

Midcoast Community Council

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

Serving 12,000 coastal residents

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[Vacancy]

[Vacancy]

January 7, 2010

Charter Review Committee
County of San Mateo
455 County Center, Room 101
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Midcoast Community Council support for district elections for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

Dear Charter Review Committee:

As the elected representative advisers to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the residents of the unincorporated Midcoast communities of Montara, Moss Beach, Princeton By-The-Sea, El Granada, and Miramar, the Midcoast Community Council (MCC) respectfully submits this letter.

We agree with the June 30, 2009 Grand Jury report recommendations and urge you to support a charter amendment to provide for district elections for the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

California has 58 counties and San Mateo County with more than 734,000 residents ranks as the 14th most populated county in the state. However, San Mateo County is the only remaining county in California with at-large elections for Supervisor. During the last 40 years only one Coastside resident has been elected Supervisor.

The challenges and opportunities for residents of the Coastside are different from other parts of the county. As noted by the California Coastal Commission during their December 2009 hearing on County proposed Local Coastal Program amendments, the San Mateo County Coastside has special regulations, protections, and sensitivities unique as compared with other areas of the County.

The cost to run a county-wide campaign is much higher than a district campaign, and the expense of running such a large campaign drastically limits the candidate pool. For this reason, and in the interest of more responsive government, we request that the Charter Review Committee support a charter amendment to provide that San Mateo County Supervisors be elected by district.

We look forward to continued involvement in the public process.

Thank you for your consideration.

From the Midcoast Community Council

[Signed]

Neil Merrilees
Chair