



Montara Water & Sanitary District

Serving the Communities of Montara and Moss Beach

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May 16, 2025

Director Dina El-Tawansy
District 4
California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 23660, MS-11
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Mark L. Weaver, Deputy District Director
Right of Way and Lands Surveys
California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 23660, MS-11
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Re: Response Needed—Continued Extreme Fire Danger of Unmaintained Caltrans Right of Way in Montara

Ms. El-Tawansy, Mr. Weaver:

In March, Montara Water & Sanitary District (MWSD) emailed you regarding the extreme fire danger of Caltrans property in Montara. **To date, we have received no response.**

We find it unacceptable that a property owner can just fail to respond to a hazard. We believe it untenable that a public agency fails to respond to the public which it serves. Our community is frightened by this extreme fire hazard in our backyards and our critical watershed.

This hazard needs resolution. Do not just let trees and vegetation continue to grow unabated.

A fire on this property will not only damage homes, but will destroy our community's water system. That's what happened in Paradise and other conflagrations. A fire here will introduce debris, erosion, and toxins into critical coastal ecosystems, the watersheds that provide our drinking water, our community water distribution and sewer collection systems, as well as private and community groundwater wells. These impacts will also be felt on our coastline, and throughout the protected Montara State Marine and Fitzgerald Marine Reserves.

We need your immediate plan to eliminate this fire hazard.

We ask Caltrans to immediately address the fire risks, and then transfer this property to MWSD, a responsible land owner. We are ready to maintain this property and reduce this fire risk.

Stop just letting the trees grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Boyd".

President Scott Boyd

On behalf of the Montara Water and Sanitary District Board of Directors

Director Kathryn Slater-Carter

Director Bill Softky

Director Carlyle Ann (Cid) Young

Director Peter Dekker

cc: *Via electronic transmission*

CA State Assemblymember Marc Berman

CA State Senator Josh Becker

County of San Mateo Board of Supervisors:

President David J. Canepa

Vice President Noelia Corzo

Supervisor Lisa Gauthier

Supervisor Ray Mueller

Supervisor Jackie Speier

Lennie Roberts, Committee for Green Foothills

Steve Monowitz, San Mateo County Planning

Dan Carl, Isobel Cooper, California Coastal Commission

Coastal Conservancy

Rob Bartoli, San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)

Midcoast Community Council

Red Alert Montara Moss Beach (RAMMB)