

# 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 - [www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org)

**Lisa Ketcham**   **Dave Olson**   **Claire Toutant**   **Laura Stein**   **Dan Haggerty**   **Chris Johnson**   **Brandon Kwan**  
Chair   Vice-Chair   Secretary   Treasurer

January 11, 2017

The Honorable Don Horsley  
President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
(via email)

Subject: **Budget Support for County Parks and Public Works  
for invasive jubata/pampas grass control**

Dear Supervisor Horsley:

In May 2016, MCC wrote in support of a coordinated Midcoast area-wide effort to eradicate invasive jubata grass, more commonly known as pampas grass (letter attached). We received encouraging replies from the National Park Service and Granada Community Services District, and participated in discussions on this issue at two County Weed Management Area meetings.

What we hear from County Parks and Public Works is that they have no budget for invasive weed control on an ongoing basis. Various one-time grants do not provide the consistent treatment and follow-up necessary to achieve significant, lasting, area-wide control. Only limited sporadic progress is made, and then lost.

With the goal of protecting our Coastside sensitive native habitats from continuing invasion and destruction by jubata grass, we ask your support for regular annual budget allocations to control this noxious weed in County Parks and in Midcoast public rights-of-way.

Thank you for your consideration,

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
s/Lisa Ketcham, Chair

cc: Sarah Birkeland, SMC Parks Interim Director  
Ramona Arechiga, SMC Parks Natural Resource Manager  
Jim Porter, SMC Public Works Director  
Joe LoCoco, SMC Public Works Deputy Director Road Services

# 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 - [www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org)

**Chris Johnson**   **Lisa Ketcham**   **Dan Haggerty**   **Erin Deinzer**   **Dave Olson**   **Laura Stein**   **Claire Toutant**  
Chair   Vice-Chair   Secretary   Treasurer

May 11, 2016

Don Horsley, SMC Supervisor  
Marlene Finley, SMC Parks Director  
Jim Porter, SMC Director of Public Works  
Chris Lehnertz, GGNRA General Superintendent  
Greg Moore, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy President  
Terry Kiser, State Parks San Mateo Coast Superintendent  
Walter Moore, POST President  
Ray Kwan, Caltrans Roadside Vegetation Manager  
Clemens Heldmaier, MWSD General Manager  
Delia Comito, GCSD, Assistant General Manager  
Barbara Kossy, SMC Weed Management Area Chair  
Kellyx Nelson, SMC Resource Conservation District Executive Director

Subject: **Support for eradication of invasive jubata/pampas grass in the Midcoast**

Each year jubata grass, more commonly known as pampas grass, expands its hold on our coastal open space lands, degrading grassland, scrub, and rocky outcrop habitats by displacing native species, and increasing fire risk. Starting in August every year in the Midcoast, jubata grass blooms and produces vast quantities of wind-dispersed seed without even requiring pollination. The seeds remain viable for only one year, which should make control feasible with an area-wide coordinated program to eradicate existing plants and stop the bloom and seed dispersal cycle. We have seen gratifying results of various local projects, but without an area-wide effort and consistent follow-up, the results are short-lived.

The Midcoast Community Council (MCC) supports the goal of eradicating jubata grass in the Midcoast, from Devil's Slide south to the Highway 92 corridor, with a coordinated inter-agency effort. There is a three-month window now before this year's bloom cycle is upon us. Every jubata grass plant that dies before blooming this year represents many thousands of seeds that are not dispersed in the wind for new plants next year.

Please contact MCC member Lisa Ketcham, [midcoastlisa@gmail.com](mailto:midcoastlisa@gmail.com), with any news regarding this issue and how the MCC can be of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration,

MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
s/Chris Johnson, Chair