

Midcoast Community Council

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

Serving 12,000 coastal residents

Post Office Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0064

<http://mcc.sanmateo.org>

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June 6, 2010

Jim Eggemeyer
Planning Director
San Mateo County Planning Department
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Big Wave – Big Wave EIR Status

Dear Mr Eggemeyer,

We are writing again (see letter dated 4/22/10), to ask for clarification of the EIR CEQA process in terms of County Planning Department policy.

It is our understanding that the project applicant, citing economic hardship, has offered that Scott Holmes, Big Wave Project Engineer will be providing responses to the public comments submitted in response to the DEIR as part of a collaborative process with Planning Staff.

Have independent consultants been required for the preparation of DEIR reports as a matter of Planning Department policy in the past. Is this policy changing? Will this process be available to other developers who cite economic hardship in the future?

Will the Big Wave developers be charged for this collaborative work by County staff?

Is it reasonable to assume that county staff could possibly perform this work at a lower rate than an independent consultant, who specializes in this work?

Wouldn't an EIR that is prepared with the help of planning staff in a "collaborative process" with the developer, create a public perception of bias and unfairness?

Could this new policy undermine the respect and credibility of the San Mateo County Planning Department permanently?

This issue has generated much concern, and we look forward to clarification of official Planning Department policy.

Sincerely,
s/Neil Merrilees
Chair, Midcoast Community Council
Cc Rich Gordon, SMC Planning Commission