

# Midcoast Community Council

*An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar*

PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038

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

Claire Toutant, Chair  
Len Erickson, Vice Chair  
Barbra Mathewson, Treasurer  
Dave Olson, Secretary  
Dan Haggerty  
Michelle Weil  
Tamar Powell

## ***Minutes for Meeting of April 10, 2019***

### **Call to Order (7:00)**

Councilmembers present: Toutant, Erickson, Mathewson, Olson, Haggerty, Weil, Powell

### **1. Government Officials**

Mayor Harvey Rarback: The City Council has set priorities for the coming year. Highest is affordable housing, should be close to services and transportation; city will work to get more affordable housing built. 2nd was traffic issues, possibly new park&ride lot or shuttles. 3rd try to establish \$15/hr minimum wage. 4th emergency preparedness. 5th Environmental sustainability; HMB to be a leader on sea level rise, erosion, etc.

Hwy 1 North (of 92) safety design approved by the council; includes signal at Terrace and extending 4 lanes north towards Grandview. Likely to be completed by 2022. Approved Community financial services grants for non-profits, not limited to exclusively HMB organizations.

Apr 25 meeting organized by Sen Jerry Hill will cover emergency issues with PG&E, Caltrans, and Comcast attending.

Question by Barbra about traffic control at 92 & 1; appears to have started, asked if it will continue (deputies on site). Yes.

Question by Dan about Hwy 1 north traffic improvements in regards to congestion north to Frenchman's creek. Thinks signal timing there should be changed to favor Hwy 1 traffic; asked if that can be done (delaying traffic from Rousseau Francais). Harvey suggests talking to the HMB traffic engineer; should have been 4 lanes to avoid congestion, hope it will get fixed, but not likely soon.

Answered question about whether housing would be apartments or other; it's not yet decided.

Bob Nisbet (city manager) described the Coastside Community Preparedness day on May 4th, for the entire Coastside. Mentioned that he's now a resident of El Granada and walked to this evenings meeting.

### **2. Public Comment & Announcements (7:15):**

Gregg Dieguez update on fire report. Has complete inventory of all the hydrants. 15 hydrants tested out of 164 (in MWSD). His opinion is that 6 of 15 failed. In CCWD, 628 hydrants, 53 tested, in his opinion only one was deficient. Concerned about pressure drop if multiple hydrants in simultaneous use. Still waiting for ISO insurance report.

#### **Announcements:**

Claire described the wildflower and earth day event at Francis Beach.  
PCE is offering rebates for replacing refrigerators.

Dave mentioned a proposed Mirada seawall on CCC agenda, that was postponed, but staff report is available.

Barbra: Caltrans wants MCC to do cleanup for Earth day, she will schedule it.

### **3. Consent Agenda (7:20)**

Claire pulled community outreach funding (need more time). Dave pulled minutes for March 27 (not ready).

Moved Barbra, second Dan. Approved 7-0

### **4. Regular Agenda**

#### **a. (7:25) – Devil’s Slide Ride and Run**

Diana Conti gave background and introduced Sirenetta Leoni. Diana discussed the plans. Very similar to last year, same courses, expect about the same number of participants. They are using environmentally friendly road markings. Will also shuttle people who don't want to ride narrow shoulder near tunnels. Will also have a dog walk and whale talk. The ride will be on June 8, earliest start is 6:30AM; walk is at 10AM. Traffic affected from 6:45 to ; mostly single file; register at [devilsslideride.org](http://devilsslideride.org).

#### **b. (7:30) Discussion of Tunnel Closure and events of March 12**

Michelle presentation a timeline of the events, with official and community comments

Len introduced Jeffrey Weiss. Introduced Earl Sherman; Dist 4 maintenance supervisor.

Ray Vine (supervisors for HMB), and Leoncio Cirilo, Maintenance Superintendent of the tunnel.

Jeffrey summarized what happened from Caltrans perspective. Hopes this helps establish a communication channel with community. Tunnel closed when power is out. Tunnel has a UPS, but not enough power to operate fans. State Fire Marshall requires tunnel closure if fans not available in case of fire.

For Hwy 92, PG&E was doing maintenance on gas line right of way (with Caltrans permit).

Not just tree branches, also roots growing into gas line, so some trees were pulled completely out of the ground with a crane.

Caltrans sent out Sigalert at 4 and 6, with estimated opening time. Also put messages on alert signs with projected opening time. Caltrans assumed media and local agencies would pick up Sigalert. This time it mostly didn't happen.

Tunnel didn't open until 12:30am. Power was up after 2 hours, but one of the two phases wasn't working, so not enough power to run fans. After that was fixed, it took about 1 hour to get everything up and running again. Estimates on opening time were based on PG&E info.

Caltrans is talking to the county about possibly being able to use old Devils Slide as a bypass if something like the long power failure happens again.

Crane on 92 was going to be hard to move, and given timelines, it was decided not to break down. CHP did adjust one-way traffic control to favor westbound.

Discussed lack of SMCAAlert; not sure why alerts from Caltrans didn't make it to SMCAAlert.

Caltrans will work to improve that. Mentioned 511 and Caltrans quickmaps showing traffic issues.

Communication has improved. Example was Apr 9th delay at Gray Whale Cove for vehicle removal running late. Caltrans talked to PG&E and asked them to delay tree trimming road closure until later in the evening, and that did happen (but delayed until 9:15pm)

#### **Council clarification questions**

Len started with length of time for restart of tunnel operations. Asked if multiple restarts contributed. Tunnel person answered that the automated transform control didn't work in the 3 chambers; had to get PG&E to help. Why once phase problem was known, that further communications weren't sent out. Phones are out when power is out. Tunnel operations center is planning to get satellite phones.

CHP repeated from last meeting about PG&E that PG&E started late that night. Communication between divisions with radio has to be done explicitly. CHP non-radio communications dependent on cell, and cell coverage is difficult in our area.

Michelle asked about Sigalerts and format. Asked how public gets Sigalert info. CHP officer answered that they go out from a center to media and agencies. For public, 511.org or is best way to access. Also goes to some of the apps. She noted that the lighted signs originally said work started at 10PM, was later fixed. Ray Byne had noticed their board was wrong and had PG&E fix sign boards to match permit time of 7:30

Tamar asked why map on phone incorrectly showed tunnel was open. Jeffrey wasn't sure how apps got the wrong time, but will follow up.

Jeffrey said that the annual drills test for power issues, but didn't cover the phase issue.

Claire raised question on how emergency issues are handled if cell service and power are required for communications. Caltrans will upgrade to satellite phones to improve. Caltrans also looking into secondary power source from different PG&E grid. Generators have environmental issues (requires weekly testing).

Len asked about alternates, such as flywheels or very large battery systems. Caltrans engineers think amount of power required won't work for those systems. Still being investigated.

Dan: asked if power from HMB. Tunnel engineer said no, just Pacifica (two separate sources, but both from Pacifica). Still investigating secondary power from HMB. Both were down, because while independent wires, both came from same substation

## **Public questions**

Harald Hermann is not comfortable with what he's hearing; thinks there is finger pointing between agencies. Need better crisis management. Raised question about earthquake safety of tunnel. Tunnel has earthquake monitors.

Greg Dieguez wants a requirement that tunnel isn't closed to emergency services. Said that in a real disaster, grid power will be out. Life & Death situations, tunnel would be used.

Wendy Tseng: Asked why no public communication right after tunnel reopened? She works night shift, so was waiting to hear. Jeffrey said that they will look into it. He'd been told it was on 511.org. CHP said that possibly the traffic center operator missed the information.

Morgan lives on 92. Works at a hospital (on call), and needs to be able to plan on how to get the hospital. Wanted to know if there was any additional info on 92 PG&E work. Caltrans suggested contacting them via website. Wanted to know if it's just this week, or will be going on. Caltrans can get permit info. Can't get onto road during the work due to cars stopped.

Dave asked if Fire Marshall can relax restrictions, perhaps fewer vehicles in the tunnel at a time. Caltrans will look into it. Dave said that experience has shown that the fans aren't needed a good part of the time due to uphill air flow. Leoncio said that is true of northbound, but not so much on southbound bore.

Tunnel monitoring for carbon monoxide, etc. fails when there is no power.

Barbra's main concern is that we find some way to prevent this from happening again.

Caltrans is planning training to look for regional effects when more than one closure for the traffic management center.

Dan: why aren't the critical monitoring systems on UPS sufficient to keep them running.  
Caltrans will check on that.

**5. Council Activity (8:30)**

Dave summarized Tunitas Creek Citizens Advisory Committee completion of meetings.  
Len mentioned trying to get acting Parks Director Peggy Jensen to come to an MCC meeting.  
Claire mentioned county meetings on 3-Zero cafe, Dan to attend.

**6. Future Agendas**

April 24 - Presentation by SMC Sheriff and emergency communications personnel.  
May 8 - County Parks updates

**Adjournment (8:35)**