

MORRO BAY MATTERS

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ELECTION BALLOTS ARRIVE IN 3 WEEKS

For all registered voters, November 8 election ballots should arrive by Tuesday, October 11. You may choose to vote by mail or go to the polls on November 8. Local items on the ballot are choosing 1 mayor, choosing 2 city council members, and voting no or yes on ballot Measure B-22.

A free forum to hear all the candidates speak is Wednesday, October 5, 6pm at the Veterans' Hall on Surf St.

NO ON MEASURE B-22

While this Measure has good intent, it proposes the wrong solution. Yard signs for this Measure suggest that putting a new tax on your property bill will "save" the waterfront. Here is the wording:

Shall the measure, to exclusively fund City of Morro Bay owned harbor infrastructure (such as docks, piers, Harbor Walk, sea walls, public restrooms, revetments, launch ramps) through preventative maintenance and capital improvements, revenues used only for these purposes and unable to be used for any other purpose, providing approximately \$680,000 annually, through annual \$120 special parcel tax on all parcels of taxable real property, adjusted for inflation, until ended by voters, be adopted?	YES
	NO

Why Vote NO:

1. This tax is in essence forever.

It will take another citizens' initiative to undo it--write the language, collect signatures, go before city council. Who and how many will

make the effort.

2. This tax climbs: not staying at \$120.

The annual increase varies each year depending on inflation. It increases exponentially, which means faster.

3. "Preventative maintenance" is a vague term. Cleaning is a maintenance task; funds could be diverted to pay for cleaning restrooms.

4. \$680,000 is a drop-in-the bucket. Infrastructure costs multi-millions of \$.

5. State and federal money pay for infrastructure. Due to the quantity of money required, grants and loans are the typical way to fund these projects.

6. It's possible to get government money. Morro Bay just received 2 grants specifically for the Harbor Fund.

7. Those who use, should pay. There is no link between owning property in Morro Bay and using its Harbor facilities.

8. Taxation without representation. Property owners who do not live here do not get to vote on the measure.

9. Requires only 50%+1 to pass, not 2/3. Normally, tax increases are proposed by a government agency and take 2/3 of votes to pass. Unexpectedly, this was initiated by residents, so only a simple majority of votes is required to pass.

10. There are other sources of money. Some possibilities include letting the Harbor Fund keep the bed tax from Embarcadero hotels, keep the sales tax from Embarcadero businesses, charge for parking, reduce the General Fund overhead or allocation charge, and participate in money from Measure E sales taxes.

CARLA WIXOM FOR MAYOR

MORRO BAY MATTERS, Issue 2, outlined reasons to *not* support the incumbent mayor for a third term.

Carla Wixom is the positive alternative. She served as a Council Member 2008-2012. During her term, the Council addressed the consequences of the Great Recession, the closure of the power plant, and negotiations with Cayucos Sanitary District over the jointly-owned sewer plant.

Wixom is a successful business owner (Carla's Country Kitchen). She has owned her business for 30+ years while raising 3 upstanding children. Invested in her community, she has volunteered with numerous local organizations and non-profits. Her website is:

<https://www.carlaformayor2022.com>

CITY COUNCIL REJECTS CONSULTANT'S ADVICE

On Sept 13, a professional pavement management consultant said the City's Pavement Condition Index (for streets) had fallen 3 points in 2 years. It will cost a minimum of \$2.8million annually just to keep the status quo and not sink lower. Council voted to spend \$1.4million instead in spite of suggestions from where the other \$1.4million could come.

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> or to view past issues.

THE "HOME TEAM" FOR CITY COUNCIL

Two Morro Bay natives have stepped up to the plate to run for the 2 open city council member positions.

Sarah Smith Robinson takes pride in being a third generation Morro Bay resident. She has great respect for Morro Bay and it's heritage: the Estuary, fishing, good food, and small town atmosphere.

Zara Landrum has the privilege of calling the Central Coast, primarily Morro Bay, home for over fifty years. It's where she grew up, and where she raised her own three children.

Sarah and Zara are physically and emotionally invested in Morro Bay.

Because they are invested, they are willing to do the research to make conscientious, responsible, and difficult decisions.

They recognize that difficult decisions are the "order of the day" as the City figures out the next steps regarding the sewer plant, the power plant property, Harbor-appropriate activities, and City finances.

Sarah and Zara are supportive of Carla's leadership through the City's transitional time. Reach them at:

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