

## Minutes of the April 9, 2003 Meeting of the MidCoast Community Council

### Committee Reports

Chair Sandy Emerson called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Present were Directors Slater-Carter, Vargas, Lohman, Kozak and Wilson. Paul Perkovic was absent.

### Public Comment

Jim Montalbano of 123 7<sup>th</sup> St. , Montara, spoke about a fence across a public access road adjacent to his property. The gate is locked. He went to the Department of Public Works about this matter and has written letters and consulted the State Parks Dept. So far he has received no responses and would like the Council's assistance. He believes that the same neighbors dumped 200 sacks of cement on the shoreline to retard erosion;

Sandy announced the Annual Quarry Park Children's Day from 11:30 until 3:30 on May 4. She referenced brochures from an organization called Seaflow which opposes the Department of Defense exemptions from environmental legislation. Ric announced an early Earth Day Clean Up at Francis State Beach in HMB on April 12 at 9:00 am. Save Our Shores is sponsoring this event, which will also include water testing and live music. There will be a cigarette butt count also. Other beaches include Montara, Linda Mar, San Gregorio and Pescadero. Kathryn reported 4 wells in a 50-foot radius and a 300-foot long area containing 6 wells in the Midcoast. She is concerned at this dense concentration. She has heard that realtors are telling prospective home and lot buyers that there is back up municipal water service available in Montara and Moss Beach if wells are contaminated or fail. This is not the case.

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

### Board of Supervisors Report

Deborah Hirst reported that the Legislative Committee of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will review the MCC request for adoption of a resolution on the Patriot Act at their April 22 meeting, following the Board meeting in the Board chambers. The public is invited to attend. It will start around 11:30 am, depending upon at what time the Board meeting concludes. Written petitions and letters are encouraged. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker. The Board will hear the recommendation of this committee at their May 6 meeting. As of July 1, there will be a 5% increase in the permit fees charged by the Planning and Building Division. Deborah introduced Miruni Soosaipillai, the representative of the County Counsel's office who has been assigned to work with the MidCoast Community Council. She has practiced law for 10 years and has worked for the County for 6 years, 5 of which were assisting the Planning Dept. She has also worked with the Resource Conservation District. Communications with her should go through Chair Emerson to make the most efficient use of everyone's time.

## **Committee Reports**

There was no Treasurer's report. The balance remains unchanged.

The remainder of these reports was continued until after the Regular Agenda has been concluded.

## **Regular Agenda**

8a. Presentation of the Work Plan of the Midcoast Groundwater Study Phase 2  
Present were Planning Administrator Terry Burnes, Environmental Health Director Dean Peterson, Michael Clark, Project Manager from Kleinfelder, and Charlie Almestad, lead modeler and hydro geologist from Kleinfelder. The purpose of Phase I of the report was to gather data and information. Phase II will analyze the data and add to it. Data was gathered from County logs, GIS information and well logs. The consultant will drill wells for long term pumping and monitoring. Descriptions of streams and aquifers will be included and water balances within these water sources will be articulated. The consultant will provide the County with recommendations on management and procedures. There are currently many data gaps. There will be an investigation of the parameters of the aquifers. They will use data that is valid and scientifically defensible.

Geology controls ground water. There are three formations containing water: Montara granite, alluvial channels made up of coarse sand and marine terraces, made up of finer grained material. All water is produced from rainfall above the urbanized area. There are four sub basins:

Martini, Montara and Dean Creeks  
SanVicente, and Denniston Creeks and the Airport Aquifer  
El Granada Area  
Arroyo de en Medio and Frenchman's Creeks

Water could be stored under the ocean in the Seal Cove fault. This is just the beginning of the Phase II portion of the project. Terry Burnes stated that there will be additional public meetings. There will be a technical report produced at the end of each task. It was requested that the MCC sponsor these subsequent public meetings. Keinfelder will provide professional expertise, not views based on public opinion. Policy decisions will include more public input. It is not the responsibility of this report to answer every issues raised by the public. Fieldwork will be done which will include the monitoring of test wells. Permits will be required. One Coastal Development Permit will be issued for all of the test wells. These will be drilled on County owned or County controlled property. MCC will receive a referral of the permit request. The test wells will not be used as productive water sources, although they may be kept actively in place for some time. All test sites will be listed at the start of the project.

Chuck asked about the timeline of the project and was told that it will follow the diagram provided rather than the text portion or the report. He was told that contacts have been made with Montara Sanitary District to take advantage of the water studies that have been and continue to be done by that agency. Water dating will be done. To determine how long ago water fell as rain, oxygen isotope is used. CCWD received a presentation by the consultants and there will be coordination with that agency as well. To aid in the identification of sensitive areas, the consultant will contact George Bergman of the Planning Department regarding the work that is being done for the LCP Review in that regard and rely on other sources as well.

Karen asked how much data can be collected from MSD so that there will not be a duplication of effort. Sandy expressed interest in well interference and asked if the consultant has expertise in this field. Charlie Almestad is an expert. He will make recommendations regarding recharge and implementation procedures. Kathryn asked that once safe yield has been determined during a drought, what will be done if existing wells have been installed too closely together? What will be done if it is discovered that salt-water intrusion will be likely? Is a moratorium on new wells possible? Terry answered that the Board had considered a moratorium and decided against imposing one. The new well ordinance will remain in place until the study has been completed. It is the opinion of the County that residential development should be served by public water systems. Safe yield may vary by area. Resources should be delivered by an augmented public system. It is the County's intention to "wean" communities off private wells. Policy issues will be developed at the end of the study.

Karen mentioned that private well users have few if any restrictions while public water users are subject to water rationing. Terry responded that California is a water rights state, allowing the owner of a well more autonomy. Kathryn asked about the worst-case scenario for safe yield and Mike answered that it is not yet specified. Leonard Woren stated that the County is not mandated to issue permits for houses with private wells. Will the study look at water quality? He asked if the test wells will perforate successive water levels. Mike answered that water quality will be studied to some extent. Aquaculdes are impervious layers between aquifers. He does not know how many layers will be affected. April asked about the types of recommendations that will be made at the end of the study and the degree to which they will include innovative solutions to the problems of recharge, including the potential for using runoff to replenish aquifers. The answer was not specific. **Chuck asked for a print out of the presentation and Mike agreed to send one to Kathryn.**

### **Consent Agenda**

Chuck moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, Kathryn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with minor corrections. April agreed to resend electronic comments from Tim Duff regarding Task 18 of the LCP Review.

## Future Agenda

### Regular Agenda continued

#### Consent Items

#### 8b. Midcoast Local Coastal Program Review Update Committee for Green Foothills Status Report on Bylaws Review

The sensitive habitat maps are being ground checked and areas are being added. There are two new proposed definitions of wetlands which are more in line with the Coastal Commission's definition. There are three criteria for the determination of wetlands. The sensitive habitat definition has been expanded considerably from that found in the current LCP. Special mention of the Monarch butterfly will be included. Future restoration of damaged sensitive habitat will be facilitated by enforcing set backs in these areas.

**The MCC will draft a letter to Supervisor Gordon asking for a resolution of commendation for project planner George Bergman.** For the April 7 workshop, the County Trails Plan was consulted for Tasks 15, 16 and 17. There was a clarification of the location of the Caltrans Bypass Right of Way. Kathryn commented that a traffic master plan in conjunction with the development of safe crossings of Hwy 1 seems reasonable. Specific sites for safe crossings and trails should be forwarded to the Trails Committee of the County Parks and Recreation Commission. The MCC Parks and Recreation Committee list of recommendations should also be reviewed.

Regarding the Design Review Standards, Task 6, five pages of community concerns have been reviewed by the Design Review Committee. There will be meetings on April 15 and 17 to complete this review. Karen commented that the proposed standards are some of the weakest she has seen and they continue to be diminished. Chuck suggested presenting a comparison of the proposed standards and those approved and in force within other jurisdictions. **April suggested dividing the tasks into groups to be completed by groups of MCC members. Karen will continue to work on Task 6. Chuck, Kathryn and Ric will cover Tasks 1,2,3,4,5,13,14,18,19,20,22,23. April, Perk and Sandy will cover 7,8,9,10,11,12,15,16,17,21. The council agreed with this approach but no formal vote was taken.**

#### 8c. Follow-up Letter on Patriot Act

Chuck read a draft proposal. Kathryn supported it with some changes. April moved, Kathryn seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

### Committee Reports

There will be a Public Works Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 30 if a venue is available.

## **Future Agenda**

April 23

Consent items

Project recommendation from Planning and Zoning Committee for Green Foothills Status

Report on Bylaws Review

LCP Update

Possible item on Quarry Park

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Secretary April Vargas