

April 27, 2005

Mr. Albert Ventura
Project Officer, Golden Bears Section
California State Parks
Office of Grants and Local Services
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Re: Youth Soccer Grant Application of Half Moon Bay (November 5, 2004)

Dear Mr. Ventura:

As citizens of Half Moon Bay we urgently write you because the Grant Application above contains outright misrepresentations of material fact and significant failures to disclose material information. This letter identifies those instances and attaches corroborating information. We believe it would be an abuse of the announced policy goals of your grant program to allow the application to proceed under present circumstances and we ask that the processing of the Application be stopped until the supporting data for the Application is truthfully stated. As California taxpayers, we believe our agencies are charged with the duty to spend our money responsibly, and accordingly we have copied our elected representatives on this communication.

At the same time, we wish you to understand that we strongly support youth soccer in our community, but its funding must fall under the same rules of integrity and fair play as any other program. We comment further on this in the course of our letter.

Governing Law and Application Requirements

We have reviewed your Department's 55-page "Procedural Guide" dated October, 2003. We assume that there have been no substantive changes in the Guide not posted to your website. The Guide contains expected requirements in a number of areas. For instance, at p. 4 the Grantee is required to comply with all applicable current laws and regulations. By definition, this would include CEQA and its Regulations. At pages 13-19, Project Selection Criteria and a point-count system are set forth. We will address both of these in the context of the misleading information you have received from the city.

Representations Contained in Application; Contrary Evidence

The Application contemplates the construction of three soccer fields and a variety of other high-intensity uses (p. 3). It also states that the sole entrance to the park (subject to possible emergency ingress/egress off Highway 92, a future CalTrans issue) is from Stone Pine Road (p. 4). This letter addresses the need for such a usage, and hence the point count. Other correspondence from concerned citizens will focus upon the traffic issue and related environmental problems which we feel are unsolvable.

In regard to the level of community support for additional soccer facilities, the Application refers (p. 5) to the Mid-Coast Recreational Needs Assessment (2002) prepared for the Parks and Recreation Division of the San Mateo County Environmental Services Agency. We attach a full copy of the Assessment at Tab 1. Please review the findings of the Assessment at pp. 144-145 and correlate with the findings of your Department, statewide, presented on p. 138. Soccer fields are viewed as a very low priority.

1¹

The Mid-Coast Assessment carries high credibility because it was recent, it was commissioned and performed under County auspices, and because it represents not only the results of extensive surveys but also the opinions of leaders of key stakeholder groups. In addition, since the service area for the Assessment puts much of Half Moon Bay within the service area, the argument cannot be made that the service areas of Mid-Coast and Half Moon Bay proper are mutually exclusive. That argument would be specious. Contrary to what was implied to you in the Application, the findings of the Assessment are that additional soccer fields are a low priority. We believe that you were not supplied a copy of the Assessment with the Application.

The second persuasive document is the City of Half Moon Bay's General Plan, and in particular the Park and Recreation Element of same (see p. 10 of Application), initially dated July 26, 1990 and revised August 29, 1995. While the General Plan (in the guise of the "Local Coastal Plan") is now undergoing review, it is far from complete or approved and the only extant guidance is the Element (commonly termed "Master Plan") which we have attached at Tab 2. The service area for Parks and Rec facilities within the City of Half Moon Bay includes the entire Coastside region, including the Mid-Coast (Master Plan, pp. 11-13).

2

Please carefully review the lists of preferred facilities and priorities set forth at pp. 26-27 of the Master Plan. Soccer fields are assigned a low priority, similar to the Mid-Coast Assessment. This did not change when the document was updated. In addition, the growth assumption contained in the document was 3% per year (former law), which has since been restricted by law to 1% per year. In fact the population of the city is presently reported as 12,050 (Application, p. 5), far below the 14,000 predicted for 2005 in the Master Plan (p.10). The disparity from projections will of course widen in years to come. We believe that you were not provided with the Master Plan as part of the Application.

3

The city's Application (p. 6) contends that the current school ground soccer sites are poorly maintained. That is, in fact, a 15-year-old observation contained in the Master Plan and lifted directly from its text (p.16). We submit that the same would not hold true today, and that the school paying fields currently used are in far better condition now than 15 years ago.

4

The Grant Application "Point Count" Process

At p. 13 of the Procedural Guide, your Department requests a description of the need for the proposed project. Reference to the text of the Mid-Coast Assessment and the Master Plan conclusively shows that the project is a low community priority. At p. 13 of the Procedural Guide, your Department asks questions concerning the accessibility of the Project. Specifically,

¹ Numbers in the right margin direct the reader to the referenced language in the attachments.

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your Question 4 asks "what obstacles or barriers within the Project area may limit access to the project site. The answer given by the Application (pp. 9-10) is incomplete and completely disingenuous. We refer you to the letter of residents on traffic concerns and other environmental issues which is concurrently submitted. In summary, the project would be landlocked except for a narrow, "no parking", 500-yard Road (Stone Pine Road) which bisects a townhome project. There is no ancillary parking available to supplement the proposed 50-car lot (Application, p. 9) and the usage of the facility as estimated by the city is 100,000 (Application, p. 8 under "Visitation"). Most of this will be auto traffic as the result of the far-flung service area of the park, most of it will occur on weekends, particularly because of soccer, and *little* of that traffic will be able to find a place to park. In short, a high-intensity usage of any type for this park is a "non-starter". Please ask the city for relevant traffic studies for the intersections of Main and Stone Pine, Main and Hwy. 92 and Hwy. 92 and Hwy 1, addressing weekends, and you will see what we mean.

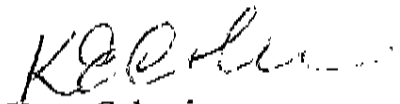
Question 5 in your Department's Procedural Guide refers to "community support and collaboration". Again, the Application is highly misleading. Please review the attached source documents, which are the only authentic and authoritative surveys prepared on soccer. The city's Application is conclusory and not supported in any way.

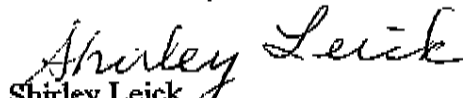
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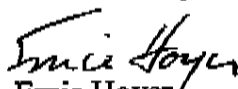
We note that the city has convened a "process", ostensibly to design the new park. Since the "process" was begun without telling the community about the Application, and since it was not a qualified survey process but rather a series of exercises conducted by a handpicked "committee" selected by the same officials who submitted the Application, we believe that this is simply a clever process created to ratify a pre-ordained result. In view of 12 years of careful work by the city and the county which have yielded consistent results, the assertion of need for additional soccer fields, especially at this location, is simply not credible.

Please stop this grant Application in its tracks. Thank you for your time and attention to the needs of the citizens.

Very truly yours,


Karen Colucci
142 Patrick Way, Half Moon Bay 94019


Shirley Leick
23 Erin Lane, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019


Ernie Hoyer
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20 Erin Lane, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019


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51 Patrick Way, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019


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41 Patrick Way, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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Attachments:**Tab 1: Mid-Coast Recreational Needs Assessment, October 29, 2002.****Tab 2: City of Half Moon Bay General Plan, Park and Recreation Element, July 26, 1990,
Revised August 29, 1995.****cc (w/o attachments):****Betty Ettinger, Office of Grants and Local Services****Supervisor Richard S. Gordon, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors****The Honorable Gene Mullin, California House of Representatives****The Honorable Jackie Speier, The State Senate, Sacramento****W. Stephen Wilson, Tobin & Tobin**