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# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**September 30, 2020**

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## **CITY'S FINANCE DIRECTOR AND ACTING PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SELECTED TO SERVE AS NEXT TOWN MANAGER FOR TRUCKEE, CALIFORNIA**

Morro Bay, CA - Jennifer Callaway, the City's Finance Director and Acting Public Works Director, has been selected to serve as the next Town Manager for Truckee, California. Truckee's Town Council is set to approve her appointment and contract on October 13, 2020.

"We are so thrilled for Jen to take on this exciting new role," said Mayor John Heading. "She is ready for this leadership position given what she has accomplished at Morro Bay. Jen has been instrumental in moving the City toward a more sustainable position and weathering the financial storm created by COVID-19. We will miss her and wish her the absolute best."

Ms. Callaway joined the City team as Finance Director in October 2017. During her tenure, Jen developed new financial policies based on best practices, worked to revise the City's budget document to be more transparent, with the City achieving recognition for the first time from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for Distinguished Budget Presentation Award and Excellence in Financial Reporting recognition for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. In addition, under Ms. Callaway's guidance, the City has made progress at reducing the City's pension liabilities by pre-paying the City's Safety side-fund and a portion of the City's unfunded accrued liability. Jen also helped the City secure a near historic low interest rate for the \$62M Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) loan for the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) project, which significantly reduces the annual debt payment for the project. Jen was appointed the acting Public Works Director in March 2020. Her leadership and collaboration with Public Works staff were key in expanding trash and restroom services during this past summer when greater than expected crowds embarked on the City in the wake of COVID-19.

"This is truly bittersweet for me," Ms. Callaway stated. "I am so honored to have been selected to serve as Town Manager for Truckee and excited for this new chapter in my life, but at the same time I am very sad to leave Morro Bay. I have fallen in love with the Morro Bay community, there is a true sense of caring, from the volunteers who serve on the committees to those that help pick up trash, and Morro Bay will always hold a special

place in my heart. I am also sad to leave the City family – I have been working in government service for 18 years and the Morro Bay City team is one of the best I have had the privilege to work with. City staff choose to work in Morro Bay because of their love for this community. They truly care about the City and strive every day to do their best for residents and the City as a whole. They go above and beyond, and I have seen this extra effort daily. The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for our staff, we have lost employees due to lay-offs, and have asked our team to complete more work with less resources. Yet despite this, the entire City team has stepped up, out of commitment to the community, to take salary concessions to help the City weather this pandemic. Morro Bay is fortunate to have this City family—under the amazing, encouraging and supportive leadership of City Manager Collins, City Council and the entire Executive Team—working hard for the community every day. I am humbled to have stood with this team for the last several years. Morro Bay truly is rock solid together!”

The City plans to hire a temporary support for the Finance Department in the near term. Joe Mueller, the City’s Utility Division Manager, will assume the Acting Public Works Director role beginning in November. The City will initiate recruitments for these positions in the coming months. Ms. Callaway’s last day with the City is October 23, 2020.

“In a matter of three years with Morro Bay, Jen has accomplished more than most finance directors do in 10 years,” said City Manager Scott Collins. “Jen will be a phenomenal Town Manager given her finance skills, creativity, and her management approach which includes a heavy dose of kindness...something all organizations need during these challenging times. We will greatly miss her leadership and look forward to hearing about her successes in Truckee.”

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