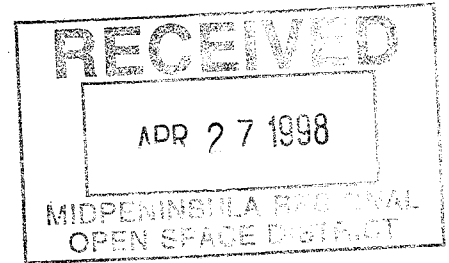


Mary A. Clayton, Co-Chair
Coastal Family Alliance
640 Cabrillo Hwy.
Pescadero, CA 94060
April 20, 1998



Ad Hoc Committee on San Mateo County Coastal Preservation
Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distal Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022-1404

Ladies:

I didn't have enough time at the Pescadero meeting to explain that ranch ownership is one of the strongest bonds that keeps our family together; we hold our annual, extended family reunion here. We've sacrificed to keep the ranch intact, and under our Bylaws, any individual who wishes to sell must first offer his shares to the other owners. No one wants an outsider to disrupt our plans.


As to my first question, the response I received failed to acknowledge that condemnation for public purposes takes property off the tax rolls. The County needs every cent it gets to support sheriff, health and other services for the extensive rural area.

My second question dealt with condemnation. You say you would support our farm operation, but as soon as we request the separate parcel necessary to establish a modest visitor-serving facility, we would become your target.

My third and fourth questions stand.

It should be recognized that families like mine, which have exercised good stewardship for more than 80 years, are already under strict control by the County and Coastal Commission. We don't want to live under the threat of condemnation. It would preclude us from State-encouraged priority uses which would help keep us going during periods of drought or deluge.

Sincerely,


Mary A. Clayton

Attached: My four questions.

To: Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District
From: Mary Clayton, Co-Chair Coastal Family Alliance
Subject: Expanding MROSD Power in the Coastal Zone
Date: April 16,1998

- 1) How can a San Mateo County protect the welfare of its residents if an outside agency (MROSD) can erode its property tax base and over ride its Local Coastal Program?
- 2) Judging from previous acquisitions of this body, would the Open Space District allow us at Coastways, to continue our U-Pick operations and build a modest Visitor Serving Facility , both "Priority" uses under the Coastal Act?
- 3) Why on earth would I or anyone else in my family want to pay a tax that would be used to buy our ranch, which we cherish and have cared for 81 years?
- 4) Is the District willing to give up their power of Eminent Domain in order to annex the San Mateo County Rural Coastal Zone into their special district?