

# 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

Lisa Ketcham . Dave Olson . Chris Johnson . Laura Stein . Erin Deinzer . Dan Haggerty . Joel Janoe

## Approved Minutes: Meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2014, at Granada Sanitary District Offices, El Granada, CA

### **Call to Order** — 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Ketcham, Olson, Johnson, Stein, and Haggerty. Absent: Deinzer, Janoe.

- Aide Nicholas Calderón
- Captain Mike Maskarich, California Highway Patrol
- 5 members of the public

### **1. Board of Supervisors' (BoS) Report** — Nicholas Calderón

- Highway 1/Surfer's Beach
  - The goal is to build a sea wall with vertical access staircase down to the ocean and a coastline trail. The County has released the request for proposal (RFP) and is now awaiting proposals. The deadline for proposals is July 18, 2014. Conference calls with the County, Caltrans, California Coastal Commission (CCC), and MCC have developed a project description and a scope of work, which were used to develop the RFP. The County will notify the MCC when a decision has been made on the proposals. Caltrans has submitted a funding request to Sacramento for this project.
- Moss Beach Park (MBP)
  - Construction/installation of the bathroom began on July 8, 2014 and will take about one month. Funds have already been allocated for this project from the Midcoast Parks Mitigation Fund. Other work planned for MBP include an ADA (Handicap) parking spot and a trail from the parking spot to the park. The County has budgeted \$260,000 to retrofit the playground in phases for safety and ADA compliance.
- Parallel Trail
  - Two grant requests have been submitted by the County. A \$500,000 grant request was approved by the San Mateo County Transit Authority (TA) for planning and permitting of the southern section of the trail (Miramar and El Granada). A decision is expected in August on a \$1 million grant request to Caltrans for the northern section of the trail (Moss Beach and Montara).
- Drought Task Force
  - Supervisor Horsley has formed a drought task force to monitor drought conditions. Task force includes representatives from Department of Public Works (DPW), the Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Environmental Health Dept. The County wants to be proactive about current and future water shortages.
- Highway 1 Congestion and Safety Improvement Project
  - Supervisor Horsley feels that a public workshop or study session with the consultants and all MCC members would be a good idea. Workshop would occur between now and the community input meeting in late summer/early fall. There will be no new design drawings before September.
- Dave Olson, MCC vice chair—Is the RFP publicly available? The link to it on the County website is only for registered vendors.
  - A: Nicholas Calderón—I will send it to MCC Chair for posting to the MCC website. The RFP includes requests for designs, estimates, and other project particulars.
- Dan Haggerty, MCC—Will the wooden play structure at MBP be removed?
  - A: Nicholas Calderón—The County will work with the community and the Friends of Moss Beach Park (MFBP) to decide what changes will be made.
- Leonard Woren, El Granada—Why is the bathroom at Mirada West always locked?
  - A: Nicholas Calderón—Will find out [plumbing fixtures not yet hooked up].
- Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach—Commented on the Grand Jury Report on Devil's Slide

Park (DST). Is concerned about the amount of attention being placed on strengthening the protective, cliffside fencing in the park. He wants to retain the view and doesn't want the County to go overboard on the fencing. Also commented on the lack of call boxes and other modes of communication in the park and wants the County to address this potential safety issue.

—Dave Olson, MCC vice chair—Noted that there is nothing on the Friends of Moss Beach Park (FMBP) website about the new bathroom and asked if they have been notified about the bathroom installation.

A: Nicholas Calderón—County Parks Director Marlene Finley has notified the FMBP; Nicholas will send them a reminder.

—Captain Mike Maskarich, California Highway Patrol (CHP)—Discussed the San Mateo County Saturation Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) currently ongoing Countywide, including the Coastside. The program is a grant-funded collaboration between local law enforcement agencies to raise the visibility of traffic law enforcement. Coastside, Captain Maskarich is working with up to five officers, including local law enforcement officers to educate drivers and enforce traffic laws during the month of July.

—Chris Johnson, MCC secretary—Asked Captain Maskarich if he knew of any incidents related to the recent Devils Slide Ride cycling event.

A: Captain Maskarich—No incidents from the Devils Slide Ride, but there were two incidents related to a different cycling event on June 29, 2014. Noted that the toughest challenge for the CHP is trying to determine the level of resources required for such events, especially when event organizers don't contract with the CHP and other law enforcement for traffic control.

—Laura Stein, MCC treasurer—Asked Captain Maskarich if he knew how to get rid of the southbound left turn lane/arrows in front of Sam's Restaurant in El Granada. They seem to be a mistake and a safety issue because the left turn arrows point right into the embankment on the east side of the highway.

A: Captain Maskarich—Will point this out to Caltrans but the CHP has no jurisdiction over this situation.

-Lisa Ketcham, MCC chair—Who at Caltrans will you contact?

A: Captain Maskarich—Bijan Sartipi is the director for this district, which is District 4. A letter to Bijan from the MCC would probably be the most effective tack.

—Leonard Woren, El Granada—Pedestrians are a big traffic problem. Will the STEP force be enforcing jaywalking violations as well as moving vehicle violations?

A: Captain Maskarich—If an officer sees a pedestrian violation he/she will use their best judgment as to whether a ticket is necessary. STEP enforcement is not limited exclusively to motor vehicles.

## **2. Public Comment**

—Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach—Really wants the MCC to follow up on his suggestion for developing a special event process for the Coastside. There really needs to be a County process for any kind of event that will impact the Coastside. People should be properly notified about upcoming events, and a codified process would force all event organizers to follow the same rules.

—Leonard Woren, El Granada—Attended a sea level rise conference in Foster City on June 27, 2014. At the conference, he spoke with Supervisor Dave Pine and U.S. Representative Jackie Speier and mentioned to them that permitting should be stopped in any areas anticipated to be underwater in the future, according to the County's established projections. The County needs to be pressured to rethink their permitting approach or there will have to be dykes and levees to protect everything. He would like to see more public presentations on the subject of sea level rise.

—Lisa Ketcham, MCC chair—Made multiple announcements.

-The HMB Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) update is in its final phase. ALUCP relates to Plan Princeton in that land use and zoning regulations for the area around the airport will need to be in compliance with the updated ALUCP.

The Environmental Impact Review docs (Initial Study and Negative Declaration) are available for public review and comment until July 23, 2014. Check the MCC home page under Focus Topics.

-Meeting #1 for the SMC Harbor District Strategic Business Plan, Pillar Point Community Priorities, is scheduled for July 10, 2014, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Oceano Hotel, Montara Room, in Princeton. The Harbor District wants to hear from the community about their priorities for Pillar Point Harbor.

-Big Wave North Parcel Alternative (NPA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) presentation will be on August 13, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at Planning Commission and at 7:00 p.m. on the same day at the MCC meeting.

-Pillar Point Bluff, beach, and reef BioBlitz is on Sunday, July 13, 2014, from 6:00 a.m. to noon. A BioBlitz is an intensive, one-day study of biodiversity in a specific location, bringing scientists and citizen volunteers together. This BioBlitz starts at the Pillar Point Harbor parking lot at 6:00 a.m.

-ConnectTheCoastside.com is an interactive website for the County's comprehensive Transportation Management Plan, which is a requirement of the 2012 Midcoast update to the Local Coastal Program. The plan will address the cumulative traffic impacts of residential development on roads and highways in the entire Midcoast, including Half Moon Bay. Sign up for news updates, join the virtual workshop, and submit comments.

### **3. Consent Agenda *Approved 5-0***

- a. Approved Treasurer's Report for July 9, 2014.

### **4. Regular Agenda**

#### **a. (7:43) Midcoast Highway 1 Crossings, Left Turns, and Medians (Ketcham).**

MCC Chair Lisa Ketcham provided a presentation reviewing the differences between the concept plans of the Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Studies and the specific project elements that the current TA-funded planning grant is limited to, with the desired outcome that the Council will reaffirm support for these near-term high-priority improvements. See

<http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2014/2014-07-09-Hwy1-xing-turns-medians.pdf>.

Public Comment:

—Leonard Woren, El Granada—Supports the proposed MCC motion to reaffirm support for the TA-funded planning and permitting project for Highway 1. Feels that improvements have to start somewhere and wants the project to get moving. Stated that overhead light stanchions with flashing lights do not preserve the rural character of the community.

—Len Erickson, El Granada—Noted that the project concept plan was encapsulated in a six-page, 2012 MCC document. Feels that not only crossings are needed, but also connecting trails and paths. Thinks that the public right of way (ROW) currently being used by the La Costanera restaurant in Montara could be used for Coastal Trail access to a Highway crossing at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

—Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach—Supports the idea that we need to get moving with things that have already been agreed upon - crossings, left turns, and medians. None of those are so major that if a new improved plan comes along in 10 years it couldn't be done over or around those. In favor of reducing number of left turn options in Moss Beach.

—Kate Handel, Moss Beach—Concerned about the crossing at California Street in Moss Beach. Asked what needs to be done to address the speed limit in Moss Beach in order to make medians possible.

A: Nicholas Calderón—The consultants are working with Caltrans to create a speed survey to study the feasibility of lowering the speed limit. The County is conducting traffic counts for turning movements, such as at Cypress. Santa Cruz County has been contacted regarding speed reduction to 45 MPH in Davenport in 1990's. Subsequent speed survey enabled them to maintain that.

Council Discussion:

---Dave Olson made the motion that the Council reaffirm support for the TA-funded planning & permitting project for Midcoast Highway 1 medians, left turns and crossing improvements. We continue to believe that these design elements are top priority and should be accomplished with urgency. Seconded by Laura Stein.

—Dan Haggerty—Agrees with the motion with the caveat that we should be able to discuss how this project might affect something else that might be added in the future. Wants to look at the Midcoast highway corridor as a whole instead of a patchwork of isolated locations. Ultimate goal is to have good traffic circulation and a safe way for residents to cross. Feels that roundabouts and underpasses have worked elsewhere and can work on the Midcoast as well. Doesn't want to reduce the number of left-turn options in Moss Beach.

—Chris Johnson—Noted that he reviewed the project documents, including documents referred to him by MCC Chair Ketcham, and could find no reference to tunnels/underpasses in the documentation, except in comments from the public (which were in favor of considering tunnels/underpasses). Acknowledges comments from people who have been involved in this project in the past that tunnels and underpasses were discussed, but reiterated that this discussion does not appear in the historical record and that he is troubled by this.

—Laura Stein—The TA grant application was submitted to develop pedestrian crossings, raised medians, and left-turn lanes because they were considered near term projects of highest priority. Noted that institutional memory is important to maintain continuity during the process, and suggests that all interested parties sign up for RSS feeds about these issues on the MCC website.

—Len Erickson, El Granada—Noted that a point was made early on in the Highway 1 Studies to discuss over/undercrossings, and that this option was not eliminated at that time. Later in meetings with Caltrans on the crossing at the Devil's Slide Tunnel south portal, concept plans prepared by Caltrans showed over/undercrossing not feasible there. Highway 1 Studies include longer-term options for overcrossing at lighthouse and for moving Highway 1 at Surfers' Beach. In future if a crossing has a steady stream of pedestrian traffic then that might be a case to support a grade-separated crossing. Keep in mind short and long range. Putting in a surface crossing now does not obliterate possible future undercrossing.

---Lisa Ketcham—Dan had shared photos of an undercrossing in Davis, which has population of 66,000, a large student population on bicycles, with the tunnel crossing under a six-lane freeway. The Midcoast has less than 12,000 people and a two-lane road. Do you want to slow or stop this crossing project now in hopes for an undercrossing as a longer-term project, or is it more important to get something sooner that will improve safety but not preclude some future more difficult and expensive project. If councilmembers come to the workshop with the consultants in attendance, and ask for different things, some not even in the scope of the project they have been contracted to complete, what are the people in charge of doing something for us supposed to make of that? If we want to argue in front of them and

figure Daddy will decide, is that what we want? I think we need to make some effort to come together to find a balance of the issues we've heard from the community.

—Dave Olson—Pointed out that people are crossing the highway today and it is not safe. Safe crossings need to be formalized and something needs to be done now. Work can be continued on other, long-term options at the same time as these short-term options are implemented.

—Council members voted 5-0 to adopt the following statement: The Council reaffirms support for the TA-funded planning and permitting project for Highway 1 medians, left turns, and crossing improvements. We continued to believe that these design elements are top priority and should be accomplished with urgency.

- b. (8:30) Pillar Point Harbor Community Priorities (Ketcham).** MCC Chair Lisa Ketcham provided a presentation on the history of Pillar Point Harbor and the Harbor District. See

<http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/issues/harbor-shoreline/2014-07-05-HD-LK.pdf>. Chair Ketcham also presented a draft letter to the San Mateo

County Harbor District Board of Commissioners providing preliminary MCC comments to the Harbor District for their Strategic Business Plan. See <http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org/storage/mtgs-com2014/2014-07-09-MCC-HD-PPH-priorities.pdf>.

—The San Mateo County Harbor District is developing a Strategic Business Plan and seeks community input on priorities for Pillar Point Harbor.

—Dave Olson, MCC vice chair—Feels that the MCC should approve the proposed comment letter before the Harbor District's public meeting on July 10, 2014.

—Bill Kehoe, Moss Beach—Concerned about the Harbor District's plans for "Perched Beach." Wants this issue called out, if not in the MCC's proposed comment letter, then in a future MCC comment letter. Wants the MCC to send this proposed letter and many, many more. Opposes parking fees at Pillar Point Harbor.

—Leonard Woren, El Granada—Supports the proposed MCC comment letter as currently written, and additional follow-up letters. Wants further MCC comments about the RV park at Surfers' Beach. Agrees with Bill Kehoe's comments.

—Lisa Ketcham, MCC chair—Mentioned the names and comments of other people who have written letters in support of the proposed MCC comment letter, including Sabrina Brennan, Lennie Roberts, Neil Merrilees, and Keith Mangold.

—Council members voted 5-0 to approve preliminary comments to the Harbor District for their Strategic Business Plan.

## **5. (9:05) Council Activity**

—MCC Secretary Chris Johnson mentioned that he participated in the Devil's Slide Ride bicycle event on June 28, 2014.

—MCC Chair Lisa Ketcham mentioned that traffic on the MCC website has been up considerably the last month due to the Highway 1 and Big Wave issues. There were spikes following the MCC email blast for the Highway 1 meeting and Nextdoor posts and discussions. Chair Ketcham also encouraged MCC members to like and share posts on the MCC Facebook page to boost public outreach.

—MCC Vice Chair Dave Olson is following the issue of developing County policy on vacation rentals in residential zones on the Midcoast.

## **6. Future Agendas**

—July 23, 2014—MCC letter to Caltrans about southbound left turn arrows at Sam's Restaurant in El Granada (Dave Olson).

—August 13, 2014—County presentation on Big Wave NPA project (at special venue)

—August 27, 2014—The MCC will review the Plan Princeton Alternatives document.

**Adjournment — 9:18 p.m.**