

**Location:** Morro Bay

**Issue:** Morro Bay's Service Prioritization (Fire)

**Methodology:** Facilitated Meeting

**CSC:** 2008 Catalyst Grant Recipient

In July 2008, the Morro Bay Fire Department convened its citizens to discuss the important issue of contracted fire services. Due to budget restrictions, the city is in the midst of deciding whether to contract out its fire protection to Cal Fire. Through an intensive outreach campaign the Fire Department was able to gather many citizens for a 3-part structured discussion about the issue.

Different sections of the dialogue offered residents the opportunity to both hear from and talk to members of the MBFD, Cal Fire, and the Morro Bay City Council. The seminar was also broadcast to all Morro Bay residents through the local access cable channel. Morro Bay Fire Chief, Mike Pond, described the day, "Through this workshop, citizens now have the information needed to allow them to better engage in a dialogue with their elected officials. I believe a more informed decision can now be made."

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