

**NEW Futures Committee
Community Workshop
September 30, 2006**

**Workshop Results
Raw Data**

**Location: Morro Bay Community Center
Time: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Registered Attendees: 108
Committee Members and Volunteers Participating: 20
Special Guests: The Mayor and Candidates for Mayor**

I. Summary of Ideas Received at Workshop Stations

RECREATION AND TOURISM

A. Post It Comments

1. Conference center 400-500
2. Implement SLO Greenbuild! Techniques www.slogreenbuild.org green roofs, water catchment *learning center*
3. Reclaim the land for a natural park, hiking trails and some kiosks
4. Annex to the Natural History Museum w/ emphasis on the Estuary, Building A (old power plant) to anchor one side of the estuary & Building B (current natural history museum to anchor the other side of the estuary
5. Joint agreement between City/property owner to do “things”
6. Swimming pool
7. Bowling alley
8. Conference center
9. We need to get rid of the plant & bring tourism with a park or something else
10. Destination resort
11. Pitch & put golf
12. Water park
13. Park
14. Performance space in the old plant, need bigger than SLO PAC Center, more seats, 2000+ seats
15. Tennis resort
16. Tennis complete with indoor courts
17. Casino
18. Casino & cultural center (Salinan)
19. Arcade
20. The Power Plant Toronto (see two pictures)
21. Aquarium
22. Convention Center / Aquarium
23. Theme park

24. Amusement Center
25. Native Habitat Restoration Estuary / Marsh with bike / walk path connected to N. Morro Bay / no cars

B. Flip Chart Ideas

1. Quarry Mall in San Antonio
2. Toronto shopping/retail

C. Suggestion Forms

1. Camping Opportunities, RV and tent, low cost, deep water marina
2. Maritime museum, aquarium, wetlands/tide pool, wildlife viewing, IMAX theatre and wind farm/solar array
3. Conference center, hotel, indoor aquatic center, shopping center, movie, family activity park, go karts, mini-golf, bumper cars and art museum
4. 7 day farmers market, park and high end food
5. Sturbridge Village type cultural community, native American, maritime museum, conference center, hostel (youth and elder), low key lodge, small commercial section with restaurants, green development
6. Volley ball, seawater pool, walking trail along creek, alternative energy to replace lost energy
7. Restore creek area, Arcata sewage area, boat repair and launch
8. Hotel and maritime museum
9. Aquarium, water park, open space convention center, competitive boat races (dragon, kayak)
10. Force upgrade to OTC, get Robert Mayer to purchase and build, 30 mile wooden walkway around estuary, cool interpretive centers, get school boards to send school kids
11. Maritime/historical museums, 2000 seat performance hall, smaller performance spaces, restaurants (all income levels), mall with chains, museums with boat rides, parking and park
12. Alomar type resort, retreat, performance arts, historic sites, creek, restoration, minimize traffic by using trans, bikes or walking
13. Use existing building as a maritime museum housing fishing boats, outside a fishing village and a working boatyard

MARITIME

A. Post It Comments

1. Marine/coast related (only)
2. Yes, maritime museum in a great idea
3. SLO Green Building Techniques www.slogreenbuild.org
4. Native wildlife / flora / fauna walking trails
5. Nautical Theme Park

6. Yes on maritime museum
7. Maritime museum
8. Aquarium is a great idea!
9. Oceanography program – part of Cuesta College community curriculum
10. With or without plant, we should have a maritime museum
11. Makes a lot of sense plus would be available for grants

B. Suggestion Forms

1. Maritime museum, aquarium, anything related to the ocean, no commercial development, don't look like Avila, it lost its sole
2. Keep the power plant and build a maritime museum
3. Boat haul out area is not a good idea because of traffic on Embarcadero Road
4. Boat building school, boat haul out, no aquarium where animals/fish are trapped, maritime academy, maritime museum with old fishing boats, shore and boat fishing and seaweed harvest

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A. Post Its

1. SLO Green Building Techniques www.slogreenbuild.org
2. NO wind generation!! look @ Tehacipi
3. Partner w/ CAL POLY & CUESTA

B. Flip Chart

1. Creek restoration
2. Ditto
3. Fisheries Center
 - Education
 - Research
 - Gov't offices
4. Alternative power
 - Wind
 - Solar
 - Atomic
 - Gas
 - Tidal
5. Marine Research Academy
6. Boat building facility/school
7. Fresh water production (a la Big Island research) temp. diff. condensation
8. Aquaculture (fish farm- using current inflow/ ?
9. Great Fountain
10. Anything but a power plant
11. Open space

12. No cars! walking/bike path Bridge to connect North MB & S MB
13. Natural sci. research/education sensitive habitat species, Restoration of endangered species.
14. State bond funds, parks, rec.

C. Suggestion Forms

1. Marine research, aquarium, aquaculture
2. Aquarium not financially feasible, marine research institute not viable (already at Moss Landing an Avila), build new power plant
3. Marine research academy not associated with a university that gets grants from corporations with vested interests
4. Fisheries center (Newport, Oregon), Fish and Game offices and research, NEP, Harbor office, maritime museum, restaurants, state park, research lab, classrooms
5. Science, marine, commercial aquarium, get someone to figure out what's possible
6. Marine research center, natural science research (endangered species), liaison with colleges, cultural center (native American)

Education and the Arts

A. Flip Charts

1. Digital gallery, display work on high def screens
2. Classroom for youth art classes
3. Camp Kern (example), K-12, drive to learning center (dorms or camping), arts (painting, photo, glass) and marine (sailing, surfing, SCUBA, museum) focus, field trips and spring or summer break classes, funded by school districts or fees paid by parents
4. Archeological dig site, educational facility
5. Boat (historical boats, crafts) building center with tourist viewing, hands on demo's, educational component
6. Exploratorium – San Francisco science museum (hands on)
7. Water taxi from state park to power plant area
8. Board walk on the dunes (like Cambria on the cliffs) with painting stations for teaching plein air painting
9. Keep the stacks
10. Marine sporting events – boat racing –dragon boats, kayaks, surf rescue, native American ocean going kayaks – could be youth, club, lifeguard or college teams
11. Teaching facility for cooking and wine industry classes, farmers market, gourmet cooking store
12. Indoor water park
13. “Kid’s City” – mock city run by the kids – Schools send kids
14. Mall with fountains
15. Native American cultural museum
16. Cultural museum focusing on people living in the Morro Bay over time – Native American, fishermen, military, Spanish, early explorers, etc.

17. Event center

B. Suggestion Forms

1. Native American cultural center, work together with maritime, environment, science and technology and education and the arts, similar to Rancho El Chorro (behind the education building on Hwy 1), Sturbridge, MA and Bunnatty Castle and Folk Park in Ireland
2. Archeological site (dig, research education, lectures), cultural community like Sturbridge Village but focused on native Americans
3. Cultural center focusing on prior inhabitants of the area, Salinen/Chumash, Spanish explorers, Mexican land grants, Portuguese dairy farmers and Chinese fisheries
4. Maritime museum, aquarium, wetlands/tide pool, wildlife viewing, IMAX theatre and wind farm/solar array
5. Turn Embarcadero and existing shops into a mall type area and turning existing plant upper and possibly underground accesses to parking, mini electric carts to move tourists, turn main floors into science museum, history of Chumash and native Americans, maritime museum, school field trips, locals and tourists
6. Education and the arts would be wonderful, extension from Cal Poly (marine biology) Western Snowy Plover Center

Other Ideas and What We Don't Want

A. Post Its

1. Don't want stacks, represent (?) pollution
2. I agree
3. Do not want the power plant to go away. Do not want dry cooling
4. Don't want more souvenir or t-shirt shops
5. Use for storage of treated water (?)
6. Reasonable compromise, find a win/win with the owners

B. Flip Chart

Don't Want

1. Skate board park
2. Parking lot
3. Pollution (2 people)
4. Continued damage to our ecosystem
5. Lights (blinding) (4 people)
6. Power plant (8 people)

Other Ideas

1. Large public plaza
2. Convention center
3. Aquarium
4. Open land/park
5. Observatory
6. Green hotel
7. Save stacks
8. Casino
9. Use of SLO Green Building Techniques www.slogreenbuild.org
10. Native habitat enhancement/restoration
11. Green, wind, solar power generation learning center
12. Bike/walk trails, connect N. Morro Bay

C. Suggestion Forms

1. Small parking structure, low key green
2. Suggest including more information regarding how removing the power plant would effect me as an individual versus the power plant being kept or recreated
3. Use to enhance the beauty of the site, conference center focusing on studying and teaching better ways to steward the planet and sustainable and healthy living, sports center like in downtown Monterey, also a water treatment plant like in Florida that vaporizes garbage and sewage creating useful by products
4. Don't continue damage to marine life, use closure of MB plant as mitigation for Diablo
5. No water and no air polluting
6. Cultural complex, hotel, shopping area, park

II. Community Questions

Question #1

What do you value most about Morro Bay?

1. Small town & good police
2. The incredible natural beauty which has remained relatively low in population
3. The future looks bright – I want to leave my home to my family some day. A lovely get-away.
4. Clean air – Would smoke stacks cause problems when inversion layer/fog??
5. Friendly people
6. Small coastal town feeling. Don't repeat Avila too? (Avilaland)
7. I know everyone in my government. They are available, they respond to my questions.
8. Less crime
9. It's natural beauty & "Hometown" feeling
10. Estuary/Marine Environment
11. It's natural beauty, especially the estuary
12. Quiet and safe, clean air

13. History
14. Opportunity for outdoor activities
15. It's natural environment
16. I value the three stacks as a historical element of Morro Bay and hate to see it turn into (?) landfill
17. Me too
18. I strongly second that notion
19. Clean air from the fresh ocean breeze when the power plant is not running
20. Small town
21. Small town, ocean views, bay
22. Sailing, small town, great schools, beautiful place
23. Clean air
24. Clean air, small town atmosphere
25. Small town, greenery, clean air, sunrises –sunset
26. Unpolluted air for growing children's lungs
27. Small town! Keep it that way!
28. Small town atmosphere
29. The healthy environment, slow pace of life, small town-small pop., lack of traffic
30. Clean environment
31. Its small town feeling
32. Western Snowy Plover live here all year around
33. Birds, quiet (when plant is quiet), it's natural beauty
34. The special ECO system, clean air
35. Estuary
36. Love the dunes & estuary
37. The bay with fish and birds, fishing village character
38. Quiet sea coast environment with an abundance of natural beauty

Question 2

What are the most pressing issues facing the City of Morro Bay?

1. Taxes and fees i.e. sewer on fixed income citizens
2. New fire station
3. Infrastructure
4. Pollution from combustion from power plant
5. A new, more polluting power plant may be built here
6. Confronting the issues when growth threatens our environment and doing it in a creative forward-thinking way
7. Maintaining it's uniqueness without going detrimentally commercial
8. There's no indoor water park, the aquarium's too small
9. I love the stacks. At sunset you go out on the ocean or are in on Valencia Peak & look north – There they stand quiet, noble bathed in the golden honey of the setting sun. They sometimes talk to the Rock. Sometime Rock sits sad & just looks at the 3. The 3 sit looking @ Rock. Sometimes the 2 of them are all alone above the clouds in the blue sky with Valencia peek. You could not afford such exotic modern classic art as the old stacks are abstractions

10. Switch to alternative energy
11. Preservation of nature with pressures from state agencies to develop and expand
12. Damage to estuary
13. Damage to fish life from once-thru cooling, we need those fish (?)
14. Over building (housing), giant developments, mega mansions being built instead of small beach homes – affordable housing
15. Air pollution
16. No money/revenue & aged infrastructure
17. Over development, poor zoning, enforcement of same
18. Fiscal responsibility
19. Money, retaining our natural resources, protecting our wildlife, protecting the bay
20. Ending dependence on plant/ or alternative revenue
21. Health of estuary & open space preservation
22. Getting passed the idea that 2 million dollars is a good deal for what we give up for a power plant
23. \$\$, over-growth, no long term vision
24. Mansionization, less of neighborhood character
25. Affordable housing, maintaining a balance of families, retirees, working professionals.
26. Challenging the power plant & changing use of the site
27. GET RID OF THE POWER PLANT BUT NO STACKS
28. Unsustainable growth
29. Fiscal responsibility
30. Revenue
31. Once through cooling

Question 3

How could an alternative use of the power plant site help address these issues?

1. Indian Casino
2. Use power plant property for a world class destination resort/alt. fuel power generator, art center, park
3. No power plant would be a big boost to tourism – it's a visual and environmental blight
4. Put in a convention center
5. Science museum, cultural history museum (to put it in a nutshell) – Maritime museum, promoting arts – art performance center
6. Museum
7. Enhance the town, make a park & cultural investments. Bring in wider range of tourists
8. Corporation home (?) a win win – figure out how we can achieve that
9. If diverse uses then diverse sources of income
10. Would attract huge ECO \$ tourism
11. No power plant would mean a healthier estuary, fish nursery could only help fishing industry
12. Nothing is worse than a peaker plant

13. Charge admission for what is built on the site
14. No power plant would mean cleaner air, esp'ly pm
15. Keep the old power plant as a peaker plant – avoid building a new, more polluting one
16. A maritime museum in the old plant 1) revenue 2) employment for fishermen

Question 4

How could the City replace the existing/future revenue generated by the power plant?

1. I support a new power plant
2. Green hotel, observatory
3. How do other non-power plant tourist towns generate revenue? Let's do what they do
4. Find out what other small coastal cities do w/o a power plant & use their knowledge
5. I support new plant
6. Modernize a new plant (?)
7. Economic development, business incubation, citywide info system. Plans to make it attractive to do biz here
8. Cut police budget!!!!
9. Cut back on police
10. Charge developers an arm & a leg to build on a site
11. High density housing on P.P. site, Mixture of commercial, industrial (harbor) uses on or adjacent to P.P. site (4 visitors), create a large civic gathering space (piazza)
12. Planned multi-use development that accents something unique
13. Savings in the sewage treatment w/ ponding, ECO tourism, estuary enhancement
14. Increase fees
15. Revenue, part with aquarium and a maritime museum
16. Revenue, Indian casino if all else fails or a corner can be found
17. Make cuts in the upper level of government (i.e.) \$100's thousands paid to people that run our town
18. Live within our means, adjust, don't overspend
19. Promoting tourism, I support a new power plant
20. Promoting tourism while controlling, diffusing pollution created by the influx
21. Increase fees
22. Implement community choice energy law!
23. Green hotel, ecotourism
24. Combined use of power plant site mostly open space but w/ cultural facility and some low key (green) com'l
25. They could get money from the water park
26. Convention center for weddings, seminars, workshops, company training, etc.
27. When we talk about existing revenues we seldom hear mention of the inestimable cost to the environment. What we need to do is create more beauty to enhance our local site and educate and provide leadership for sustainable living
28. Indian casino

- 29. Solve the \$\$ problem and then anything is possible. But what replaces a power plant is unlikely to generate enough revenue to support itself let alone the city. Is Morro Bay content to be a sleepy town with highish taxes & fees on those who choose to live here?
- 30. Yes, the quaint area is worth the premium
- 31. Diversify, tourism, alt. energy, marine center, destination “green” resort
- 32. Partner w/ Cal Poly & Cuesta
- 33. I cannot wrap my mind around such a tragedy as the power plant continuing to exist and generate revenues

III. Work Shop Evaluation

A. Evaluation Form Questions

A total of 48 evaluation forms were collected. Not every question was responded to on every form. Responses are rated 1-5 with 1 being Strong No and 5 being Strong Yes. Results were as follows showing Rating / # of Responses:

Questions #1

Was the information provided regarding the power plant site informative?

1/0 2/2 3/3 4/14 5/29

Question #2

Did you like the workshop format?

1/3 2/4 3/2 4/6 5/32

Question #3

Were you able to get your ideas across?

1/6 2/1 3/4 4/2 5/32

Note: The 1 ratings include three that commented “time would tell” or ‘arrived late”.

Question #4

Have you visited the New Futures Committee web site?

No/ 36 Yes/12

Note: Several said they had not but would visit now.

Question #5

Do you want to get more involved?

19 attendees responded yes and provided web addresses.

B. Comments on the Evaluation Forms relating to the workshop are as follows:

1. Thank you
2. Arrived late, interesting
3. Knowing there are such devoted residents as yourselves, I see great things for the future of Morro Bay
4. Liked pictures, would like chance for continued dialog as details develop, only time will tell.
5. Came @ end, will follow up w/ online discussion.
6. Large post it notes would have been good, post information on what will be done with this input.
7. I was a bit taken aback by being educated by “industry” spokes people
8. Thank you for doing this, dialog is good
9. Very nicely put together, the flow was perfect
10. Well done, needs more publicity & maybe one more go around for better exposure
11. Thank you for what you are doing and all this effort and good luck
12. Cathy and Newland were very helpful
13. Well done!
14. Well done, nice citizen participation. Good way to gather info & give our opinions
15. Some of the information provided by the power plant company was not accurate and unbiased
16. “Marine historian told be no interested in combination bldg, committee person said nobody taking notes for historian”
17. Eye opening, informative, showed lots of thought & time by the presenters
18. Glad I came, learned much about alternatives to new plant on site
19. Much different than I thought it would be (pleasantly surprised)
20. I would have liked to have seen panels with expert testimony
21. Good luck, clean up your smelly boat diesel & garbage before you criticize ?, Build a sewage place for your boats before worry about power plant
22. I had concerns not enough people would come out, what a great way to be wrong! Looking forward to the report and the continued work
23. Considering all the issues in the air (including ownership) we may be on a fool’s errand on the treadmill to oblivion
24. Great brainstorming opportunity
25. Hard to decide where to put my ideas, the categories too artificial
26. There should have been handouts of the 3 projects or idea, I still don’t know about taxes for MB

C. Comments on the Evaluation Forms relating to alternative uses of the power plant property are as follows:

1. Keep it maritime related, no housing, commercial development or anything that would draw a high concentration of people to the area (functions, etc.)
2. Concerned about 1) air quality of proposed plant, fallout, particulate size, gov't standards and 2) city economics and the easy income available from a project of this size
3. Would like to see plant gone, replace with outdoor pool, opens space, rec. area
4. Keep the power plant, build a maritime museum
5. Don't take down the stacks, they are history
6. A maritime museum should go forward regardless of the power plant decisions, I'd like to see a new haul out & boat yard

IV. Handouts Received from Participants

1. Two pictures of The Power Plant, Toronto
2. Article "Revolution in the Air"
3. "Morro Bay ...a new paradigm"
4. "Tate Modern a New London Landmark"
5. "Pelorus" – Central Coast Women for Fisheries, Inc.
6. Port of Newport Fisheries Center, Pre-development Feasibility Study

Key

RT = Recreation and Tourism

M = Maritime

EST = Environment, Science and Technology

EA = Education and the Arts

O&DW = Other & What We Don't Want

(?) = Could not read word