

April 6, 2021

Dear CoastPride,

The **San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission** strongly supports CoastPride, the only LGBTQ+ organization serving the Coastsides.

Initiated in 2019, as a result of the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission's needs assessment and based on the feedback of over 80 community members- primarily youth and educators on the coast, CoastPride offers a safe space online and at community events to gather the diversity of voices and raise awareness of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) issues. CoastPride also addresses the needs of LGBTQI+ youth, families, and adults. CoastPride works with existing local civic, governmental, faith-based, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations to enhance services so that they are inclusive of all who play, work, and live on the Coastsides. CoastPride serves communities from Pescadero to Pacifica. Because of this wide region and increased demand for services, **CoastPride is now seeking to open a community center located in Half Moon Bay.**

With the acknowledgement of Supervisor Dave Pine, the LGBTQ Commission is providing this letter of support for CoastPride with the intention that it helps CoastPride in developing relationships and strengthen organizational reputation beyond the geographic boundaries of the Coastsides. The LGBTQ Commission understands that community centers are vital players in the LGBTQI+ movement and provide an invaluable link between LGBTQI+ people and local, state, and national efforts to advance equity. This future community center will make CoastPride services more visible and accessible to a diverse Coastsides community, including many more LGBTQI+ people of color, low-income people, and rural residents from Pescadero to Pacifica.

The LGBTQ Commission understands that [CoastPride](#) is a relatively new 501(c)(3) organization with no staff and a volunteer board of 9 members. The community center will serve LGBTQI+ persons and allies, and most importantly, signal to all who are fortunate to live or visit the Coastsides, that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expression are welcome here.

The LGBTQ Commission enthusiastically supports the current CoastPride community center and future goals of CoastPride.

**Warm Regards,**



**Rebecca Carabez, Co-Chair**

**LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County**

**Dana Johnson, Co-Chair**

**LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County**

