

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT
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LCP-2-SMC-21-0004-1 (Child Care Centers)

October 14, 2022

CORRESPONDENCE



October 6, 2022

California Coastal Commission
North Central Coast District
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Karen Corzine, and I am the Executive Director of Coastside Child Development Center. I would like to tell you about our non-profit program and our plans to add a new building to our school.

Coastside Child Development Center is an early learning and early intervention program in Half Moon Bay. Our program began providing child care for infants and toddlers in 1978 in two rooms at Cunha Middle School. Currently we provide the following services on Redondo Beach Road in Half Moon Bay:

- Early learning and development for children zero to six years old through our partnerships with the California Department of Education and the California Department of Social Services, which includes:
 - California State Universal PreKindergarten
 - Subsidized child care
 - Special Education
 - Social service resources for families
 - Federal Child Nutrition Program
 - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health services
 - Trauma informed practices and environment
- Early Intervention
- Child care and preschool for families on the Coastside of San Mateo County.

There is a nation-wide child care shortage, which includes the coastside of San Mateo County. Beyond a small Head Start program in Moonridge, Coastside Child Development Center is the only center/school-based program for children ages zero to three between Pescadero and Pacifica. This shortage is a significant challenge for the families in our community and for the

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County of San Mateo. However, a shortage in early intervention services is a deficit to our nation far beyond just the shortage of child care.

A child's brain is wired in the first five years of life, at 1 million neural connections per second, and early intervention services are vital during this time period, especially for our most vulnerable children. Young children that have been exposed to stressors such as neglect, abuse, poverty, homelessness, and even a major pandemic. Early intervention also benefits society in higher graduation rates, lower crime rates, reduced mental and physical health costs, and much more.

Child care and preschool is moving into an expanded direction that includes wrap around services for young children. Child care and preschool are not what they used to be; the state of California is asking its partnering agencies to provide all of the above services. These services, require a lot of time, money, and resources from the non-profit schools who implement them. Furthermore, in order to meet the significant shortage of early learning, early intervention, and child care needs, current programs must expand and increase the number of child care and preschool spots for children.

Coastside Child Development Center is working hard to increase the number of slots that we can provide to our community. We are currently in the permit process of adding a new building to our lot which will add an additional 34 early education and early intervention slots. The truth is, our community needed these spots years ago. However, agencies like ours who are already doing so much for children, but are willing to do more, should not have to shoulder the burden of a lengthy building permit process and associated increased costs to an already tight non-profit budget.

Our agency has been working with the Planning Division since November 2020, and our architectural plans were submitted in October 2021. This lengthy permit process has delayed needed spots to our community and increased the cost of our project. Consequently, we are very grateful to be able share our story with all of you in order to support the Local Coastal Program's Implemental Plan provisions regarding child care.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Σ." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K" and a Greek letter sigma "Σ" at the end.

Karen Corzine, Executive Director