



STORM WATER PLAN WINS APPROVAL

One of the City's greatest accomplishments this year involves storm water management. That's important because storm water flows directly into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Protecting the pristine bay for generations to come means keeping contaminants out of the storm drains today.

After almost six years of effort, Monterey received unanimous approval from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for its Storm Water Management Program. Several environmental groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, also endorsed the plan. The plan calls for even more stringent enforcement of our storm water ordinance and a bigger effort toward public education.

This means you will be learning about ways to protect our environment by preventing unlawful discharges into the storm drains through ads in newspapers, movie theaters and on radio in the coming year.

The City is serious about stopping illegal discharges to the storm drains. Hefty fines will be imposed on anyone who violates the prohibitions on flushing contaminants, such as paint and wash water, into the storm drains. If you witness activities that you think might be harmful to the environment, please call the Public Works office at 646-3921 or call 646-3914 after hours. For more information, please contact Rick Riedl at 646-3923 or visit us on the Web at monterey.org/publicworks/stormwater.

Mixed Use May Ease Housing Crunch

Housing continues to be a major challenge for the City, its residents and local businesses. Sustaining the local economy by maintaining a vital community and workforce remains a key objective of the City.

Mixed-use housing, a blend of retail and residential space, appears to be one solution in neighborhoods near the downtown. With Trader Joe's move into the old Safeway building, the surrounding area along Munras and Webster streets could be a prime location for mixed-use buildings.

The goal is to make Monterey an even more livable city where people can rent or own a home, find employment, and walk to work, restaurants and shops. More than 75% of the people who work in the Hospitality Industry on the Monterey Peninsula live on the Peninsula, according to the 2005 Monterey County Labor Market Study.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic preservation is a City priority that blossomed this year. Monterey's designation as a Preserve America community focuses a national spotlight on the City and makes it eligible for federal grants. The City is benefiting from a \$100,000 Preserve America grant this year for new signs, pamphlets and web-based tours of historic sites.

Monterey also is one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Both designations highlight Monterey as a cultural tourism destination.

With those designations, the City achieved its goal of promoting historic resources and heritage tourism by collaborating with local history partners. "Early Monterey history is California history," says Monterey Museum Coordinator Jim Conway. "People visit Monterey because of its rich heritage, and in doing so, they learn about our past and support our local economy."

Public Service Center UPDATE

Plans for a Public Service Center are undergoing further review following a vote by the City Council to rescind all approvals for the project. The Public Service Center is a source of controversy, with some raising concerns about its impact on the historic district and its cost.

Based on public input, the City scaled back the proposed Public Service Center several times in recent years. The City had hoped to create a more efficient office environment with workers and public access to city services under one roof.