

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar  
P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248*

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September 10, 2013

President Bernardo and Members  
San Mateo County Harbor District Board of Commissioners  
Via email

Subject: **SMC Harbor District Strategy for Dredging, Erosion Control, and Dredged Material Reuse at Pillar Point Harbor** (per 7/18/13 District Manager Memo)

The Midcoast Community Council's 6/12/13 letter to your Board communicated the strong community consensus and urgency for beach nourishment with harbor dredged material to address coastal erosion that has been greatly exacerbated by the construction of the outer harbor breakwater.

The District strategic goal of "beneficial use" of dredged material includes many uses other than beach nourishment, including filling inner harbor beach and tidelands for development, or mitigating for that loss (Beneficial Reuse sites BR 4 & 5). Public comment at well-attended community meetings in 2011 was overwhelmingly opposed to bulkhead, fill and development of Perched Beach. The District goal to use dredged material to expand the inner harbor Perched Beach, as mitigation for paving over the existing beach, is not what the community would consider beneficial use. The inner harbor area proposed (BR5) for dredged material placement is sensitive habitat and is not eroding. A condition of the amended Coastal Permit 133-76-A for the inner harbor was to preserve the inner harbor beach, not to fill and pave it.

We recommend that beach nourishment and public access be given highest priority in the strategic plan, and that in weighing project cost effectiveness, consideration be given to the public fund of property taxes which is the source of over half of District revenues.

West Shoreline Trail, as discussed at the 8/17/13 dredging strategy public meeting:

It is encouraging that repair and protection of the West Shoreline Trail will now formally be discussed with Coastal Commission staff. It remains a concern that the 2012 engineering study did not consider a beach nourishment alternative. At the meeting, the Harbor District General Manager said that there is no beach at the eroded trail segment; hence beach nourishment was not likely a practical option. There is indeed a beach at this location – it is just covered with dislodged rocks and rubble.

Romeo Pier: At the 8/17/13 public meeting, the General Manager stated, "Romeo Pier is falling down." This had been pointed out by the public at Harbor Commission meetings earlier this year, with reference to last winter's boat wreck at Ross' Cove, and concern for a similar marine debris disaster when the pier inevitably collapses. It has been over 15 years since the pier was closed as unsafe, with many of its pilings rotted away and dangling in the water. Its sole purpose is as future mitigation for a replacement pier in another location, which remains only a long-term District goal. We urge the District to bring forward a work plan and timeline to address this hazard.

Thank you for your consideration.

s/Laura Stein, Chair  
Midcoast Community Council

Cc: Madeleine Cavalieri, North Central Coast District Manager, CCC  
SMC Supervisors Don Horsley and Carole Groom