

Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*
P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 - www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Chris Johnson **Lisa Ketcham** **Dan Haggerty** **Erin Deinzer** **Dave Olson** **Laura Stein** **Claire Toutant**
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May 11, 2016

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Jim Porter, SMC Director of Public Works
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Kellyx Nelson, SMC Resource Conservation District Executive Director

Subject: **Support for eradication of invasive jubata/pampas grass in the Midcoast**

Each year jubata grass, more commonly known as pampas grass, expands its hold on our coastal open space lands, degrading grassland, scrub, and rocky outcrop habitats by displacing native species, and increasing fire risk. Starting in August every year in the Midcoast, jubata grass blooms and produces vast quantities of wind-dispersed seed without even requiring pollination. The seeds remain viable for only one year, which should make control feasible with an area-wide coordinated program to eradicate existing plants and stop the bloom and seed dispersal cycle. We have seen gratifying results of various local projects, but without an area-wide effort and consistent follow-up, the results are short-lived.

The Midcoast Community Council (MCC) supports the goal of eradicating jubata grass in the Midcoast, from Devil's Slide south to the Highway 92 corridor, with a coordinated inter-agency effort. There is a three-month window now before this year's bloom cycle is upon us. Every jubata grass plant that dies before blooming this year represents many thousands of seeds that are not dispersed in the wind for new plants next year.

Please contact MCC member Lisa Ketcham, midcoastlisa@gmail.com, with any news regarding this issue and how the MCC can be of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration,

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
s/Chris Johnson, Chair