

MidCoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Serving 12,000 coastal residents

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February 10, 2005

Local Area Formation Commission
Martha M. Poyatos,
Executive Officer
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1663

Dear Ms. Poyatos,

Recognizing that the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) will be conducting a municipal service review (MSR) for Montara and Moss Beach in the not-too-distant future the Midcoast Community Council (Council) unanimously requests, for the health and safety of our community, that the MSR for Point Montara Fire Protection District (PMFPD) and its emergency services be expedited. The Council respectfully requests that the MSR should be finished and adopted at the LAFCo meeting of May 18, 2005 and that the costs be waived.

We think time is of the essence. The information resulting from the impartial analysis of the MSR is of critical importance to our community's ability to make an informed decision as our fire services agreement with Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District will end in September; just a few short months away.

The Council is acting on a petition signed by over sixty concerned citizens in our community, some of whom attended Point Montara Fire Protection District board meetings. These signatures were gathered in less than 9 days. The petitioners' concerns are stated in the attached petition.

At our Feb. 9th hearing on this matter citizens further requested that the MSR compare the feasibility of our single engine district with the feasibility of other single engine districts. We concur.

In testimony from the public it was noted that some of the items missing from the attached PMFPD projected budget are: the salary and benefit costs of a part-time fire chief; administrative services and associated benefit costs; accurate overtime costs; disability; complete training costs; community outreach and fire prevention programs; fire marshal services; plan review; the cost of ensuring on-going paramedic certification; and adequate pensions and retirement costs. Indeed, there may be other items missing from this list.

The Council agrees with the petitioners and notes that there is a need for more public outreach and information on the proposed options for fire and emergency services for PMFPD. We request that LAFCo hold a public hearing in our community as soon as possible after the MSR is completed.

Please contact Vice Chair Kathryn Slater Carter at 650-728-5449 for meeting times schedules and dates.

Thank you for your time and attention.



Karen Wilson
Chair,
Midcoast Community Council

CC: Supervisor Rich Gordon
Marcia Raines