

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038      www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Laura Stein . Lisa Ketcham . Bob Kline . Len Erickson . Dan Haggerty . Bill Kehoe

## Approved Minutes: Meeting on Wednesday October 23, 2013, at GSD

### **Call to Order.** 7:00 pm

Present: all Councilmembers

Government officials: CHP Capt. Mike Maskarich

18 members of the public

### **1. Board of Supervisors' Report** – Nicholas Calderón

**Hwy 1 planning project for crossings/medians:** MOU from TA coming this week or next, after which planning work can get started. [Note similar report in 1/23/13 MCC minutes.]

**Moss Beach Park:** County on track to accept land into park system by year-end.

**Coastside Design Review Committee:** 3 applicant interviews are scheduled in Nov. to fill vacancies.

**Supervisory District Boundaries** were approved yesterday by Board of Supervisors – Coastside remains intact in District 3.

CHP Capt Mike Maskarich: **Hwy 92 reflective stainless steel box** on median with sprinklers: HMB was notified, but nothing done. Is it still a problem?

**Speeding on Sunshine Valley Rd:** Survey in place does not justify speed limit as low as existing 25mph -- should actually be raised. Road doesn't qualify as residential, so speed bumps not an option. Diana Shu in DPW has ordered electronic speed signs.

### **2. Public Comment**

Laura: Coastside Design Review Committee openings for architect, & alternates for Moss Beach & Montara.

Karen Wilson: Thanks to County for quick action in Montara with trees near 11<sup>th</sup> St, & with safety barriers on crumbling walkway above highway on east side.

Connie Servative: Rainbow Pride celebration next year 7/12/14 at Brewing Co. Would like MCC to pass Resolution honoring Pride event. March 8 next year international women's day – would like to have local events.

Leonard Woren: This Sat. is GSD recycling event, 9-1 on Burnham Strip property at end Ave Portola. Permanent harbor beach pollution signs are not from human source. RCD harbor pollution study showed dog & bovine from storm drains – unrelated to Granada Sanitary District.

### **3. Consent Agenda:**

a. Approve Minutes for September 10, 2013 -- approved 6-0

b. ~~Approve Treasurer's Report for October 23, 2013~~ delete - no written report submitted

c. Design Review item moved to end of regular agenda (4c).

### **4. Regular Agenda**

a. (7:25) **Surfer's Beach Highway 1 Emergency Erosion Protection.** Nicholas Calderón report on the current Cosco Busan grant-funded planning/permitting project for erosion protection, Coastal Trail and beach access, and Supervisor Horsley's recent letter to Caltrans requesting an emergency highway protection project for this winter.

Nicholas: County has \$200,000 (\$180,000 Cosco-Busan mitigation grant, plus \$20,000 local matching funds) specifically for planning/permitting of highway erosion protection, Coastal Trail, and beach access at Surfers' Beach. Project area is not County jurisdiction but Supervisor Horsley believes it's important. Surfers' Beach belongs to HMB, road belongs to Caltrans. HMB is supportive. Supervisor Horsley convened meeting [9/9/13] with staff of CCC, Caltrans & County Parks. Small workgroup was formed (2 from County, 2 from Caltrans) to determine the project. After the meeting, Supervisor Horsley felt that participants were not engaged at speed that was called for, which is an imminent threat to the highway. Hwy closure or one-way traffic control would bring problems for everyone -- residents, businesses, commuters, visitors. He

wrote Caltrans asking them to apply for emergency permit and protect the hwy for this winter. Letter does not call for riprap. Caltrans responded – they do not deem imminent threat & CCC would not give emergency permit. Caltrans' letter committed to looking for money to participate in project, & working with County for necessary permits. We need to know what type of project Caltrans is willing to fund (beyond just helping with permits) because they have a big stake in this. What type of erosion protection – how many years expected to last? Then County can put out scope of work for consultant to do plans & permits (with public engagement at that point). Right now we need to know what Caltrans is willing to permit and fund. For County to move forward without taking these steps with Caltrans would be poor use of time. We've been in starting box for awhile. County received money in Jan 2013.

Lisa: Reports to MCC over past months led me to believe things were happening. Give us a sense of rate of progress, who is on workgroup, how often they'll meet. Feel anxious with ongoing lack of information. Would seem useful if we had a rep at the meetings – get a better sense of the real picture.

Nicholas: The 3 project priorities were determined in grant application – from on-site meeting in 2011 or 2012 with County Parks, CCC, Caltrans, a few community members. Timeline – government moves very slowly. Long time to schedule meetings to get people together, then don't get anything – “have to take it back to our people”. Workgroup is a district supervisor and a geologist from Caltrans, and Dave Holland, Steve Monowitz, & Nicholas from County. Had phone conversation with Caltrans the day after letter was sent -- noted change of tone – more willingness. Letter was to apply pressure on Caltrans and CCC – tired of no movement – important to us, want it to be important to you. That worked -- happy with their response. Will have conference call in next week or so. Hope to get what we need to get scope of work out after that.

Bill: Is there time limit on grant funds? Are there contingency plans -- other uses for funds outside project scope?

Nicholas: Funding was allocated specifically for planning & permitting of the 3 elements of this project. Have had money for some time without making progress. We have an extension. There is wiggle room provided we can show progress. County staff is working to explain to grant funders the complexity of the issue. Hopefully they can see that although we haven't spent any of the money, that doesn't mean we haven't been working on it.

Len: Clarify intent of letter. What feedback do you have from CCC?

Nicholas: Letter was sent to Caltrans because we want them to view this as an imminent threat and take appropriate action. Feedback from CCC is that this doesn't warrant emergency CDP, but they want to continue to work with us to provide necessary permits for the project.

Len: Do we know Caltrans' contingency plan if the road were interrupted?

Nicholas: Letter specifically asked for that. No mention of that in Caltrans response. Will follow up.

Dan: What type of shoreline protection has been discussed?

Nicholas: No parties have specified what type of erosion protection solution.

Laura: Next action? At what point would there be public input?

Nicholas: Next step is workgroup conference call, with goal to agree on type of project that addresses all existing concerns. Then County puts out scope of work and hires consultant. Public input sometime after that.

Leonard Woren: Armoring means no more beach. Armoring just to the north is already failing. If armored, require continuous beach nourishment. Remove armoring if Army Corps addresses breakwater.

Neil Merrilees: Supervisor Horsley's letter takes this to different level -- applying political pressure. Surfers' Beach is incredibly valuable. Sand didn't come back this summer -- almost can't walk down there anymore. Ask Supervisor Horsley to allow MCC member to be present at future work groups -- shows how interested we are. We're talking about 2 solutions, short term for this winter, long term to replenish beach. Ask Harbor District for beach replenishment.

Dave Olson: Agree with Leonard, Neil, but concerned that we not apply emergency solution that is damaging to beach and coastline. Agree some community involvement would be good.

Connie Servative: There is no Plan B. Road will fail before anything gets done. Where will traffic be rerouted?

Sabrina Brennan: Community saw plans for moving highway in 2009 study, but people weren't ready. Recommend we have another big multi-agency/ community meeting. Coastside Beach Coalition would be willing to help organize.

Mike Wallace: High School surf team coach & Surfrider. No beach left now -- just clay. Want to see agencies work together. Army Corps meeting Nov 8. Here to emphasize urgency, safety of kids. Discouraged it has gone on this long without even cosmetic solutions.

Karen Wilson: Appreciate Supervisor's pro-active approach. Horrifying if road washed out.

Motion: Approve letter to Supervisor Horsley:

The Midcoast Community Council recognizes that Surfers' Beach is a significant destination for recreation in SMC and that Hwy 1 at Surfers' Beach is an important transportation corridor on the SMC Coast.

Therefore the MCC:

1. Supports your letter requesting action on the part of Caltrans to protect the highway, as an emergency may be just one storm away.
2. Requests that a member of the MCC be invited to future multi-agency meetings on this issue, to help represent the local public, and to bring proposed solutions back to the community.
3. Requests that the County ask Caltrans to describe their options for re-routing traffic if the highway fails.

Approved 6-0.

b. (8:35) **Coastal Access & Views via Montara Streets.** (Ketcham)

Lisa gave slide presentation of MCC research on the legal basis for public access to the coastal bluff on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and to other undeveloped public rights-of-way.

Leonard Woren: Per subdivision map, streets do not belong to adjacent lot owners. Emphasize that county-maintained road system is separate issue from street dedication/acceptance for public use.

Karen Wilson: Attended 10/22 BoS meeting re Design Review appeal of house on 12<sup>th</sup> & East, with plan to use unimproved East St. for driveway entrance. Supervisor Tissier asked if a No Trespassing sign could ever be placed on East St. County Counsel Tim Fox said absolutely NOT.

Dave Olson: Move forward, emphasize public nature of 5<sup>th</sup> St. in cover email. Have walked 5<sup>th</sup> -- live nearby -- stunning view. County Counsel should guaranty public access.

Motion: Request that County Counsel provide a reconciliation of the information in this presentation with what the MCC has been told by County staff since December 2012 about public access to the coastal bluff on 5<sup>th</sup> St. Approved 6-0.

c. (9:05) **Appoint Laura Stein as MCC representative** to attend Nov 12 candidate interviews conducted by Supervisors Horsley and Pine to fill vacancies on Coastside Design Review Committee. (moved from Consent Agenda) Approved 6-0.

**5. Council Activity – 9:15**

**Shuttle program** (Laura): County Transportation Authority (TA) and C/CAG seeking projects for county shuttle program. Shuttles are single purpose and can fill in regular bus service gaps. December call for projects. Looking for ideas on how and where a shuttle can be used. Len will reach out to experienced contacts in Pacifica and report back.

**Devil's Slide Task Force 10/23** (Bill & Lisa) – Reviewed interpretive signs which are posted on County Parks website - may submit comment until end Oct. Approved plans for DS Trail improvements out to bid now. BoS will award bid on 11/5. Construction to begin several weeks after that. Need to finish construction along south end where birds nest before 2/1. Trail ambassador program will get underway in Dec with training.

**Big Wave North Parcel Alternative** project application is still very incomplete (latest submittal 10/9). Project Engineer Scott Holmes has met with Lennie Roberts of Committee for Green Foothills over the past year to work towards a revised project that would address the issues that caused the CCC to deny the project. Scott met with group of CCC appellants on 10/7 to introduce revised project and answer questions. I suggested he do the same at MCC 11/13. Would be informational, just to learn what the project revisions are.

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Vision Plan** Workshop in HMB 10/21 (Bill, Lisa, Len)

**6. Committee Reports – none**

## **7. Future Agendas**

11/13 – Midcoast CA Coastal Trail, Big Wave revised project introduction

Motion: Approve no more than \$200 for alternate venue for 11/13 meeting, Approved 6-0.

12/11 – new councilmember swearing in & election of officers

**Adjournment** – 9:30 pm