

<p>Midcoast Community Council <i>An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar</i> PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org</p>	<p>Michelle Weil, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Len Erickson, Treasurer Dave Olson, Secretary Gregg Dieguez Jill Grant Dan Haggerty</p>
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Minutes for Meeting of July 28, 2021

Call to Order (7:01pm)

All Council Members present. This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance of State and County COVID-related orders.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report

Lena Silberman reported that the El Granada Medians work is tentatively set to begin in August or September. The Department of Public Works is planning to bid the project later this year, with construction likely in Summer of 2022, due to changes by the Coastal Commission, as well as Covid-related cost and labor issues. The County has signed the Maintenance Agreement for the Parallel Trail, and is awaiting Caltrans signature.

The first meeting of the El Granada/Quarry Park Fire Resiliency Scoping Project took place this week. The RCD will begin preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) which will articulate the abstract project scope, hoping to make public after funds are approved at the Aug 3rd Supervisors meeting; a contractor will be selected about 2 months after the RFP, with the goal to complete the project by late Spring 2022. The County is contracting with DUDEK to create an application for the County Coordinator grant. Weekly meetings are being held to design the grant and implementation.

The countywide LHMP assessment continues, with a public workshop on August 12.

As of July 26, 2021, face coverings are required for all who enter County buildings, including libraries (unless they have exemptions), regardless of vaccination status. Approximately 11% of San Mateo County residents do not yet have Covid-19 vaccinations; they are widely available through the county, pharmacies, or MyTurn.

Dan said that he hasn't heard any acknowledgement of Medical Association concerns about LED lighting, with respect to the fire station; he would like the county to acknowledge that.

Len asked why Caltrans had not signed the multimodal agreement yet. Lena said it was contingent on another project, and Supervisor Horsley would talk to the Caltrans District 4 director if no progress soon.

Jill asked if there was any update on the American tower on Montara Mountain. Lena said nothing yet. She asked if the California employees mandate applied to the County. Lena said nothing specifically applies.

(7:12) 2. Public Comment & Announcement

Carrie Blanton asked about tree company safety procedures. There was an incident where a tree fell while being cut, on Miramar Drive and who controls it. Dave answered that it would be the County Building Inspectors or the Code Compliance team at SMC Planning.

Gregg mentioned a Leadership Academy meeting tomorrow at MWSD, and recommended people attend it (later corrected to happening now).

Claire followed up on the Midcoast vaccination rates, and the county said that it's due to our small population, and issues with people only receiving mail at PO Boxes, not at home. She also thanked Kimberly Williams for making the book "Adapting to Rising Sea Levels" available to the council.

(7:18) 3. Consent Agenda

a. Approve minutes for July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting

b. Approve FY 2021 Treasurer's Report

3a pulled at Len's request

Len moved to approve, 2nd Dan, passes 6-0-1, Claire abstaining

(7:20) 4a. El Granada Neighborhood Eucalyptus Removal

Danny Terway gave a presentation on the joint neighborhood method to successfully get a joint permit to cut and remove eucalyptus on upper El Granada Blvd. The main goal was to make the north side of El Granada Blvd similarly clear to the south side. He shared the timeline and the process to get the joint permit. Tree cutting started in early July, and is still ongoing.

Slowed down by foggy weather, but nearly done now. It was basically a clear cutting of the 4 lots. Bidding was a bit of a job, and the ultimate cost was about \$1500/tree.

He suggested that the county offer some funding or a property tax credit to homeowners clearing trees for fire safety, due to the costs. His presentation lists the property owners involved, and the people at the county, RCD, and others that helped make the project possible.

(7:38) Council clarifications

Michelle asked what the average cost per tree now that the project is mostly done. Danny said the most expensive were between 3000 and 4000 each, due to size and location. 31 trees in the permit, and another 10 or so that were too small to require a permit. Michelle wondered why so much less than the El Granada median cutting. Danny said perhaps due to the size of the trees, or other issues.

Gregg thanked Danny for the excellent presentation, and hopes he might consider running for the MCC in the future.

Jill thanked Danny for all the efforts, and asked if the removal of the trees has affected their fire insurance. Danny said that he hasn't yet asked for a reduction, but he will, and will let us know. Jill asked if it was about \$100,000 total. Danny said no, it was less than that.

Dan asked if all the cutting was done by hand with chainsaws, and if there had been any bidders that planned to use feller buncher machines? Danny said no, that none of the bidders mentioned using them.

Len thanked Danny for the leadership model, and asked if any other neighbors have contacted them for information. Danny said neighbors have asked for arborist contact information, and some have started cutting, but all single properties. He said that he did multiple properties to reduce the overhead, and that now with the change in permitting, there is less incentive to do multiple properties at once. Some of the neighbors can't use the same method, because there is no paper street access directly below their homes; there are other properties in the way. Len asked further if owners of unbuilt properties had been contacted and Danny said he had not, other than for his project.

(7:49) Public and Council Comment

Graham Woods asked how much reduction in time there would be if the project was started now that the permitting has changed. Danny said it will probably still take several months. But some neighbors have contacted the arborists on his project, because they were already there, and have been able to start within a few days.

Claire said that she thought that the effort Danny led had probably been a large part in the new no permit process, and she was glad that he took the initiative.. She asked if the neighbors were going to do any soil stabilization or restoration. Danny said stabilization wasn't an issue. No planned restoration, but he plans to plant fruit trees, and irrigate them. Based on what Chief Sampson had said, Danny expects chapparal to grow by itself over the next 20 or 30 years.

Dan asked Danny about chipping on the ground as mulch to help hold water. Danny said that was part of their permit to leave chips, and the stumps in the ground, and the arborist agreed. They did leave pine trees.

Donnalyn Polito is one of Danny's neighbors, and is planning to cut trees. Depending on the location, it can cost up to twice as much as easy access. She's been trying to get somebody to look at the trees on neighboring properties. CFPD hasn't been able to get anybody out. It's been frustrating.

Susan Casey is another neighbor, she spoke about the work she has been doing with CFPD to get them to require neighbors to remove ground and ladder fuel. They did come out and

require that, and 2 neighbors had done so. The others have been forwarded to the CFPD board so the property owners can be fined. She wanted to piggy-back on Danny's effort but some of the properties are very dense, so hard to cut trees; they will have some limbs removed, however that are closer to her home. Danny said that he thought the limbing would significantly reduce fire danger to the homes nearby. Not as good as thorough limbing or cutting, but helpful. Dave said that CFPD can contract out clearing work if the property owner doesn't do it, but they do have to go through the full notification process and timing first.

Jill acknowledged Susan's frustration, and said that in some other county's it's done automatically on a yearly basis, so the property owners get used to it. She thinks San Mateo County is headed in that same direction. She hopes that the County will help fund the tree cutting.

Gregg said that due to Susan's earlier letters, the issue is on the MCC Wildfire issues list, and that we should have an agenda item on this issue.

Dan mentioned walking through Quarry Park to see the work that has been done, and asked Danny if he had seen the recent work. Danny said he hadn't seen that portion, he usually walks on the upper portion off Dolphine. He'd like to see more thorough thinning throughout Quarry Park. He thinks Miramar is even worse than most of Quarry Park.

Susan replied to Dave that the 3 months should have elapsed by now. She mentioned that weed abatement had been on a recent agenda, but they hadn't mentioned the ordinance 2019-03 that addresses eucalyptus. Michelle said she had a meeting with Austin Seely yesterday and he did mention this issue. She can't speak for CFPD, but it does seem to be happening.

Susan said she was told it was on a per request basis.

Fran Pollard asked Danny how long the project took to do the cutting. Danny said about 4 weeks overall during dry weather, but longer elapsed time to work around bird's nest, and poor weather. Fran asked about the stumps, and Danny said that they are being ground to ground level. Fran asked about herbicides. Danny said that they don't plan to use herbicides, but instead will cover with tarps to prevent resprouting. She mentioned the El Granada issue same as Michelle; same answer.

Dan said that tarps may not prevent resprouting from the root systems, so it has to be checked and sprouts cut or broken off.

(8:17) 4b. Drought on the Midcoast

Gregg gave a presentation on drought impacts. He covered the material in the slides, with some additional details.

(8:40) Council clarifications

Dan said he's heard that the State is allowing salt water intrusion further into the delta, and that rain harvesting is not being allowed in places in the Sierra foothills. Gregg said that salt water intrusion is an issue, but he hasn't heard of any changes. There is some risk of salt water intrusion in local wells, but not the MWSD Alta Vista wells. Older studies may not be valid given current climate changes.

Len asked if the presentation is primarily informational, or are there things that Gregg thinks should be council actions. Gregg said primarily informational, but he does have ideas. Right now he's primarily interested in council and community input.

(8:45) Public Comment

Fran asked why water from states that flood can't be pumped to the areas with insufficient water.

Gregg said it would be very expensive in terms of power, even ignoring pipeline cost.

Susan said that she has heard that a lot of water is being lost to leaks, and whether Gregg thinks that if those were fixed, that would help. Gregg mentioned "water loss" from all sources (not just leaks). For local agencies it's in the 8-9% range, which is considered reasonable. There are efforts to reduce that further, but not likely below 2-3%.

(8:50) Council discussion

Dave re-iterated Gregg's comments on the cost of piping water. It would probably be 2-4 times the cost of the central valley water projects that move water from the delta to the LA area, and

at that point, other sources are likely cheaper. He also said that some wells on the coast already are having salt water intrusion issues, but the number is currently low. Claire wondered if the leak question was about the water or sewer systems. Dan thought that maybe in some other parts of the country that pumping water long distances might be feasible, such as pumping into the Colorado River system. Len said that he thinks we really have a fire board here, and we've seen concerns about how well they perform, as well as commendable statements. Looking forward, what's the best way to work with that body? He asked if Gregg was thinking of working with existing water boards or some new direction. Gregg answered that the first thing is to get the water boards to speak to the issue on their own. He thinks it would be useful to have an agreed fact foundation, including cost considerations in planning, definition of sustainable supply, etc. Dan thanked Gregg for his efforts on this, but he's not sure what next steps should be. Claire said that we need more answers, and that the logical thing would be to invite the two local water agencies to talk to us, and not worry about jurisdiction, just invite them. Len asked for clarification, and whether Claire thought it would be good to have both at the same meeting, or different meetings. Claire said either would work. Gregg asked if other council members had expertise and would work with them. Claire said she would. Gregg said he is having trouble understanding some of the MWSD data, and is back and forth trying to get clarification. Jill thanked Gregg, and asked about moratoriums. She has noticed that the subject tends to cause a lot of emotions and anger. She thinks we should push those in power to try to use federal funds to help solve the water supply issue. She said that San Francisco is going to use recycled water from the water treatment plant for Golden Gate Park and other locations. She mentioned gray water use for watering; if there was a financial incentive, that might help. Dave mentioned past and current recycling efforts at SAM and it's sewer agencies. Problem is that there are very few places that can use it with the amount of salts left in the water. It has been brought up again at SAM, and technology has moved on, but still hard to use large amounts of recycled water. He also said that the County allows gray water systems, and that he knows people who are using them. It can be an issue for some uses due to soaps, even if biodegradable. Dan mentioned that gray water can be better for gardens because there is no chlorine. Gregg said that he would try to talk to a hydrologist.

(9:09) **3a. July 14, 2021 minutes**

Len pulled this at the request of two members of the public, so he would like to start with their comments. Anne Martin said that the neighbors that spoke on June 23rd on the upper Miramar issues were surprised that it was on the July 14th agenda. She said that at the July 14th mention she had said that the County had issued a notice of violation to the property owner on July 8th, and that he had until July 9th to apply for a CDP. She said she assumed that Dave had made the statement that the owner had filed an application to legalize the fence because the owner had told him that he had. She would like the minutes to be corrected to reflect what the county records show, that as of July 14th, the property owner had not yet filed an application to legalize the fence, and that they be amended to say that Dave said that the owner had told him that he filed the permit. Genevieve Wortzman-Show said that she wanted to echo Anne's comments on the benefit of zoom meetings. She said that there is a lot of history, and past litigation, as well as a number of real estate matters. She said that because the discussion was in a public forum, that she wants to request that the minutes be amended to better reflect the discussion. She would like it amended to say that Dave summarized that it's important to remember that we have heard from only one side of the story, making it difficult to decide actions. She'd like the minutes amended to say that we have only heard from the lot owner's side of the story, because Gregg and Dave

had a chance to talk to the lot owner, but that the neighbors who have come to the MCC meetings and spoken in public comment haven't had the same opportunity.

Cblanton said that because it was a public forum, she would like to amend the comment made that relates to videos and statements by the property owner that show vandalism. She doesn't know all the information shared by the property owners, but that police have investigated some of the alleged vandalism acts and have filed reports. She said that the reports indicate that the accusations of vandalism and near violence were false. She'd like the comment amended to reflect that these are alleged acts of vandalism and alleged acts of near violence.

Dave spoke, and said that he had not spoken to the property owner, and to his knowledge, that Gregg was the only councilmember who had. Dave said that he would say that we have heard from both sides, the property owner through Gregg, and some subsequent emails after the meeting. We've heard from the neighbors at two different meetings, at great length. We have only heard from the neighbors at meetings, and not the property owner at any meeting, and that's why Dave said we had only heard from one side, so he completely stands by that statement, and the minutes should reflect it, because that is what he actually said at the meeting. Changing the minutes to reflect what happened outside the meeting is, in his opinion, inappropriate, and he believes it is not in compliance with the Brown Act. The neighbor comments just made will be in the minutes of this meeting, but they were not said at the July 14th meeting. Dave said that the property owner had filed a permit to deal with the 2017 violation in 2019 he thinks, and it has been pending at the county for some time with no action. Dave has not spoken to the property owner or the county, so he doesn't know what's holding it up. As far as the July 8th incident, neither he nor Gregg addressed it at the meeting; he doesn't remember if Anne did or not.

There was extensive back and forth between Anne and Dave on what happened with the various violations and permits, with the summary that because all of that was outside the MCC meeting, it should not be in the minutes, and Michelle agreed with that.

Michelle further said that any corrections or additional information will be in the minutes of this meeting, including that Anne said that no application had been filed as of July 14th.

Dave clarified that while councilmembers can always request that a consent item be pulled, it is also possible for any member of the public to request that a consent agenda item can be pulled, so that it can be discussed. It's not part of the Brown Act, but it's allowed by most bodies, and some counties actually have it in their rules.

Dan thinks that if there are questions as to whether something is true or not, that should be noted in the minutes, or at least a mention that it was contested. He disagrees with Dave's position.

Gregg asked if it made sense to ask for County Counsel's opinion on the issue. Michelle said that we should do that, but not hold up the minutes.

Len moved, Claire 2nd to approve minutes as written.

Passes 4-2-1. Dan and Gregg opposed, Michelle abstains

(9:32) **5. Council Activity**

Dave reported on a hybrid meeting with PCTV at the Jefferson School District. It was only a test, because nobody used zoom to connect to the meeting, and the board was all present. PCTV will provide microphones and camera, so zoom will see exactly what's being recorded by PCTV. MCC would only need to supply a monitor and speakers. He and Jason will meet at the GCSD room tomorrow to check it out after all this time without meetings.

Len reported on a discussion with RCD about the grant. He wanted to post it on the MCC website. Lena said it's not yet complete, so please don't post it.

Dan reported that he had stopped by the Virginia crosswalk in Moss Beach, and that it looked different than what he had expected. He had expected only one pole to hold the beacon, from the presentations. He saw a substantial concrete structure. He asked if anybody had actual plans. Nobody had anything other than the presentation.

Len reported that Caltrans had notified us that the beacons at Virginia required power, and they were having issues. They removed the large signs because they expected the beacons to be operational. They aren't sure when or if they can be put back.

Claire said that she thinks the concrete is to support the power for the beacons. Len will follow up with Caltrans.

Dan reported that he spoke with a Caltrans surveyor in HMB, and that they are getting ready for ADA improvements to the Naomi Patridge trail. He reported that the fire station lights in El Granada can be seen through the adjacent wetlands.

Michelle attended a meeting including Supv. Horsley, Austin Seely from Calfire, and the RCD to discuss what the RFP should look like that will be supported by the \$75,000 grant to scope out efforts to reduce wildfire risk in El Granada

(9:55) **6. Future Agendas**

August 11th – El Granada/Quarry Park Scoping Project

August 25th – Hybrid Meeting Planning, Wildfire

TBD Drought

(9:57) **Adjournment**

Moved Dave, 2nd Len, Passes 7-0