

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar  
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Date: August 16, 2023  
To: Supervisor Ray Mueller  
CC: Gina Quiney, Mike O'Neill, Marisol Durani, City of Half Moon Bay, MWSD, GCSD, SAM, Cabrillo USD, SMC Harbor District  
From: Midcoast Community Council  
Subject: Coastside Funding Priorities, Measure K and beyond

Thank you for the first County outreach (Aug. 9 at Supv. Mueller's Harbor Office) to the Coastside regarding our needs for Measure K Funds in ways that will make a concrete contribution to health, safety, and well-being in our vulnerable part of the County.

Below we have identified a small group of Immediate Benefit projects that the County has the ability to perform independently and that are sufficiently limited in scope to be achieved quickly. These are not the largest or most important needs of the Midcoast, and by no means exhaust the many other concerns we have, including CRISP priorities and projects that will require interagency coordination (e.g. with Caltrans, SFPUC). A list of some of those larger issues follows the Immediate Benefit projects.

## **Immediate Benefit Funding Requests:**

These near-term issues are what we request immediate action on—

### **A. Emergency Preparedness - Wildfire**

Permanently staff an office to oversee Midcoast wildfire risk and assign two tasks:  
First, implement the recommendations of existing wildfire risk and management studies, such as the RCD [El Granada Wildfire Resiliency Scoping Project](#).  
Second, coordinate community action to establish FireWise Communities throughout the Midcoast, for both safety and the insurability of existing buildings.

### **B. Emergency Preparedness - Communications**

Fund a feasibility study for locally-controlled internet service that has been requested by several Coastside jurisdictions in conjunction with California's Middle Mile Broadband Initiative. Additional actions to secure telecommunications are also needed, but require coordination with service providers, state and federal governments.

### **C. Public Health - Monitoring**

Several San Mateo County sewer districts, including SAM, are monitoring sewage for infectious disease trends. Service is available to monitor also for opioids and other dangerous substances in sewage. We have asked that the County fund the modest cost of this service to quantify and localize trends in abuse of fentanyl and other dangerous substances.

#### D. **Mental Health**

Continue and expand the CARES program that provides for non-law enforcement interventions in low-risk mental health emergencies, as previously requested.

#### E. **Transportation and General Community Well-Being**

First, create an evacuation process to ensure the ability of residents and visitors to evacuate the area in an emergency, and demonstrate the sufficiency of those measures.

Second, continue the on-demand bus service currently operating from Half Moon Bay to the Harbor, and **expand it to cover the Coastside from Montara to Half Moon Bay**, including evening service.

Action on these issues will make a real and immediate difference in the lives of our residents and we look forward to working with County staff to make them a beneficial reality.

#### **Major Midcoast Funding Needs:**

Beyond what we have identified above in our brief list of requests for Measure K funds, the Midcoast Community Council continues to advocate for the following actions, some of which involve inter-agency coordination and/or additional funding. Some, however, could be readily implemented.

- 1. Communications systems adequate for emergencies, modern daily life and business/economic development.** This would include improvements in reliability, coverage, performance and cost.
- 2. Immediate repair to damage on Montara Mountain.** Severe damage was caused by recent County emergency road work that needs to be repaired before rains make the access road more inaccessible and dangerous and cause erosion. Natural vegetation needs to be restored. The County should also identify alternate routes to the top of the mountain and ensure that they are available for official purposes.
- 3. Stormwater management and flood prevention:** Identification of needs and strategies for management of these issues, with particular emphasis on known hazards in multiple locations on the Coastside. A detailed MCC report to follow.
- 4. School student safety/traffic:** Immediately provide signage, speed control and vegetation management to allow students to walk and bike safely to Farallone Elementary School in Montara. [MCC letter/request of 2022]
- 5. Family Services:** Promote increased availability of Day Care services, especially for very young children, and of Board and Care facilities for the elderly and disabled on the Coastside.
- 6. Public Health:** Address the absence of meaningful emergency/urgent care, lab services and other medical services on the Coastside.
- 7. Ensure Infrastructure Safety:** The major evacuation roads and sewer system are near failure from flooding and sea level rise. Oversee and coordinate with agencies affecting this infrastructure including: the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, Montara Water and Sanitary District, Granada Community Services District, Half Moon Bay, the Harbor District, and SFPUC (re the management of Pilarcitos Creek Dams).
- 8. Traffic/transportation:** Provide ongoing pro-active coordination to provide safe, sensible, and environmentally-sensitive transportation options.

Accelerate completion of bike/pedestrian trail systems connecting the Coastsides from Montara to Half Moon Bay.

- 9. General Community Well-Being:** Provide a public swimming pool for recreation and safety education in this ocean-front community.

There are clearly other concerns that can be raised. This list, together with our Immediate Benefit Measure K priorities above, is, however, a vital first step.

Sincerely,

s/Gregg Dieguez, Chair