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Request for improved planning and delay of ATC's Montara Mountain CDP

1 message

Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 8:00 PM

To: Ray Mueller <rmueller@smcgov.org>

Cc: Michael O'Neill <MJOneill@smcgov.org>, Gina Quiney <gquiney@smcgov.org>, Tim Fox <tfox@smcgov.org>, CLAIRE TOUTANT <midcoast.claire@gmail.com>, Scott Bollinger <scottbollingerMCC@gmail.com>

During a field excursion today up the access road to the propane tanks used on the American Tower Corporation (ATC) site atop Montara Mountain with Linda Hitchcock, Senior Park and Recreation Specialist, of CA State Parks, we became aware that ATC has, some time ago, submitted a plan for a Coastal Development Permit to perform increased vegetation clearance on that access road and will be approaching San Mateo County with that request. We are writing to you to oppose that request and delay any action until further study, and the actions described below, are completed.

As you are aware from facts on the ground (literally), ACT has been a poor steward of the environment on Montara Mountain. Our inspection of the access road today found that access has been restored by the emergency road maintenance project of this June, 2023, but that work in several areas is incomplete and/or insufficient for proper erosion control. Our request, endorsed by members of State Parks, is that a full Road Management Plan be developed, including remedying the extant deficiencies, preventing the need for future 'emergency' repairs, and perhaps addressing ATC's concerns. We further request that a member of the MCC participate on any study group creating that plan, along with CA State Parks, and the necessary San Mateo County departments (e.g., Planning, DEM, etc.).

The MCC has been studying the impact of these emergency road repairs since June, when a significant number of residents complained vociferously about the environmental impacts of this hurried effort. We have an MCC draft letter under consideration regarding this project and any work on Montara Mountain, which will be further informed by our findings today. Due to the Brown Act, we will be unable to formalize this email request by a vote of the full Council until our next meeting on Nov. 29th, and it might require further deliberation and redrafting until our meeting of Dec. 13th before that broader letter (which should also address the issue in this email) is agreed.

Nonetheless, we hope this request is deemed actionable by your office based upon our joint request. Please pass this request on to the relevant County departments and advise us of the disposition of this request. If you require a Special Meeting and vote of the MCC to action this email before Nov. 29th, or disagree with our request, please advise immediately.

Thank you,

Gregg Dieguez, Chair
Claire Toutant, Vice Chair
Scott Bollinger, Secretary