

## Debbie Gehret

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**From:** John Moren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 3:24 PM  
**To:** Debbie Gehret  
**Subject:** FW: Special Meeting, October 18, 2019

**From:** James Lee <jamesleerwc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 16, 2019 2:28 PM  
**To:** Virginia Chang Kiraly <vchang-kiraly@smharbor.com>; Nancy Reyerling <NReyerling@smharbor.com>; Edmundo Larenas <ELarenas@smharbor.com>; Tom Mattusch <tmattusch@smharbor.com>; Sabrina Brennan <sbrennan@smharbor.com>  
**Cc:** John Moren <jmoren@smharbor.com>; Julie van Hoff <jvanhoff@smharbor.com>  
**Subject:** Special Meeting, October 18, 2019

Dear Harbor District Commissioners,

It is my understanding based on the agenda published that on Friday you will be hiring a new General Manager (GM) for the San Mateo County Harbor District (SMCHD) in a closed session meeting. I strongly oppose such a meeting and urge you to call it off in favor of a significantly more open process that ensures:

a stakeholder panel interview that offers commercial, recreational, and environmental interests to be heard;

genuine attempts to ensure all five Commissioners can be PRESENT and have opportunity to give input during the hiring process; and

an agenda item in an OPEN SESSION, REGULAR meeting that provides ample opportunity for the public to attend and give input into the process.

A closed session meeting of the district in which even a few specifically identified stakeholders within the broader public do not get to participate or even view the hiring process runs counter to principles of transparency, fairness, and good governance. It certainly violates the Draft "Code of Ethics" policy you will be examining at tonight's regular meeting, which under "Goals of the Code of Ethics and Values" includes the language:

To provide good government and transparency to serve the public."

Citation: Draft Amended Policy 1.1.1 'San Mateo County Harbor District Code of Ethics and Values' (tracked changes including Commissioner Chang Kiraly recommended amendments)

The special meeting to be held on Friday is dangerous not only in its disregard for inclusive, transparent governance, but because it ignores deep history at the Harbor District. Years of documented favoritism, and "pay-to-play" behavior from past permanent GMs have sowed a profound legacy of distrust between the district and key stakeholders—a legacy which the current board and staff are still reaping. To conduct the GM hiring process in a closed session of a non-regular meeting shows poor judgment and a disregard for the concerns of key stakeholders as well as the broader public in San Mateo County.

I urge that you call off the Special Meeting on October 18 and modify your GM hiring process so that:

the District conducts a stakeholder panel interview that offers commercial, recreational, and environmental interests;

the District makes genuine attempts to ensure all five Commissioners can be present and heard in the hiring process;  
and

the District ensures that there is an agenda item in an OPEN SESSION, REGULAR meeting that provides ample opportunity for the public to attend and give input into the hiring process before a decision is made.

Thank you,

—

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