

Commissioner Edmundo Larenas on why is it important to appoint members of the public to Committees February 17, 2021

We are extremely fortunate to have members of the community willing to serve on our committees.

San Mateo County has over 40 commissions and committees. Some like the Mid Coast Community Council have elected members. Others like the Commission on Aging are populated by interested members of the public who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Most of the Commissions and Committees are populated by members of the public and with members of the Board of Supervisors.

Committees are a valuable and important resource for local government including the San Mateo County Harbor District. They generally serve an advisory role and make recommendations to the appointing body.

Appointing members of the public to Committees ensures absolute board control.

Appointing members of the public on committees provides the organization an opportunity to tap into a vast resource of expertise, passion, and commitment.

Appointing members to Committees also ensures they are populated by active members. It encourages public participation.

Appointing members of the public to committees is one of the best outreach mechanisms available to our organization.

Strong committees do the great work and encourages public by-in !

Committees are especially valuable when they include members, public and Board, with divergent points of view. They research, they network, they do public outreach and they reach consensus and eventually make a final recommendation to the board for discussion and approval.

Our District, by excluding the public from appointment to our committees, has lost all of this and worse yet it has sent the shameful message to the people we serve that their voice is not important.

Committees and Commissions of San Mateo County

- [Agricultural Advisory Committee](#)
- [Arts Commission](#)
- [Assessment Appeals Board](#)
- [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee](#)
- [Board of Building Permit Appeals](#)
- [Charter Review Committee](#)
- [Civil Service Commission](#)
- [Colma Creek Citizens Advisory Committee](#)
- [Commission on Aging](#)
- [Commission on Disabilities](#)
- [Commission on the Status of Women](#)
- [Confined Animal Technical Advisory Committee](#)
- [Deferred Compensation Committee](#)
- [Design Review Committee - Bayside](#)
- [Design Review Committee - Coastside](#)
- [Domestic Violence Council](#)
- [Emergency Medical Care Committee](#)
- [Emergency Services Council](#)
- [Event Center Board of Directors](#)
- [First 5 San Mateo County](#)
- [Housing and Community Development Committee](#)
- [Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council](#)
- [Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission](#)
- [Law Library Board of Trustees](#)
- [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer \(LGBTQ\) Commission](#)
- [Measure K Oversight Committee](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission](#)
- [Midcoast Community Council](#)
- [Mosquito and Vector Control District](#)
- [North Fair Oaks Community Council](#)
- [Parks Commission](#)
- [Pescadero Municipal Advisory Council](#)
- [Planning Commission](#)
- [Public Authority Advisory Committee](#)
- [Resource Conservation District](#)
- [San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council \(CAPC\) \(formerly Children's Collaborative Action Team \(CCAT\)\)](#)
- [San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council](#)
- [San Mateo County Community Action Agency Board](#)
- [San Mateo County Employees' Retirement Association \(SamCERA\)](#)
- [San Mateo County's Health Care for Homeless/Farm Workers Health Program](#)
- [San Mateo County Transit District \(SamTrans\)](#)
- [San Mateo Health Commission](#)
- [San Mateo Medical Center Board of Directors](#)

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Description

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Committee is to assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Planned Agricultural District Ordinance and the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program.

Vacancies

- 0 Current Vacancies
- 0 Terms Expired

Size 15 Members

Term Length 4 Years

Term Limit 12 Years

- **MEETINGS & LOCATION**

2nd Monday of each month

Ted Adcock Community Center - South Day Room
535 Kelly Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

- **CONTACT**

Laura Richstone, Planner II
455 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 363-1829

lrichstone@smcgov.org

- **WEBSITE**

<http://planning.smcgov.org/agricultural-advisory-committee>

- **AGENDAS AND/OR RELATED LINKS**

<https://planning.smcgov.org/agricultural-advisory-committee-meeting-schedule>

- **MEMBERSHIP**

15 members, consisting of one Agricultural Business, one Conservationist, seven Farmer/Growers, two Public Members and four Non-Voting members (Executive

Director, San Mateo County Farm Bureau; Executive Director, National Resource Conservation Service NRCS; County Director, UC Cooperative Extension; and County Agricultural Commissioner).

- **TERMS**

4 Years; maximum 12 years (applies only after 1995)

- **DUTIES**

The Committee is to actively assist in the preservation of agriculture throughout San Mateo County by advice and recommendation to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

- **APPOINTING AUTHORITY**

Board of Supervisors

[Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee](#)

AGENDAS AND/OR RELATED LINKS

<http://www.smcsustainability.org/livable-communities/active-transportation/>

- **MEMBERSHIP**

The Commission shall consist of five voting members who shall be residents of the County of San Mateo and who regularly walk and/or ride a bicycle for transportation purposes. One member shall represent the interests of the Safe Routes to School Community; one member shall represent the interests of Older Adults; one shall represent the interests of Bicycling Transportation; and the two remaining seats shall be At-Large.

- **TERMS**

For the initial appointment of members, two members shall be appointed to serve two year terms and three members shall be appointed to serve four year terms. Thereafter, each of the terms shall be four year terms. Upon the conclusion of a term, a member may be reappointed subject to a maximum of three complete four year terms.

- **DUTIES**

To advise and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors; to develop and implement an annual work plan; to provide a public forum for input from the members of the public and to identify unmet needs; to act as an advocate for people walking and bicycling; and to fulfill other duties and engage in other activities as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

Edmundo Larenas Comment to California Coastal Commission on Coastal Development Permit for the West Shoreline Trail Project. February 12, 2021

Honorable Commissioners and Staff thank you for this opportunity to speak.

I am a Commissioner on the San Mateo County Harbor District. I am not speaking on behalf of the Commission or the Harbor District. I am speaking as an individual Commissioner and as a member of the public.

I am here in support this project and to thank Coastal Commission Staff for their excellent work and support.

It has been long road to get to where we are today. And we could not have gotten here without the guidance and support of the Commission Staff.

In 2012 the district contacted GHD engineering to provide a draft condition report on erosion of the west trail. By 2015 the erosion problem was such that the district was given an emergency CDP to implement temporary repairs to the trail. In 2016 GHD completed their work and recommended a rock slope protection alternative for the West Trail. In 2017 the District voted to reject the rock slope protection in favor of a shotcrete wall by a 3 to 2 vote. Commissioner Brennan and Larenas voted no favoring sand replenishment and living shoreline alternative.

Given this approval by the Harbor District Board we were now headed toward building a cement wall to protect the trail with all the consequence inherent in this approach. Loss of the beach, and the likelihood of enhanced erosion at the wall boundaries leading to the need for more protection and more wall.

I am here to thank coastal commission staff for rejecting the cement wall trail protection and asking the Harbor District to consider a living shoreline alternative. And here I quote your staff report:

“Staff believes that the project, as conditioned, is an important project, not only for the Pillar Point Harbor area and its users and habitats, but also for the Commission, where the promise of living shorelines can be put to the test, and where lessons learned here can be applied elsewhere along the California coast.”

I wholeheartedly agree!

In fact, I am hoping that the harbor district will use the learnings from this project to enhance public access in other areas of the harbor