

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara,
Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar PO Box 248,
Moss Beach, CA 94038
<http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org>

Claire Toutant, Chair
Gregg Dieguez, Vice Chair
Michelle Weil, Treasurer
Len Erickson, Secretary
Jill Grant, Assistant Secretary
Dan Haggerty, Assistant Secretary
Dave Olson

DRAFT Minutes for Special Meeting of November 30, 2022

Call to Order (7:06 pm). Five council members present (Michelle Weil absent, Dave Olson late). This meeting was conducted virtually in compliance with State and County COVID-related orders.

1. & 2. (7:07) Government Reports, Public Comment & Announcements

Kimberly Williams (San Mateo County Surfrider Foundation) reported that Half Moon Bay City Council may be considering updates to their Disposable Foodware Ordinance at their December 6th meeting. The agenda will be posted this Friday.

Harvey Rarback (Half Moon Bay City Council): As Kimberly said it's more than just the disposable food ordinances that are going to be discussed next week. We will be discussing the climate action and adaptation planned for the first time. It's an opportunity for the entire Coastside to chime in on what you think climate action and adaptation should be for the city. The city is working hard to try to implement a safe parking program. A lot of you know that a lot of homeless people live in their cars, RVs, or vans. There is a very successful program in East Palo Alto so that we hope to run in the city, working with the county to implement a plan where people can safely park their vehicles and get out of the cold and have access to services. I attended the inaugural meeting of the farm worker advocacy program which is one of the first in the nation to actually include real farmworkers who are going to help the county implement laws and procedures that are going to be helpful to farm workers. There were a lot of farm workers on this committee. Up till now these people had very little representation and now they will be part of the county government. My last update is in regards to the Friday program. This Friday we will have a Parade with Lights and it will be a real joyous time. Last week we lit the Christmas tree at Mac Dutra and this week will have a parade with cider. All the businesses will be open so I encourage everyone to join this Coastside celebration of holidays.

Dan Haggerty: question about the Coast house, the motel next to Tres Amigos and Half Moon Bay, how many people are there and are there rooms available? Is there a room for some of these people that are in RVs? Are they not being notified that this is an option? Is that something the city runs or city and county or just the county?

Reply: (Harvey) The County runs it through a nonprofit called, "Life Moves." There are 50 rooms and most are single occupancy. A few are for couples. There are no empty rooms. There is a waiting list.

Lisa Ketcham (San Mateo County Planning Commissioner for District 3): I would like to report that the Midcoast Parks development fund report on income and expenditures will be on the Board of Supervisors agenda for Tuesday, December 13, 2022. The board agenda supporting documents are generally posted the Friday before. On Wednesday, December

14 the Planning Commission will hold a scoping session for the Cypress Point EIR. The agenda for that meeting will be posted tomorrow or Friday. No decisions about the project will be made at the meeting. The purpose is to solicit comments as to the appropriate scope and Content of the EIR. What environmental impacts need to be considered and analyzed in the EIR including environmental impacts and mitigation measures and alternatives. That's two weeks from today on December 14.

Cid Young: Harvey, last time I mentioned that the County owed back taxes on the Coast house at 230 Cabrio highway in the amount of \$56,390.06 and it does not include the upcoming property taxes that are due by December 12th of \$12,436. These are back taxes for SAM fees. You might want to give them a nudge so you get paid. That's a lot of showering and flushing at the Coast house that Keet Nerhan hasn't paid for.

Claire Toutant: RCD is conducting a tour of the Quarry Park wildfire fuel reduction projects. On December 17th from 10 AM to 12 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend that. I would like to also welcome the two MCC members-elect, Scott Bollinger and Gus Mattammal, so welcome and we look forward to working with you.

3. (7:21pm) Consent Agenda

3a. Minutes for November 9, 2022

3b. Recognition of World AIDS day

3c. Letter supporting traffic study in Montara/Moss Beach

3d. Increase up to \$100 for expenses without council approval for MCC transactions.

Len Erickson requested item 3c.be pulled. Placed at end of Regular Agenda

Motion to Approve: Haggerty, Second: Dieguez, Approved 5-0 (Dave Olson late arrival)

4. Regular Agenda

4.a. (7:22pm) Moss Beach Traffic Planning

Presentation by Chanda Singh and Katie Faulkner (transportation planners, San Mateo county planning and building department), Kathryn (AECOM), and Maria (TA): This year, Measure A and Measure W provided Grant funding for projects to help reduce traffic congestion and improve safety along the County's commute corridor's. Last September we presented to the MCC about the County proposed project initiation document for the Moss Beach State Route 1 safety and congestion. We have been recommended for funding by SMC transportation authority for the Project Initiation Phase and will receive funding for AECOM to scope and design a buildable project based on ideas the community has expressed previously. Our goal for the project is to meet the needs of the drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders, while preserving the character of Moss Beach. We are looking at all options and alternatives. Completion of this Project Initiation Phase will open it up for additional funding.

Questions from the Council

Len Erickson: Where in the four steps you presented does the Caltrans evaluation of intersections called ICE take place? Replies: Kathryn (AECOM): During the second phase in environmental studies. Do you need to base it on the best available traffic information at the time. Design you also need the geometric design and how it all comes together. Maria Sete (TA Design Team): we are required to look at roundabouts and other options including signals which is part of Caltrans policy and that would go before ICE during the second phase.

Gregg Dieguez: Will the project get a safety barrier for school children on the east side of Highway one extending from somewhere in Moss Beach to eighth Street where the turn off to Montara is? Will it really be six years before anything will be done? And why doesn't the project extend to 8th Street? Reply: Chanda Singh: The project limits are just north of 16th Street, south of Cypress near Marine. We have to contain the project at some point. To install the barrier may need a separate Caltrans process. We see the multi modal trail as the project to address this barrier.

Gregg Dieguez: What is the process to get the project for a safety barrier for school children north. Reply: Chanda Singh: This would require different project scoping. The project presented tonight will not include that area.

Dan Haggerty: On the website for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS.org) states, "an intersection unbalanced traffic with a high traffic volume on the main street and light traffic on the side streets may not be an ideal place for a roundabout." This is exactly the conditions we have in Moss Beach and Highway one. I asked for VISSIM simulation software to be used to show what traffic will look like with the different intersection options. Will you use this global traffic simulation technology?

Reply: Kathryn (AECOM): We heard your comment and we will be using this VISSIM software on this project.

Reply: Maria Sete (TA Design Team): As part of the process we will need to justify why we chose the option at each intersection in order to meet the purpose and need of the project. We are just at the beginning and all these studies will be done.

Dan Haggerty: The education happens first and then the public comments?

Reply: Kathryn (AECOM): We are doing the vision modeling now, in the first phase. Decisions aren't made until the second phase. If there is a flaw in the design made during phase 1, it can be deleted prior to phase 2 upon discovery without public comment. We dig in deep in phase 2. That is when the public comments and we make decisions.

Dan Haggerty: Will you provide the data that you input into the Vissim software in phase 2?

Reply: Kathryn (AECOM): We will take that into consideration.

Dave Olson: Thanks for the presentation and the work you were doing.

Questions and Comments from the Public

Cid Young: I am disappointed. It sounds like you are rehashing everything we've talked about as a community since 2009. One of our friends was killed on highway one by a truck recently so I hate to hear it's going to be another six years. Who are the partners you are referring to?

Reply: Chanda Singh: This is the first required phase to make a buildable project. It will be detailed and not rehashing projects. All of these past planning processes have helped us to get to this phase.

Cid Young: In 2017, the County approved the "Big Wave Project" which was supposed to fund a traffic signal or roundabout at the Cypress intersection but now it's postponed or delayed meanwhile projects are being built on Airport. Maybe you could move the project to include that intersection serving pillar point and Seal Cove and visitors to the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve and bluff?

Kimberly Williams: I have also participated in these meetings since 2009. What a long process! Another issue is reducing the speed limit in Moss Beach. Can I assume that these additional

intersection options will include reducing the speed limit?

Reply: Chanda Singh: We are aware that there is a desire to reduce the speed limit but we're not allowed to change the speed limit. We can only implement the infrastructure that would allow the speeds to be reduced.

Delores Silva: Other countries put pedestrians and bicyclists first but here in the United States we put vehicles first. Also, studies show that wide roads encourage faster speeds. This is a problem we have in Moss Beach. Residents have been asking for something to make drivers slow down. CALTRANS won't lower the speed because the average speed is higher but residents want traffic calming measures like a center island or edging along the roadway. I watch the young kids riding their bicycles and walking to school along this area and I feel their safety is at risk and it's taking too long to implement these measures.

Reply: Chanda Singh: There are numerous bills moving through the legislature to make changing speed limits easier and I understand this process has been long.

Dan Haggerty: Safety is the highest priority. The highway system needs to work well. I have a big concern with lighting and I'm concerned if they put in shiny tall light poles with a bright LED light it will change the character of the corridor. I would like to see amber colored lighting and non-reflective, not shiny steel used. Minimize the use of steel poles on the project. I also would like the community educated on how traffic light signals are programmed. Who decides how these are programmed?

Len Erickson: Regarding the K-rails from Moss Beach to Montara, these are used as an emergency measure but the example at Medio Creek shows that K-rails do make the corridor safer. I think County Planning could go through the Department of Public Works and that would separate it from project constraints.

Amy McVicker (Principal of Farallone View Elementary School): I've been working with Gregg and Carleen Foldenauer) of Safe Routes to Schools to address Montara street safety issues. Last year we had two kids hit by cars on their way to or from school. We've submitted a formal request for stop signs and engaged in a community workshop with public works. It is frustrating how time consuming this process is and that there are so many barriers to achieving children's safety.

Jill Grant: I am also frustrated by how long the process takes for implementation and I agree with Dan that lighting is an issue and I hope you will think about it during the design period.

Dave Olson: State bureaucracy is a long process but if we don't start we will never get there.

Reply: Chanda Singh: You can also provide comments on our webpage and sign up for notifications. I will send out notifications through the "Connect the Coastside" emails. We are thinking about how to preserve the rural character.

4.b. (8:22 pm) Further Considerations about Proposed Quarry Park Master Plan

Hannah Ormshaw (SMC Parks and Recreation) presented overview slides framing the master plan as a visioning document that establishes the plan and the overall vision for the park. Goals and desires are based on a Parks Commission and guiding principles and public input through the plan development process. A master plan not a document that includes every detail. It's an overarching vision of work for the future for future decision making for the park. Any other projects that are identified would be subject to additional definition or CEQA that would bring public engagement. In the master plan several specific projects are recommended. All comments that were received regarding this plan are in the appendix.

The board of supervisors will be considering approval of this for a park master plan on December 13, 2022.

Len Erickson presented a draft comment letter for the Board of Supervisors when they consider adopting the Quarry Park Master Plan. The letter requests further investigation of other issues not included in the Master Plan.

Cid Young: I have a question for Hannah. Has the name of the creek in Quarry Park that's mislabeled Deer Creek been changed to the correct name for the presentation to the Board of Supervisor? Half Moon Bay is calling it the Santa Maria water course. Reply: Hannah said that it's been corrected.

Burnett Silveria noted differences between the letter shown in the meeting and the letter on the website. Len explained that in the posted letter there were separate lists, one list was for projects outside the park and a second list for issues inside the park.

Amendment Motion: Jill moved to amend the letter by removing the paragraph, "In addition, Quarry Park has three different projects..." describing the existing amenities and ending in "Pump Track." Second: Len Erickson – Approved (6-0)

The letter contained a provision for an attached list of specific concerns.

Amendment Motion: Gregg Dieguez moved that the statement regarding attachments be removed. Second: Dave Olson. Approved 6-0

Dan Haggerty: Hannah, we should remove the smaller trees of the eucalyptus forest first and make access. Expansion of the parking lot? Will the split rail fence be continued to border the parking lot? Can we consider a catch basin or wet season pond to capture the fast flow of water from Quarry Park? Some of the berms that were used to slow flow and divert were removed. Have these berms been inspected? Can you give us some feedback on what you discovered in March?

Reply: Hannah: The split rail will be extended. A Catch basin would need further assessment with hydrological engineers. This area has a shallow water table. It's essentially a wetland so excavating in that area to implement infiltration structures would be difficult. Water bars are routinely inspected prior to and during the rainy season. I will certainly give you feedback in March.

Amendment Motion: Gregg moved to adjust the list of items outside the scope of the Master Plan. Second: Len Erickson

Burnett Silveria: Can Len discuss the four different bullet points that were put in the revised letter?

Dave Olson: this letter looks like it was written by someone in the parks department. I was surprised to find the S. Ridge Fire Rd. in the master plan because it never came up in any previous meetings. No one in the east Miramar area has been consulted about it. There's also a separate project from the county to implement the S. Ridge Fire Rd. It bothers me that this project is going forward before the master plan is approved. The comment time is also rather short. I think the South Ridge Fire Rd. should not be built because it's not necessary. I understand that CalFire might want it but because of the terrain it will have long-term erosion problems so I would like something added to this letter that we oppose

the South Ridge Fire Rd. Regarding water discharge, yes there are other areas contributing but the substantial volume is from Quarry Park. I'm not concerned about the dam because it's addressed in the plan but the normal stormwater runoff is an issue and should be addressed in the master plan. I would like to see both of those added to this letter.

Claire Toutant: I share Dave's concern about the process. The MCC received the referral this week from the planning department about elements in the master plan and the master plan has not been approved. I think elements are out of line and there is a problem. The planning department already has plans to implement some of the projects from the master plan and the master plan has not yet been approved.

Reply: Hannah: This process is similar to the pump track, Off leash dog program, and expansion of the parking lot which are identified in the master plan but they had already gone through the CEQA process. The S. Ridge Fire Rd. is mentioned in the master plan under Trail improvements and wildfire risk reduction recommendations.

Dave Olson: it's been in the master plan since August but has not been included in any previous discussions, so why did it appear after all the community meetings?

Reply: Hannah: It was raised by CalFire as a valuable access route during emergencies. There is limited access to the southern and eastern portion of the park by fire roads. You have the opportunity right now to comment on any traffic or noise issues or anything else.

Cid Young: I would like the letter to be changed from "drainage and runoff" to "runoff and drainage from Quarry Park to neighboring streets. I don't remember the County coming to the MCC to discuss putting in a second bathroom.

Fran Pollard: I agree with Cid. The parks department will not fix all these areas but I hope they address it with the board. I appreciate that you were asking them to continue to look at the drainage and runoff issues. Dogs should not be allowed in the tot lot play area and the area above the tot lot. It should be for playing, picnicking, and sports but not for dogs. There should be one place that's just for people and families. I don't know much about the south ridge fire road. Thank you for finishing the parking lot expansion. That will be a big help.

Burnett Silveria: I think Len's revised letter tried to address the off leash dog use in the family and children area.

Reply: Len Erickson: This was addressed in my revised letter. It's important to tell the supervisors about issues with drainage and runoff but other departments need to come back with a plan to address it. This is a high level point. I would like to make an amendment to add two bullets, "enforce the no dogs allowed in the children area" and the drainage statement to..."address drainage on community streets"

Gregg Dieguez: Second. I thought it was clear that the CEQA process is separate from the master plan. I do not feel the process has been violated because they explained that projects would be segregated from the master plan.

Motion Approved 6-0

Dave Olson said the that the South Ridge Fire Road was not included in the current master plan

Reply: Hannah: The draft master plan was provided in the spring of 2022 and we had an opportunity for written comments an online survey and another meeting. All of these included the details of the South Ridge Fire Rd. and other changes.

Amendment Motion: Dave Olson moved that the letter include “The MCC requests that the S. Ridge Fire Rd. extension be removed from the master plan because of the likely erosion and vegetation disturbance it would cause.” Second: Dan Haggerty:

Discussion of Amendment

Dave Olson: The S. Ridge Fire Rd. is a way to provide access to the very southern edge of Quarry Park. It connects the East Miramar community neighborhood of houses to an existing fire road that is further up in QUARRY PARK towards the top. It’s an area extremely prone to erosion. Mountain bikers use that trail; it has substantial erosion control problems. It’s not a large area of the park and I don’t believe it needs a fire road. It can be accessed from up above. It is an unnecessary and dangerous project.

Scott: I live on Coronado. I’m familiar with the forest where they propose to implement the fire road. This is the only area with native trees and not eucalyptus. It goes through a pine forest. Putting a road there would cause runoff to drain straight down into our neighborhood. I would need to be convinced but from an engineering standpoint before I would support this idea. Reply: Hannah: This project has been designed to prevent erosion and runoff issues by an engineering firm. The existing vegetation is Monterey pine which is a non-native tree species. There are also eucalyptus. The road is only for emergency access. The public review is open for comment until December 16th.

Dave Olson: Scott, has county parks notified you about the S. Ridge fire road? Reply: Scott: No.

Dave Olson: That project is being implemented as being part of the master plan so if it’s not in the master plan the project goes away.

Cid Young: Hannah, I haven’t heard anything about this fire road. But I’ve heard lots of concern about the fire road on the opposite side of Quarry Park. If there’s a fire there, it will take down a lot of houses and a lot of community members are already losing their fire insurance. Why are you ignoring the other side of the park that parallels El Granada Boulevard?

Jill Grant: I agree with Dave that we should put it in the letter right now, that we don’t support this new fire road. We have not had enough time to review it. I am reviewing it now during this meeting and this road is quite large. The total disturbance is 2.3 acres and includes four wide turn outs. It’s very similar to the Fire Road improvements they wanted to put on Montara Mountain. If they can get to these areas without using a new fire road, the project should be deleted. Reply: Hannah: I would encourage everyone to review the plans and then come back with their comments. Notification was sent out November 16th with a typical 30 day comment. I think we are open to extending the time for MCC comments.

Claire Toutant: We just got this referral from County Planners two days ago and you’re going to have the master plan in front of the board of supervisors.

Dave Olson: We got the letter from the Planner on November 22nd.

Len Erickson. Do you want the board of supervisors to revise the master plan to delay the S. Ridge Fire Rd.? Reply: Dave Olson: Yes, I do.

Gregg Dieguez: I would like to see Dave’s amendment in the chat.

Jill Grant: Dave, can you include the specific total disturbance of 2.3 acres?

Dave Olson: Yes.

Amendment to add a sentence requesting removal of the South Ridge Fire Road from the Master

Plan with note of the acreage affected.

Action: Approved 4-1-1 (no - Erickson, abstain - Dieguez)

Final Vote on the Letter: Approved: 5-1. (no – Dave Olson)

3.c. (10:00 pm) Letter supporting traffic study in Montara/Moss Beach.

Carry over from the consent agenda.

Len Erickson: I think it's appropriate to ask DPW to supply a barrier protection right now in Moss Beach for the school children and pedestrians instead of having it as a long-term term solution in six years.

Gregg Dieguez: I would like to include it in the letter, but we could also pursue it separately with DPW.

Motion to approve the letter as written (Dieguez), Second (Olson). Approved 6-0.

5. (10:04pm) Council Activity – Correspondence and meetings attended

Gregg Dieguez: We have written emails to the California highway patrol and the Sheriff about Sunshine Valley Road and speeding. We are asking for enforcement and controls. I attended a fire Safe Community grant meeting today where they discussed three potential grants for our area that suggested could be pursued but they're not going to pursue any of them. They are going to try and get a grant to clear Highway 1 north of Tom Lantos Tunnel. I am waiting on Mark Wilbanks and his neighbors for a group petition to take to Khoa Vo regarding the sidewalk workshop we want to hold in El Granada. I'm going to be coordinating with MWSD for a grant to remove eucalyptus from the CALTRANS Martini Creek bypass. We still have to address a wastewater overflow that almost crippled the SAM plant a year ago and which remains unexplained and unacted upon. This is a serious issue. I am pleased that Barbara Mathewson has stepped up to be appointed to the MCC. I went on a hike with our new MCC member, Scott Bollinger, this Friday.

6. (10:07pm) Future Agendas

Agenda Items considered for the Dec. 14 meeting include:

Appointment of new MCC Councilmembers, swearing in of members, statements by departing members and retiring Chair.

Letter of protest to Governor Newsom against requirement of in-person meetings,

Letter to the County to expand the scope of the Moss Beach up to eighth Street and add K-rail, sidewalk concrete color,

Letter for S. Ridge Fire Road project (Dec. 14th meeting).

Adjournment (10:09 pm)

Motion (Erickson), Second (Haggerty). Approved 6-0.