

<p>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 Email: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gregg Dieguez, Chair Claire Toutant, Vice Chair Dan Haggerty, Treasurer Scott Bollinger, Secretary Gus Mattammal Kimberly Williams Ann Rothman</p>
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Minutes for Meeting of October 25, 2023

(7:00pm) Call to Order

This meeting was conducted as a hybrid teleconference meeting. The physical location for the in-person portion was held at the Granada Community Services District office, 510 Avenue Alhambra, 3rd floor, El Granada, CA.

Council members present:

- Gregg Dieguez, Chair,
- Claire Toutant, Vice Chair
- Dan Haggerty, Treasurer
- Scott Bollinger, Secretary
- Gus Mattammal (7:03)
- Ann Rothman,
- Kimberly Williams

1. (7:10pm) Board of Supervisors report and reports from other government officials

A. **Mike O’Neill, Community Liaison to Supervisor Mueller**, Gregg Dieguez read the following items sent to the MCC by Mike O’Neill:

1. **Pacific Coast Television Honors** will be held on October 26th. Watch on PCTV.
2. **SMC Farm Bureau is hosting a Veterans Day dinner** with local growers and fishermen that participate in the [AFAIG program](#) on December 10th at Long Branch Saloon & Farms, 321 Verde Rd, Half Moon Bay. Sponsorships are available. [Learn more and purchase tickets.](#)
3. **Mirada Bridge Ribbon Cutting** will be held on November 3rd at 1:30 PM at the Mirada Bridge.
4. **Education, Enforcement Removes Guns from People Under Restraining Orders.** The [County provided an update](#) on a targeted effort to get firearms out of

the hands of people with domestic-violence, gun-violence and certain other civil restraining orders against them. A total of 168 firearms were surrendered to law enforcement or federal firearms licensed dealers in compliance with court orders.

5. Flu Clinics and COVID-19 Vaccination

County Health recommends that everyone who is eligible get the seasonal flu vaccine and the updated COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines are available from health care providers and local pharmacies. Use [MyTurn](#) to find a location near you. Residents without health coverage who need flu or COVID-19 vaccines should contact County Health at 650-573-2877 or SMCHealth_IZ@smcgov.org for more information.

6. Join a Public Forum on Community Health

As part of two initiatives to improve health outcomes in San Mateo County, San Mateo County Health will host a virtual event to share findings from community forums, engage in a process to identify top priorities, and begin a framework for developing the community health improvement plan. The meeting is on Wednesday, November 1st, from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. For more information and to participate, visit the [Community Health Planning page](#) or contact Deandra Lee in Public Health, Policy and Planning at 628-222-3023 or DLee1@smcgov.org.

7. Visit Art Showcase for Disabilities Awareness Month

Sponsored by the [San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities](#) and the Office of Arts and Culture, the Disabilities Art Showcase at 400 County Center in Redwood City is free and open to the public during the month of October, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

8. Members Sought for Commission on Disabilities

The [Commission on Disabilities](#) works to promote the independence and full participation of people with disabilities in San Mateo County. New members are needed to advise the Board of Supervisors on disabilities-related issues, create opportunities for people with disabilities and much more. Learn about duties, meeting information and [how to apply](#).

Questions/Comments:

- Carlyle Ann Young asked for an update from the recent Board of Supervisors study session to consider supplemental oversight of the sheriff's office. Mike responded that the Supervisors decided the supplemental oversight board will have 9 members, 5 appointed by the Supervisors and 4 whose appointment process is to be determined, and it will not have subpoena power.

2. Public Comment:

Len Ericson provided an update on three Caltrans projects related to Surfer's Beach:

- Caltrans will submit documents to request a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the Multi-asset Trail Project, to the County this week. Len noted

the class 2 bike lanes along the east side of SR-1, adjacent surfers beach may conflict with parking.

- Caltrans has secured a project initiation document to begin the process for proposal to address armoring and erosion at Surfer's Beach.
- A Caltrans group is assessing damage to the coastal trail at Surfer's Beach and moving forward with a maintenance project next Spring.

3. (7:25) Consent Agenda

- a. The draft minutes of September 27 and October 11, 2023 were pulled for discussion.

4. Regular Agenda

- a. **Presentation by CA State Parks on the Montara Mountain North Peak Access Road maintenance.** Linda Hitchcock and Tim Hyland delivered a presentation about the recent maintenance performed on the North Peak Access Road which has been used to access communication towers at the summit. They provided background on the historical use of the access road, the various stakeholders who use it to access other parcels, and what occurred during recent maintenance activities and impacts to the park.

The following questions were asked by Council members:

- There was a question about why San Mateo County is paying to maintain the access road rather than American Tower Corporation (ATC)?
 - Linda replied that ATC isn't required to maintain the road; CA State Parks doesn't have the money to maintain the road and in this case San Mateo County Department of Emergency Services paid for and performed the maintenance. ATC's easement was an agreement with the ranchers who were the original owners and the easement transferred with the property to State Parks.
- Appreciation was expressed for the attention given by CA State Parks during the maintenance process. It was noted that there was particular focus on manzanita conservation and more information was requested about management of other plant species.
 - Tim responded that the plant community on the mountain has evolved to resprout when the top portion is damaged or removed with the exception of manzanita, which cannot regenerate if the top portion of the plant is removed but instead germinates from seed after a fire. He said the areas that were masticated are expected to recover without significant expansion of invasives.
- It was asked whether there are other ways to access the communication towers on the mountain including alternative existing roads or by helicopter.
- In response to a question about passability of the road, the speakers confirmed that the maintenance made the road more passable for authorized vehicles.
- It was pointed out that Perimeter Road on GGNRA land, from El Granada, may be a possible access option.
- What other species of concern were affected by this work or monitored during the project?

- Tim replied that the elfin blue butterfly and migratory bird nesting were primary species of concern and these were monitored and impacts avoided.
- There was a question about whether new areas of erosion were created by the road work and if so, how will this be mitigated?
 - The response was that the work improved sediment inputs, erosion and drainage on the road including installation of rolling dips, making sure water doesn't concentrate, and some repair of existing culverts.
- A question was raised about the need for planning for regular maintenance in collaboration with the County, to avoid emergency maintenance.
 - Linda agreed this is needed and that discussion is underway to move in that direction.
- Clarification was requested on the width of the access road and whether mastication occurred beyond the shoulder area parameters in the maintenance document, and if so, why this was necessary.
- In response to a question about how the MCC can support State Parks' conservation efforts at McNee Ranch State Park, it was suggested that any support or effort to find alternative routes or options for accessing communications infrastructure on the mountain would be helpful in protecting the ecology and conserving the Park.
- There was a question about what control measures would be taken if invasives do spread as a result of the road maintenance.
 - Tim replied that State Parks puts a lot of effort into controlling and eliminating invasives and that Montara Mountain is a priority in this regard.
- The idea of volunteer groups as collaborative partners to help with trail maintenance and control of invasives was raised.
 - Tim responded that partnerships are welcome and they have partnered with the Native Plant Society and others in the past on grant funded conservation work.

Public Comment:

- Carlisle Ann Young asked if herbicide was used during the road maintenance. She also suggested regular maintenance to avoid emergency maintenance. The response was that no herbicide was used during the project.
- Carl May expressed concerns that the work was characterized as an emergency, that the removed vegetation structure will take 5-10 years to re-establish, and that more than 12 feet of vegetation was removed from the road shoulder in some areas. He also expressed concerns about plant biodiversity, impacts to butterfly populations and continuing loss of animal biodiversity. He requested a professional independent botanist look at the cut areas to assess and recommend any restoration needed and a plan to mitigate invasive species. He pointed out that climate change may exacerbate impacts and needs to be taken into account.
 - Tim Hyland reiterated that the coastal chaparral is adapted to infrequent high-intensity disturbance and that any invasives are temporary and the ecosystem is expected to recover within approximately 5 years.

- Fran Pollard asked for clarification about CA State Parks' budget.
 - Linda said CA State Parks used their district-wide emergency funding on damages related to the CZU fire last year so there were no emergency funds for McNee Ranch beyond the regular budget allocation.
- Jane Praysilver emphasized the importance of monitoring the whole animal population on Montara Mountain to understand ecology health and she said she would like this to be pursued through grant funding or other means.

MCC members expressed appreciation to CA State Parks' representatives Linda and Tim for their presentation and their time. Following the presentation there was discussion of next steps and the following action items were suggested.

- *The draft letter is to be revised to reflect new information and discussion.*
- *Explore having an MCC tour of the access road or field trip with an expert.*
- *Consider video documentation of areas where road maintenance may have exceeded the stated boundaries outlined in the plan scope of work.*

- b. **Alternatives to Pesticides in SMC Park Lands.** A presentation was given by Melinda MacNaughton, MS RDN; Sandy DeSimone, PhD; Sarah Keiser CEO, and Megan Kaun, MS, about concerns regarding pesticide/herbicide use by San Mateo County in parks and neighborhoods, impacts to ecosystems, public health, and climate, and potential alternatives and best practices. Several examples were shared of municipalities and counties that have reduced or eliminated pesticide use.

El Granada Advocates, a local neighborhood organization, outlined five requests to the County: 1) to have specific and clear notifications posted in advance; 2) transparency; 3) accountability of use through an oversight committee; 4) alternatives; and 5) to work with local communities and volunteers.

Council Comments/Questions:

- There was a question about what methods are used to control non-native species without chemicals. The response was mechanical removal using gas powered tools, battery powered tools, and herbicides. It was also asked whether native ruminants are used to control overgrowth. Response was no.
- There was a question about whether battery powered tools and mechanical removal take the same amount of effort as applying herbicide to individual plants. The response was that battery powered tools require recharging and are less efficient compared to individual herbicide application.
- Nicholas Calderon requested that no action be taken by the MCC until the Council has heard a presentation by SMC Parks on this issue.

Public Comment:

Cata:

- Native Grazers
- Controlled burns

- Have regard for the interconnectedness of all things in nature.

Carlyle Ann Young:

- Against herbicides.
- Ask a health expert of their opinion on Roundup use.

Natalie Downe:

- Glyphosate runoff into the ocean.

Barbara Kossy

- *See both sides of the issue.*

Lisa Ketcham:

- Wedding for removal of unwanted plants.
- Supports the use of herbicides for difficult situations.
- Suggests herbicides for the control of Pampas/Jubata Grass

Jane Praysilver:

- Wants to partner with SMCP/ Nicholas Calderon.

Timothy Federal:

- The RCD does not push herbicides use.
- The RCD uses the best overall science.

Anastasia Gilderham:

- Held up the book "White Wash"

Melinda MacNaughton:

- Response to Timothy Federal of RCD

Kellyx Nelson;

- Large complex topic of controlled burns.

Carl May:

- Monsanto based research on the safety of Glyphosate

Council Action on Consent Agenda:

Scott Bollinger and Claire Toutant will resolve the issues with the MCC minutes.

Due to the late hour, discussion of agenda items 5 and 6 was truncated.

7. Adjournment (10:30pm)

Scott Bollinger moved for adjournment.