

MidCoast Community Council Public Works Committee  
Draft Minutes for Meeting of January 15, 2002

Chair April Vargas called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Members present were Sandy Emerson, Chuck Kozak, Paul Perkovic and Karen Wilson. Community members attending were Keith Mangold and John Plock. Dennis Doherty arrived later. Due to a scheduling error by the County Airport office, the Three Zero Cafe was unavailable and the meeting was held in the MCC office.

There were no Consent Agenda items.

Regular Agenda Item 1. Caltrans application for a CDP for exploratory drilling at the Devil's Slide Tunnels project site to gather additional geotechnical data. This application was referred to us by San Mateo County Planning Department's planner Mike Schaller, who is assigned to this project.

Keith Mangold gave a history of environmental problems caused by work by Caltrans on the Hwy 92 widening project. This occurred two years ago and damages have yet to be mitigated. Keith has asked for a complete EIR before the CDP is issued. John Plock agreed.

Chuck found that the report was not comprehensive enough and lacked accuracy in some of the biological listings of plants and animals. He suggested that a naturalist look it over to correct the data. There were concerns about work proceeding during the winter months and the lack of success of revegetating coastal scrub.

Sandy asked about the possibility of having a third party review of the document before the County acts on the application. There were questions about what other agencies had received the report for review. We request complete copies of all comments from all respondents and ask that these be attached to the staff report for the project.

Chuck believes that the work outlined in the report can be conducted responsibly. April suggested that Chuck provide Caltrans and the County with an example of a similar project work plan which has been prepared more successfully by a different company or agency. This could aid in the overall improvement of the report that has been submitted by Caltrans. Chuck will clarify with Mike Schaller the County process for consideration of this application.

John Plock asked if Skip had received approval from Caltrans attorneys to file this application in advance of the approval of the EIR for the Tunnels project.

Regular Agenda Item 2 Road and Drainage Improvements in the MidCoast. The committee discussed the fee versus assessment method for funding improvements, as discussed in the letter from SMCo PW Director Neil Cullen. There were questions about how the fee schedule will be structured. Also, the overlying issue of the cumulative impacts of individual parcel developments is not addressed. Perhaps an additional meeting with Marcia Raines, Terry Burnes and Neil Cullen will be necessary to integrate individual efforts into the larger issue considerations.

Committee members recognized the advantages of the fee alternative but there are that remain. To accurately determine the fee structure, will the cost of the project become as costly as setting up an assessment district?

Some projects were proposed to be added to the list provided. These include the Alta Vista drainage area in upper Montara, which directly impacts the Cedar and Date St. areas. There was an allegation that Citizens Utilities has been pumping drainage uphill to lessen impacts on residential property around Alta Vista. The County has jurisdiction and can correct this problem. Chuck will discuss this with Mike Schaller.

The worst areas deserving the most immediate attention are Cedar/Date/Alta Vista in Montara and Balboa and Santa Maria in El Granada. Coronado Ave. east of the Crossways in Miramar is a lower priority as is the Montecito area in El Granada.

Keith Mangold asked to address the Committee at a future date regarding tertiary water treatment to allow treated water to be used for irrigation. Future PW Committee scheduling was continued until the 1/26 MCC retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Public Works Committee Chair April Vargas