

Midcoast Council Advances Healthcare, Parking and Fire Safety as Coast Grapples With Infrastructure Gaps

San Mateo County Midcoast Community Council - September 23, 2026

AI-Generated Report from Locunity and Coastie
Sep 25, 2026

						
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Board Packet Excerpt
*NOTE: This document is an excerpt of the original article.
Sections not relevant to RCD business have been omitted for brevity.*

The Midcoast Community Council packed its Sept. 23 meeting with action on two long-simmering issues — healthcare access and oversized vehicle parking — while hearing that a \$1.5 million budget overrun has stalled a major wildfire fuel reduction project on Highway 92. Underlying it all: a pattern of jurisdictional confusion and inter-agency friction that leaves coastal residents struggling to get answers on flooding, sewer failures and basic primary care.

- Council unanimously backs letter pushing county clinic to accept private insurance and Medicare, citing zero local primary care for insured residents
- Oversized vehicle parking restrictions approved for Capistrano Road; council urges countywide Midcoast policy with evacuation safety language
- Highway 92 fuel reduction project paused after bids come in \$1.5 million over budget; three other wildfire projects move forward
- Montara Water and Sanitary District declines to appear on Seal Cove infrastructure failures; LAFCO reprioritizes agency consolidation review
- County planner coaches council on how to make development review comments that carry enforcement weight

\$1.5 Million Budget Overrun Stalls Highway 92 Fire Project; Three Others Advance

The basics: San Mateo County's Resource Conservation District has four active wildfire resilience projects along the coast. Timothy Federal manages the district's Forest Health and Fire Program and is the newly designated Wildfire County Coordinator. Projects are managed individually by John Martinez (Highway 92),

Erin Andrew (Pedro Point) and Eddie Sanchez (GGNRA projects and Kings Mountain).

Where things stand: The biggest setback is the Highway 92 fuel reduction project, where bids came in \$1.5 million over budget, forcing a pause. *"We got our bids back for that project, and unfortunately they came in \$1.5 million over budget. So that's a considerable amount of money. So we are pausing that project until next year,"* **Federal** reported. The RCD is working with Cal Fire, SFPUC and Caltrans to find additional funding.

Three other projects are moving ahead:

- **Pedro Point Headlands** (Highway 1 north of the tunnels): Funded by the Coastal Conservancy and Caltrans, hazard tree removal will begin on Oct. 6. The Coastal Trail from Devil's Slide will be closed from Oct. 6 to 16. Operations will pause during rainy season and will return in spring or summer for more fuel reduction work along the Coastal Trail alignment and behind homes in the Pedro Point neighborhood. Caltrans is set to begin work within the right-of-way in spring, with one-way lane closures expected. More information, including a sign-up link for traffic alerts is available here: [Pedro Point Headlands Wildfire Resilience and Evacuation Route Improvement Projects](#)
- **Montara Prairie Renewal and El Granada Fuel Reduction** (GGNRA land): Monterey Pine and invasive shrub removal begins Sept. 29 to restore grassland along San Pedro Mountain Road and reduce wildland-urban interface risk near Farallone View Elementary. Additionally, a 50-foot fuel break along GGNRA boundary behind homes on Harbour Drive, Coral Reef Avenue and San Carlos Drive in El Granada will be maintained to improve defensible space. More information can be found here: [Montara Prairie Renewal Project](#).
- **Kings Mountain Strategic Fuel Reduction:** Fuel reduction is underway along Highway 35 between 92 and 84 with traffic control between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. through Sept. 30. Future work includes defensible space around Kings Mountain Elementary and along local secondary streets. This project is a collaborative effort with Fire Safe San Mateo County and funded by CAL FIRE. More information can be found here: [Kings Mountain Strategic Fuel Reduction Project](#)

Councilmember Connie Santilli asked **Federal** to return for a future presentation on how fire hazard zone classifications — particularly the gap between CPUC tier designations and fire severity zones — apply to Midcoast neighborhoods and affect insurance rates.

What's next: **Federal** agreed to look into hazard classifications and send information to the Council.
