

# 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**  
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Date: May 24, 2017

To: Summer Burlison, SMC Project Planner  
Cc: Renée Ananda, CCC Program Analyst  
Gary Burke, CFPD Board President  
Paul Cole, CFPD Assistant Chief

From: Midcoast Community Council/ Lisa Ketcham, Chair

Subject: **El Granada Fire Station Replacement Project, PLN2016-00346: Landscaping**



Fire Station design renderings and story poles show the structure carefully sited to minimize obstruction of public ocean views from Avenue Alhambra, but the landscape plan (8/17/2016), with tight rows and groupings of trees and tall shrubs, will needlessly block these views.

*LCP Visual Resource Policy 8.12.b – Locate and design new development and **landscaping** so that ocean views are not blocked from public viewing points such as public roads and publicly-owned lands.*

Removal of existing dead or dying pines and invasive blue gum eucalyptus should not require replacement with more large non-native trees in this view-sensitive location. Instead there is an opportunity to enhance native habitat, in the riparian buffer zone to the north, and also to the south with suitable native plantings that at their mature height will screen the parking/utility area without blocking ocean views from Avenue Alhambra. Trees used to screen parking/utility areas ultimately block the upper view and leave the lower view exposed.

The parcel's visual and open space characteristics, and public ownership, merit a requirement for locally appropriate native plants in the landscape. Please also require that landscaping trees and shrubs be selected and located such that at their natural mature height, they do not block public ocean views from Avenue Alhambra.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.