

Midcoast Community Council

An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
Serving 12,000 coastal residents

Post Office Box 64
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0064
Office Fax: (650) 728-2129
<http://mcc.sanmateo.org>

Supervisor Richard Gordon
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
400 County Government Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

March 27, 2002

Dear Supervisor Gordon:

We have become increasingly concerned about the issuing of new well permits without a complete study of the status of our Coastal aquifers.

In 1989 Kleinfelder completed the last analyses of Coastside wells and aquifers. The professional recommendation was for no more than 64 additional wells to be drilled in the Moss Beach and Montara regions before a complete EIR should be done. Since then over 300 wells have been drilled in our Coastal region. Although the study recommended an additional study, none has ever taken place.

This is a serious problem with serious implications for existing wells and for all citizens of the Coastside. Following is a list of issues that have raised these concerns:

1. Citizens Utilities draws a majority of its water from wells in the same aquifer region.
2. Overdrawing the aquifer by additional wells can put the entire region at risk.
3. Contamination, such as, the recent MTBE scare, can be a serious factor in contaminating aquifers. Both salt and other contaminants can be drawn in to our aquifers and wells by overdrilling. Citizens in several areas are already reporting extremely high mineral contents in water samples.
4. The California Coastal Commission has addressed the well situation in a recent Miramar appeal and found "Significant Issue" on this appeal.
5. Overdrilling of wells and the possibility of these wells going dry creates a situation with extreme financial and health repercussions.
6. Regional concerns have been raised in nearby areas, such as, Lake Merced, on the adequacy of water supplies. These concerns led to temporary moratoriums on well drilling.
7. We are gradually losing recharge area for our aquifers due to increasing new development in the Coastside.

Due to all these concerns that have been raised, the Midcoast Community Council asks that a moratorium on well drilling be established until such time as a comprehensive study of our regional aquifers can be completed.

Sincerely,

Chuck Kozak
Chair

cc: San Mateo County Environmental Health
City of Half Moon Bay