

Midcoast Community Council

representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar
P.O. Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248 - www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org

Claire Toutant . Len Erickson . Dave Olson . Barbra Mathewson . Dan Haggerty . Michelle Weil
Chair Vice-Chair Secretary Treasurer

Date: August 28, 2019

To: San Francisco PUC

cc: San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley
SMC Community Development Director Steve Monowitz
Superintendent, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
California State Senator Jerry Hill

From: Midcoast Community Council/ Claire Toutant, Chair

Subject: **Closure of Access to North Peak, Montara Mountain**

The Midcoast Community Council would like to express its concern about the loss of recreational resources associated with the permanent closure of the North Peak of Montara Mountain. This location has been a treasured goal of hikers and affords unparalleled views of the Bay Area.

We understand that the SFPUC owns the land in question, as well as much of the land around it. In addition, a portion of the land is leased to the County of San Mateo for a cell tower. In the past, the Summit has been reachable by the North Peak Access Road and the Montara Mountain Trail operated by GGNRA, both of which pass through McNee State Park.

In 2018, environmental studies were undertaken preparatory to enhancing communications and installing the Montara Mountain Rainfall Prediction and Radio Replacement Project for the SFPUC Watershed. During that process, the SFPUC noted habitat that could support endangered butterflies and decided that access to the area needed to be stopped with enhanced fencing. Work continued with the radar-related installations.

The MCC supports protection of sensitive habitat, but the context of this land's use is complicated, with many different state, county and local aspects. Residents and visitors to the area feel that, while some notice was given on the rainfall installation, there was no opportunity for input for modification of trail closures.

The MCC asks that the SFPUC make an effort to work with people who are affected by this closure to reach a solution that would protect the interests of everyone.