

A collage of four images: a coastal cliffside with a beach and ocean, a lighthouse on a grassy hill, a marina with many boats, and a vineyard with rows of grapevines.

# Committees: Community or County

Midcoast Community Council

# Committees

- MCC Committees
  - Governed by the MCC Bylaws
- County “Action” Committees (CAC)
  - Sometimes called “Citizen” Committees (misnomer)
  - Driven by County Staff
- Community Committees
  - Local Residents driven



# Functions of Committees

- Provide Awareness on issues affecting the MidCoast and gather public opinion.
- Provide resources and guidance to MidCoast Residents to work with the County on local issues through the MCC
- Enlist residents in identifying, researching and prioritizing issues to support the Council.



# MCC Committees

- MCC Bylaws Govern MCC Committees – Article IV
- Section 4.04. Meetings And Actions Of Committees.
  - Meetings and actions of committees shall be governed in accordance with the requirements of the Community Council
  - Any committee reports shall be presented at one or more meetings of the Community Council
- Section 4.05. Committees Subject To Community Council Direction.
  - The Community Council and the Committee should adopt rules consistent with the Bylaws for the government of any committee.
  - The activities and affairs of all committees shall be conducted under the ultimate direction of the



# Benefits of MCC Committees

- Open, Transparent, Regularly Scheduled and Noticed Meetings with Minutes.
- Community participates at all stages of the Projects
- Provides a single, local clearing house on all MidCoast issues
- County doesn't have to micro-manage projects
- Committee must report back to Council at a Public Meeting



# MCC Committees

- Planning and Zoning
- Parks and Recreation
- Local Coastal Program
- Bylaws
- Big Wave
- Devil Slide South Portal Xing
- GGNRA Trailheads, Dog Management and Fire Safety



# County Action Committees

- County Staff working with “special” interest groups on individual project.
- Rules Governing Meetings are not clear or published.
- Exclusive Committees not Inclusive
- Infringes on the MCC jurisdiction granted in SMC BoS Resolution 55042



# Benefits of CACs

- Can Provide County Resources ( \$\$\$, Expertise, Manpower) to local projects
- Lend Weight to Local Positions when dealing with State, Federal or Private Organizations
- Can help raise awareness of future plans on the MidCoast but this is best done through the MCC.





# Short Comings of CACs

- Lack Full Community Involvement
- Lack Community Oversight
- Lack of LCP as the guiding document for assessing projects on the Midcoast
- Don't understand local issues
- Causes Confusions for Residents and Agencies on MidCoast



# Examples of County Committees gone Bad

- MPAC – Quarry Park
  - County Funding to El Granada without Community involvement.
- Seal Cove – Drainage
  - Started as a road access issue and keeps morphing
- Perched Beach – Admin Building on Beach
  - Doesn't the Coastal Act '76 apply here
- Big Wave – Planning Dept's DEIR
  - County workers doing the work for private interest
- HWY 1 Mobility Steering Committee



# Citizen Driven Committee

- Residents outside of the County and the MCC Organize on an issue
- Examples
  - Northern Coastal Communities Association - RCdT
  - EGNAG - El Granada Neighbors Action Group - “Cell Tower”
- MCC amplified their issues



# Northern Coastal Communities Association

- GGNRA/POST turn over of Rancho Corral de Tierra
  - Trail head locations
  - Dog Management issues
  - Fire Safety issues
- Large Community Involvement
- On going working with the MCC



# El Granada Cell Tower

- EGNAC – El Granada Neighborhood Action Group
- Results
  - Cell Tower location was reconsidered
  - One member , B. Kline, joined the MCC
  - Large Community Involvement



# Citizen Driven Committee Benefits

- AT&T withdraws cell tower application after packed MCC meeting Coastsider 9-23-10

- [http://coastsider.com/index.php/site/news/five\\_bars\\_five\\_stars\\_for\\_att...\\_for\\_now/](http://coastsider.com/index.php/site/news/five_bars_five_stars_for_att..._for_now/)

- GGNRA reconsidering trailheads in our neighborhoods.



# MCC Committees vs. County “Action Committees”

- MCC is an elected representative body for the MidCoast and its committees must work through the Council and provide an open and transparent process.
  - County Staff is not elected
  - County Staff does not represent the MidCoast
  - County staff may not give proper weight to the Midcoast LCP
  - County Staff does not have to abide by the Brown Act



# MCC Committees vs. County “Action Committees” (cont.)

- The MCC represents all the communities of the MidCoast and not any one single interest group.
  - County Staff maybe unaware of other community concerns or priorities.
  - Perpetuates the “squeaky wheel syndrome”.
  - Piece wise actions make for poor planning.
  - LCP and Historical Context often lacking resulting in mismanaged consultants and wasted funding





# MCC Committees vs. County “Action Committees” (cont.)

- The MCC was elected by a 2-1 majority of the voters in 1991 to represent all the communities of the MidCoast to the County.
  - *“a council to speak for them before the SMC BoS”.*
  - *“The MCC will make sure the communities can finally get the counties undivided attention”.*
- No Council member has the right to undo the people’s will.



# County Working with MCC

- MCC manages local interest
- MCC steward the MidCoast with the LCP
- County keeps clear of local politics
- Two Heads are better than one
- Inclusion Equals Buy-in



# Summary

- The MCC represents the entire community of the unincorporated Midcoast to any agency on Midcoast matters.
- The County and the Community needs to work through the MCC and its committees.
- The County needs to work with the MCC when conducting business on Midcoast.
- The Community should be encouraged by the MCC /County to work through the MCC
- The MCC has a duty to see that the County's business in the Midcoast is conducted in an open and fair manor.

