

Coastside Democrats Candidate Survey

An email address is required to ensure integrity. Please note this form in its entirety will be posted for Public Review.

Email *

blkdye@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in applying for the endorsement of the Coastside Democrats. Please complete this submission by **Friday, September 4, 2026**. All Club members will vote on candidate endorsements.



Granada Community Services District (GCSD)

The GCSD is responsible for parks, recreation, garbage and recycling services in the unincorporated areas of El Granada, Princeton, Princeton-by-the-Sea, Clipper Ridge, and Miramar. The District is also responsible for the sewage collection system and disposal for approximately 2,500 residences and businesses in these same unincorporated areas as well as the northern portion of the City of Half Moon Bay.

Five board members serve four year terms, and are elected on a staggered two-year basis in even numbered years. Three of the terms are ending in 2026 (Dye, Allen, and Randle).

1. Candidate Name *

Barbara Dye

2. As a Club under the California Democratic Party, we only endorse fellow Democrats. * Please state how long you have been registered to vote as a Democrat:

- ☒ Always been a registered Democrat
- ☐ Have been a registered Democrat for the last ten years
- ☐ Have been a registered Democrat for the last five years
- ☐ Just registered as a Democrat this election cycle.

3. I certify the information provided on this application and in any subsequent interview or written submission is true and correct. *

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Statement Questionnaire

4. Why are you running for this office? *

I care deeply about this community. El Granada should have a center, a place to gather. I am grateful to those who worked so hard to convert the sewer district to a community services district and I want to build what so many have worked so hard to design. I've been working hard to get Granada Community Park and Center through the process, engaging the community to finalize the plan. We are very close, and I look forward to the day when the first shovel goes into the ground and to our first community gathering in what I think of as El Granada's front yard.

5. What will be your top priorities if elected? *

1. Complete the approval process for the park and community recreation center and GET IT BUILT! Find financing that ties up GCSD's revenues for the shortest possible time.
2. Continue to manage and maintain the GCSD sewer system so it is reliable at a low cost to ratepayers
3. Oversee the Sewer Authority so that sewer fees are used effectively to modernize and upgrade without increasing capacity
4. Develop a robust recreation program in collaboration with entities like Coastside Seniors and the Boys & Girls Club as well as with local providers.
5. Explore opportunities to acquire some or all of the remaining parcels of open space that would benefit all our residents.

6. Please explain how your background and experience have prepared you for this office. *

I have done a lot of different things in my life and I think almost all of them have helped me to serve the community as a GCSD board member. I have been a writer of history and travel books, a docent at several museums, a PTA president, a founding member of a land trust, a leader of nature walks, Field Representative for a Congresswoman, Environmental Project Manager for a development project (responsible for parks, trails, and habitat restoration), Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, a member of the Stewardship Committee for Coastside Land Trust, a docent at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, a successful fundraiser, and a two-time Peace Corps Volunteer (Ghana 1973-76 as a geologist and Mexico 2010-2013 as an environmental educator and the author of a booklet on the geology of the park). I look forward to using all of these experiences to benefit GCSD.

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

The two most significant issues on the Coastside right now are emergency preparedness including evacuation planning, and land use and housing. These are complicated issues and we all need to work together to make progress on solving them. Other issues include health care access, protecting our farmworkers, traffic, stormwater problems, coastal retreat, to name just a few.

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

nothing

9. Who is supporting your campaign at this stage (e.g., endorsements, donors), and are there any potential conflicts of interest we should know about? *

I am running independently on my record and reputation. I will accept no donations or endorsements and I will not endorse people personally. I am filling out this questionnaire to share my positions and goals with the community, but I specifically am not seeking the endorsement of the Democratic Club or any other person or organization. I feel that as the Club president it would be inappropriate.

Specific Questions for Your Office**10. California special districts face chronic, critical inequities and other challenges in funding. Describe this challenge for GCSD and how you would work to address it. ***

We are fortunate to have reliable sources of dedicated income for both functions of the organization - Sewers and Parks & Recreation. I will use my fundraising experience to look for grants to help with the park construction.

11. What is your understanding of how GCSD funds sewer infrastructure vs parks & recreation? *

GCSD has two separate divisions and they are funded separately. The Parks function gets its funding from property taxes (not additional taxes, just a small part of the annual revenues). The Sewers function gets its funding from sewer fees. A more detailed explanation is below.

PARKS: The Parks function is very fortunate that it receives a steady amount of property tax revenue each year, almost \$1M in 2026. This amount will go up approximately 4% per year due to appreciation in the real estate values in the County. There is another kind of property tax funding called the ERAF refund, which was around \$500,000 this past year. It is not guaranteed, however, so future funds from this source are only potential revenue. Even without ERAF, GCSD's funding is sufficient to manage the Parks & Recreation functions and to service the borrowing that will be required to build the park and community center. GCSD does not have the need or authority to raise taxes from the community to fund park projects.

SEWERS: The Sewer costs for GCSD are funded by district residents through a yearly fee paid via property tax bills. It is a flat rate for residential properties and a rate based on water use for commercial users. Because of good management and the fact that the system runs on gravity and does not require pumping stations, our sewer rates are almost 50% less than those paid in neighboring districts. Of the \$3M GCSD collects in sewer fees per year, just under \$2M of that money goes to GCSD's share of the costs of running the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) system, which includes the treatment plant, several wastewater pumping stations, and the pipeline that carries the wastewater to the plant. GCSD's share of these costs is determined by the amount of its wastewater being treated by the plant, now about 18% of the total. The SAM plant has had millions of dollars of necessary upgrades during the past five years - many of the pumps, pipelines, and equipment have been replaced. The remaining major project is to replace the pipeline that goes from Montara to El Granada joining the already replaced line which goes to the plant. Funding this project will be expensive but it is needed for continued reliable service. Replacing the pipe will not increase the capacity of the system.

GCSD votes to set sewer rates after an informational mailing to the community. Knowing that several expensive projects were ahead, GCSD set rates that were sufficient to fund the past work and leave GCSD with solid reserves of \$3.7M. GCSD will continue to be transparent and manage rates as conservatively as possible.

12. What is your opinion of the scaled-back Granada Community park plan now in review at the County? *

I am very pleased with the current Granada Community Park plan. GCSD spent 8 years listening to feedback from all across our community and worked hard to balance competing needs. The current plan has a central active area, with the skate ramp, two playgrounds, a play lawn, a half basketball court, small dog parks and a perimeter trail with exercise stations. It is also more than half greenspace, with the whole northern section planned for a mix of wildflower grasslands and coastal bluff vegetation.

13. What value do you think the new park and/or Community Recreation Center adds for district residents? *

The new park and community recreation center will provide El Granada with a true town center. People will enjoy the views, take kids to the playground, watch the skaters on the ramp, have a picnic on the play lawn or the small group picnic area, walk the trail and try out the exercise stations or just relax in the open space. The Community Recreation Center will provide a place for community meetings and classes, and GCSD plans to partner with Coastside Seniors and the Boys and Girls Club plus local teachers to provide lots of options for classes and programs. There will be rooms for exercise classes, mahjong and bridge groups, parent and me classes, art sessions, etc. Right behind the building will be an area with internet and comfortable outdoor chairs and tables where people can be outside and still get some work done, meet with friends, or just sit and enjoy the view. This will really become El Granada's front lawn.

14. The park will add 20+ parking spaces near the active recreation area and more near the community center. What, if any, other arrangements should be made for parking (particularly near Surfer's Beach), due to the elimination of parking along the side of Highway One? *

The Coastal Commission has declared that the dirt parking lot cannot be used as a village green but must remain as parking. That seems to be non-negotiable. With the dirt lot parking plus the new 30+ spots in the two park lots there should be sufficient parking to keep the post office area available for locals and keep parking out of the neighborhoods. We will see. I am worried about the additional traffic that will access the dirt lot from Coronado and Obispo since Caltrans says it will block access from Highway One. Caltrans should come up with a better solution, including finding a way for Surfers' Beach parking on the west side of the highway. It is a shame that the RV park there cannot be converted to parking since it is on public land and would be very convenient and safer for surfers and beach lovers.

15. What is your opinion on the GCSD purchasing additional properties on the Burnham Strip and/or near the El Granada Post Office? And, if so, where do you propose to obtain the funding? *

My decades working on open space preservation have taught me that the first goal is to buy the land. I am particularly interested in the lot next to the post office which GCSD has bid on before. This lot would make a terrific town square for outdoor meetings, craft shows, small concerts, etc., complementing the park's focus on active play and open space. I would also like the entire Burnham strip preserved with the community determining how it would be used.

Of course, GCSD does not have unlimited funds and the priority now continues to be the park and community center. As far as additional potential acquisitions, several lots along the strip are in private hands, while others are owned by the Harbor District (HD). The private owners seem to believe that their lots have a high value even though the zoning restricts what could be built there. I'd be open to having GCSD meet with the lot owners on the strip. There may be ways to use incentives like tax benefits and recognition of donors to structure some fair acquisition options. The HD has indicated that it wants to keep its lots on the strip for now in case they could be used to underground Deer Creek (which I support). If the price for the post office lot is reasonable I'd consider it pursuing it now. I really don't want to see it used as a construction yard for the HD as one of the Harbor Commissioners suggested! I'd like us to have positive communications with the Harbor District so we can do our best to give El Granada a proper town square.

16. GCSD must provide two Board members to the Sewer Authority MidCoast Board. Are you willing to represent GCSD at 1-3 SAM meetings per month in addition to the monthly GCSD meeting? Why or why not? *

I've been the SAM representative for 7 years. I'm happy to say that most of my concerns about financial management there have been addressed. It's an important job, since so much of GCSD's resources go to managing the plant in cooperation with Montara and Half Moon Bay.

17. How many GCSD meetings have you attended or watched during the past year? *

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1-3 Meetings
- ☐ 4-6 Meetings
- ☒ 7 or more

Submit When Finished

Click Back to return to a previous question. Click Submit when you are done.

Feel free to contact demclubcoastside@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Final results will be posted on <https://coastsidedems.org>

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