

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>

Neil Merrilees
Chair

Len Erickson
Vice-Chair

Leonard Woren
Secretary

Deborah Lardie
Treasurer

David Vespremi

Bill Kehoe

October 8, 2010

California Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
801 K Street, MS 18-01
Sacramento, CA 95814-3528

RE: Letter of Commitment for San Mateo County Rural Conservation District (RCD) Application for 2010 Watershed Coordinator Grant

To whom it may concern:

The Midcoast Community Council (MCC), by a ~~x-x~~ vote, enthusiastically supports the San Mateo County RCD's application for a Watershed Coordinator grant. As local leaders in watershed planning, project development, and public outreach, RCDs are the bridge between agencies and landowners to meet long-term watershed goals. We are proud that our RCD was the first in the state of California, established in 1939, and that it has a number of innovative projects underway to improve lands management and water quality. The work of the RCD is accomplished through strong voluntary partnerships with land owners and managers, technical advisors, area jurisdictions, government agencies, advocates, and others.

As an elected Municipal Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors serving the coastside residents of unincorporated San Mateo County between the cities of Half Moon Bay and Pacifica, the MCC will continue to assist the RCD with community outreach, providing input and advice regarding issues of concern to residents of our constituent watersheds, and providing feedback regarding RCD programs and documents. The MCC will support products derived from this grant by providing a public forum of formal communication to the Midcoast at one of our meetings. In addition we will help insure all reports are distributed to the relevant agencies on the coast: SAM, GSD, MWSD and CCWD.

A challenge faced by the RCD is that tax revenues supporting the district, approximately \$50,000 per year, are inadequate to accomplish their ambitious workplan. The remaining funds are primarily derived from project-oriented government grants, which are severely restricted in how they may be used and are tied to very specific tasks. As a result, there are limited funds available for operating support, capacity building, and

programs that are delivered by the RCD that are not “billable” under the restricted grant funds.

We urge you to support the RCD in supporting our constituents’ efforts to protect and enhance watershed health. In the area we serve, the RCD conducts extensive water quality monitoring and improvement activities on public and private lands, hosts a regular “Blue Circle” forum for sharing information and ideas regarding resource management, is managing a project to identify the source of fecal contamination in our harbor, provides resource conservation technical assistance to private landowners, helped develop an assessment and strategies to protect water quality in the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Critical Coastal Area, and coordinated data collection activities for a Midcoast groundwater study that is intended ultimately to work towards development of a groundwater basin management plan.

Thank you for your consideration of the RCD’s request for support in their essential role coordinating watershed conservation activities.

Sincerely,

[SIGNED]

Neil Merrilees
Chair, Midcoast Community Council

Cc:
San Mateo Board of Supervisors