

Mr. Bill Rozar
County Government Center
455 County Center, PLN 122
Redwood City CA 94063
(650) 363-4016

December 9, 1998

RE: Cliff Damage at 445 Mirada due to Illegal Rip Rap Placement

Dear Mr. Rozar:

In October, 1998, Mr. Michael Murphy, the property owner of the structure at 445 Mirada Road began dumping illegal rip rap boulders down the cliff creek of Arroyo en de la Medio. This was in direct violation of the Findings from the Board of Supervisors regarding the construction on this property. In addition to the damage caused to the creek and the cliff, the riparian vegetation next to the creek was also destroyed. This secondary destruction was also in violation of the Findings from the Board of Supervisors which specifically required that he protect the vegetation during and after construction.

With the onset of the winter storm season, we are concerned that the necessary repair work on the creek be done as soon as possible, before further damage to the creek, the beach, and surrounding properties results. We feel that the 90 period given to the owner to come up with a plan, and then the subsequent time to implement that plan, is much too long in light of the potential for further damage. At this rate, repair work would not begin until after the worst of the storm season has past and irreversible property and environmental damage may have occurred.

1. We ask that the owner be required to take immediate corrective action to prevent the damaged creek bank and altered watercourse of the creek from causing damage to other properties, the creek environment and the ocean beach.
2. We ask that the county immediately require the owner to present a plan for repair and restoration of the creek, including removing the illegally dumped boulders and restoring the riparian vegetation to its former state, and that this plan be implemented as soon as possible, preferably before the January storms.
3. The approval for construction on this property was based on the owner's presentation that there was no danger of erosion damage to his property or the proposed structures on it within the required 50 year time frame. Therefore, we ask that the county NOT permit Mr. Murphy to retain or add rip rap, or any take any other action that will alter the creek bed or water flow as part of the immediate correction, or as part of at the following restoration, without full application process, review, hearing and permitting.
4. This act is in direct violation of the County's instructions. We ask that the county charge appropriate fines (beyond the current 'administrative only' fines) for every day this problem remains uncorrected.

Sincerely,

Paul Perkovic
Chair, MidCoast Community Council

cc: Supervisor Richard Gordon
California Coastal Commission

MCC/P&Z/cgk