

420 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

August 23, 2013

MidCoast Community Council

RE: The Granada Sanitary District Application for Park Powers as a Community Services District

Dear Volunteers on the MCC,

The last five years of economic crises have dealt a devastating blow to all our cities, communities, and districts. This has especially been true of parks and their maintenance on the San Mateo County Coastsides. We have seen the county curtail its Parks and Recreation department. We have seen the city of Half Moon Bay outsource its parks department. There have been innumerable plans, surveys, community meetings held, and reports prepared over the past 30 years which have demonstrated an acute need for parks and recreation opportunities on the Coastsides.

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. Since no other agency is able to provide park services on the Coastsides, the Granada Sanitary District (GSD) is applying to do so. A local district would be best able to ascertain the desires of local residents, respond to complaints and requests, focus on park issues and operations, move quickly to acquire available properties and develop a long range plan for Coastsides recreation.

In addition to the acreage currently owned by GSD on the historical Burnham Strip, we envision development of neighborhood parks along the broad avenues of El Granada, as originally intended in architect Daniel Burnham's design of El Granada. We also see partnering opportunities with the County of San Mateo for Quarry Park and/or the County owned Mirada surf properties.

I am requesting your support in our effort to provide additional parks on the Coastsides and that you send a letter of support to Martha Poyatos, the Executive Officer for the San Mateo LAFCO. I have attached a list of additional benefits and a sample copy of a letter that you can adapt individually. If you have any questions, please call me any time at 650-726-9607.

Thank you for your consideration. This is a win-win situation for our County and our Districts.

Sincerely,

Ric Lohman (acting as an individual)  
President, San Mateo County Chapter, California Special Districts Association  
Director, Granada Sanitary District