

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*

Laura Stein
Chair

Lisa Ketcham
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Len Erickson
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August 28, 2013

President Bernardo and Members
San Mateo County Harbor District Board of Commissioners
(via email)

Subject: Video Recordings of Harbor District Commission Meetings

At the August 21st meeting of the Harbor Commission, the commission voted to discontinue the practice of recording regularly scheduled meetings using the resources of Pacific TV, the provider for local access TV on the coast. The MCC asks that the Harbor Commission rescind their decision of August 28, continue video recordings, and make the links to the video record available on their website.

The MCC is especially sensitive to this need for video records of commission meetings. Pillar Point Harbor is in the heart of the Midcoast Community. The practice of holding half of the commission meetings at a site remote from this community removes convenient accessibility for public meetings. With this mode of operation, video records are essential to support the spirit and practice of conducting open public meetings.

Currently a large number of publicly elected bodies use meeting videos as a standard practice. This includes the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and our own Midcoast Community Council. In addition both bodies post links to video's on their websites as a standard practice (see attachment).

Last week in public discussion commissioner's commented with concerns that published links to the video records made available on web sites and the video recordings themselves encouraged and rewarded discourteous behavior at their meetings. The MCC's experience with properly executed and publicly available videos is that they consistently inform the public and contribute to good process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/Laura Stein, Chair
Midcoast Community Council

Enc: Board of Supervisors and MCC webpages showing video links

cc. SMC Supervisor Don Horsley