El Granada School Remodel

- 1. Summary of Major Issues
- 2. Community Feedback
- 3. Next Steps

Summary of Major Issues

- The School Remodel is broadly supported
 - Some requests for expediency
 - Some residents disagree with concerns cited below
- Concerns cited regularly:
 - Excessive Lighting
 - Request for Dark Skies compliance
 - View preservation
 - Scenic Corridor
 - Trash dumpster damaging view
 - Parking and traffic impacts
 - Request for traffic study

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting





1 Useful

Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



2 Targeted

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3 Low Level

Responsible outdoor lighting is

Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4 Controlled

Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5 Warm-

Use warmer color lights where possible

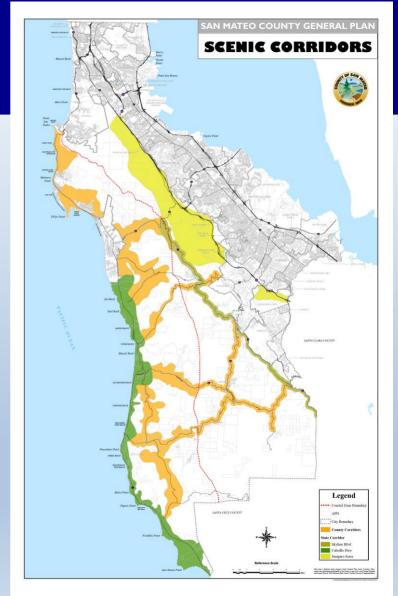
Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

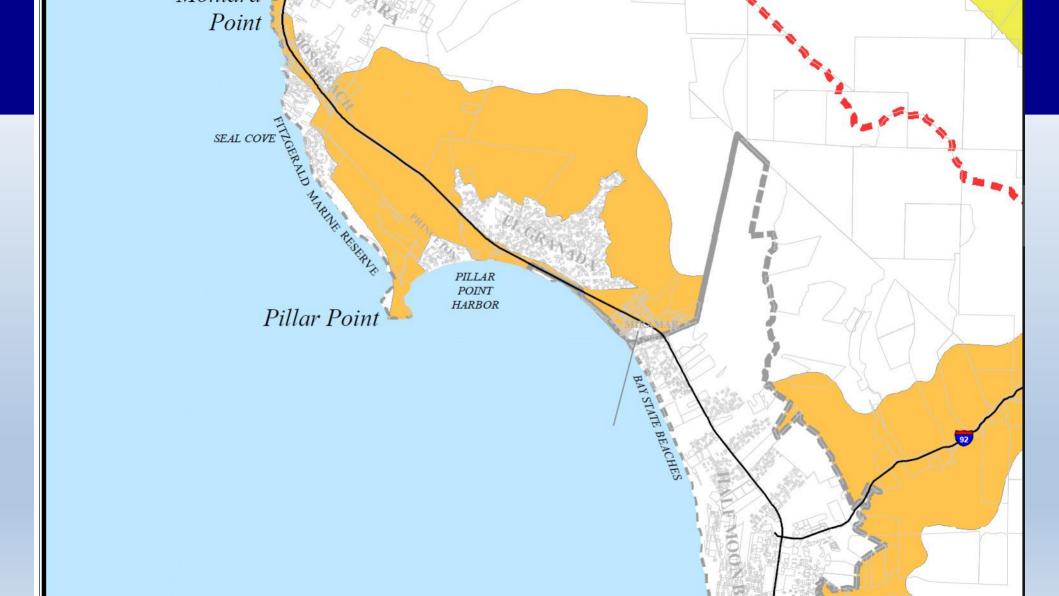


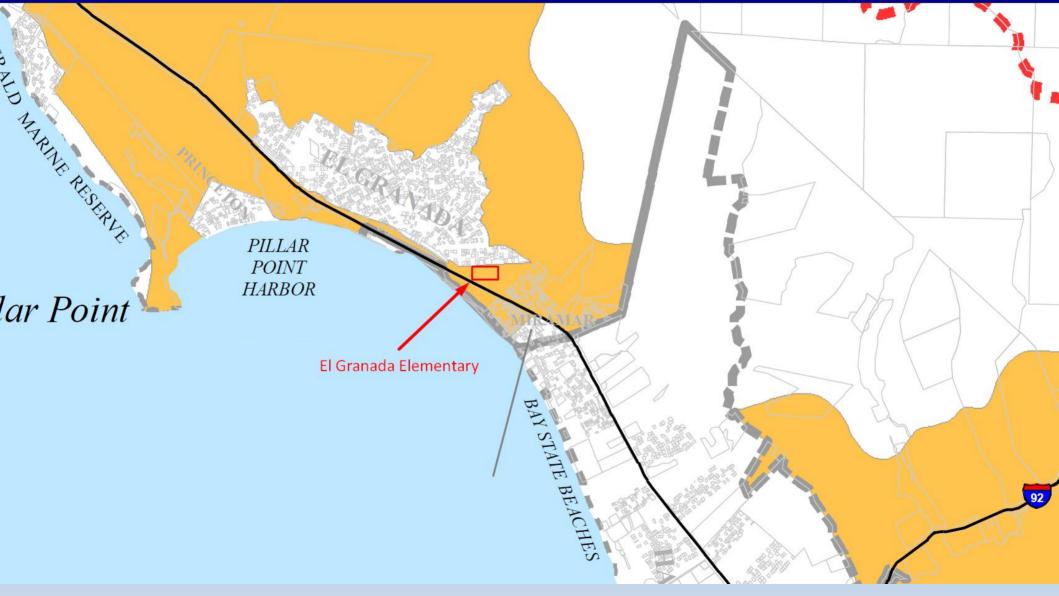
Scenic Corridor

From County Website:

https://www.smcgov.org/planning/san-mateo-county-scenic-corridors







El Granada Elementary School Renovations

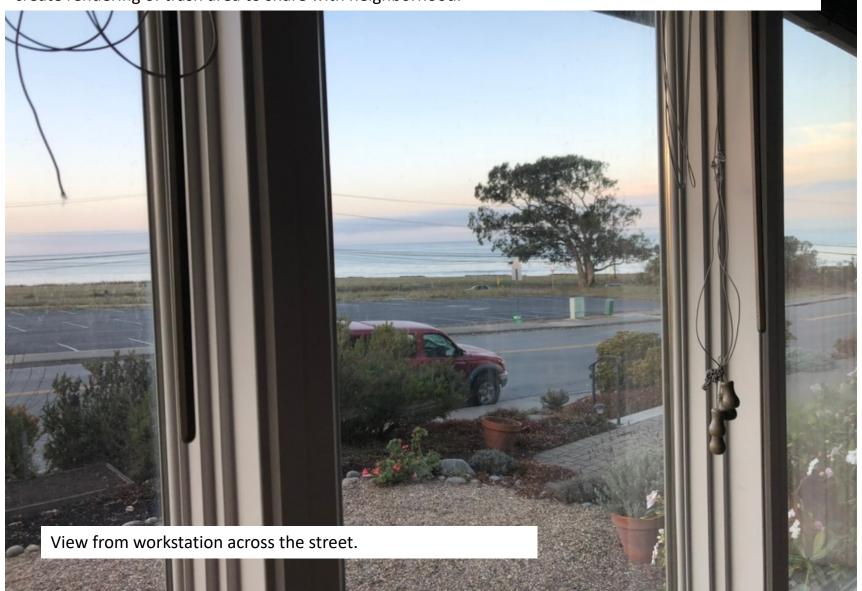
What communications has the county design review committee had with residents of El Granada, regarding proposed renovations to the school parking lot? Will it be a topic at a future Coastal Design Review Meeting?

Most neighbors fully support the school upgrades ASAP. The parking lot plans have not yet been shared with the public or neighbors, and there are questions from neighbors.

Neighborhood awareness and interests:

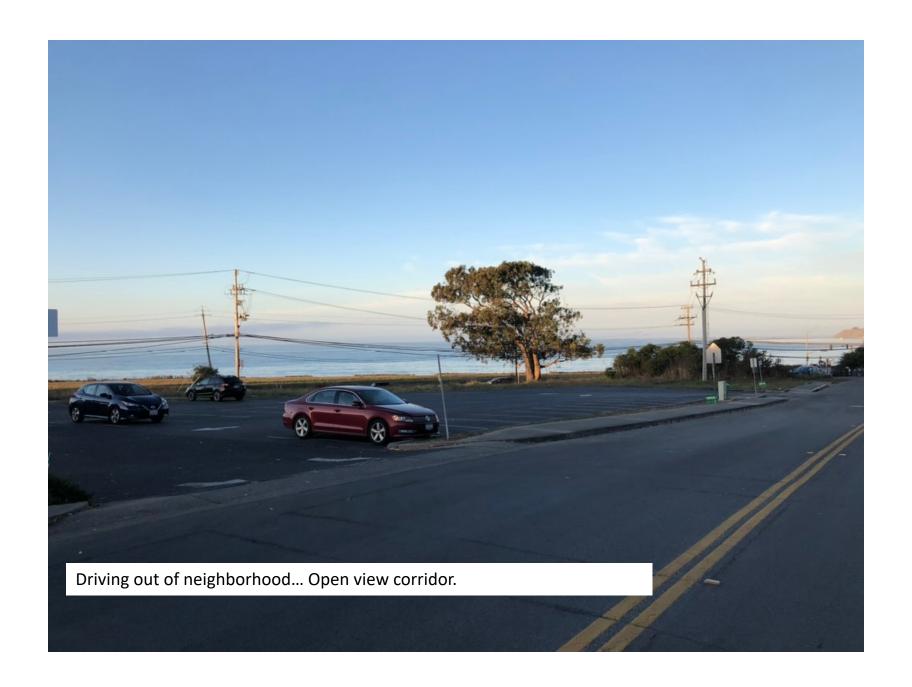
- The parking lot is a view corridor to the ocean both in the day and evening. While the school district may use its
 land assets as it sees fit, consideration of the neighborhood would be appreciated.
- Maximizing number of parking spaces in parking lot lessens impact on adjacent streets during events when they occur.
- Minimizing impact of additional lighting in parking lot keeps night time ocean views visible. Lighting should be dark sky compliant, and off when not in use. Motion sensors or switch to turn on only when necessary.
- There appears to be sufficient space where existing buildings are currently, to keep massing in the area that is
 already built up. I heard that the trash cans were to be moved to other side of the parking lot. Please identify
 the requirement for relocating the trash cans. The suggested move of trash cans will impact many neighbors
 and the sight lines as one drives South on the Alameda and both directions on Santiago.

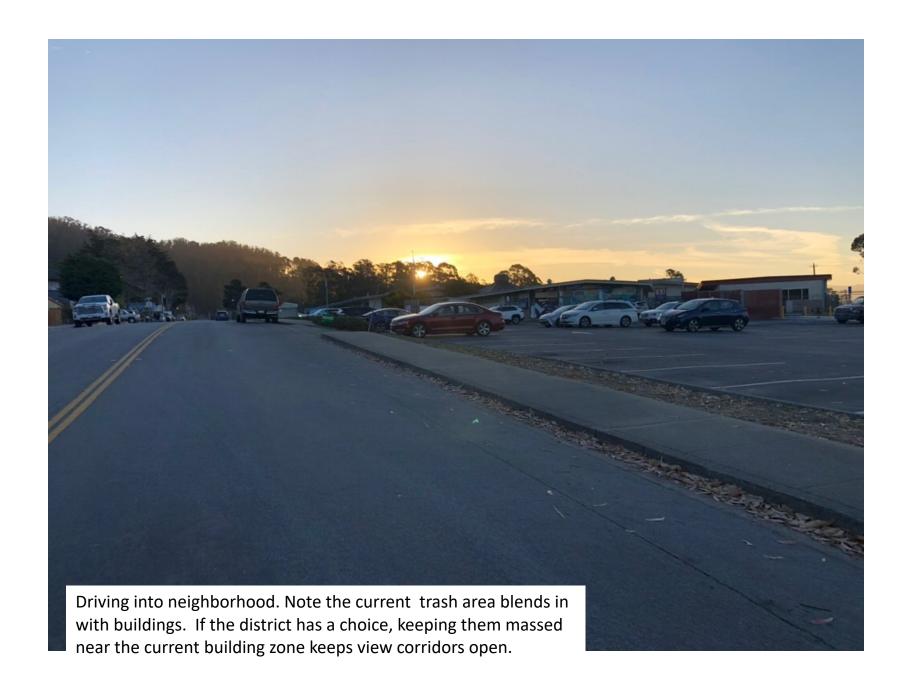
El Granada, CA - View corridor along Santiago Ave. While there are times the El Granada Elementary parking lot is filled during events or during drop off or pick up hours, most of the time it is not. Please create rendering of trash area to share with neighborhood.











Design Questions

- Why is EG remodel moving dumpsters when Farallone is not?
- Why is EG remodel installing parking lot lighting when Farallone is not?
- Why are parking lot changes being made in EG and not in Montara/Farallone?
- Why not save the money and leave EG parking lot as is?
- What DSA requirements bear on these EG plans?
 - Does CDP alter requirements vs. Farallone?

Open Questions:

- Will the County consider and enforce Dark Skies requirements?
- Does the Scenic Corridor apply to EG remodel?
- What process of testimony and appeal pertains to the remodel plans and permits?
 - CCC?
 - SMC Planning?
 - CUSD hearings?

Next Steps

- MCC to prepare comments for SMC Planning
- CUSD to host community forum on Jan. 24th
- ? Revised designs available for review when?

CUSD Comments



Community concerns regarding El Granada Elementary

1 message

Kaitlyn Kottman <kate.kottman@gmail.com> To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com Wed, Dec 13, 2023 at 8:57 PM

Dear Midcoast Community Council members,

I am writing to make you aware of proposed modernization plans to the El Granada Elementary school, specifically the parking lot. I have attached the school board presentation with proposed changes. While we support necessary updates to the school, the current plans do not take the community, coastal design guidelines, or the environmental impact into consideration.

As our community council, can you assist with representing the community's interest to the design committee to ensure preservation of our dark skies and coastal view corridor is a priority?

1. Trash Enclosure Location:

The El Granada GMP1 Approval Presentation reviewed three proposed locations for the trash receptacles. The trash enclosure should remain at its existing location to reduce sprawl and maintain our highly valued open spaces, especially because the relocation is not a matter of necessity and is merely a design choice. Sprawling of the campus also goes against the design principles set out in the San Mateo County Community Design Manual for preservation of public views through scenic corridors. Keeping the trash bin area in its current location is a safer and more ergonomic location for school workers. The typical recommendation for dumpster locations is that they should require less than 250 feet of travel to reach, but placing them at the end of the parking lot will be substantially longer, with travel distances of 350 to 750 feet to and from the various campus buildings. Keeping the trash receptacles in the current location avoids unnecessary construction and disruption, and preserves the open space and visual aesthetics of the area.

2. Dark Sky Lighting:

Regarding the parking lot lighting, the presentation noted that there are no current lights in the EG parking lot and "no set code requirements". I would like to strongly advocate the implementation of Dark Sky compliant lighting, which minimizes light pollution and glare, preserving the natural ambiance of the community and reducing the adverse effect on wildlife behavior and reproduction. This approach aligns with California's Title 24 requirements, which mandate energy-efficient building standards, including lighting. In addition, the school property and parking lot is in an LZ2 ("Lighting Zone 2") designated region per section 140.7 of Title 24, California Code of Regulations, Part 6. This code does define allowable brightness of outdoor lighting, and any plans to add parking lot lighting should be designed to stay below those requirements. Additionally, the district should consider sensor-triggered lights or a default-off switch to turn them on for events, which would provide sufficient lighting for safety and security without contributing to light pollution or impacting the serene ocean view.

3. Fencing:

To limit the visual impact and preserve the open space aesthetics, any fencing that is erected should also be minimally intrusive. I strongly support leaving the parking lot unfenced and only enclosing the school itself to maintain an open and welcoming environment while ensuring security.

We have submitted a public comment for the school board to review, but the school board has not made an effort to notify or engage with local residents regarding these significant design changes.

Sincerely, Kaitlyn and Michael Kottman



4. c. (9:15) El Granada School Remodel Public Comment

1 message

doug@larrattbros.com <doug@larrattbros.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 1:15 PM

Good evening my name is Doug Machado I live at 917 Palma St. I'm writing you tonight to speak in favor of the El Granada elementary modernization project. As a close neighbor to this project and a parent of a child who attends El Granada, I have a unique perspective about this project. While I have some concerns over the lighting and tree plans, I think there is room for improvement and some common ground for both safety and preservation of views and evening/night light pollution. I'm confident that CUSD will engage the community and create a plan that is both acceptable for their liability and safety while preserving the views and minimizing light pollution. I would like to also touch briefly on traffic and parking concerns. I am a neighbor who is 5 doors away from the school and while there are parents who use the streets for parking for pick up and drop off, the impact is very brief, minimal, and non-significant. I do not believe the reduced amount of parking spaces will have any noticeable or negative effect to the direct neighbors of the school or any other neighbors who have voiced concerns that do not live close by. I think it is very important that this project stays on track and on schedule. This is the same school I attended 40 years ago and the same campus that I played on as a child, as I grew up right across the street from the school. In all these years, there have been very few upgrades completed to the school. The children deserve better and the CUSD is ready to make that commitment through bond dollars that the majority voted for. I would hope that the MCC could make the recommendation to approve the project as designed apart from the lighting, which with the proper engagement with CUSD and the neighbors, can be worked through prior to the issuance of the coastal development permit.

Doug Machado
Larratt Bros. Plumbing, Inc.
88 Elmira St, Unit A
San Francisco, CA 94124
O: (650) 873-5794

M: (650) 477-5388



4. c. (9:15) El Granada School Remodel Public Comment

1 message

Doug Machado <dougrmachado@gmail.com> To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 1:08 PM

Hello my name is Harry Machado I live at 331 Santiago. I'm writing this letter in support of the proposed modernization of El Granada Elementary. I have reviewed the plans and while I have some concerns about the lighting and tree plans, I'm excited about this project. I have raised two children who have attended El Grenada and currently have a grandchild who is a 2nd grader there. Not much has changed or has been updated on the campus since the days ago when my children attended, because of that, I'm encouraging the o MCC recommend this project for approval. The children have waited long enough for the funding and now that there is funding in place there is no reason to delay the project with unnecessary complaints with regards to parking or trash enclosures. I find it ironic that some of the neighbors that are complaining about mass, scale and view corridors have built some of the largest houses on our street and yes, I'm shaking my head as I'm writing this. I am one of the closest neighbors to this project who has lived here for decades and have witnessed many changes both good and bad and this is a good one, let's get it done asap!



Public Comment -- El Granada school improvements

2 messages

Debra Reiss-Bubenheim <dreissbubenheim@gmail.com>

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: David Bubenheim <david.bubenheim@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 1:27 PM

MCCC-

We've owned a home near El Granada school since 1990. Our sons attended the school and we have been a supporter of Cabrillo Unified. We support a safe environment for El Granada students and families on campus. However, as a nearby resident, we are very concerned about the proposed lighting impacts to our neighborhood. 18 light structures could be very disruptive to the homes nearby as well as to the nightscape environment. Will lights be on all night? How will lighting be controlled? Is lighting intended solely for safety when picking up students or for security/vandalism concerns?

Residents should have received notice about this proposed project and we should be provided with the detailed plan for installation, including addressing the questions we raise here.

Thank you, Dr. David Bubenheim and Debra Reiss-Bubenheim, 970 Francisco St.

Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 2:56 PM

To: Debra Reiss-Bubenheim < dreissbubenheim@gmail.com >

Cc: MCC <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>, Sean McPhetridge <mcphetridges@cabrillo.k12.ca.us>, david.bubenheim@gmail.com

Thank you for your comment. CUSD is planning on holding a community workshop on the EG school remodel on 1/24 in the evening. Details will be announced by CUSD. As you may know the MCC is holding a discussion on the lighting, view, and traffic (among others) issues tomorrow night, preparatory to making comments to County Planning. CUSD will be attending as well.

Our agenda with instructions for participation is here: https://midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/s/2024-01-10_MCC-agenda-2.pdf

Sincerely, Gregg Dieguez Vice Chair, MCC [Quoted text hidden]



Comments for 10 January 2024 meeting

1 message

K Evans hmbevans@comcast.net Reply-To: hmbevans@comcast.net To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 6:31 PM

Dear MCC members,

Following are my comments regarding the El Granada Elementary School Remodel. I would appreciate it if you would read them into the record. Thank you in advance.

__

Comments re El Granada Elementary School Remodel, Item 4c on the Agenda

While I live in the northern part of El Granada, I do walk in the area of the school and have fond memories of my children attending the school and using the playground and sports fields over the years.

I fully support classroom moderization as soon as possible. However, moving the garbage enclosure, the selection of trees, and the proposed lighting for the parking lot, in my opinion show a lack of awareness of the location and a total lack of respect of the community at large.

Building a new trash enclosure where it is proposed, is, in my opinion, a big middle-finger to the community. Not only is it over built, it would directly obstruct the views of neighbors, drivers, and walkers in the area, disregarding the beautiful views and the need to maintain scenic corridors. In addition, why is there no onsite composting to support the school garden? Composting organic waste might even eliminate the need for one of the skiffs.

It appears the selection of trees is from some industrial nursery sale. Why not use appropriate, local-to-MidCoast native trees? Drought tolerant and selected to not impede classroom-window and neighborhood views?

All the outside lighting options are inappropriate. We take our dark skies seriously. The coast is an important migratory pathway. Glaring lights not only impair bird and animal (including humans) biology, but also make no sense in an area that has little crime and few after hours events. All the poles from 25 Ft tall (!!) to bollards would greatly impair views of the ocean, both physically and luminously.

Respectfully, Kim Evans



El Granada School Remodel - CUSD Presentation - Community Thoughts

Harp, Colleen < Colleen. Harp@gehealthcare.com>

Tue, Jan 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

To Whom it May Concern,

I wanted to provide you all with some constructive feedback as it relates to the EI Granada School Remodel. I would like to ask that my comments be read during the upcoming meeting so that is can go on the record. I thank you in advance for honoring that request.

I have had the opportunity to review the plans that have been submitted for approval for the remodel of the El Granada Elementary School. I found much of the plans for the remodel to be quite nice, and frankly, much needed for the students, teachers and the community. That being said, there are a few things that are really concerning as it relates to construction plans that will adversely affect the neighborhood, and the scenic corridor that the entire neighborhood currently enjoys.

My feedback is to request that the team reconsider the size, location, and construction of the Trash Enclosure for the school. It is planned to be moved away from the school, completely across the parking lot. The enclosure is larger than the previous one, and it violates the design principles of the San Mateo County Community Design manual for preservation of public views throughout the scenic corridors. Why in the world would the rubbish enclosure be moved to the other side of the school parking lot, making it harder on the staff/janitor to discard trash, and cause an OBVIOUS obstruction to the "scenic corridor" in the area. This structure should be built closer to the school and minimize disruption to the "scenic corridor".

Regards,

Colleen Harp

Concerned Resident of El Granada

916-960-6598



Request for Community Review of El Granada Elementary Parking Lot Design

9 messages

Michael Kottman <mkottman23@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 7:08 PM

To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cc: MCCGreggD@gmail.com, Kate Kottman kate.kottman@gmail.com, cherieerie@gmail.com, Coleen.Harp@med.ge.com, eclarity8@comcast.net, Carole Delmar <carole@delmar-properties.com>, kristin.meader@gmail.com, geraldmdobbs@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Midcoast Community Council,

I am writing to respectfully request a community review of the design for the El Granada Elementary School parking lot plans prior to the MCC's review as part of the coastal design permit process. I've copied a number of neighbors who share in our concern for the issues below.

Overdesign and Financial Concerns:

- The 2022 and 2023 CUSD board presentations reveal an over-designed plan for the parking lot that represents a misuse of limited funding.
- A simpler solution, such as a refreshed topcoat and new lines on the parking lot would be more than sufficient for the school's needs.

Environmental and Coastal Preservation:

- The proposed design does not adequately consider coastal preservation and the impact on the coastal corridor, crucial for all unincorporated San Mateo County neighbors.
- The addition of trees will disrupt the expansive vista and add to future maintenance costs. Design preference should favor maintaining or expanding ocean vistas.
- Relocating the trash enclosure to the end of the parking lot is a needless expansion into our cherished open space, affecting habitats for local wildlife including protected species of special concern.

Community Impact and Accessibility:

- Moving the garbage enclosure may not effectively address the needs of the school community and will disrupt our protected scenic corridor formed by The Alameda.
- If a new walkway to the far end of the parking lot is intended to be a drop off for students, it will be substantially less efficient than the drop-off area by the school buildings.
- The reduction in parking spaces could negatively impact traffic flow, particularly during school drop-offs and events, leading to congested side streets.

Light Pollution and Wildlife Concerns:

- The proposed lighting infrastructure is excessive and costly, considering that lights are never needed when the campus is unoccupied. For the handful of night events held each year, less expensive and intrusive options should be selected.
- We wish to avoid the issues experienced with dark sky lighting during the planning and construction of the nearby Coastside Fire Station 41.
- Our community is known for minimal light pollution, which is crucial for beautiful night sky viewing and the well-being of local wildlife.

In light of these concerns, the Midcoast Community Council should facilitate a review process involving community members before proceeding with coastal design approval. This approach will ensure that the community's concerns are adequately addressed and that any modifications align with our shared values of environmental responsibility and

community welfare.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely, Michael and Kate Kottman

Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

To: Sean McPhetridge <mcphetridges@cabrillo.k12.ca.us>

Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 8:34 PM

I don't know if you have seen this, thought you should.

- Gregg

[Quoted text hidden]

Sean McPhetridge <mcphetridges@cabrillo.k12.ca.us>

Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 10:04 PM

To: Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Thanks for forwarding this, Gregg, and please know we look forward to facilitating a meeting between architects and CUSD staff with MCC members and the community.

Sincerely,

Sean McPhetridge, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cabrillo Unified School District

On Dec 17, 2023, at 8:34 PM, Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com> To: Steve Terry <terrysteve@comcast.net>

Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 9:31 AM

FYI. MCC got this yesterday.

- Grega

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Kottman < mkottman23@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 7:09 PM

Subject: Request for Community Review of El Granada Elementary Parking Lot Design

To: <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: <MCCGreggD@gmail.com>, Kate Kottman <kate.kottman@gmail.com>, <cherieerie@gmail.com>, <Coleen.Harp@med.ge.com>, <eclarity8@comcast.net>, Carole Delmar <carole@delmar-properties.com>,

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[Quoted text hidden]



Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Fwd: El Granada Elementary School Renovations and Parking lot

8 messages

Kimberly Hines <musicmattershmb@gmail.com> To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 8:16 AM

Good morning,

The following correspondence is being shared for your situational awareness.

I reached out to planning because I have not heard firm requirements for the parking lot renovations in association with El Granada School renovations. Camille suggested I also share the questions with MCC.

I am happy to chat with someone from MCC, if you MCC might advocate on behalf of neighbors for dark sky lighting and currently open view corridors to remain open, while still meeting the school's requirements. Kind regards, Kim

Kimberly Hines 650-867-4512

Begin forwarded message:

From: Camille Leung <cleung@smcgov.org>

Subject: RE: El Granada Elementary School Renovations and Parking lot

Date: December 4, 2023 at 8:27:59 PM PST

To: Kimberly Hines <musicmattershmb@gmail.com>

Cc: "kate.kottman@gmail.com" <kate.kottman@gmail.com>, "Carole@delmar-properties.com"

<Carole@delmar-properties.com>, Doug Machado <dougrmachado@gmail.com>

Hi Kim,

Thanks for your comments. Its still early in the application. We are still reviewing the project and it needs to go out for review agency review. I have asked similar questions regarding the relocation of the trash, as we prefer it to be less visible as well. We also prefer that on-site parking not be reduced. But we do have to take this in and study it. I have logged your comments and there will be plenty of time of additional public comment when the hearing is scheduled.

Thank you

From: Kimberly Hines <musicmattershmb@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:54 PM **To:** Camille Leung <cleung@smcgov.org>

Cc: kate.kottman@gmail.com; Carole@delmar-properties.com; Doug Machado

<dougrmachado@gmail.com>

Subject: El Granada Elementary School Renovations and Parking lot

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

1 of 6 1/10/2024, 10:40 AM

Hi Camille,

This email is to clarify what the design review process is for the El Granada Elementary School Renovations and Parking Lot Requirements. Please let me know if this email should be redirected to someone else. Attached are photo's to help illustrate.

Will the school building project and parking lot be discussed at an upcoming review meeting? If so, when?

I serve on the school board, and am hoping the review process with the county is going well. As a neighbor to the school, I've not heard of any communication with the neighborhood residents. I believe most neighbors fully support the school upgrades ASAP. The parking lot plans have not been share with the public or neighbors, and I am receiving questions from neighbors.

Neighborhood awareness and interest:

The parking lot is a view corridor to the ocean both in the day and evening.

Maximizing number of parking spaces lessens impact on adjacent streets during events when they occur.

Minimize impact of additional lighting in parking lot. Unless there is an event, most of the time the parking lot is empty in the evening and at night. Lighting should be dark sky compliant, and off when not in use. Motion sensors or switch to turn on only when necessary.

There is sufficient space where existing buildings are to keep massing in the area that is already built up. I heard that the trash cans were to be moved to other side of the parking lot. Please ask what the requirement is for relocating the trash cans. Can requirement be met another way? Relocating trash area will impact many neighbors and sight lines as one drives South on the Alameda and both directions on Santiago. Please see attached.

Thanks, Kim

Kimberly Hines 650-867-4512



El Granada School Parking Lot.pdf 901K

Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>
To: Dan Haggerty <Midcoastdan@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 11:31 AM

You willing to take a lead role on this?

- Gregg

[Quoted text hidden]

2 of 6 1/10/2024, 10:40 AM



Comments on El Granada Elementary School for MCC Record

1 message

Thanh Vo <tvoelgranada@yahoo.com>
To: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Wed, Jan 10, 2024 at 9:29 AM

Hello MCC,

My name is Thanh Vo. I have lived in El Granada for 25+ years. Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.

As El Granada School has existed amicably for more than 4 decades in its current location, the critical need is to improve classrooms and school buildings. MCC and Planning Commission reviewers are encouraged to expedite the approval for the new building, while taking pause on any portion of the coastal development permit that impacts parking, lighting, and views across the San Mateo County Scenic Corridor, both day and night.

There are multiple design solutions for improving waste management for a school in declining enrollment that should be teaching students to separate waste and compost. The proposed trash bin area footprint is excessive and in direct conflict with the Community Design Manual https://www.smcgov.org/planning/community-design-manual and San Mateo County Scenic Corridor values that state "Public views within and from Scenic Corridors shall be protected and enhanced, and development shall not be allowed to significantly obscure, detract from, or negatively affect the quality of these views..." https://www.smcgov.org/planning/san-mateo-county-scenic-corridors.

Lighting is needed for events after dark less than 2 dozen nights a year. Adopt International Dark Sky principles for lighting design, keep them off when not in use, and out of residential windows. https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles/

The parking lot currently maximizes number of spaces for student drop off and pick up 185 days a year and preserves the panoramic ocean view corridor that benefits the entire community. Eliminating parking spaces will make it harder for parents, and double teacher duty for oversight for a drop off location further away from the main entrance to school. The coastal trail serves East Miramar families, nearby families walk students to school, and most students are driven to school. A formal traffic circulation study should be conducted.

CUSD can serve student needs with outstanding new classrooms AND seek design solutions that preserve this unique San Mateo County Scenic Corridor.

Sincerely,

Thanh Vo 139 Del Monte Road El Granada