

MORRO BAY MATTERS

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LOCAL ELECTION SEASON IS OPEN

It is the responsibility of Morro Bay voters to elect 1 mayor and 2 city council members to join 2 incumbent city council members in making decisions for the next 2 years that represent the will of the citizens.

Technically, campaigning begins the middle of August, the deadline for candidates to declare themselves, until election day, November 8.

However, over 90% of Morro Bay voters voted absentee in the last 2 elections. Absentee ballots arrive 1 month before election day, so the core of campaigning takes place within 2 months this year.

Potentially, the only incumbent will be the mayor, Headding. Heller and Addis are not rerunning for their city council seats.

CAL does not support the direction the incumbent mayor has taken the city the 8 years he has been on the Council. Here are 4 reasons why:

DISCOUNTING COMMUNITY INPUT

Its given name is WRF or the Water Reclamation Facility.

4 years ago, retired experts in the community warned the city council that their selected plan would not work at

the proposed cost. Unfortunately, they were right.

The price has risen from the “guaranteed not to exceed” price of \$126M to \$160M. This increase comes through amendments with contractors, and change orders of which there have been 96. Normally, a project of this scale may have 5-10. The potential for more change orders is likely since the project is not yet complete.

In addition, the cost to tear down the old plant and clean up the property will be an additional cost; it is a CA Coastal Commission requirement.

Community members also forewarned that routing the pipes carrying waste and clean water on the west side of Hwy 1 would be more expensive than on the east side. Not only has this proven true, but it has delayed the hook up of the pipes to the completed sewer plant building. In addition, it has destroyed the visual barrier between our designated Scenic Hwy 1 and the old power plant and switchyard. Unpermitted tree removal is somewhere around 70 trees.

Finally, the injection wells that were to bring us 80% of our potable water is now moved into the distant future. As earlier studies predicted, Morro Basin is too shallow and too dirty to supply affordable drinking water. Rather, injected water will be used when pumping to prevent salt water intrusion.

DISCOUNTING SCIENCE

In spite of public testimony, written comments, and petitions with close to a 1000 signatures of property owners' and residents', the Mayor has continued to support the incorporation of Chevron property into the City's Sphere of Influence (SOI) with the goal to annex, then develop the hills that wrap around the east side of north Morro Bay from Zanzibar Street to Del Mar Park.

These hills are designated as geologically hazardous (i.e. landslides) by the City, the County, the State, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Even a CalPoly professor of geology uses these hills in class as an example of where not to build.

Homeowners along Panorama Drive experienced slides in 1983 and 1995. It is difficult and more costly for them to get home owners insurance.

The same geology exists on the new sewer plant site. In 2021, at least 2 landslides from digging into the base of the hill occurred. The base is where the city proposes development for the Chevron lots.

3300 Panorama Drive has the same geologically hazardous situation. A 61-unit housing subdivision has been proposed for this 10-acre site.

MORRO BAY MATTERS is brought to you by Citizens For Affordable Living (CAL) to inform Morro Bay citizens regarding current City issues. CAL welcomes contributions in the form of ideas, distribution, and printing. Contact CAL at: <https://calmorrobay.wordpress.com>

LACK OF FOLLOW THROUGH

The Mayor drives goal setting sessions with the City Council. One goal is improving infrastructure, like streets.

Surprisingly, paving streets is not included. Rather, Embarcadero traffic circulation, a paid parking program, Coleman Beach area development, and a traffic speed survey are the only items in their sight.

There is a Paving Management Plan, and money has been dedicated to it, but when's the last time you saw a street paved in your area?

DISHONORING COMMUNITY VALUES

Why do tourists visit here, and why do we live here? The Rock, the Bay, the Harbor, the Wildlife.

What has been the number 1 complaint by residents in the uptick of visitors? Trash. What has been eliminated at the Rock Parking lot and along the Coleman Boardwalk? Trash cans. Who has picked up the slack? Residents.

He supported RV camping on the Embarcadero; now the Mayor favors putting a stage at Coleman Park for performances (loud speakers?) near Mother's Beach where sea lions and sea otters hang out, and osprey perch.

As stewards, we must preserve the integrity of our resources, and quality of life for wildlife, visitors, & ourselves.
