

Coastside Democrats, Granada Community Services District Candidate Survey

Candidate Name *

Nancy Marsh

Please state how long you have been a registered Democrat. *

As a Club under the California Democratic Party, we only endorse fellow Democrats. If you do not wish to proceed further, please email blkdye@gmail.com.



Photo taken from <https://democrats.org>

About 40 years

Please complete this submission by Friday, September 13th. All Club members will vote on candidate endorsements September 20th. *

Please read and click the box below to proceed.



Click this box to certify that the information you provide in this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission are true and accurate.

Statement Questionnaire

Answers are limited to 1000 characters. Your answers below will be shared with all members and publicly broadcast at <https://coastsidedemocrats.com/election>

Why are you running for this office? *

I am running for re-election to the Granada Community Services District Board to continue to be engaged in improving and maintaining the quality of life in our community, through responsible stewardship of critical midcoast infrastructure and community-serving improvements.

What will your top priorities be if you are elected? *

My priorities for a second term will be

1. continuing to improve strategic and financial planning for our sewer infrastructure, including thoughtful stabilization of Sewer Authority Midcoast once the City of HMB lawsuit is concluded.
2. Advocating for and continuing to honor the broad consensus of community input for the new Granada Community Park and Recreation Center and ensuring fiscally sound planning and phasing of future construction, keeping a promise to only build what can be maintained as community assets we can be proud of.

What do you see as the major issues on the Coastside? *

I believe the major issues in the unincorporated area may differ from those in the City of HMB. With fragmented and confusing county services, it's important for the various agencies and independent districts to develop good communications and partnerships among ourselves to help the community to navigate our services.

What have been your most significant contributions to GCSD or El Granada in general? *

As a member & sometime chair of GCSD's Parks Advisory Committee for 3 years before I joined the Board, I played a co-leadership role in designing, executing & analyzing broad community outreach & input to the plans for the new park and recreation center. I have been committed to ensuring the data reflects the broad consensus of the community, and is not "cherry picked" by those who might have a strong view the veers from the general consensus.

On the Board I prepare thoroughly for every meeting & have attended several SAM meetings to become familiar with governance of this critical infrastructure. I served on an ad hoc committee contributing to the design of the recreation center, including investigating the state requirements for childcare facilities & exploring whether whether any childcare capacity could be included in the new rec center (unfortunately, there is not enough space to meet state requirements, plus other limitations).

What is your position on Granada Community Park, including amenities, parking, community center, finances, and outreach? *

Community outreach has been broad & thorough & the amenities in the plans for the new park & rec center reflect the general consensus of the community. I've worked with the GM on financial projections for the park, including financing, maintenance and appropriate staffing projections for the projects as planned. I've benchmarked a local independent parks & rec district to understand cost of maintenance. With professional support for seeking grants, I believe the full vision for both the park & rec center can be realized over a few years. I met with potential programming providers and non-profits such as Senior Coastsiders, the Boys and Girls Club, and Coastside Hope to build interest in bringing more programming opportunities to the unincorporated area. I also reached out to EG CERT and SMC Emergency Ops Coordinator to consider the rec center for training and respite. I'm confident the parking plans can accommodate current use and the park, but not replace Hwy 1 parking.

Given that supporting the Sewer Authority Mid-coastside is by far the largest item in the GCSD budget, how familiar are you with its operations, finances, and capital improvement needs? *

In my distant past I was general manager of medical laboratory that operated 24/7 with complex capital equipment, 400 employees and a \$30 million annual operating budget. When I have toured the SAM plant the operations and challenges have felt familiar to me. I also have experience with the complexity of financial and capital investment projection in a technical environment and the inevitability of (a few!) unanticipated emergencies. Every month I review the GCSD finances including costs for maintenance and capital improvements of the local collections system, as well as the general manager's and superintendent's monthly reports on SAM operations, and the SAM Board meeting minutes. I have attended several SAM meetings to observe and have served as an alternate SAM Board member for GCSD. I believe my business experiences have made me well qualified to sit on the SAM Board and its subcommittees, ensuring good governance, risk management and fiscal responsibility.

What other activities/projects would you like GCSD to undertake in the future? *

I think GCSD should stick to the twin remit it has now, deliver on promises already made, and we should strenuously avoid mission creep. Given that property tax revenues have already been allocated to parks and rec as per 2014's Measure G, we should ensure we fully deliver on the promise of providing the community assets that County Parks identified but couldn't deliver. Build out of the park and rec center will occupy the next several years, and optimizing management, maintenance and programming to best serve the local community will take a few more. Regarding sewers, over the next several years we should undertake long term strategic planning and financial projections for both GCSD and SAM, with particular focus on plant location given sea level rise, to help to predict and stabilize sewer fees and reserves. Regarding trash, we should explore whether there are financial and service advantages to consolidating to one trash provider for the whole midcoast when the contract ends.

How will you work with, lead, motivate, and support GCSD's officers and employees? *

My view is staff should be fully empowered to plan and manage the district's operations, and must be transparent with and accountable to the district's constituents and customers. they should be the face of the district to the public for day to day operations.

The Board is accountable to the public for governance, risk management and financial oversight and ensuring that the staff is qualified, equipped and held to account for delivering the district's mission with integrity.

I believe it is important that each Board member brings their individual strengths, experience and perspective to the Board's collective role, and as such, the Board may not always come to consensus, but each member should accept, respect and constructively represent the decisions that are taken by the Board as a whole.

The members of the public, staff members and fellow Board members should be treated with honesty, professionalism and respect, even when we have significant disagreements.

Is there anything in you background which, if you receive the Club's endorsement, could cause embarrassment to the club? If so, please provide the details. *

Not that I am aware of.
