

Comments

Claudia Slater

From: Elizabeth Nissen on behalf of RDA Webmail
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2006 8:39 AM
To: Paul Rodrigues; Claudia Slater
Subject: FW: East Cliff Drive

-----Original Message-----

From: June Beggs [mailto:riderj@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2006 9:25 PM
Subject:

Dear Mr Rodrigues,

Please consider this as a public comment for the East Cliff project. I am very much in favor of improved access and stabilization of the cliff with the exception of parking adjacent to of on East Cliff drive. I view increased parking along the pathway or on East Cliff between 30th and 41st ave as having a significant negative impact. If parking must be added please do so in an area that will not be in conflict with recreational use or contribute to the "paving of paradise". Please place additional parking at Moran Lagoon, or in the vacant parcel between Palisades and Moran lagoon. I would like to see auto traffic reduced on East cliff in favor of more public access for pedestrians, bikers, strollers and wagons ...etc.

Thank You

Russell J. Beggs DMD
Live Oak Resident

P3-1

Responses

P3-1

See responses to comments P1-1 and P2-1 regarding RDA's rationale for proposing the amount and configuration of parking.

Comments

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (as the project sponsor)

REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/REPORT (EIS/EIR)
FOR
EAST CLIFF DRIVE BLUFF PROTECTION AND PARKWAY PROJECT
SANTA CRUZ, COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit your views regarding the project alternatives and potential environmental impacts of the East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project.

Name: Tom Biddick
Mailing Address: 685 38th. Ave.
Street, state, ZIP: Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Affiliation (if any): Resident
Date: June 8, 2006

Comments:

I support the proposed plan (Alternative #1). Let's get moving on these improvements!

P4-1

To submit comments, please turn in today or mail to:

County of Santa Cruz
Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, Room 400
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Claudia Slater
(831) 454-5175

Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. June 26, 2006

Responses

P4-1

Thank you for your comment.

Comments

County of Santa Cruz
Planning Dept.

To Whom It May Concern -

We received notice for the proposed East Cliff Bluff Protection & Parkway Project and are delighted that plans are underway to go ahead and protect and improve the 33rd Ave to 41st Ave. area along East Cliff Drive.

This is a beautiful area & deserves every effort to protect it for now & into the future.

Having been born in Santa Cruz & spending many years in close proximity of the bluff, I have seen many feet gradually disappear into the ocean, and now the very road itself is in jeopardy.

P5-1 | We heartedly support your efforts.

Sincerely -
Hazel M. Boardet

Responses

P5-1

Thank you for your comment.

Comments

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (as the project sponsor)

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SANTA CRUZ, COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit your views regarding the project alternatives and potential environmental impacts of the East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project.

Name: *Jenevieve Brackett*
Mailing Address: *PO Box 2335*
Street, state, ZIP: *Aptos CA 95003*
Affiliation (if any):
Date: *6/8/06*

Comments:

I think it would help the process if leaders of key groups, such as surf clubs, Pleasure Point Night fighters, Surfrider, Native plant groups, etc, were invited to a meeting with the experts ~~with specific concerns~~ to be able to address their specific concerns

P6-1

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Responses

P6-1

The RDA has sponsored several community meetings and workshops over the past six years to present information and answer questions about the proposed project. Local organizations, such as Surfriders and Night Fighters, were invited to these meetings and workshops, where experts were available to discuss various topics (e.g., coastal bluff erosion, beach nourishment, surfing). The most recent of these meetings was held June 8, 2006, and attending the workshop were representatives of several organizations, such as Pleasure Point Night Fighters, Surfers Environmental Alliance, and Save Our Shores. In addition, individuals and organizations have had several opportunities to submit formal comments on the proposed project, most recently with release of the Revised Draft EIS/EIR. A notice announcing the availability of this document was published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on May 8, 2006. Hard copies of the Revised Draft EIS/EIR were available for review in both the main and Live Oak branches of the Santa Cruz Library, and an electronic version was posted on the County Planning Department Web page. Nearly 3,000 postcard announcements were also mailed directly to local residents, property owners, interest groups, and organizations. The RDA has considered the concerns expressed through these various avenues, and has made numerous changes in the project design in response to the comments received. An example is relocation of the stairway originally proposed in the vicinity of 35th Avenue downcoast to the 36th Avenue area because it is a better location for surfers to exit the water.

Comments

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SANTA CRUZ, COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit your views regarding the project alternatives and potential environmental impacts of the East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project.

Name: *JUDITH BUCK*
Mailing Address: *POB 1576, CAPITOLA MA 95010*
Street, state, ZIP: *341 35th AVE SANTA CRUZ 95062*
Affiliation (if any): *PLEASURE POINT BUSINESS ASSOC + HOMEOWNER*
Date: *8/10/06*

Comments: *As a homeowner, 7 doors back from E CLIFF I AM THRILLED TO SEE THE THOUGHTFUL DETAILS & PLANNING THAT THIS PROJECT REPRESENTS. AS A BUSINESS OWNER WHO MANAGES OVER 15 VACATION RENTAL HOMES IN THE PROJECT AREA, I KNOW I SPEAK FOR THE OWNERS OF THE HOME WHEN I STATE THAT WE SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.*

P7-1

WE'D HAVE HOPES THAT THE RAILINGS WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE GREAT VIEWS OF THE SURF + SURFERS. ALSO THAT

P7-2

THE EXISTANCE OF GREAT TRAILS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SAFE EXIT POINTS FOR SURFERS & OTHERS TO ESCAPE DANGEROUS HIGH WAVES.

P7-3

P7-4

WOULD ALSO BE PLEASED TO SEE SMALL POCKETS IN THE WALL WHERE ICE PLANT & OTHER HARDY SEASIDE

To submit comments, please turn in today or mail to: *PLANTS CAN TAKE ROOT & ADD TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE AREA!*

County of Santa Cruz
Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, Room 400
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Claudia Slater
(831) 454-5175

*Thank you
Please call me if I
can be of any further help
831-212-4435*

Comments must be received by 5:00 P.M. June 26, 2006

Responses

P7-1

Thank you for your comment.

P7-2

In response to previous agency and public comments, the RDA has revised the project design to minimize the visual effects of railings. The current design addresses this concern through the use of landscaping, where sufficient space is available, and split rails, where safety allows. In areas where the pedestrian path would come close to the bluff edge, safety (metal) railings would be required.

P7-3

The design of the proposed armoring follows the natural contours of the cliff, including areas of high relief that attempt to mimic the natural features of the existing site conditions.

P7-4

As noted in Section 2.4.1 of the EIS/EIR, planting pockets in the wall design to reduce visual impacts was considered and rejected because it would be very difficult for the County to access and maintain the vegetation. Small pockets would likely flood during the winter and dry out during the summer, if left without regular care. Very few plants would be able to survive these conditions. In addition, the natural saline environment would limit plant selection. The few native plants that might be able to survive would probably not achieve the goal of softening the appearance of the wall.

Comments

Responses

June 15, 2006

Claudia Slater
 County of Santa Cruz
 Planning Department
 701 Ocean Street, Rm 400
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection
 Additional Public Parking

Dear Claudia:

As a resident of the Pleasure Point neighborhood I am writing to express my views of the project.

P8-1

I am strongly in favor of protecting and stabilizing the bluff along East Cliff Drive from 32nd Avenue to 41st Avenue. I support “full bluff armoring” as a means to increase the longevity of the public right-of-way, safeguard the existing infrastructure of storm systems, utilities, etc., and preserve public access to the coast.

P8-2

However, I am strongly opposed to the creation of new parking areas along East Cliff Drive as this will have a significant negative impact on public safety, traffic flow, view shed and overall quality of life in the immediate area.

I will now address each of points in more detail:

Public Safety. Traffic flow along East Cliff drive is already precarious with drivers’ attention focused primarily on the water, waves and pedestrians along the route. The addition of new parking spaces along this route will only further congest the flow of traffic, create more obstacles to maneuver around, and encourage drivers to linger along the side of the road and/or continually circulate neighborhood streets in anticipation of parking spaces becoming available. The new parking spaces are conducive to overnight parking/camping, loitering, and vagrant behavior. The burden will fall on private property owners to maintain a vigilant watch in order to safeguard the integrity of their neighborhood.

Traffic Flow. East Cliff Drive is the main artery between 32nd Avenue and 41st Avenue. The addition of parking spaces along this one-way road will only further congest an already busy thoroughfare. The addition of parking spaces as described in the parkway portion of the project will not make walking or cycling safer as there will be more cars pulling on and off the roadway. The new parking spaces will in fact increase the amount of drive-through traffic as drivers continually circle neighborhood streets in anticipation of parking spaces becoming available. Finally, the new parking spaces do not shift traffic away from the cliff edge but actually encourages more vehicle activity on and around the roadway as well as the pedestrian pathway.

P8-1

Thank you for your comment.

P8-2

See response to Comment P1-1 above for the RDA’s rationale for proposing the amount and configuration of parking. The proposed additional parking should not increase traffic along East Cliff Drive or create a safety hazard for pedestrians and bicyclists for several reasons. First, as noted in Section 9.2.1 of the Revised Final EIS/EIR, the additional parking spaces are not expected to generate new trips to the project area; rather, it is anticipated that they would reduce circulation through the neighborhood side streets by visitors searching for limited parking spots. Second, creating a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path on the seaward side of the roadway should actually improve safety by providing separate facilities for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Additionally, implementing Mitigation 9.3 would require installing signs at the intersection of 32nd Avenue/Pleasure Point Drive/East Cliff Drive, similar to those at The Hook, which state “Bikes Must Cross.” These signs would be installed facing westbound to help ensure that bicyclists obey the stop sign at Pleasure Point Drive and cross back over to the north side of the roadway to the existing bike lane before continuing westward.

Comments

P8-3

View Shed. Parked cars along East Cliff Drive will significantly diminish the quality of the view shed. Pedestrians and cyclist along East Cliff Drive would prefer not to look at and engage with parked cars. Private property owners along East Cliff Drive would prefer not to look to parked cars. Each of us migrates to the coast to enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the water, to listen to the rhythm of the waves and wildlife and remove ourselves from the trappings and distractions of day-to-day life.

The addition of parked cars in this mix compromises the very reason we come to the coast and brings a number of pollutants i.e. the noise of car stereos, the exhaust and noise of running engines and the glare of headlights at night competing with of the natural light of the moon and stars.

P8-4

Quality of Life. The quality of life along East Cliff Drive (from 32nd to 41st Avenue) and in the surrounding neighborhood will not be enhanced with the addition of new parking spaces. In actuality, the spaces provide minimal benefit to those individuals coming into the area to enjoy the coast yet detract so much from the charm of the neighborhood. Visitors would benefit more if they came to realize that we treasure our coastline and prefer to walk and/or bike to that destination. Let's not show them we "Paved Pleasure Point and put in a parking lot."

Please let's work together and preserve the true nature of the Pleasure Point Neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

My best,



Phyllis Farda Christensen
102 32nd Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-476-2997 Home

cc: Jan Beautz
District 1 Supervisor

Responses

P8-3

The additional parking spaces are not expected to have a significant adverse effect on visual resources in the project area. As previously mentioned, the total proposed parking would be approximately 400 lineal feet, or less than 15 percent, of the proposed 2,800 lineal feet parkway. There are often times when visitors to the area want to stop for a short period of time and remain in their cars to view the waves or vistas. These spaces would increase the opportunity for that type of visitor experience. Creating the pedestrian walkway, bicycle path, and other parkway amenities would also afford the public improved opportunities to safely enjoy the coastal view.

P8-4

As noted in the response to Comment P1-1, the proposed parking design is intended to strike a balance between enhancing public access to the project area and community concerns about maintaining the character of the neighborhood. While the pedestrian walkway and bicycle path are important features of the parkway, it is also important to keep in mind that some members of the public are not able to access the area on foot or with a bicycle, and the proposed parkway would accommodate their needs as well.

Comments

Responses

June 15, 2006

Claudia Slater
County of Santa Cruz
Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, Rm 400
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection
Public Restrooms at Pleasure Point Park

Dear Claudia:

As a resident of the Pleasure Point neighborhood I am writing to express strong opposition to the construction of public restrooms at Pleasure Point Park.

I am strongly in favor of protecting and stabilizing the bluff along East Cliff Drive from 32nd Avenue to 41st Avenue. I support "full bluff armoring" as a means to increase the longevity of the public right-of-way, safeguard the existing infrastructure of storm systems, utilities, etc., and preserve public access to the coast.

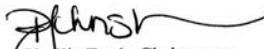
However, I am strongly opposed to the construction of public restrooms in the park as this will have a significant negative impact on public safety, and overall quality of life in the immediate area.

The corner of 32nd Avenue and East Cliff Drive, specifically at Elizabeth's Market and Pleasure Point Park, is notorious for loitering, vagrancy and the public consumption of alcoholic beverages. The proposed park improvements, particularly the addition of public restrooms, will promote more frequent incidences of this behavior and compromise the safety and integrity of the neighborhood.

One need only research local Sheriff reports to verify this fact. Given the current climate of continually decreasing public funding for adequate life and safety services (police, sheriff, fire personnel), the responsibility for a vigilant neighborhood watch falls on the shoulders of property owners and private citizens.

Please let's work together and preserve the safety and integrity of the Pleasure Point Neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kindest regards,



Phyllis Farda Christensen
102 32nd Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-476-2997 Home

cc: Jan Beautz, District 1 Supervisor

P9-1

P9-1

Providing public restrooms helps implement Section 30001.5 of the California Coastal Act by maximizing public recreational opportunities in the coastal zone. There is a portable toilet currently at the site, so the proposed restroom would essentially upgrade an existing facility. The County Parks Department maintains the area and would take responsibility for maintaining the improved restroom.

Comments

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SANTA CRUZ, COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit your views regarding the project alternatives and potential environmental impacts of the East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project.

Name: LYNN COMESKEY
Mailing Address: 2-2838 EAST CLIFF DR
Street, state, ZIP: SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062
Affiliation (if any):
Date: 6/8/06

Comments:

I think we should go for Alternate #1 which, I assume is as much of a permanent fix as we can get. The other alternatives don't seem to be worth the bother. If contractors are carefull, there shouldn't be much damage - there should be damage clauses in contract and work should be monitored by the county. Yes, there will be inconveniences during construction, but to obtain a long term solution, I think it will be worth it.

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Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Claudia Slater
(831) 454-5175

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Responses

P10-1

Thank you for your comment. If the project is approved, both the RDA and the Department of Public Works will work closely with the construction contractor(s) and monitor activities to assure conformance with project plans and specifications. In order to work for the County, contractors must be bonded and carry liability insurance.

P10-1

Comments

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Public Comment Card

Please use this comment card to submit your views regarding the project alternatives and potential environmental impacts of the East Cliff Drive Bluff Protection and Parkway Project.

Name: Susan Dee Cummins
Mailing Address: 2-2625 E. Cliff Dr #4
Street, state, ZIP: Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Affiliation (if any):
Date: 06-26-06 454-2131

P11-1

Comments: I am against the proposed parking lot along
Pleasure Point, East cliff Dr.
- there is a "taking" factor which hangs out in
this area. Lots of drinking, drugs, etc. this "taking"
factor would be the people who use this parking lot. ...
NOT tourists! IT IS ALSO DANGEROUS for women or
men w/strollers walking BEHIND these cars as
they back out. Especially if it is a drunk or
high teen-ager backing out, not looking. PLEASE
DO NOT ADD A PARKING AREA HERE!!

P11-2

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County of Santa Cruz
Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, Room 400
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Claudia Slater
(831) 454-5175

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Responses

P11-1

See response to Comments P1-1 and P9-1 above regarding the RDA's rationale for proposing the amount and configuration of parking and improvements to the restroom facility.

P11-2

The parkway design places the pedestrian and bicycle paths on the ocean side of the new parking spaces and separates these paths from the roadway and parking spaces with a six-inch high curb to minimize conflicts between pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. Also, as previously mentioned, some members of the public are not able to access the area on foot or with a bicycle, and the proposed parkway should accommodate their needs as well.