

Midcoast Community Council

October 14, 2020

Agenda Item 4b - Mirada Road Coastal Trail Bridge Replacement

Correspondence received

October 13, 2020

To: Midcoast Community Council

From: Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate, Green Foothills

Re: Item 4b on the October 14, 2020 MCC Agenda: Replacement bridge over Arroyo de en Medio Creek

Green Foothills supports relocation of the failed bridge over Arroyo de en Medio Creek rather than replacement, based on the following:

The project plans submitted by County Public Works to the Coastal Commission (CDP Application for Soil Nail Wall and Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project on Mirada Road, Application Number 2-17-0289) include constructing soil nail walls at three locations north and south of the existing bridge, demolishing the abandoned concrete arch bridge, and installing rock slope protection at the base of the soil nail walls. As proposed, the project is inconsistent with the Hazards policies of the California Coastal Act and the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program.

The July 11, 2019 decision of the California Coastal Commission regarding a proposed seawall at 2 Mirada Road, Half Moon Bay, (CDP Application 2-16-0784) just south of Arroyo de en Medio Creek, included Findings that the California Coastal Trail could be relocated inland rather than extending armoring the bluffs to protect it, and that such relocation as well as limitation on the extent of the proposed seawall is the less environmentally damaging feasible alternative.

Based on this recent decision and in light of sea level rise projections, the prudent action now is to relocate the bridge inland a sufficient distance so the California Coastal Trail and other infrastructure will not be subject to accelerated bluff erosion and structural failure in the future.

**Date:** Oct. 14, 2020  
**From:** Lisa Ketcham  
**To:** Midcoast Community Council  
**Subject:** Key Points for Comment on Mirada Rd Coastal Trail Bridge Replacement

**Be pro-active.** Don't spend millions buying time with another temporary bridge. Stop the relentless extension of coastal armor southward. We know it accelerates erosion and loss of beach. The County should take the lead, follow the science, move the public infrastructure out of harm's way, and build for the future. CCC 2019 decision on a proposed seawall just to the south at Casa Mira found that the Coastal Trail does not qualify for coastal armoring because the trail can be relocated. State Parks' land is available to re-route that trail segment to line up with a trail bridge across Medio Creek at Alameda Ave.

**Public process.** The community should be included in determining the preferred location for the replacement bridge. The 7/22/2015 MCC letter on alignment priorities for the Parallel Trail segment thru Miramar provides an example of an inclusive planning process and substantive comment from the community. An earlier example is 10/9/2001 MCC comment letter on plans for the construction of the current steel overlay bridge, which noted no disturbance of creek or beach and asked for re-routed sewer line.

**2016 Mirada Rd Sea Level Rise Adaptation Design Charrette.** County, HMB & MCC reps acknowledged that Alameda Ave was the logical retreat for Mirada Rd. Supervisor Horsley discussed this issue at MCC 7/13/16, captured by detailed minutes. It's time to pave Alameda Ave to connect with Magellan in anticipation of the loss of vehicle access on Mirada Rd. It's time to re-route utilities off Mirada Rd, before an emergency, as was done for Ocean Blvd in Seal Cove.

**Hwy 1 Safety & Mobility Improvement Studies, 2010 & 2012.** A bike/pedestrian route on Alameda Ave including a bridge across Arroyo de en Medio at that location was proposed in these community-based design studies.

**Install the replacement Coastal Trail bridge over Medio Creek at Alameda Av.**

**Land Access to Medio Creek.** The land required for a public Coastal Trail bridge at Alameda Ave. is in the Arroyo de en Medio riparian corridor and not available for development by the private owners, whereas trails on public land are a permitted use in riparian corridors (LCP Policy 7.9). Explore land access for the bridge by easement or fee title. Investigate the potential for a southern access trail easement on the vacant former railroad parcel just west of Alameda, which more closely lines up with Alameda north of the creek (for a shorter bridge), and with the Coastal Trail re-route on State Parks land to the south.

**From:** Michelle Hogg

**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020

**To:** Len Erickson, Dave Olson

**Subject:** Coastal Trail Bridge alternative

Dear Midcoast Community Council members,

Our home is at the north end of Alameda Ave. where the proposed coastal trail bridge alternative would go through. To say that we and our home would be greatly impacted by such a project is an understatement, yet I have not been contacted by anyone involved with this project or the proposal.

I realize at this stage it is only a proposal, but I would like a voice in this matter. Can you please advise me on who I might contact to learn more about this? My husband and I plan to attend the council meeting this evening. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hogg

462 Alameda Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

**From:** Dave Krasowski  
**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2020  
**To:** Midcoast Community Council  
**Subject:** Mirada Road Coastal Trail Bridge Replacement

We are writing to comment on the plans to replace the Mirada Road Coastal Trail Bridge. We were very disappointed to awaken one day to the closure of the present bridge. It had clearly been deteriorating for some time and severely lacking in maintenance. Although it is clear that the current state of the bridge may be beyond repair and represents a hazard, we strenuously object to any plan which would relocate the Coastal Trail to Alameda Avenue. We are homeowners on Alameda Avenue and this relocation would result in a severe degradation in the quality of life on our street. This section of Alameda Avenue is a dead end with only 4 homes on the street. The introduction of traffic from the Coastal Trail would disrupt our lives by bringing hundreds of pedestrians, bikers and vehicles to our street. It also removes a section of the trail not previously subject to vehicle traffic and exposes pedestrians and bikers to a much lengthier and more hazardous route.

We understand that replacement of the bridge is a complicated project and that the Coastal Commission may favor a retreat response rather than rebuilding in the present location but we do not think the Alameda Avenue re-route is a viable solution.

Due to COVID impacts, we will not be attending MCC meetings but expect that the Council will keep us informed of the status of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Krasowski  
Jennifer Roberts  
468 Alameda Ave.  
Half Moon Bay, Ca. 94019