

Midcoast Community Council

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July 19, 1998

San Mateo County Harbor District Commissioners
C/o Peter Grenell, General Manager
Post Office Box 39
El Granada, CA 94018

Dear Commissioners,

At its July 8, 1998 meeting, the Midcoast Community Council voted unanimously to send this letter to the San Mateo County Harbor Commission, expressing our concern over the expedited development of two district owned land parcels in El Granada.

We believe that instead of "fast tracking" development at this time, the district should first be providing well publicized Forums or Town Hall Meetings where input and visioning from the community could be gathered and fully assessed before any action is taken, such as Requests For Proposals.

The fact that the Harbor Commission is currently comprised of primarily non-elected officials and that these appointed Commissioners do not reside here on the Coastside is a concern, and we believe that such critical land-use decisions regarding the Post Office lot and the Median Strip should be continued until after the election when a full majority will have been duly elected by the voters of San Mateo County. The Harbor District has owned both pieces of real estate for a considerable period of time and there does not appear to be a downside (economic or otherwise) for waiting until the voters have spoken in November

As you are aware, two appointed Commissioners must run in the upcoming general election in order to retain their seats and it would place the district in a very awkward and embarrassing position should members, who had just approved plans for a major development on the Coast, be turned away at the polls.

Due to the fact that the district has unfortunately been in the newspaper headlines of late, we believe it would now be more appropriate to wait until after the election before visiting (or re-visiting) these potentially volatile land-use issues. If acted upon prematurely, this issue could subject the District to unwanted criticism and unnecessary controversy.

Sincerely,

David Spiselman
Chair, Midcoast Community Council

c.c:

Supervisor Richard Gordon
Hall of Justice and Records
401 Marshall Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

Mr. Paul M. Koenig, Director of Environmental Services
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