



October 19, 2021

To: Commissioner Anson Moran, President  
 Commissioner Newsha Ajami, Vice President  
 Commissioner Sophie Maxwell  
 Commissioner Tim Paulson  
 Commissioner Ed Harrington

Through: Michael P. Carlin, Acting General Manager 

Through: Steven R. Ritchie, Assistant General Manager, Water *Steven R. Ritchie*

From: Tim Ramirez, Division Manager, Natural Resources and Lands Management *TMR*

Subject: Crystal Springs Cross Country Course License Renewal

The Commission approved a license in 2002 (Resolution No. 02-0087) to the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD), to operate the Crystal Springs Cross Country Course as managed by the College of San Mateo on Peninsula Watershed land adjacent to Hallmark Park in the City of Belmont. The Natural Resources and Lands Management (NRLM) Division and Real Estate Services (RES) staff have been working to update this license for several months. Our goal is to protect drinking water quality and the watershed’s natural resources consistent with SFPUC plans and policies while continuing to allow compatible public access at this location.

We asked the SMCCCD to work with the adjacent communities, including the Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association and cross country course stakeholders so that the continued use was supported by all interested parties. Unfortunately, as described in the SMCCCD Board of Trustees minutes from their August 25, 2021 meeting (see link below), an agreement was not reached.

<http://downloads.smccd.edu/file?s=/sites/downloads/BoT&du=/sites/downloads/BoT/Minutes/2021-08-25%20Minutes.pdf>

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- Sophie Maxwell**  
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- Tim Paulson**  
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- Ed Harrington**  
Commissioner
- Michael Carlin**  
Acting  
General Manager



The NRLM staff have met recently with SMCCCD and Belmont Heights Civic Improvement Association representatives and will make one final attempt to find common ground so that the Crystal Spring Cross Country Course, which started in the early 1970s, can continue to operate consistent with its historical use. The NRLM and RES staff are updating the proposed license terms and conditions so that drinking water quality and natural resources are protected consistent with our Peninsula Watershed Management Plan. If an agreement is not reached among SMCCCD and the various stakeholders by the end of this calendar year, then we will take steps to revoke the existing license.

We will provide an update to the Commission in January 2022.