

MidCoast Community Council
P.O. Box 64
Moss Beach, CA 94038

February 25, 1996

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo,

Thank you again for meeting with all of us in Half Moon Bay on January 27th. I have personally been following your career and accomplishments for many years, and it was a pleasure to meet and work with you; I look forward to many such opportunities in the future.

The watchword is "sustainability." This phrase was consistently stressed as I talked to midcoast residents in preparation for our meeting. We believe that sustaining natural resources is an absolutely critical and mandatory responsibility to the future. Sometimes sustaining will mean maintaining present standards, and sometimes it will mean improving things, but we can think of no situation where it is appropriate to back away from our commitment to the environment.

Sustaining is also necessary if we are to protect our current quality of life. It is simply inconsistent to think that we can relax our environmental vigilance, and improve living standards. In fact, history demonstrates that vigilance and improvement go hand-in-hand.

Many good points were made at our meeting; I will emphasize two.

1. The Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary: under the guidance of Director Ed Uber, this sanctuary has been a strong advocate for the protection of the coast of San Mateo County. Continued funding for this Sanctuary is critical, particularly as the MidCoast Community Council is working with a wide range of agencies, etc., to establish a long-range plan for the El Granada waterfront: it is important that this sensitive marine environment be protected while this plan is being develop.
2. Funding for the future of Devil's Slide: as you know, several options are being considered, including repair, a bypass, and a tunnel. The residents of San Mateo County, working with the Board of Supervisors, CalTrans, and the Federal Highway Administration, will most likely agree on a course of action before the end of 1996. To implement this decision may require reallocating funding that has been directed to a bypass. We realize the initiation of any such reallocation will need to come from Congressman Lantos' office, but we hope we can count on your support.

Again, thank you for including the MidCoast Community Council in your January 27th meeting, and please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you in your efforts to ensure that the coastal environment continues to be protected.

Sincerely,
MidCoast Community Council

Chris McComb, Chair