

June 11, 2003

Marcia Raines, Director  
San Mateo County  
Environmental Services Agency  
455 County Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Ms. Raines:

Prompted by the completion of the last Public Workshop of the current MidCoast Local Coastal Program Update Project and in response to the subsequent San Mateo County Cares survey, the MidCoast Community Council has several comments regarding the overall performance of the Project Planner who lead this effort, George Bergman.

Many Council members have worked closely with George on a variety of projects over the years. In each case, his impressive knowledge of the subject matter, attention to detail, congenial disposition, innate sense of fairness, resourcefulness and considerable patience have made these experiences valuable and productive.

As the County staff representative in charge of the LCP Update process, his professional and personal strengths were tested time and time again. Many of the workshops were attended by scores of concerned citizens holding many conflicting and deeply held views. In the early stages of the process, a professional facilitator was hired in the belief that his participation would prove beneficial. When it became apparent that this was not the case, George very willingly revised the meeting protocol and assumed the role of facilitator himself. His flexibility and desire for an honest, inclusive process characterize all of his endeavors.

To ensure the accuracy of the data being presented within the Alternatives Report, he convened Data Working Group sessions, inviting participation from all those who had legitimate questions and updated information about capacity, consumption and the availability of infrastructure and other essential services within the MidCoast. That group continues to meet.

While there have been concerns in the community about the method in which public comment will be weighted and presented to subsequent decision making bodies, George's courtesy and even-handedness when dealing with members of the public has not been called into question. He has made every effort to produce and distribute thorough, factual and understandable documents and remains willing to entertain defensible revisions to any of his work.

George has responded in a timely and forthcoming manner to all requests made of him by the Council and has done his best to provide follow-up materials as quickly as his workload and his demanding schedule will allow.

In summary, the MidCoast Community Council wholeheartedly commends the work of Senior Planner George Bergman and expresses our sincerest appreciation for who he is and what he does in service to the residents of San Mateo County.

Sincerely,

Sandy Emerson, Chair  
MidCoast Community Council

Cc: Supervisor Rich Gordon