

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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3 August 1999

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Mary Griffin, President, and Members of the
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

re: El Granada Water Transmission Pipeline appeal by CCWD

Dear President Griffin and Members of the Board:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on 28 July 1999, the Midcoast Community Council voted (3 yes, 2 no, 2 absent) to forward the following recommendation to your honorable Board.

The Midcoast Community Council requests that the Board of Supervisors support the County Planning Staff's recommendation to *deny this appeal and uphold the decision of the Planning Commission to deny this permit* based on the following three points:

- **LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM – LACK OF COMPLIANCE**

Compliance with the Local Coastal Program (LCP) is the only environmental review that the public can use to evaluate the environmental consequences, as well as examining alternatives of this major infrastructure expansion project. Despite the requests of Half Moon Bay (HMB) and Midcoast citizens, the Half Moon Bay City Council, and the Midcoast Community Council (MCC) that a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be prepared (with emphasis on the growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project), the Coastside County Water District (CCWD) certified a mitigated negative declaration. We note that the MCC did seek support and assistance from the County Planning Department in ensuring that an EIR was done on this project – but to no avail.

Despite the fact that this pipeline will allow for 4.6 times greater water transmission capacity, the only environmental impacts CCWD has addressed are the physical attributes of the trench being dug for the pipe.

Attached are the LCP Policies that are relevant to the CCWD Pipeline Expansion.

- **COASTAL COMMISSION APPEAL**

Half Moon Bay's Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the Casa del Mar Pipeline (the first of seven construction phases proposed by CCWD for the overall El Granada Water Transmission Pipeline expansion) has been appealed to the Coastal Commission. At its July 15th meeting the Coastal Commission voted and determined that *a substantial issue exists* regarding the local government's action and its consistency with the certified Half Moon Bay Land Use Plan (LUP).

CCWD and their engineer confirmed that if a segment of the pipe (of the entire project) was not increased in size, hydraulically, the project would not function as designed. It would be premature for the County to move ahead with approval of this CDP since HMB's pipeline approval is highly uncertain. At this time the Casa del Mar portion of the project does not have a CDP.

Standing Committees

Parks and Recreation

Mary Hobbs, Chair

Planning and Zoning

Ric Lohman, Chair

Public Works

Joe Gore, Chair

- **PIECMEALING**

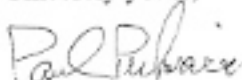
The project is not being presented in its full scope. There needs to be analysis of this entire project and how it relates to other proposed CCWD projects and how they relate to growth patterns and infrastructure in the Midcoast and in Half Moon Bay.

Currently Known Proposed CCWD Projects:

- (1) Expansion of 3.5 mile El Granada Transmission Pipeline from 10 to 16 inch diameter (goes from State Routes 92 & 1 north) without an EIR;
- (2) Expansion of 2.5 mile Carter Hill West Pipeline from 12 to 24 inch diameter (goes from Routes 92 & 1 south);
- (3) Planning to expand Denniston Creek Treatment Plant to the full capacity allowed by CCWD's state Water Rights Board permit;
- (4) Planning to convert a 40-acre-foot agricultural water storage pond (with a 10 foot high dam) east of the Half Moon Bay airport into a 500-acre-foot storage reservoir with a 30 to 80 foot high dam;
- (5) Transferring the remaining "priority" water connections (~1000 unused ones left) into "non-priority" connections;
- (6) An additional 305 connections of "non-priority" water connections;
- (7) Studying "reclaimed" water (partially treated sewage) for agricultural and other non-residential uses, which equals 100 million gallons per year.

This project is the first one of seven El Granada Water Transmission Pipeline expansion phases - 5 under the County's LCP, 2 under HMB's LUP. This and other planned pipeline expansions to the south in HMB are in turn part of the general water system expansion necessary for transmission, storage and treatment of "Phase 2" water to be delivered by expansion of the Crystal Springs project (which was granted a CDP in 1987, against the recommendations of the Coastal Commission staff at that time). In short, if CCWD can acquire a lot more water, the Crystal Springs pipeline can bring it to the Coastside, but cannot store, treat or distribute all of it. The pipeline being considered is only one piece of several local expansions needed to make up for that deficiency at the expense of CCWD resources - resources that belong to current ratepayers, not vacant landowners who would benefit from it.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Perkovic, Chair

Attachment: Summary of LCP Policies relevant to project