

Board of Supervisors



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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September 1, 2011

Len Erickson, Chair
Midcoast Community Council
P.O. Box 248
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0064

Dear Mr. Erickson,

We received your letter dated August 24, 2011 stating the concern of the Midcoast Community Council (MCC) regarding the planned installation of a short asphalt pathway in Quarry Park. The County has conducted numerous neighborhood meetings in designing the location for play features at the park and the supportive pathway infrastructure. At these meetings we addressed the reasons for determining the need for the asphalt pathway that will provide access from the parking lot to the play area. Our rationale for using asphalt includes maintenance issues, moisture conditions, and accessibility at Quarry Park.

Recently, Park Superintendent Lombardi responded with the following to the options for paving that you suggest in your letter, and I support his professional opinion:

- Gravel Pave is a very expensive and unproven option with evidence of failure in certain applications. We already have one location identified to test this and are not going to use it at other locations until it is proven workable in the coastside environment.
- Given the fact that a pervious surface is used to prevent runoff into storm drain systems or bodies of water, such a treatment is not needed here since any runoff from a narrow asphalt path in the Park will drain immediately into surrounding vegetation and soil. In addition, this surfacing has significant maintenance issues with weeds growing up between pavers and the periodic need to reset them.
- As we have discussed before, and as you have personally seen, a packed granite/aggregate surface is very susceptible to erosion, vegetation overgrowth, gophers, and other factors that make it a high maintenance option and not a reliable all-weather ADA path of travel.

- The Division has worked with MPL, the neighbors, and other interested community members in putting together this local recreational opportunity for the El Granada neighborhood. As a result of these discussions, we have made changes to the original plans to make this project happen for the community as a whole and San Mateo County Parks.
- While I understand the objections of a few community members against asphalt, this is a situation where it is needed for a number of good reasons. Based on the comments we have received during the construction phase, the vast majority of community members are very satisfied with the project. We have already removed asphalt behind one of the play features and under two sets of tables and replaced it with decomposed granite.

The renovation of Quarry Park is a wonderful asset for the neighborhood, and we want it to be sustainable and successful. I thank you and the MCC for expressing your concerns, and for your work in advising the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

CAROLE GROOM

Carole Groom, President
Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo

cc: Supervisor Don Horsley