

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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27 September 1999

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Mary Hobbs, Chair

Planning and Zoning

Ric Lohman, Chair

Public Works

Joe Gore, Chair

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

re: Proposed Policy on Street Vacation Requests

Dear President Griffin and Members of the Board:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on 8 September 1999, the Midcoast Community Council voted unanimously to forward the following recommendations to your Honorable Board regarding street vacation requests in the Midcoast. We recommend the following policies:

1. Whenever possible, retain existing interests in property dedicated to public use for roads, trails, pedestrian walkways, or other thoroughfares, possibly in conjunction with a linear park or community park or "tot lot" for the use of nearby residences.
2. Where such public uses are inappropriate, retain public rights for unanticipated future needs and maintain the property as general community open space, consistent with the dedications in the original property subdivision.
3. As a last resort, and when an overwhelming showing can be made of clear public interest in vacating the public interest in property, abandonment of the public rights should be compensated at the equivalent current market value for similarly situated property. This value may be based on the average sales price per square foot of nearby lots. The proceeds of such sales of public rights should be placed in a restricted fund (*not* the General Fund) and used exclusively for the benefit of the community in acquiring and maintaining public community parks and similar community amenities in the area.

The enclosure shows an artist's concept of a pedestrian linear parkway and community corridor as it might be realized on a portion of East Avenue in Montara that is currently unpaved. This is an example of the type of public benefit that can be derived from existing property dedicated to public use within our community.

Sincerely yours,


Paul Perkovic, Chair