



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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DIRECTOR

September 18, 2001

Mr. Chuck Kozak
Chair, Planning and Design Review Committee
MidCoast Community Council
P.O. Box 64
Moss Beach, CA 94038

Dear Mr. Kozak:

Re: Road and Drainage Projects in the MidCoast

The San Mateo County Planning Commission considered the report by the Planning Division of Environmental Services and the report by the Department of Public Works regarding drainage issues in the MidCoast, as well as Public Works' report on drainage issues at Date and Harte Streets and recommended that staff meet with the MidCoast Community Council (MCC) to discuss issues, priorities and methods of financing projects.

We subsequently met with Supervisor Richard Gordon to discuss proposed drainage projects, the projects previously petitioned for (Circa 1988), and the previous policies regarding coordinating with the special districts that provide utility type services to the MidCoast (sewer and water). These service providers may have shallow facilities in the roadway where either drainage or road improvement projects are contemplated. We also discussed the provisions of the MidCoast Community Specific Plan, which provides minimum standards for improvements, gives a priority to petition for projects and allows for exceptions to the standards in specific circumstances only. We also discussed the need to obtain Council input into the priority setting process for the various types of projects.

We have developed a tentative process, based on the discussion with Supervisor Gordon, to integrate drainage projects and the projects previously petitioned for, with proposed road projects that the Department believes are appropriate to improve the overall road system of the area. The limitations that the special districts may have in relocating or improving their facilities in connection with proposed projects, and the various funding mechanisms that may be available to finance these projects will need to be integrated into the priority lists. The following is an outline of the steps envisioned in the process:

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1. Public Works provides a summary of:
 - a) the outstanding projects previously petitioned for, including a summary of known or possible special district issues associated with these projects;
 - b) drainage issues that may or may not be repairable in the near term, together with suggested fixes and order of magnitude costs associated with the repair; and
 - c) proposed road reconstruction projects that the Department believes will improve the overall road system for the area.
2. MCC reviews the lists and identifies other drainage problems or projects that MCC recommends being considered.
3. Public Works reviews MCC's suggested projects and identifies suggested "fixes" with order of magnitude costs for possible repairs of the projects.
4. MCC and Public Works develop a tentative priority list of projects taking into consideration method of financing the projects, whether an exemption from the strict application of the standards of the Community Plan are necessary, and possible constraints which may affect the timing of the individual projects.
5. Public Works contacts the special districts to determine any problems for the districts associated with the projects, and the special districts provide information to Public Works.
6. MCC holds a public hearing on the tentative priority list and adjusts the priority list as appropriate.
7. The list is then presented to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

I would appreciate your committee's review and comment on the tentative process. We are proposing to go to construction with the Navarro/Escalona Improvement project this fall as this is the last project that a specific appropriation was assured by the Board of Supervisors, as work on the project had been suspended when it was determined to evaluate revisions to the standards for the MidCoast and incorporate standards into the MidCoast Community Plan.

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There will also be issues regarding how projects will be financed as the petitioned for projects are based on assessment being levied to finance a portion of the work including drainage, and no conclusion has been reached regarding the financing of drainage improvements only at Harte and Date that were discussed before the Planning Commission.

I have attached an excerpt from the MidCoast Community Plan relative to street and drainage improvements and the list of the outstanding petitioned for projects.

I can be reached at 650-599-1421 if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Neil R. Cullen
Director of Public Works

NRC:sdd

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Enclosures: Excerpt & List

cc: Supervisor Richard Gordon
Laura Stein, Chair, MidCoast Community Council
Joe Gore, Public Works MidCoast Sub-Community Council
Marcia Raines, Director, Environmental Services Agency
Terry Burnes, Planning Administrator, Planning and Building Division
Brian C. Lee, P.E., Division Manager, Programs and Engineering Services
George F. Haines, Maintenance Division Manager
Bruce E. Kirk, Principal Civil Engineer, Project Development and Design