



City of Morro Bay  
595 Harbor Street  
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(805) 772-6205  
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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **CITY OF MORRO BAY BEGINS CONSTRUCTION FOR UNPRECEDENTED WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY PROGRAM**

*Morro Bay, Calif.* – The end of March marked another significant milestone as the City of Morro Bay commenced construction for the long-awaited \$126 million Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Program at the site on South Bay Boulevard north of Highway 1.

The WRF is the largest infrastructure project in City history, and will reshape Morro Bay's water infrastructure, fulfill the City's obligation to meet state and federal regulations by relocating the wastewater treatment plant out of the coastal hazard zone, and improve quality of life for residents with highly treated, sustainable water.

Starting construction was made possible by a \$62 million in low-interest funding secured from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program. Alone, the loan will make available up to 49 percent of the project cost in low-interest funding, which is ultimately expected to save Morro Bay ratepayers \$29 million over the life of the project.

The City's design-build delivery process allows for innovation and efficiency, with an emphasis on protecting the environment. Firms involved include design-build joint-venture, Filanc/Black & Veatch, construction manager, Mimiaga Engineering Group, and program manager, Carollo Engineers.

The project includes construction of an administration and operations facility, utilities, access roads and additional support facilities, wastewater treatment technology and infrastructure, pump stations, an emergency generator, a recycled water storage tank, advanced water treatment technology and infrastructure, and a controls system. Continuous environmental monitoring will be implemented throughout construction, as a precautionary measure to protect wildlife species and habitat areas.

Early construction activities include equipment mobilization, temporary office construction and site grading. Construction at the Water Reclamation Facility is expected to be complete in August 2022; construction of associated infrastructure is expected to be complete in 2023.

Water infrastructure operations, maintenance and construction work remains essential, while a shelter-in-place order is confirmed in San Luis Obispo County to slow the spread of COVID-19. City personnel and construction crews will adhere to all health and safety protocols in place for personal protective equipment and physical distancing.



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## **About the Water Reclamation Facility**

The City of Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility Program involves replacing the City's existing wastewater treatment plant with an advanced water purification facility that will meet state regulations, protect the environment, and contribute a safe and reliable water source for Morro Bay's homes and businesses. The project will create a drought buffer and is capable of providing up to 80 percent of the City's water needs in the future.

The project includes construction of a new one million gallon per day advanced treatment facility, two new lift stations, an approximately 3.5 mile pipeline alignment, and wells to inject the purified water into the groundwater aquifer, which can be extracted for reuse through the City's existing infrastructure. The current schedule includes construction beginning as early as spring 2020 and project completion by 2023.

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