

**Planning & Zoning  
Committee of the  
MidCoast  
Community Council**  
PO Box 64, Moss Beach  
CA 94038  
*Serving 12,000 residents*

April 28, 2003

**To: Mike Schaller**

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division  
Mail Drop PLN122, 455 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
650.363.1849 - FAX: 650.363.4849

**re: PLN2003-00068:** application to remove 7 Monterey Pines at  
855 Columbus in El Granada

Mike:

After inspection of the trees and reviewing the arborist report. I would have to agree with the needed removal of these seven trees. Would the additional three mentioned in the report go through a separate permit or be added to this one.

Our main concern would be the removal of so many trees at once in a area that has a fairly heavy tree cover and the effect this might have on shade/rain canopy, wildlife habitat, stormwater runoff, and soil stability. This type of clearing needs the equivalent of a small timber management plan. I would like to suggest that the removal be done in 2 or 3 phases, spaced around the property, starting with the trees that might present the most immediate danger to the property and the neighbors (say, 2, 6, 7 and 9, according to the report) and then establishing 24" box replacements first before proceeding with the remainder.

Our other concern is that the diseased wood from removal is disposed of properly. Too often tree cuttings infested with beetles or pine-pitch canker are left stacked on site, given to neighbors for firewood, or distributed by the removal contractor as firewood or chipped as mulched. These practices have contributed to a severe infestation of the Monterey Pines in the MidCoast area, and is contrary to the needed protection of coastal resources.

I would recommend a conditions of approval for a phased removal (or some other plan to address the issues mentioned) and for an approved and monitored removal of the diseased wood.

Thank you for your help and sorry for the delay. Please keep us informed of any further developments, hearings, approvals or appeals concerning this application.



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