

# 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 24, 2019

### Call to Order (7:00)

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

### 1. Government Officials

(Ellie Dallman): Apr 25 forum summary. Office of Sustainability: Sat May 18, 10-2 tires and cellphone drop off. BoS proclaimed May as Mental Health Awareness Month. County fair and contests at the fair.

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

Heather Peters Coastside Emergency Corp, CERT, brief description of organization and volunteers.

#### Announcements:

Len gave followup on Caltrans from 4-10. Jeffrey said they have the funding to repair slide south of Gray Whale Cove. Skateboard ramp at Burnham strip needs to be removed. Dan 3-Zero cafe. May 8 to tour facility, May 24th deadline for proposals, in HMB Review today. Claire said that the Climate Change grant submittal is still open. There will be a Jobs Fair at La Costa on May 4. Dream Machines is on Apr 28.

### 3. Consent Agenda (7:10)

Moved Michelle, second Len. Approved 7-0

### 4. Regular Agenda

#### a. (7:25) – Discussion with Captain Saul Lopez regarding Sheriff's Office on the Coastside

Capt Lopez: Thefts from vehicles an ongoing issue. Reminds everybody to not have valuables are visible in vehicles. Reminder on Dream Machines traffic. He will be at the event, along with many volunteers from Sheriff's Dept. Moss Beach substation covers whole coast including HMB. Staffed from 8-5:30 business hours, but dispatch covers other hours. Provides fingerprinting services with appointment. Phone number: (650) 573-2801. Claire asked if extra traffic enforcement on weekends, Capt Lopez said yes, they have added additional coverage. They also patrol the coastal trail on bicycles during summer weekends. Volunteers are spread thing, and would appreciate additional volunteers.

Dan asked about parking on Mirada road right of way. Contact dispatch if traffic safety. 650-363-4911 is the main dispatch number.

JQ Oeswein asked about volunteers; are they officers or community members. Capt Lopez said they are community members with training. It is separate from CERT.

**b. (7:25) Discussion with Brian Molver about Emergency Planning on the Coastside**

Brian is the Coastside Emergency Services Coordinator for OES. He discussed his background (Fire and EMT), general preparedness, and planning for emergencies. Brian urged residents to not wait for alerts to evacuate, if they know the situation is dangerous. Check on neighbors as well. Prepare for earthquakes, and after an earthquake, check for gas leaking.

(Discussion postponed to be combined with following agenda item).

**c. (7:45) Discussion with Kevin Rose about County Emergency Planning, including SMCAAlerts**

Kevin talked about operations, volunteers, tsunamis. Discussed SMCAAlert system.

Available to a variety of emergency personnel. Sign up at <http://smcalert.info>. Currently about 99,000 signed up. Some alerts to all subscribers, others to areas affected (by interest when you sign up). San Mateo County system better than many counties. Also connects to WHEA nationwide wireless and landline alert system. Also connects to Emergency Alert System via radio and TV. Facilities such as Seton Coastside are required to be able to operate at least 72 hours in an emergency (generator, food, supplies, etc.)

Kevin covered some of the times no notification was sent, including March 12. Coordination with other agencies such as Caltrans and CHP; they rely primarily on broadcast (Sigalert). Sometimes fails to reach services such as SMCAAlert. Initial contact worked, but updates did not (relied on Sigalert).

During major emergencies they activate the Emergency Operations Center (locally in HMB) and bring in representatives from a variety of agencies.

Alerts are initiated from officers and emergency personnel in the field, sometimes they are too busy to send the alert, so it doesn't go out.

Barbra asked about tunnel on March 12, why no updates. Kevin said that Caltrans too busy dealing with issues to communicate with county alert system. Also referenced incorrect KCBS info about accident on St Patrick's day, and where they get the info. Kevin wasn't sure. Capt Lopez provided info that they and CHP were on scene for those accidents. CHP sends out Sigalert, which is where KCBS and others get their info.

Dave asked that Capt Lopez request that his deputies ensure that an SMCAAlert goes out once they are no longer tied up with dealing with the emergency, especially when closed roads reopen. Capt Lopez said that is their new policy.

Claire asked about power outages, and how to alert people who don't have power for wifi, cell towers, etc. Unfortunately, there is no solution for that. Can now text to 911, if you have coverage (as of Oct 2018), and can't or don't want to use voice. Kevin mentioned that landlines usually work during power outages. Also mentioned hand-held radios (including marine).

Michelle said that people on the coast have come to rely on SMCAAlert. Wants to understand the failures. Asked if there is a clear responsibility for alerts. Kevin replied that it is the field people, and must be approved by the incident commander. OES educating emergency responders on need to send out the communications. Be clear on location, not just street or highway name. OES responsible for about 5% of messages on SMCAAlert, 95% come from various emergency agencies. Also to try to send more updates during long-lasting issues.

Len asked if PG&E was responsible agency on tunnel closure, to keep Caltrans and public aware. Kevin said no direct connect from Sigalert to SMCAAlert. OES personnel such as Brian are available on a 24/7 basis for emergencies. Len asked how SMCAAlert team made aware; Kevin answered that Caltrans contacted SMCAAlert. Len asked if OES can be more protective about following up on known closures. Kevin responded that he's

waiting to here at Apr 25 meeting, but they rely on being contacted, they don't keep reaching out to the incident commander. Kevin said the way it "should have happened" was that Caltrans would have contacted SMCAAlert.

Tamar asked what would happen in an emergency (ambulance, fire) during tunnel closures. Kevin said that was a very bad traffic day, with other accidents on the bay side. Those weren't communicated via SMCAAlert either. If there was a casualty, then medical personnel would be involved and contact OES to get through. Life safety issues would allow emergency use of the tunnel.

Dan asked about OES addressing fire danger proactively. Capt Lopez said that is driven by CalFire in our area. Brian said property owners should reduce hazards on their property, especially clearing around the house itself. Ellie mentioned that County Parks is working with CalFire.

JQ Oeswein Asked how unincorporated areas covered by OES, since they aren't under city JPA. Asked about coordination with CERT/CEC. Any plans for emergency shelters or citizen emergency drills. Are there plans for audible alerts (not just tsunami sirens), also tsunami events.

Kevin said the JPA does include the County, and therefore the Midcoast, including funding. There are coordinators for the unincorporated areas. Kevin described the emergency response plans and coordination with CEC. No local authority for the two Coastside CERT organizations yet. Working on emergency shelters county-wide; no specific plans yet for coast. HMB has identified two facilities (one private, one government owned), but not yet Midcoast. OES would be happy to work with MCC or other bodies. Drills not currently planned, but would work with interested parties. New regional operations center is planned to coordinate local EOCs. Probably coordinated through CEAPs. Communications in tsunamis have and are worked on (recent state-wide exercise). Suggested looking at <http://smcready.org>

**d. (8:35) Update on Conversations with San Mateo County and Caltrans about Highway One in Moss Beach**

Len summarized the meeting with Supervisor Horsley, Caltrans, County Planning, DPW, and MCC representatives. The meeting covered near and long-term planning process and milestones. Mentioned that the Project Initiation Request (PIR) process. There will be at least 2, perhaps 3 PIRs, in order to expedite the Cypress roundabout. The 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the section California south to Cypress, and perhaps a 3<sup>rd</sup> for north Carlos/16th.

**5. Council Activity (8:40)**

Len summarized meeting with Peggy Jensen in preparation for MCC meeting. Discussion of issues, priorities, etc. MCC meeting will cover overall parks status, and specifically County Parks/CalFire joint effort at Quarry Park.

**6. Future Agendas**

Presentation by Parks Department.

Presentations about Green Infrastructure and SMC Disposable Food Service Ware Ordinance.

Consideration of letter to agencies about 3 previous MCC meetings on Emergency/Traffic issues.

**Adjournment (8:45)**