

Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*
P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 - www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Lisa Ketcham **Dave Olson** **Chris Johnson** **Laura Stein** **Erin Deinzer** **Dan Haggerty** **Joel Janoe**
Chair Vice-Chair Secretary Treasurer

Date: January 8, 2014

To: James Porter, Director SMC Public Works
From: Lisa Ketcham, MCC Chair
CC: Supervisor Don Horsley

Subject: **Color of tactile paving at pedestrian curb ramps**

Federal ADA requirements for pedestrian curb ramps include tactile dome paving for the visually handicapped, however there is no ADA requirement that these pads be traffic-caution yellow. The federal ADA requirement (705.1.3) only concerns contrast: "Detectable Warning Surfaces shall contrast visually with adjacent walking surfaces either light-on-dark, or dark-on-light." A contrast of at least 70% is recommended.

We understand Caltrans has adopted a yellow color standard, 73-1.02B, "Detectable Warning Surface must be shown on the Authorized Material List for detectable warning surface and must comply with yellow color no. 33538 of FED-STD-595." It is not clear how the yellow color standard is certain to address in all situations the federal light/dark contrast requirement for the visually impaired.

For aesthetic reasons, the MCC would much prefer more neutral colors, rather than yellow, in the sidewalks of our communities. What are the county color standards for curb ramp tactile paving? Why and how were these adopted? What would be the process to change the color standard for the Midcoast? May we please have a list of future Midcoast projects?

Pictured is preferred dark grey color at College of San Mateo and Main Street, HMB.

