

## 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

[www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org)

Len Erickson, Chair  
Michelle Weil, Vice Chair  
Claire Toutant, Secretary  
Barbra Mathewson, Treasurer  
Dan Haggerty  
Dave Olson

## **Minutes for Meeting of October 14, 2020**

### **Call to Order (7:03 pm)**

All Council Members present. Total attendance 46, including 28 members of the public. Meeting held remotely via Zoom due to COVID-related restrictions.

Meeting opened with comments and moment of remembrance for community activist John Lynch

### **1. Board of Supervisors Report and Reports from other Governmental Bodies**

Lena Silberman of Supervisor Don Horsley's Office--

--Census ends 10/15, with SMC having the highest state-wide participation.

--The County remains in the "red" tier of COVID restrictions and has issued guidelines for Halloween and Dia de los Muertos

--A study session was held today by the Board of Supervisors on fuel load reduction and weed eradication

--information of planned PGE shutoffs is available on PGE website

--There have been COVID-related delays in development of the parallel trail but hope is to start construction in Spring 2021

--Great Plates nutrition program has been successful and will continue through November

Dan--wants information of County Parks prioritizing study on vegetation management

Cid Young--Is a generator being installed at the tunnel?--yes

Harvey Rarback reported for the City of Half Moon Bay

—City Council has asked Caltrans not to install Variable Message Signs in Half Moon Bay

Chris Johnson of CDRC

--Storey poles or other visual representation of scale of proposed development is not required by ordinance, but policy is that failure to use them may result in denial of approval. CDRC is asking that this be part of an ordinance and this is being studied and developed, involving the Planning Department.

--CDRC is seeking oversight of commercial development, not just residential and mixed. This will require an update to the LCP and a decision is pending whether to present this as a stand-alone proposal or in combination with other changes,

### **2. Public Comment & Announcements**

Cid--wants update on ZoneHaven.--Jonathan Cox of Cal Fire says the beta version was used effectively in CZU fire. There will be a public launch in November. It will be linked with WAYZ and SMCAlerts and is largely to assist first responders to coordinate activity and evacuation.

**3. Consent** Approval of minutes of 9/9 and 9/23 moved Dan, seconded Len, approved 6-0

**4.a (7:27) Fire Prevention--RCD's role/ Focus on Long-Range Programs**

Presentation by RCD Chair Kellyx Nelson and FireSafe Council Coordinator Sheena Sidhu.

In the present situation, they are focussing on response, recovery and resilience. In dealing with measures to reduce fire risk, they feel it is important to manage expectations in light of the need for robust management and financial realities.

--Dan--Is there a chipping program?--Yes, it will begin curbside in high priority areas of El Granada

--Dave--There is a history of grazing and controlled burns in the distant past

--Barbra--Will there be chipping in Montara/Moss Beach?--Probably later in November

--Dan--Wants more information about Parks' priorities planning--This will be arranged

--Chris--Is ground litter part of a healthy forest?--Not necessarily; it limits diversity of organisms

What state are we trying to restore the land to?--Focus is not on restoration, but on establishing management goals.

--Gregg--Who is contact person with MCC?--Sheena, who can be contacted to be put on FireSafe Council mailing list

What process is being used?--There are a variety of them

--Brandon Kwan--Can FEMA money be used for preventative work?--No, only for disasters

--Cid--wants evacuation planning in CTC

--Jonathan Cox--Evacuation is a law-enforcement function, with fire department advising. Plans are dynamic, not static. Discussed identifying temporary defensible refuge area in case of inability to evacuate the population safely out of the area.

--Dan--what kinds of pines are there?

**b (8:23) Mirada Road Coastal Trail Bridge Replacement**

Presentation regarding site erosion and armoring by Dave Olson. Correspondence from Lennie Roberts, Lisa Ketcham and 2016 Charrette cited. DPW has filed a CDP directly with the Coastal Commission for action, because it is a follow-up to the 2016 emergency armoring permit. Concerns regarding viability of the replacement bridge were voiced, along with discussion of moving the trail farther from the shore.

--Claire--Issue overlaps with HMB's current LUP plan, especially regarding armoring related to adjacent the condo building.

--Dan--Interested in Gabion wall or other newer technologies

--Michelle Hogg--moving bridge to Alameda would take private property, including her parking area

--Dave Krasowski--sent letter objecting to moving trail inland, especially to Alameda, which would require additional eminent domain.

--Gregg--we need expert opinion of how the proposed bridge would affect creek banks

--Kimberly Williams representing SurfRider--Moving trail inland would result in lower long-term costs.

--Lisa Ketcham--CCC has all needed experts. Cites principles of Be proactive, Follow science, Build for the future, Involve the community  
Sense of the council was to continue to pursue this, with Dan opposed to writing a letter.

It was decided to reorder the final two agenda items, with a vote of 6-0

#### **d. Caltrans Traffic Operational Systems Improvement Project**

Project presentation by Caltrans staff Lindsay Vivian (environmental analyst), Nadini Shridar and David Man (electrical systems). Proposed funding package tends to be specific and not able to be re-purposed. Construction planned for summer 2022.

--Claire--Will guardrails be upgraded throughout the area?-- No, only to protect signs, but we should let them know if there are areas needing guardrail improvement.

Using signs to allow people to take alternate routes if travel time is too long seems irrelevant in this area---Perhaps people will eat dinner locally if travel time seems too long.

--Barbra--Can an old sign in Moss Beach regarding Slide closures be removed?--probably

--Michelle--how are the messages on the signs chosen?--Tailored to the area. In this case, largely modelled on needs of a recreational destination

--Dave--perhaps on-line traffic notifications are adequate

--Jill Grant--cites mobile signs regarding pedestrians at Surfers Beach, as opposed to permanent signage

--Kimberly--Signs don't fit community character. Questions degree of maintenance.

--Brandon--Signs are needed at night, but what if they don't work?

--Gregg--suggests getting expert opinion and deferring action until it can be coordinated with disaster preparedness

--Michelle--Signs could be helpful in disaster. Portable signs are unsightly and she prefers thoughtful design. Guardrails are needed on the Slide

--Barbra--Signs are not useful for giving motorists decision points but maybe for evacuations

Jill--There is a rare plant, Orr Duff's Meadowfoam, at the site of the sign at the airport. Wants plan to conform to Caltrans guidelines--Guidelines are based on federal regs and are being updated

--Cid--there are issues with sign locations, here and away from the immediate coast

--Mark Powers of Caltrans--VMS on 280 and on 92 can give information on traffic on the coast to motorists who have not begun to drive to the coast. Project based on one in Tahoe recreational area and is conceptualized as a unified plan.

--Dan--sometimes sensors for traffic signals don't work. VMS lights are too bright.

--Len--are some aspects of the plan valuable to Caltrans?--Sensors allow Caltrans facilities to have real-time information about Coastside traffic

Letter for MCC approval introduced. Approval moved Barbra, second Dave

--Dan--moved to strike the entire letter and replace it with "Don't do this" Failed for lack of a second

--Claire and Michelle--We should express what we need

--Barbra--in favor of letter

--Jill--the project can be adjusted during CDP process  
--Kimberly--Wants more options other than approving what is offered rather than what we need  
--Dan--approve letter with a focus on emergency needs  
--Len if the letter was amended with a sentence regarding emergency needs, would the council tend to approve it?  
--Claire and Michelle--the letter would have to be re-written for context  
Vote to approve the letter as written 3-3. Len, Dave and Barbra voting yes. Dan, Claire and Michelle voting no, motion fails. Claire and Michelle delegated to re-write the letter.

**c. (10:39) Connect the Coastside**

Presentation by Miramar resident Joanne Brooks of need for crossing of SR1 at Miramar. Need for the crossing has been made more acute by the Mirada Bridge detour on Highway One, especially in light of her handicaps.

--Dan--Would she benefit from a below-grade crossing?--Yes

--Claire--Focus on Miramar issues at this meeting spotlights the need for more Miramar residents to be involved in MCC and CDRC.

**5. Council Activities/ Future Agendas**

Michelle--Quarry Park playground to open next week. Moss Beach, which is waiting for components and inspection, and Fitzgerald have no immediate time line

Next meeting is expected to include follow-up correspondence on issues from tonight's meeting, further attention to the issue of Miramar crossing, Active Transport, other CTC issues.

**Adjournment 11:06**