

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 *

kevinsniecinski@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 *

Kevin Sniecinski

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 want to continue my dedication to serving in leadership roles on the coastside. I have been engaged with Granada Community Services District (GCSD) for over ten years as an active community advocate while serving in an official capacity. I was the GCSD Liaison for 12 months while serving on MCC. I have been a vocal and active supporter of the GCSD Community Park and Recreation Center. As a volunteer, I have knocked on doors, circulated surveys, posted on social media, and gathered signatures in support of the project. I am running to ensure that the hard work completed continues with the same level of detail for our community. I will stay on top of the critical projects that affect my local community.

I have over a decade of experience working with Parks and Recreation. I am knowledgeable about all that is required of a member of this board, including waste management, oversight and management of 35 miles of sewage lines (some dating back to the early 1920s) & collection services, preservation and development of other open, shared green spaces, and the role GCSD plays on SAM. On day 1, I will be prepared to work with all of our partners to ensure these goals are realized and sustained.

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

My top priorities center on delivering fully on the GCSD mandate with clear-eyed leadership, financial accountability and without bias. Our board needs directors who bring the knowledge, skill set, and agility to navigate complex issues as they arise—preventing costly missteps that directly impact our neighbors' monthly bills. I offer established relationships and practical experience collaborating constructively across jurisdictions, including the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation (2 current project in the works), Harbor District, Montara Water and Sanitary District, and the City of Half Moon Bay.

The GCSD Community Park and Recreation Center has been a long-held dream for my family and a project I am deeply excited to champion. I am ready to collaborate with all stakeholders to drive this project forward. Investments of this scale create lasting, multi-generational benefits that will make our district a more vibrant, inclusive, and welcoming place for everyone.

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

My professional, personal, and experiential background has imparted numerous skills relevant to a role on the GCSD Board. I have participated in large-scale commercial housing projects (from 20-room to over 100-room multi-building projects), Greening Projects (planting trees in urban areas), and have always engaged in the competitive bidding processes and worked with elected officials and departments to keep projects on track.

I have managed large budgets ranging from 500k to 5.5 million for local West Coast Health and Human Services Programs. While working for the National Institutes of Health, I worked with 16 directors, managed over 50 million, and covered 18 sites across North America.

My personal experiences in this community have allowed me to build and grow strong relationships through my work on the Coastside; I have built and nurtured strong bonds across our community. I co-founded Coastside Allies to fundraise, coordinate giving campaigns, and engage residents on issues that impact their daily lives. I have served on numerous boards and councils, and over the past three years alone, I have partnered with and supported multiple community-based organizations.

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

To address intersecting community vulnerabilities by grounding policy work in equity, accountability, and direct local involvement, and growing community participation in GCSD Board programming and projects:

Inclusive Gathering & Cultural Spaces: Establish physical and civic spaces, such as The Granada Community Park and Recreation Center, and preserve existing open and shared natural green space. Keeping in mind the GCSD Parks and Recreation Mission to serve the district's community by developing parks and providing recreational facilities and activities for residents of all ages and abilities. The GCSD has a dedicated focus on environmental stewardship.

Wildfire Preparedness & Safety: Successfully partnered with San Mateo County Parks and Recreation to prioritize fuel reduction along wildland-urban interfaces, ensure robust emergency evacuation corridors, and expand accessible defensible space support for vulnerable, elderly, or fixed-income residents.

Contract Accountability & Rates: Audit municipal service contracts—such as waste management agreements with Recology—to push for aggressive rate stabilization, service transparency, and protection against cost shifting onto working-class households. Look into programs for those on fixed incomes and seniors.

Essential Community Services: Expand access to affordable childcare, educational access, healthcare, mental health support, telecommunications and local housing options through public-private partnerships and regional funding.

Immigrant Defense & Rapid Safety: Implement local protections and communication networks to shield undocumented and marginalized residents from aggressive enforcement, ensuring access to essential public services without fear of targeting.

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. *

NO

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? *

Wanda Bowles, GCSD - Vice President (per precedent - 2027 Board President);
San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Ray Mueller, District 3;
Coastside Allies Leadership (Susy Perkins, CO - Finance & Faith-Based Leader; Jenoa Harlow, Therapist; Theresa Valentic, Educator & PhD; Mish Opydeck, Attorney and community advocate);
Stephan Wahl, Coastside Allies Co-Founder, Kaiser Permanente Community Benefits Ret.;
Matt Rubin, CRANE Development LTD - Multiple multi-million-dollar Historic Rehabilitation projects, turning unusable spaces into multi-use commercial and residential dwellings;
Erick Sanchez, Greg Jones Roofing, Owner, Immigrant and employment advocate for Latinos on the coastside;
Connie Santilli (Individual) - (Midcoast Community Council);
Gus Mattammal, Midcoast Community Council (MCC) - Treasurer;
Noreen Cooper Heavlin, Activist (Individual), Leadership at Unitarian Universalist Church Coastside
Jeff Regan, Community Activist and Photographer at large;
Sophia Koliopoulos Layne - Coastside Dem Member, Community Activist, Former Cabrillo USD Board;
Brian Lee, Individual - Compass Group - Realtor
Fred and Joan Tatman, residents since 1976 (coastsiders for 50 years)

I have not taken a donation from any of my supporters or endorsements.

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. *

The Granada Community Services District (GCSD) needs a blend of fiscal discipline at local levels, regional coalition-building, and proactive state-level advocacy. Because special districts—particularly independent ones providing vital services on the Coastsides often miss out on the broad-based property tax allocations or discretionary county funds that cities and counties enjoy, taking on these structural gaps demands a multi-faceted approach:

Lobbying the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) for structural funding reforms. Districts like GCSD frequently suffer from inequities and other structural gaps dependent upon how the county makes distributions. This process is based largely on formulas. GCSD should ensure our community's voices are heard through unified state-level advocacy to ensure midcoast infrastructure needs are visible when state grants are announced and applications become available.

Apply for state and county Competitive Grants for Capital Projects. Our local area has multiple, growing vulnerabilities, such as new emergency evacuation constraints (some seem impossible for our landlocked neighborhoods), the impacts of climate change, and importantly, the need to modernize utilities. Our district's revenues never seem to be enough, but GCSD can position itself to partner with local organizations, so we're prepared to apply for state and federal grants. FEMA and infrastructure grants are a good example of this.

Inter-Agency Partnerships are critical, and GCSD should always collaborate with neighboring San Mateo County agencies, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and regional special districts such as the Joint District Authority, SAM. To share delivery costs and to co-apply for funding. This sharing of resources for capital improvements is a great way to reduce the GCSD's overhead and make our local taxpayer dollars work harder by stretching further.

GCSD should always maintain transparent long-term finance and reserve policies. Communicating clearly and transparently to our district regarding assets, their management, outlines of projected costs such as maintenance, management, potential liabilities, and operational costs is inherent to building trust within the district. These processes make it far easier to access match funding when presented with local revenue measures.

GCSD must work closely with the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) during our service reviews and sphere-of-influence updates. These updates directly impact local land use and infrastructure investments to ensure balanced community growth and public services to support it.

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

Specific guidelines exist to ensure that funds for these two types of projects do not cross lines or borrow from one another. Sewer projects are strictly funded by monthly fees collected from residential and commercial residents of the district and can only be used for wastewater projects (these projects may also include state and federal grants, usually matched by a backed loan within the district).

Community Park projects may not draw on funds or sewer project reserves; those funds must come from different sources. Park and Recreation funding has primarily come from multiple sources, including grants and community funding. Funds can also come from philanthropic and other groups with goals to promote community-driven projects. This environment of shrinking resources is a time for GCSD to think outside the box.

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

I attended the presentation and thought that the new plan was representative of some unintended but necessary changes that did not compromise the project. They were not drastic, and the original look and feel remains intact. Maintaining the integrity and objectives of the original for the most part. The process for any such project requires GCSD be able to pivot and at the same time, take a broad look at the core elements of the project and make sure to fight for the most important parts of the plan. Integrating community input in this process is vital process to ensure what is completed is consistently driven by our district.

We knew as a community, walking in, that the original plan would undergo numerous reviews and would likely come back with revisions. What we have now is a great project and one that remains impressive on all scales. I think we could continue and even grow public engagement, finding ways outside of meetings to share progress, changes, and ultimately share in the progress already made.

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

It fulfills a long-standing need for shared community and gathering spaces, recreational activities, meetings, and more. It will be a multi-generational project that will open doors for local businesses to thrive and for district residents to see equity strengthen in their community and homes. The space allows for multi-generational activities, creating much-needed cultural space in our district.

This project began even earlier than the 2014 reorganization, with community advocates such as Fran Pollard and John Steele, Len Erickson, Lisa Ketcham, and others who were dedicated stewards of land and recreation on the coast. It is important to mention the community members who also contributed. Studies show the benefits of recreation centers and parks on communities. I have knocked on doors, gathered signatures, and created handouts highlighting GCSD data to share with my district. The project will bring us together and allow for new experiences.

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? *

Parking is desperately needed. That said, it has been and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. Numerous organizations are responsible for parking, like Caltrans, the Coastal Commission, the Harbor District, and others. As of last month, the city of Half Moon Bay was directing visitors to park on residential streets as overflow parking for Surfer's Beach (that post was active for over 19 months). What exists east of Highway 1 is a community, our community, our homes and our streets, parking spaces and neighborhoods. THESE AREAS SHOULD NOT BE UP FOR GRABS.

I have given a lot of thought to how we could protect the areas that surround the areas in question, even further up and down areas that border the highway. The county can create residential permits and actively monitor and remove some vehicles that stay overnight. Fining vehicles in violation of such a measure will send a clear and simple message. Something that could generate funds for the district: perhaps meters, but only for vehicles that do not have residential permits, is another idea that would take studying and creating inroads with the community to execute. But if those funds went to GCSD, think about the potential to ensure funds are available to acquire and preserve our district's green spaces and preserve our beautiful coastside communities. Lastly, in collaboration with the Harbor District, a community-driven process to identify and establish parking on available parcels west of Highway 1.

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? *

The simplest answer would be that GCSD, when able, should acquire and preserve green spaces. Part of this mandate requires GCSD, as part of a commitment to environmental stewardship, to look critically at lots that are available and when to take action to acquire that parcel to incorporate active and passive green spaces. Specifically in the Burnham Strip, as this is the entryway to our community.

These endeavors should be done openly and with community input. After all, GCSD exists to serve a district. A community task force could survey the broader community and gather favorability data on acquiring the available lots on Burnham Strip as a priority to allow the board to make these decisions with the confidence that they already have community support to do so.

Funding would need to come from a mixture of places: environmental, coastal, and recreational infrastructure grants that could come from the county and/or state. Philanthropy, donations, and contributions to GCSD and foundations can contribute, such as non-profits dedicated to regional preservation. Many organizations are being hit hard with financial burdens, so in this time I think that GCSD needs to be mindful of identifying the most critical lots, such as those on Burnham Strip.

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? *

YES. I attend these meetings regularly as a community advocate, have worked with SAM on budgetary transparency issues and community engagement, and with the Harbor District on various projects. I maintain a strong working relationship with all the other districts to ensure a role on SAM would be productive and respectful. I continue to meet with each district, not just on SAM-based projects but on projects and issues facing their districts and how community advocacy and partnerships might help. It is critical to set aside differences in order to ensure a healthy, balanced relationship with these key stakeholders. If given the opportunity, I am confident that I can successfully advocate on behalf of our district.

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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