

# Public Comment

(Consent Agenda Items, County Manager's Report, Closed Session, and matters not listed on the agenda)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [David Canepa](#); [Carole Groom](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Dave Pine](#); [Warren Slocum](#)  
**Cc:** [CMO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Mirada Rd Replacement Bridge (2/9/21 ) Item 24; comment and please pull from consent  
**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021 8:44:04 AM

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Board of Supervisors,

I am a councilmember of the Midcoast, but write as a private citizen.

I request that this item be pulled from consent, for so that I can comment during the meeting on Feb 10.

I am quite unhappy about the quality of the IS/MND for this project, and the way that all concerns raised were dismissed as not significant, with this summary:

In summary, the comments received on the draft IS/MND did not raise any new issues about the proposed project's environmental impacts, or provide information indicating the proposed project would result in new environmental impacts or impacts substantially greater in severity than disclosed in the IS/MND.

In fact, very significant questions were raised about the massive amount of coastal armoring that this project requires, as well as potential increased erosion of the Medio Creek stream banks immediately upstream of the new armoring proposed with this project.

The IS/MND also ignores the increased erosion at the bridge, almost certainly caused by the armoring that DPW has placed just north of the bridge over the last 3 years.

The very brief review public period for this project is also a concern, particularly since the plans and the IS/MND are incomplete and internally inconsistent.

I strongly request that the IS/MND not be approved, and that additional engineering and erosion studies be completed before this project goes forward.

Thank you,

Dave Olson

[REDACTED]

ITEM NO. 4

February 8, 2021

RE: 02092021 Board Meeting, Item #4

President Canepa, Vice-President Horsley, Supervisors Groom, Slocum and Pine, County Manager Callagy and staff,

Your work and decisions made in the best interest of the residents of San Mateo County is always appreciated. It is also important to involve residents whenever possible to further civic engagement and demonstrate your commitment to enlist and listen to the voices of your constituents outside of election cycles.

Redistricting is one such area that needs to have public input from the very beginning including the decision on the type of redistricting commission to be adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Public input is always a best practice to follow as it provides full transparency preventing any perception of politicization of the process. I prefer an independent redistricting commission which allows complete transparency and no perception of interference by elected officials.

Since you have chosen an advisory commission, I request that prior to any further discussions on the form of commission to implement, that Supervisors do outreach in their districts to ensure residents are aware of the redistricting commission options and the characteristics of each one. Residents should be encouraged to attend your next Board meeting for a presentation on these options and have an opportunity to provide input. This extra step would have a minimal impact upon the schedule while ensuring that people's voices are heard.

California election code section 21500 states the Board shall adopt boundaries but does not require the Board to be directly involved in the process of determining those boundaries. It is not mandatory that the Board makes the actual appointments, only that they control both who is appointed to the advisory commission and the process for appointment. In fact, elec. code. 23000(b) states "Notwithstanding any other law, the local jurisdiction *may* prescribe the manner in which members are appointed to the commission."

The commissioner, regardless of the type of commission, should include the following considerations: define qualifications for all members and create one application with requirements that applies to all commissioners. Select one of two ways to appoint the commissioners:

- 1) Set up a committee to pick the qualified applicants for the commission which could be composed of the city clerk, former elected board of supervisor or other county commission members, non-profit organization representative(s) and 2 residents.
- 2) The board of the clerk (or another county staff person) randomly draws 3 qualified applicants from the pool. Those three commissioners review all the qualified applicants and choose the remaining 6 commissioners and 3 alternates to achieve the composition of the commission that the ordinance requires.

The Subcommittee recommendations overall are the beginning of the formation of an advisory commission. Allowing each Supervisors to choose a member from their district without clear selection guidelines could create a committee that leans towards one political party or only in the best interest of the supervisors as opposed to residents. All commissioners should be required to use the same application form as the remaining six members. In addition, alternates must also be appointed. Ca. code, section 23003 outlines criteria for hybrid and independent commissions that can be adopted for the less stringent requirements of an advisory commission.

It is also important to note that with an advisory redistricting commission, the code states “recommends” which implies the Board is not required to adopt the recommended placement of the district boundaries. This option allows the Board to reject and create maps that may or may not be the will of the people. This may not be the intent of the current supervisors, but sets a precedent for future Boards as well as all jurisdictions in San Mateo County that are required to redistrict.

Here is a link to a detailed guide to [Local Redistricting in CA](#) from Common Cause that discusses this (Recommendation about adopting Independent Commission appears on Page 22). Additionally, for an Advisory, Hybrid, or Independent Commission, it is a best practice to have it be independently appointed (Recommendation appears on Page 32). The League of Women Voters FairMaps [California Local Redistricting Toolkit](#) states on page 2 “believes that to be fair, districts should be drawn in a transparent manner by politically independent special commissions that use unbiased criteria to help keep communities intact and to ensure that everyone is equally represented.”

Until the final Census numbers are released this summer, we will not know for certain whether the districts formed in 2013 will remain substantially equal in population or in demographic makeup. *The North and South regions of San Mateo County have increased by more than 10%.* This increase in population may require a change in the current boundaries that would be best determined by a citizen’s hybrid or independent redistricting commission to ensure equal representation. *For example, the Cities of San Bruno and Menlo Park maybe in one district rather than two districts as is currently.*

The Board of Supervisors will be setting an example as to the best process for establishing district boundaries, particularly the newer jurisdictions. To ensure fair maps, with little or no influence by a jurisdiction is a significant step towards best practices for representative governance. To that end, I urge the Supervisors to take the additional step of educating County residents and allowing time for their input and consideration for the type of commission and process of determining district boundaries for the next 10 years.

Respectfully,

Pam D. Jones, Resident District 4



ITEM NO. 5

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CMO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item #5 Resolution on the State ERAP  
**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021 12:30:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Thank you Board of Supervisors for this excellent resolution to be voted on at your meeting tomorrow Feb 9, 2021.

I respectfully request that the County keep in close contact with LISC to make sure that there is an appropriate channel of communication between landlords and tenants. Since the legislation is mostly for landlords to apply, not only should landlords be pressured to apply, but there should also be a system put in place for tenants to be able to clearly find out whether their landlord has indeed applied and been approved.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Anne Fariss  
San Mateo, 94401

ITEM NO. 7



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Department Liaison:  
San Mateo County Office of  
Sustainability  
455 County Center, 4th Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
Phone: (888) 442-2666  
[www.smcsustainability.org](http://www.smcsustainability.org)

January 28, 2021

County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors  
Hall of Justice  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**RE: San Mateo County Unincorporated Active Transportation Plan**

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Respectfully, this letter is being submitted on behalf of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in connection with the consideration by the Board of the San Mateo County Unincorporated Area Active Transportation Plan.

The Plan fills an important gap in the County's overall transportation plan. It provides a framework and guidance for improving accessibility and safety for people walking and biking throughout the County's unincorporated communities. It reviews in detail a prioritized list of recommended projects, programs and policies. The Plan also identifies a series of visionary, high impact, regional planning priorities that affect, or in some cases are entirely contained within, the unincorporated areas. These include the Dumbarton Corridor Trail, the Bay to Sea Trail and the closure of a critical gap in the Crystal Springs Regional Trail.

The Plan was developed over a 20 month period, with BPAC input throughout the plan development process. As a key stakeholder, the BPAC received and commented on seven presentations from April 2019 to December 2020, with regard to such matters as the plan design process, the community outreach program, and the identification of projects and programs to be included in the Plan.

The BPAC wants to convey to the Board its appreciation for the hard work and creativity shown by County staff in the development of the Plan. We believe in particular that the community outreach related to the Plan, conducted both online and in numerous live community events, was exemplary, and that the Plan thus fairly reflects the needs and desires of the members of our unincorporated communities.

**The BPAC unanimously supports the Plan and recommends its adoption by the Board.**

We recognize that the Plan, while important, is just a first step. The Plan itself recognizes that further analysis is needed prior to the implementation of many projects, and that County staff will work to implement projects in a matter that aligns with the Plan goals and prioritization. Cooperation among the many affected departments and agencies and cities and towns will of course be key. But we want to emphasize that there are very substantial opportunities reflected in the Plan that, if realized, will

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Susan Doherty, *Chair*  
Fred Zyda, *Vice Chair*  
Bill Kelly  
John Langbein  
Elaine Salinger

Cristina Aquino (Alternate)  
Annie Tsai (Alternate)

*An Advisory Committee to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*

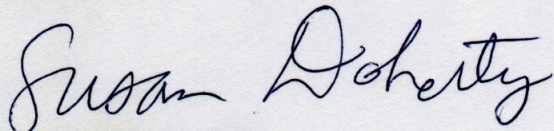




improve our environment, our personal safety and our economy as well. We hope that the Board will not only adopt the Plan but also do what it can to shove this in the right direction.

Please let us know how we at the BPAC can help the Board in its ongoing consideration and execution of the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Doherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and the last name "Doherty" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Doherty, Chair  
San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

cc: Carolyn Bloede



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CMO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Feb 9th Board Mtg\_Agenda Item #7\_Active Transportation Plan Support  
**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021 4:16:05 PM

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From: Parents For Safe Routes

To:  
Don Horsley, San Mateo County Supervisor, District 3  
Chris Hunter, Chief of Staff to Sup. Don Horsley  
Joe LoCoco, San Mateo County Deputy Director of Roads  
Julia Malmo-Laycock, Sustainability Specialist: Active Transportation  
County of San Mateo Office of Sustainability

**Re: Feb 9th Board Mtg\_Agenda Item #7\_Active Transportation Plan Support**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Parents for Safe Routes would like to express our support for the Active Transportation Plan and we applaud your commitment to improving pedestrian and cyclist safety in the County.

**In addition to the ATP, we ask that you agree to the following:**

\*establish a Task Force (similar to the one created for Alameda de las Pulgas) comprised of County staff, engineers, and community members to determine the safest transit option along all school routes, with special consideration paid to Coleman Avenue

\*partner with Menlo Park to ensure continuity of safety measures such as sidewalks and bike lanes along Coleman Avenue

Coleman Avenue is an important transit route for students attending Menlo Atherton High School, Peninsula School, Laurel Elementary (Lower and Upper), and Hillview Middle School. Coleman Avenue is unique because of its location in both Unincorporated San Mateo County and Menlo Park.

Thank you for your efforts to improve our local community and making our roads safe for students.

Sincerely,  
Brigid Roberts

Chair, Parents for Safe Routes

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CMO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** 2/9 meeting regarding the resolution to approve the Unincorporated San Mateo County Active Transportation Plan.  
**Date:** Monday, February 8, 2021 12:01:18 PM

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Dear ATP board,

Thank you for your continued service to making our community a better place to live and to the sustainability department for prioritizing Coleman Avenue.

Along with several neighbors from our Menlo Oaks neighborhood, I have been in touch with Supervisor Horsely to request that a Task Force be created to make Coleman Avenue safer for people of all ages and abilities, and for using all modes of transportation.

We recognize that because of where it is situated and the repeated attempts to find a solution for Coleman Avenue have created some fatigue about finding a solution. But what remains clear, is that Coleman Avenue is not a safe place particularly for the many students who commute to the nearby schools when they are in session. As outlined in our [February 12, 2022 letter](#) (which includes the signatures of 32 neighbors), numerous neighbors continue to be concerned about the safety along Coleman Avenue.

We have been closely following the ATP process and are concerned that the recommendations in this Transportation Plan do not take into account all use and design ramifications of Coleman. We strongly feel that we must come together as a community to weigh and analyze the trade-offs of different roadway solutions and include issues that makes this more than a neighborhood issue—like equity access in education as Coleman is a main artery for students attending Menlo Atherton High School from East Menlo Park.

We have been watching the Task Force's work created for Alameda de las Pulgas that included stakeholders ranging from those who live along the corridor, seniors, parents of school age children, cyclists and motorists. We are delighted to hear how successful that effort was and feel that this would be the best approach given the complex use of Coleman. **For these reasons, we are asking for a Task Force with a commitment to staff, engineers to engage community members to determine the safest option for Coleman Avenue.**

Thank you,  
Deborah Schafer  
[REDACTED]