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-8104

3:00 – 3:30 pm **Representative Jared Huffman (CA-2)^**
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
POC: Julia Diamond, Director of Operations
Julia.Diamond@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-5161
^7-person limit for meeting

3:00 – 3:30 pm **Representative Kevin Mullin (CA-15)**
1404 Longworth House Office Building
POC: Stephanie Perera, Executive Assistant
Stephanie.Perera@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-3531

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Representative Doug LaMalfa (CA-1)**
408 Cannon House Office Building
POC: Savannah Coughlin, Scheduler
Savannah.Coughlin@mail.house.gov, (202) 225-3076

5:00 pm **Meetings Conclude**

5:30 – 7:30 pm **65th Golden State Reception**
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Room
2167 Rayburn House Office Building

Meetings Schedule



DRAFT 3 – 2.7.2024

**City of Morro Bay, CA (Yotel, 415 New Jersey Ave. NW,
Washington, DC 20001**

**Congressional and Agency Meetings – Washington, DC
February 13-14, 2024**

Tuesday, February 13th

10:00 AM Meeting with Carissa Bunge, Office of Laphonza Butler

Location: Hart 112

Contact: Carissa Bunge – 202.224.3841

CMANC lead; City recap MB location; Unsure earmark, combined CMANC & City (T-pier; dredging of harbor);

1:00 PM Meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division RIT

Location: 414 G Street NW, Washington, DC

Contact: Veronica Botts Bell – 202.761.4814

Seawalls, revetment

2:30 PM Meeting with Director Elizabeth Klein

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Location: 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC (DOI Main Building)

Contact: Jennafer Foreman – 907.334.5324

OSW funding

Wednesday, February 14th

10:30 AM Meeting with Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24)

Location: Rayburn 2331

Contact: Ruth Vazquez – 202.225.3601

Funding for T-pier; seawall due to storm;

1:30 PM Meeting with Bureau of Reclamation

Asst. Deputy Commissioner Mathew Maucieri, Senior Counselor John Watts, & CGB Liaison Ankur Bhattacharya

Location: 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC (DOI Main Building)

Contact: Natasha Smith – 202.513.0570

Continue to build relationships, John Watts (senior counsel to late Daine Feinstein / John offer to write support letter)

4:00 PM Meeting with WIFIA Staff, Leslie Temple

Location: 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC

Contact: Leslie Temple – 202.564.4734

Thanks for funding, remote link available

Pending

TBD **Meeting with White House Intergovernmental**
Location: TBD
Contact: TBD

Attendees:

- Mayor Carla Wixom
- Yvonne Kimball, City Manager
- Ted Schiafone, Harbor Director
- Mike Miller, TFG – cell: 707.287.0023
- Chris Cummins, TFG – cell: 202.256.5537

Contact: Alex Strizak at AStrizak@tfgnet.com Or cell: 202-765-4993



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

Morro Bay Harbor Needs



Dredging. The Yaquina (Army Corps of Engineers) comes every year to the Morro Bay Harbor in April to dredge the inlet. This dredge is critically important to the U.S. Coast Guard, California State Fish and Wildlife, Morro Bay Harbor Patrol, commercial fishing, and recreational boating. In 2023 the Harbor received an \$14.4M appropriation to dredge the inlet through the back channel in 2024. That dredge is pending permits. If permits are not received in time, those funds should be carried into future years to ensure that portion of the back channel is clear to navigation. Morro Bay Harbor needs to see that \$4M is available every April to ensure the inlet remains open to navigation.

- **The City is requesting \$4,000,000 for annual dredging**
- Contact: Julie Minerva, Carpi & Clay, 202.822.8300





Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

Offshore Wind

The Biden Administration identified the “Morro Bay 399” area in the ocean off Morro Bay to support floating offshore wind energy. Three OSW companies have obtained leases to develop here. Our community has been thrust into the planning and development of this project just 30 miles off our coast. To protect the interests of our community, while supporting the greater federal goals of reaching 30GW of clean energy by 2030, Morro Bay must be funded annually for expert personnel focused on environmental, legal, and technical issues. Without annual federal funding, the City’s ability to direct resources to this critical planning activity will be severely limited. While the City remains a critical partner of OSW, we are concerned about how it will affect our fishing industry, our local economy, and our quality of life. The City needs to ensure proper and adequate mitigations are in place prior to any surveys and development. It is vital that the lease holders or auction winners meaningfully engage with Morro Bay in the community benefit agreement and mitigation process.

- **The City is requesting a minimum of \$500,000 annually to support City efforts to research, conduct analysis, training, outreach, legal and environmental reviews as related to the Offshore Wind Development.**
- Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

North T-Pier Project. Morro Bay Harbor's North T-Pier needs major safety improvements, repairs, and renovations to remain viable. The T-Pier serves the U.S. Coast Guard, commercial fishing, City Harbor Patrol, California Fish and Wildlife, and likely will support offshore wind in the future. The City received \$1.5M in CPF/CDS for its North T-Pier Project. In order to release funding the City had an above water assessment performed by a qualified engineering firm. It was determined critical above water structural repairs will be necessary to ensure continued safe operation of the Pier. Due to the significant costs to mobilize/de-mobilize for this repair, other safety repairs to electric supply and fire suppression cannot be completed with the available funding. A follow up below water assessment was performed to inform a complete plan to refurbish and rebuild the North T-Pier. That assessment identified all the structural pilings and piers that must be replaced. While \$1.5M will be available to repair the above water structure, it will not be sufficient to update the electrical and fire safety issues or the remaining below water piers and pilings. The consulting engineer's assessment determined an additional \$7M will be necessary.

- **The City is requesting \$7,000,000 in CPF/CDS funding to complete funding of the full North T-Pier project.**
- Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023





Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

National Estuary Program. Morro Bay is home to one of the 28 National Estuary Programs in the US. Morro Bay Estuary encompasses 2,300 acres. The National Estuary Program was created by Congress in the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act. In addition to supporting local wildlife, estuaries have impacts on global ecosystems and climate. The Morro Bay estuary provides an ideal habitat for many animal species, ranging from sea slugs to sea otters, and endemic species. The calm, shallow waters provide food, nursery, and breeding grounds for many animals throughout the year. Morro Bay is also an important stopover for migratory animals such as birds and monarch butterflies.

With the importance of our bay's ecological and environmental health and the great work the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and the Bay Foundation do to support and enhance those things, support for continued federal funding of our nation's National Estuary Programs is always a priority.



Fisheries. The City remains interested in how the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) will potentially impact commercial and recreational fisheries and fishers. Also, of great concern to the commercial fishing industry is how the proposed offshore wind (OSW) power generation farms will affect fisheries and fishers. The City's initial comments regarding fisheries and the sanctuary were provided to NOAA in January of 2022 and again in October 2023. The City of Morro Bay identified the following concerns:

- A. The Chumash Heritage Marine Sanctuary indicates there are no new regulations proposed on commercial fishing. It is noted that future new regulations are not excluded. While it appears the Sanctuary does not have any direct jurisdiction on fishing regulations, they can recommend regulations that have direct or indirect influence on commercial fishing.
- B. The Sanctuary adds another layer of governance over the activities that would occur in the designated coastal area. Staff has concluded if the proposed



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

Sanctuary includes the Morro Bay dredge disposal site, it is possible that the site will be grandfathered in its use. It appears that any request to increase the size of the dredge disposal site or any new dredge site location would require the additional approval of the Sanctuary. The revised location of the proposed Sanctuary has been modified to exclude the Harbor entrance and location of possible cables that could connect offshore wind turbines to the power grid.

- C. NOAA has developed a 60-page draft management plan. The plan calls for the implementation of a Sanctuary Advisory Council. **The City of Morro Bay requested to be included in the Advisory Council.**

Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

Storm Damage and High Surf/ King Tide Damage.

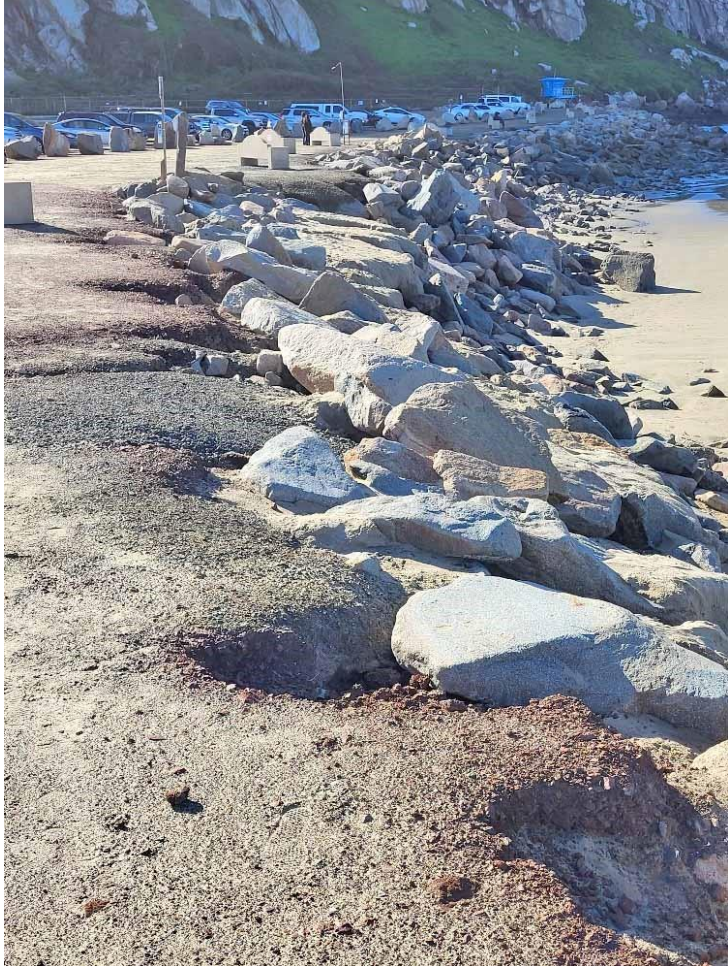
A federal major disaster was declared for San Luis Obispo County in January and March 2023 (which includes the City of Morro Bay) due to successive atmospheric river events that brought significant rainfall, massive swells, and flooding. An additional king tide/ high surf and storm events in December 2023 caused more damage but was not declared a federal disaster. The high surf events combined with past storms worsened the existing extensive damage to our Harbor infrastructure (docks, seawalls, revetments, etc.) and other City infrastructure (storm drains, vehicles, equipment, roads, City facilities, etc.), as well as damage to private homes and businesses. The City has been seeking funding for eligible costs through FEMA, however, it appears no reimbursements are going to be provided. This infrastructure protects roadways, parking, and public access to our beaches, waterways, and the businesses that support our economy.

While the City does not have an exact estimate on the project costs, typical revetments repairs cost \$3,000 per linear foot. Estimating the linear foot of number of damaged revetments, a minimum of \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 is likely to be needed for repairs to this critical infrastructure of the Harbor.

- **The City is seeking \$1,000,000 to evaluate alternative improvements as it relates to revetments and seawalls, and \$5,000,000 to repair infrastructure including hardening our infrastructure and preparing for sea level rise to ensure continued economic viability of the Harbor, commercial fishing, and support future offshore wind.**
- Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024





Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Harbor Infrastructure Repair & Improvements

- Morro Bay requests clarity on agency responsibility to maintain ocean jetties and harbor revetments and seawalls in Morro Bay
- Morro Bay requests development of an ocean jetty, harbor revetment, and harbor seawall implementation plan performed by the Army Corps of Engineers

The extreme weather events of January 2023 caused significant damage to the Harbor’s rock revetments and seawall. While the damage has not been repaired, late 2023’s king tide/ high surf events further eroded the revetments and seawalls. These rock revetments and sea walls are necessary components to our Harbors existence and must be hardened for future weather events. Revetment on the northern side of Morro Rock protects the parking lot and beach had displaced downward and scattered causing erosion along the parking lot that supports transient visitor parking. Damage also exists along the south side of the Morro Rock Causeway and adjacent harbor beach causing potential erosion and affecting future access via pedestrian and vehicles. Damage and erosion is also identified along the path to Coleman Park Kayak Beach creating possible future closure. Another damaged area is a section of revetment by Beach Street that was previously stabilized with gunite. This area has now been undermined by wave action and has sluffed down toward the Harbor basin. Finally, a seawall by Tideland Park was heavily damage and unrepairable. This section of sea wall will need to be replaced.

Project Financing and Request

While the City does not have an exact estimate on the project costs, typical revetments repairs cost \$3,000 per linear foot. Estimating the linear foot of number of damaged revetments, we are looking at a minimum of \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 for repairs to this critical Harbor infrastructure.

Project Summary –

- The Army Corps of Engineers built the ocean jetties, harbor revetments, and seawalls in Morro Bay
- These facilities have been damaged in the past year by extreme storm events in early 2023 and king tide/high surf events in winter 2023-24





Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

- Large boulders of the revetments have been dislodged during these environmental events exposing the harbor and public infrastructure to imminent risk and potential failure if not addressed

Why this Project?

- The jetties, revetments, and seawalls are necessary to protect Morro Bay Harbor from erosion and future extreme environmental events
- City of Morro Bay has neither the expertise nor the resources to properly protect the harbor
- The Morro Bay harbor includes a federal coast guard station, businesses, and represents \$40,000,000 of local economic activity annually



Contact: Mike Miller, The Ferguson Group, 707.287.0023



Mayor: Carla Wixom
City Manager: Yvonne Kimball
Harbor Director: Ted Schiafone
Public Works Director: Greg Kwolek
February 2024

Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Project

The \$160M WRF project has moved our new water reclamation facility away from coastal hazards, treating affluent to modern standards, and will have the capability to provide a drought buffer in the future for our community through the innovative indirect potable reuse portion of the project.



- The City has received a \$9.3M grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. The City is working with the Bureau to ensure it can make full use of the grant.
- The City also received a \$61M low-interest WIFIA loan from the U.S. EPA. The City is working with WIFIA staff to extend the project completion date for the agreement and clarify regulatory oversight.