

To: San Mateo County LAFCo

May 17, 2026

Public comment for meeting 5.20.26 – please accelerate a review of Montara Water and Sanitary District's abandonment of sewer infrastructure and service since early 2025 in Seal Cove in Moss Beach.

Dear LAFCo,

We are residents and homeowners in the Seal Cove neighborhood in Moss Beach, California, zip code 94038. This is a beautiful and environmentally sensitive area located adjacent to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, part of the California Coastal Trail, and within an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

We are adding our concerns to other comments and letters to you from Seal Cove residents. We have had at least 2 **raw sewage leaks** for more than **1 month each** (since April 2025) and **unlawful abandonment of public sewer facilities** by **Montara Water and Sanitary District (MWSD)**. MWSD has unilaterally decided to abandon customer support without advanced notice and public discussion and input. We believe this is an unlawful action by a public utility.

Our Concerns:

1. **Abandonment of Responsibility**: MWSD has unlawfully abandoned public sewer main pipes & argued that they have always been private, despite decades of documented maintenance and replacement, including work performed on this infrastructure by MWSD last year.
2. **Lack of Public Process**: No board vote, resolution, or public notice has ever been issued reclassifying this sewer main as no longer MWSD's responsibility.
3. **Public Health Threat and Negative Impact to the Environment**: Prolonged exposure to untreated sewage increases the risk of illness and long-term environmental damage. Raw sewage is discharging into the street & surrounding coastal bluff, seepage areas, and Pacific Ocean, posing an imminent threat to the residents & the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's protected intertidal habitats. We are concerned about future sewage pipe breaks that will also not be addressed by MWSD. Homeowners are not knowledgeable on how or whom to obtain repairs.

As stated by our neighbors, we believe this situation may violate:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) – by allowing pollution to enter navigable waters without a permit

2. California Ocean Plan – which prohibits unpermitted discharges into ASBS-designated waters
3. California Coastal Act (Pub. Res. Code § 30000 et seq.) – particularly §§ 30230 and 30231 protecting marine resources and water quality

We respectfully request that your agency investigate & request MWSD to ensure public transparency & due process before **discontinuing service unilaterally**.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. The neighborhood is committed to working collaboratively to preserve this irreplaceable stretch of California's coast, protect marine ecosystems, and ensure the safety of residents.

Sincerely,

Lana and Lawrence Witt
lanageewitt@gmail.com
106 La Grande Ave
Moss Beach, CA 94038
(415) 509-7810



Legend

MWSD

- Manhole
- Pump Station
- Rodhole
- Pipes

Private

- CAP
- ILPS
- Pipes

House Red Tagged
2025

House Condemned
approx. 1980

House Removed
2024

Montara Water & Sanitary District
Seal Cove - Public and Private Sewers

SOURCES: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community