

The Granada Sanitary District is proposing to reorganize into a Community Services District in order to provide parks and recreation services to the unincorporated coastside in the El Granada area. The District currently provides sewer collection and solid waste and recycling services to the community.

The District proposes to offer parks and recreation services for the residents of the communities of El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar. The availability of proposed district facilities would benefit the adjacent City of Half Moon Bay, which presently has limited facilities used by residents in the unincorporated Midcoast. The proposed district would likewise benefit the Cabrillo Unified School District by making public recreation facilities available for school recreation purposes. The district is also open to further partnering with other public agencies and community organizations as the opportunity arises.

There has been a well documented and demonstrated need for additional parks and recreation opportunities in the unincorporated El Granada area. Innumerable plans, surveys, community meetings, and reports over the past 30 years have demonstrated this acute need for parks and recreation opportunities time and time again. The County Board of Supervisors completed the Midcoast Recreational Needs Assessment in 2002, which spoke to the lack of recreational services on the Midcoast. This study was followed up by the Summary of Midcoast Recreation Needs Report (based on input from several community meetings) issued in January 2007. It too reaffirmed the lack of parks and recreation services. Excerpts from the Summary Report include:

- The recommendations in the 2002 Mid-Coast Recreation Needs Assessment are still valid; the Mid-Coast still needs parks.
- The coastside areas within the unincorporated County still places a burden on the limited facilities in Half Moon Bay.
- Serving local needs also serve regional needs. Currently there is over-competition for limited recreational resources.
- Providing more parks in the community will help reduce existing traffic problems.
- There is a need for more restrooms, picnic areas, and water fountains throughout the Mid-Coast.
- Doing something immediately means doing something on lands that are already publicly owned.
- There are additional lands the community would like to see acquired. Need to prioritize what is achievable soonest.

Finally, the July 2007 Midcoast Action Plan for Parks and Recreation was prepared by the Midcoast Recreation Planning Team. The planning team members included representatives from the Half Moon Bay Parks & Recreation Commission, Cabrillo Unified School District, the Midcoast Community Council, the Midcoast Parklands, and two representatives from each of the Midcoast communities. The County of San Mateo Parks Department assisted with guiding the process and implementation of the plan until a governance organization was determined.

While all these studies point to the need for action, there is no existing governmental agency able to provide community park facilities and active recreational programs or open space connections to surrounding regional park facilities. In addition, there is no governmental entity which has the power to provide local recreation and park services, which has the power to acquire property for park and recreational purposes, which has an elected Board

of Directors, and which has the ability to receive grants and levy taxes and assessments and otherwise provide for local park and recreational needs and funding.

The Granada Sanitary District currently owns land on the Burnham Strip. The property is being utilized by the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside's Wet Weather Flow Management Project, which consists of a series of large underground storage pipes which are used by the sewer system to absorb peaks during heavy rains. Because the pipes are located underground, the surface property above them is available for use by the public. For the near term, the initial range of service will include general maintenance of this property. Should the District reorganize into a community services district with parks and recreation powers, there exists the opportunity for other public uses. Other future projects could include: development of neighborhood parks along the broad avenues of El Granada, as originally intended in architect Daniel Burnham's design of El Granada; partnering opportunities with the County of San Mateo for Quarry Park and/or the County owned Mirada surf properties; and additional partnering opportunities with the Cabrillo School District and the City of Half Moon Bay.

A local district would be able to ascertain the desires of local residents, respond to complaints and requests, focus entirely on park issues and operations, move quickly to acquire available properties and develop a long range plan for Coastside recreation. A district with its own staff (outsourced or in-house) and economic base would also not place a burden upon County staff and County economic resources, especially in light of the County's policy to operate only regional park facilities. The Granada Sanitary District proposes to use a portion of the property tax revenues it currently receives to fund the operations of a parks and recreation district. Again, there is no other governmental agency on the midcoastside able to provide such funding.