

Public Works Committee of the MidCoast Community Council

Post Office Box 64
Moss Beach CA 94038
Serving over 12,000 residents

October 5, 2003

Marcia Raines, Director, San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency
Terry Burnes, Planning Administrator, San Mateo County Planning and Building Division
Gary Warren, Code Enforcement
San Mateo County Planning and Building Division
Mail Drop PLN122, 455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: APN 047-181-370

Violation 2003-00138 - Nicholas Santino

It appears that 80 to 100 trees have been removed from this site.

Tonight I visited the above address - the neighbor at 178 San Pedro informed me that work continued on the site Friday (10-03-03) and Saturday (10-04-03).

While I was at the site this evening, no crews were present and tree debris was slipping down the slope and dirt was falling off the site while I was there (5:03 pm to 5:30 pm).

This evening, a huge tractor/backhoe was parked on site, and the ground at the lower level has been excavated and is undermining the earth above it, exposing the root-balls of the remaining stumps, and weakening the stabilization of the uphill slope (see photo's attached).

There is debris and dirt on the roadway also; this part of the road is on a sharp turn and is not lit at night - it is a VERY serious hazard. In addition, the backhoe has damaged the street and the workers have spray painted "slow" on the pavement, a clear sign they are aware of the hazard they have created.

Monterey Pine and Eucalyptus trees have been removed and there is no evidence that proper removal standards have been used to dispose of the (possibly diseased) pine trees.

I request that I and the MidCoast Community Council be kept up to date with the status of this violation including the other large tree removal on Isabella that I filed a couple of months ago.

I fear this site is seriously unstable, and is in need of review by a civil engineer AND a qualified arborist before **ANY** further work or repair is done on the site. The road should be immediately closed for safety or the property owner should erect proper debris barriers. No further work should be done on the parcel without onsite supervision of the county.

I am extremely concerned about the possible landslide hazard that has been created by this un-permitted activity, and I request the county take immediate action, and notify the neighbors in the neighborhood if it is determined there is a threat to their safety.

Attached are the photos I took this evening.

Sincerely,

Karen Wilson
MidCoast Community Council Member
(650) 728-8014 FAX
Montara100@comcast.net

Cc: Neil Cullen
Tom Davenport
Richard Gordon
Deborah Hirst
Chuck Kozak
Charlie Button
Lt. John Quinlan

Pictures

PW_11	Excavation 1	PW_22	Up Hill shot, same different angle
PW_12	Graffiti on Street	PW_23	Tree Stumps
PW_13	Up Shot of tree Stumps	PW_24	Close up of Stumps in Street
PW_14	Up Shot of more Trees Removed	PW_25	Close up of Stumps in Street further down
PW_15	Up Shot further down	PW_26	Shadowed debris
PW_16	Debris in Street 1	PW_27	Road Damage-Tractor
PW_17	Backhoe/Debris in Street/Excavation	PW_28	Backhoe on Tree
PW_18	Backhoe-Another angle	PW_29	Backhoe on Tree again
PW_19	Backhoe-Left angle	PW_30	Street Debris-Excavation
PW_20	Debris Truck and damage to adjacent lot	PW_31	Excavation 2
PW_21	Up Hill shot, truck, tractor 2 remaining pines	PW_32	Excavation 3