

# Cliff Drive Resiliency Planning

June 27, 2024

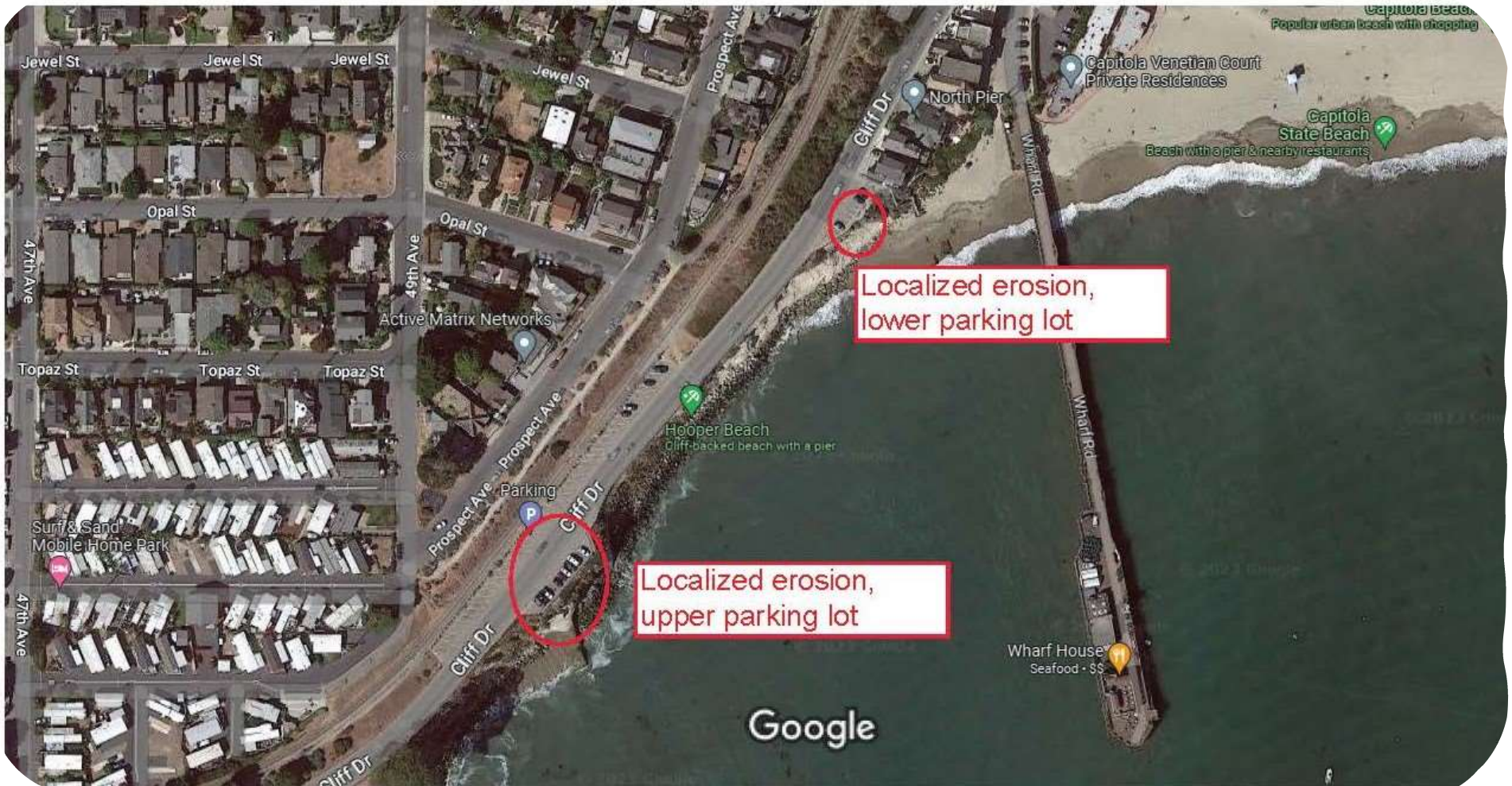
# Presentation Overview

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- 1 Background
- 2 Summary of Existing Conditions
- 3 Summary of Outreach
- 4 Options Under Consideration
- 5 Next Steps

An aerial photograph of a coastal residential area. The top half shows a dense neighborhood of houses with light-colored roofs and dark roofs, interspersed with trees. A road with a median runs horizontally across the middle. Below the road is a sandy beach and the ocean. A pier or breakwater extends into the water on the right side. The word "Background" is overlaid in a large, orange, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

# Background



Localized erosion,  
lower parking lot

Localized erosion,  
upper parking lot

Google

# Background

## Federal ER funding awarded

- Design
  - FHWA/Caltrans LA reimbursement: \$743,000
  - Coastal Commission grant: \$450,000
- Construction Funding
  - FHWA/Caltrans LA reimbursement: \$8M
  - Required Match \$960,000
  - Seeking Additional Funding

## October 2023

- Professional Services Agreement with CSW/ST2

## Phase 1 - Alternatives

- Existing conditions, opportunities, and constraints
- Community and stakeholder outreach
- Project alternatives

# Cliff Drive Study Area



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern with streets. A road with a median runs horizontally across the middle. Below the road, there is a body of water, possibly a canal or a bayou, with a concrete structure extending into it. The image is faded and has a semi-transparent orange bar on the right side.

# Summary of Existing Conditions

# Existing Conditions

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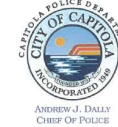




# Existing Conditions



# Existing Conditions



422 CAPITOLA AVENUE  
CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA 95010  
TELEPHONE (831) 475-4242  
FAX (831) 479-8881

ANDREW J. DALLY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

January 9, 2024

Dear Director Kahn,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential impacts on emergency response that may arise from any proposed closure of Cliff Drive. Cliff Drive serves as a vital emergency access route to the west side of our jurisdiction and the Pleasure Point community. Any permanent disruption to its accessibility could have serious consequences for our response time for emergency services.

Emergency response times are critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members. In my opinion, Cliff Drive is an established emergency access route, and its removal will raise several concerns that need careful consideration before implementing any change. Any closure of Cliff Drive will likely lead to prolonged response times for emergency services, which could jeopardize lives and property in our community. Additionally, alternative routes will not provide the same level of efficiency and accessibility, further exacerbating the challenges faced by our emergency responders.

Cliff Drive has long served as a crucial artery for emergency vehicles to access the west side of our jurisdiction. Closing it may impede the swift and efficient response of emergency services. Rapid response times are essential in emergency situations, and any delay caused by the closure of Cliff Drive could have severe consequences for the safety and well-being of our community members.

I submit this information for your consideration and my hope is you take the necessary steps to ensure that any decision made regarding the closure of Cliff Drive prioritizes the safety and emergency response capabilities of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing about the steps being taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Andrew Dally, Chief of Police



**Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County**

930 17th Avenue • Santa Cruz, CA 95062 • (831) 479-6842 • [www.centralfiresc.org](http://www.centralfiresc.org)

January 9, 2024

Dear Director Kahn,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the potential impacts on emergency response that may arise from any proposed closure of Cliff Drive. Cliff Drive serves as a vital emergency access route to the west side of Capitola and the Pleasure Point community. Any permanent disruption to its accessibility could have serious consequences for our response time for emergency services.

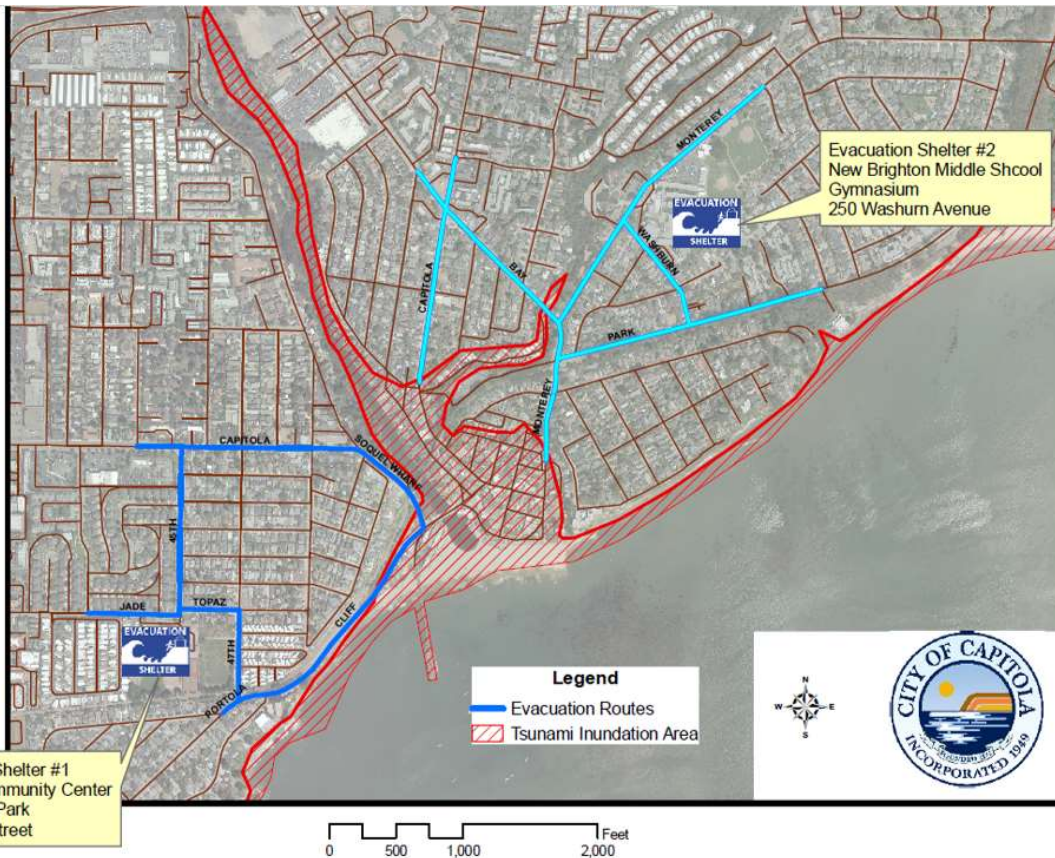
Emergency response times are critical in ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members. Cliff Drive is an established emergency access route, and its removal will raise several concerns that need careful consideration before implementing any change. Any closure of Cliff Drive will likely lead to prolonged response times for emergency services, which could jeopardize lives and property in our district. Additionally, alternative routes will not provide the same level of efficiency and accessibility, further exacerbating the challenges faced by our emergency responders.

I submit this information for your consideration, and I hope you take the necessary steps to ensure that any decision made regarding the closure of Cliff Drive prioritizes our community's safety and emergency response capabilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing about the steps being taken to address these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Nee  
Fire Chief  
[Jason.Nee@centralfiresc.org](mailto:Jason.Nee@centralfiresc.org)



Evacuation Shelter #1  
Capitola Community Center  
Jade Street Park  
4500 Jade Street

Evacuation Shelter #2  
New Brighton Middle School  
Gymnasium  
250 Washburn Avenue

**Legend**  
— Evacuation Routes  
▨ Tsunami Inundation Area

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

# Existing Conditions

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# Existing Conditions

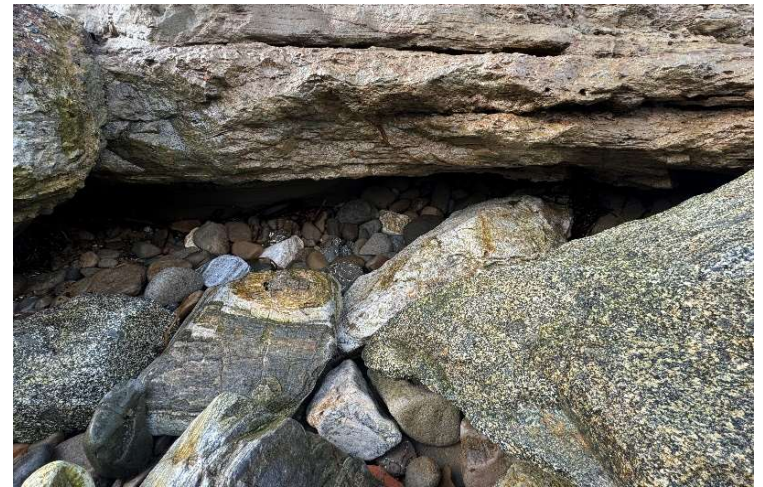
## Bluff stabilization efforts

- Early 1960s RSP installed
- 1997 soil nail wall installed



# Existing Conditions

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# Existing Conditions

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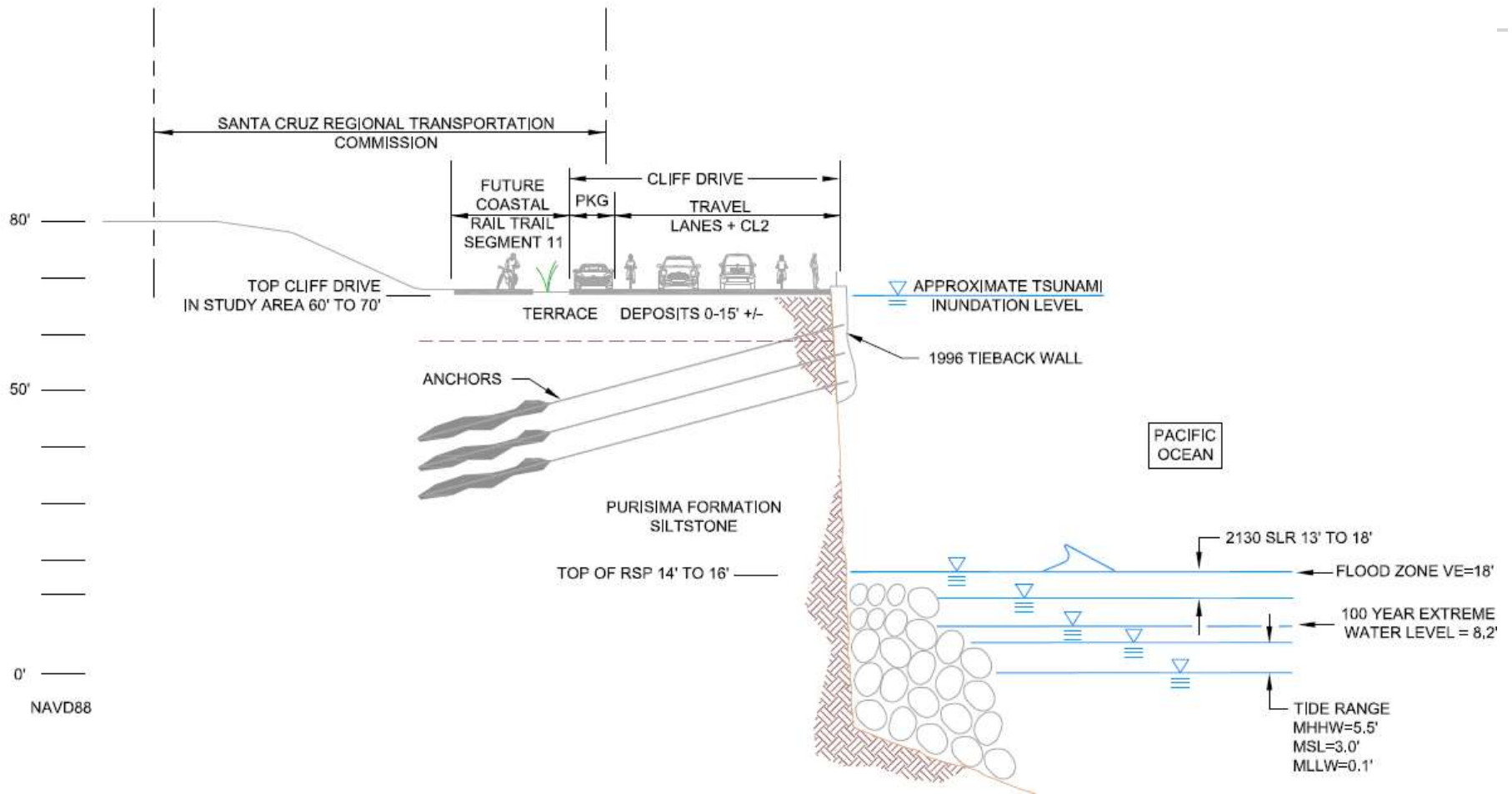


**Bluff erosion rate is about 6 inches per year.**

# Existing Conditions



# Existing Conditions



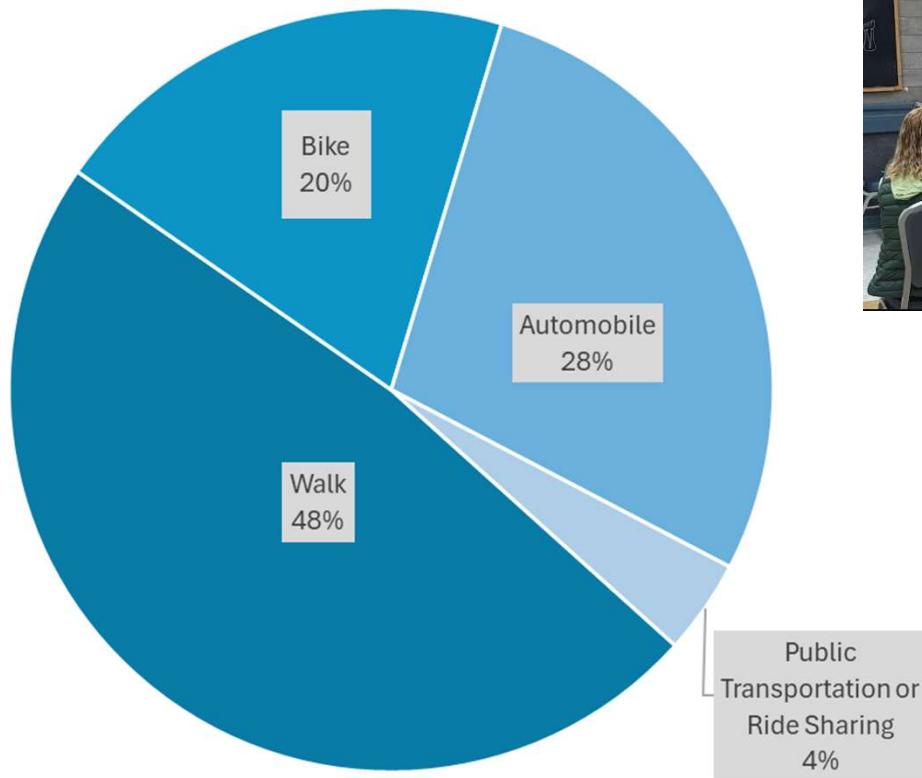


An aerial photograph of a coastal residential area. The image shows a dense cluster of houses and streets in the upper half, leading down to a sandy beach and the ocean. A road with a median runs horizontally across the middle. The text "Summary of Outreach" is overlaid in a bold, orange font on the lower-left portion of the image. A solid orange vertical bar is on the right edge.

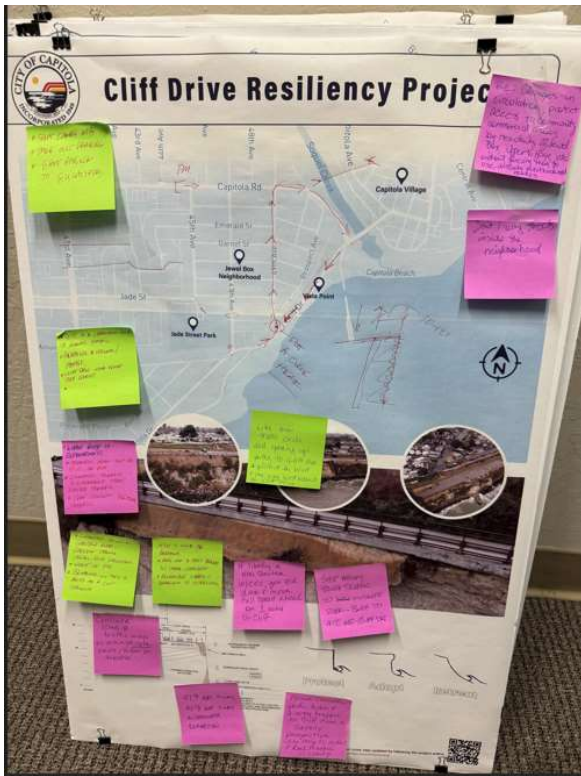
# Summary of Outreach

# February 2024 Outreach

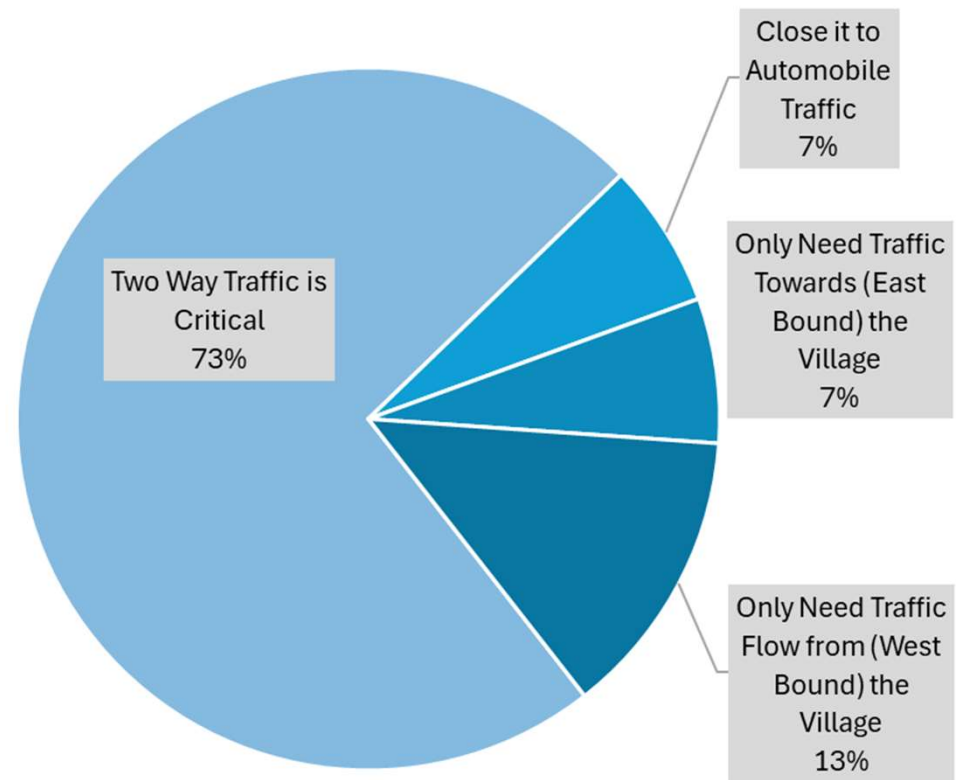
How do you travel to Vista Point and/ or Capitola Village?



# February 2024 Outreach

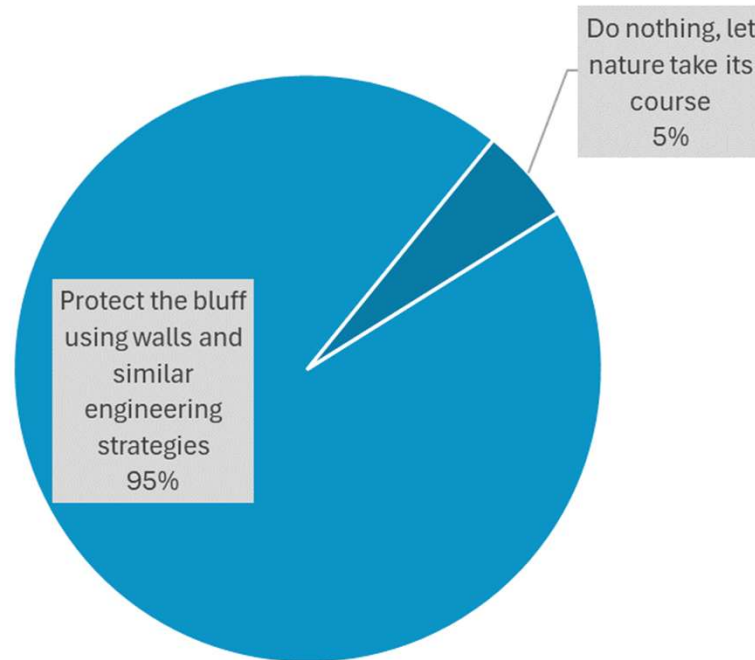


How important is two way vehicle traffic on Cliff Drive?



# February 2024 Outreach

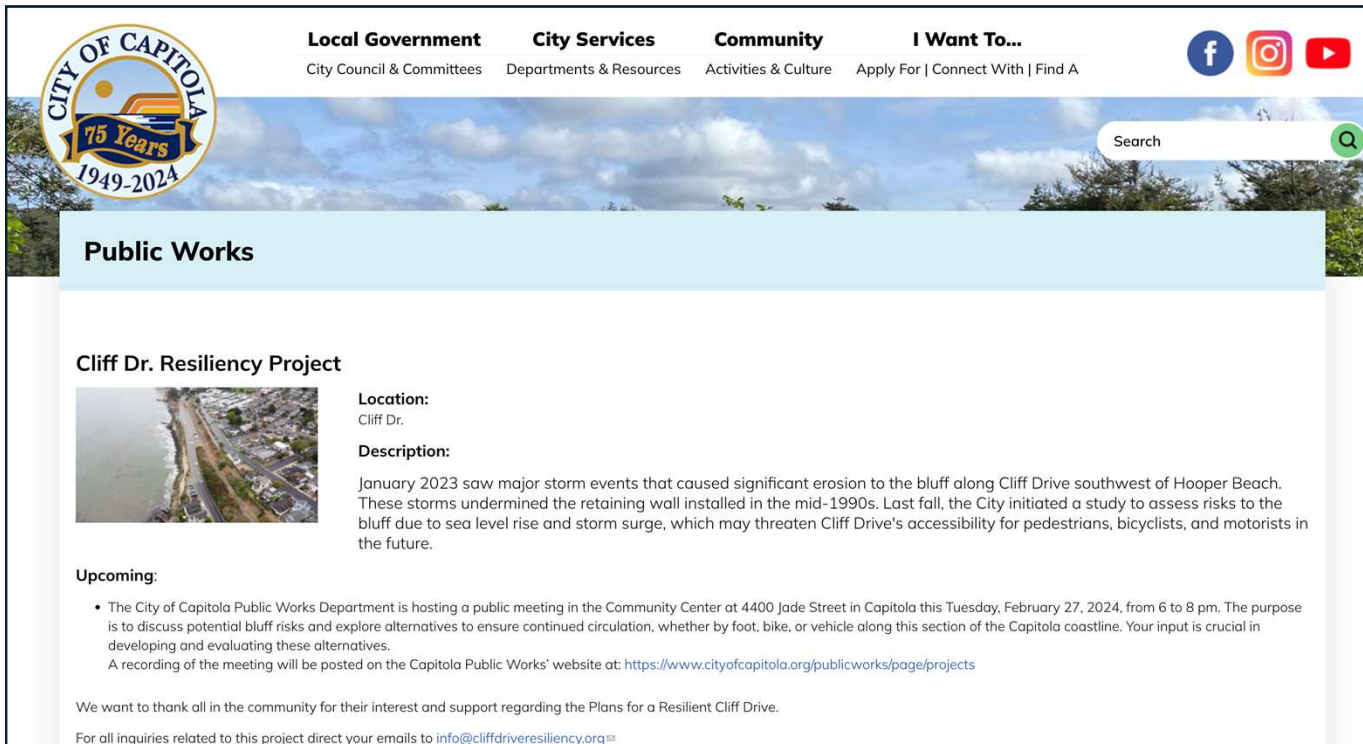
The bluff supporting Cliff Drive is threatened by erosion. If the City can reasonably attain funding, we should do one of the following options.



# On Going Outreach


Information: [www.cliffdriveresiliency.org](http://www.cliffdriveresiliency.org)

Contact: [info@cliffdriveresiliency.org](mailto:info@cliffdriveresiliency.org)



The screenshot shows the City of Capitola website. At the top left is the City of Capitola logo celebrating 75 years (1949-2024). The navigation menu includes: Local Government (City Council & Committees), City Services (Departments & Resources), Community (Activities & Culture), and I Want To... (Apply For | Connect With | Find A). Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube are on the right. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled "Public Works" and features the "Cliff Dr. Resiliency Project".

**Cliff Dr. Resiliency Project**



**Location:**  
Cliff Dr.

**Description:**  
January 2023 saw major storm events that caused significant erosion to the bluff along Cliff Drive southwest of Hooper Beach. These storms undermined the retaining wall installed in the mid-1990s. Last fall, the City initiated a study to assess risks to the bluff due to sea level rise and storm surge, which may threaten Cliff Drive's accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists in the future.

**Upcoming:**

- The City of Capitola Public Works Department is hosting a public meeting in the Community Center at 4400 Jade Street in Capitola this Tuesday, February 27, 2024, from 6 to 8 pm. The purpose is to discuss potential bluff risks and explore alternatives to ensure continued circulation, whether by foot, bike, or vehicle along this section of the Capitola coastline. Your input is crucial in developing and evaluating these alternatives.  
A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Capitola Public Works' website at: <https://www.cityofcapitola.org/publicworks/page/projects>

We want to thank all in the community for their interest and support regarding the Plans for a Resilient Cliff Drive.

For all inquiries related to this project direct your emails to [info@cliffdriveresiliency.org](mailto:info@cliffdriveresiliency.org)

QR Code



An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. The houses are arranged in a grid-like pattern with streets. A road runs horizontally across the middle of the image. Below the road, there is a body of water, possibly a canal or a bayou, with a bridge or structure crossing it. The overall scene is a typical suburban or urban residential area.

# Options Under Consideration

# Purpose & Need

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## **Mission Statement**

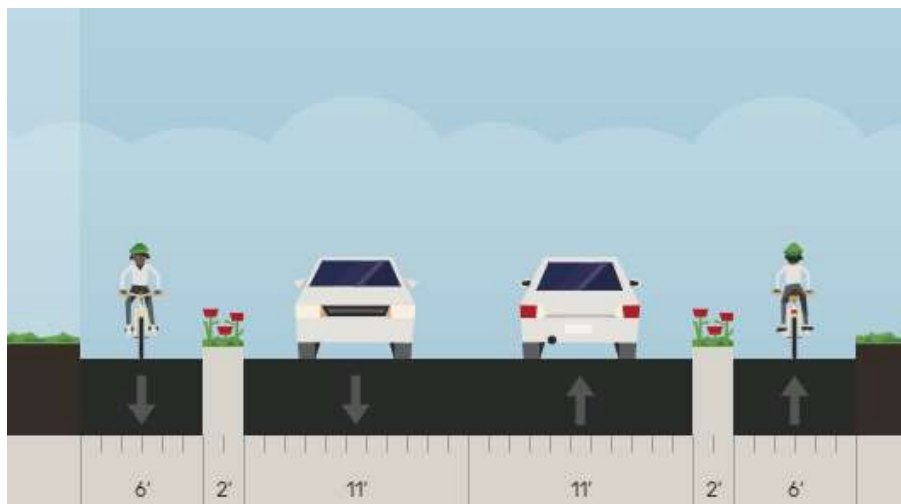
*Cliff Drive improvements will serve the mobility needs of all users equitably, maintain access for future generations despite the impact of sea level rise and increasing storm intensities, seek to reduce traffic impacts to the Jewel Box neighborhood, and safeguard environmental resources.*

## **Project Goals**

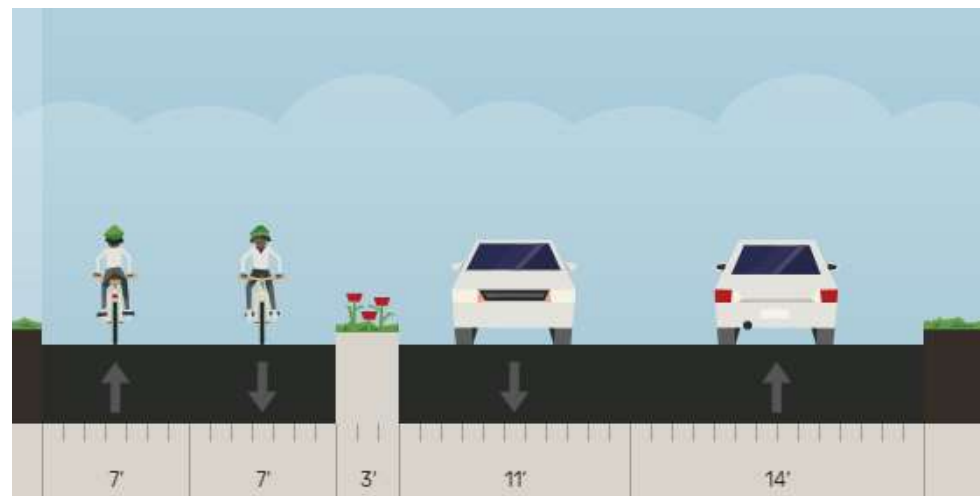
1. Provide safe access for all users to and from coastline.
2. Conforms to regional transportation goals for vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and emergency services.
3. Protects roadway from erosion in existing, 2080, and 2130 sea level rise scenarios.
4. Construction feasibility as well as temporary impact to the community to construct improvement.
5. Protects both environmental and cultural resources.
6. Life-cycle cost.
7. Complexity associated permitting.

# Complete Streets Assessment

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**Class IV**

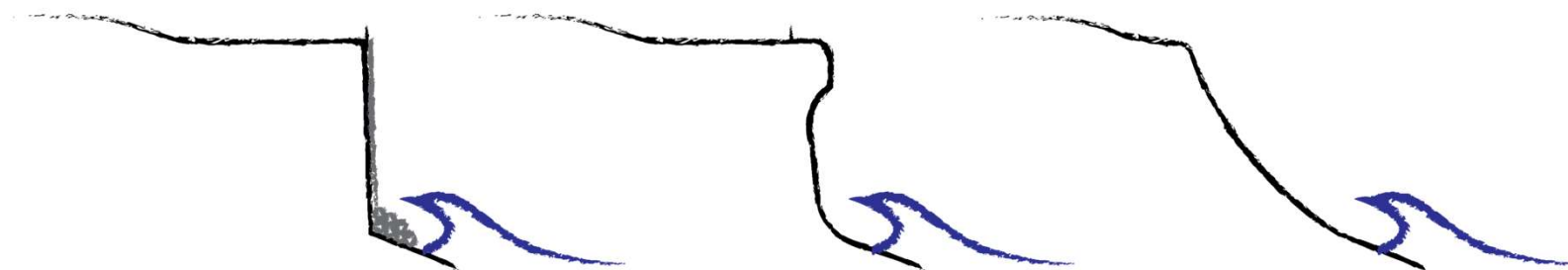


**Class I**



# Options

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Protect

Adapt

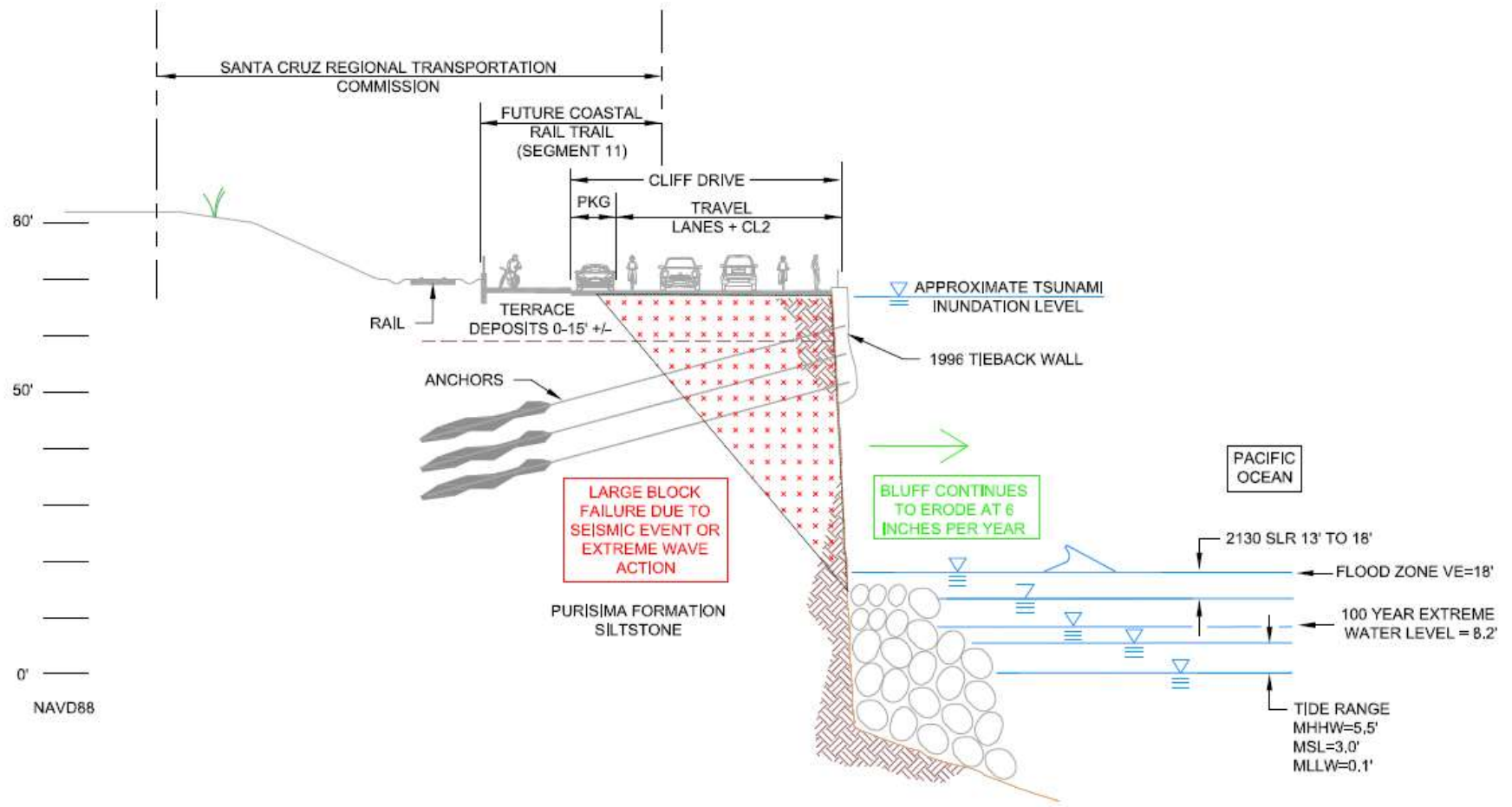
Retreat



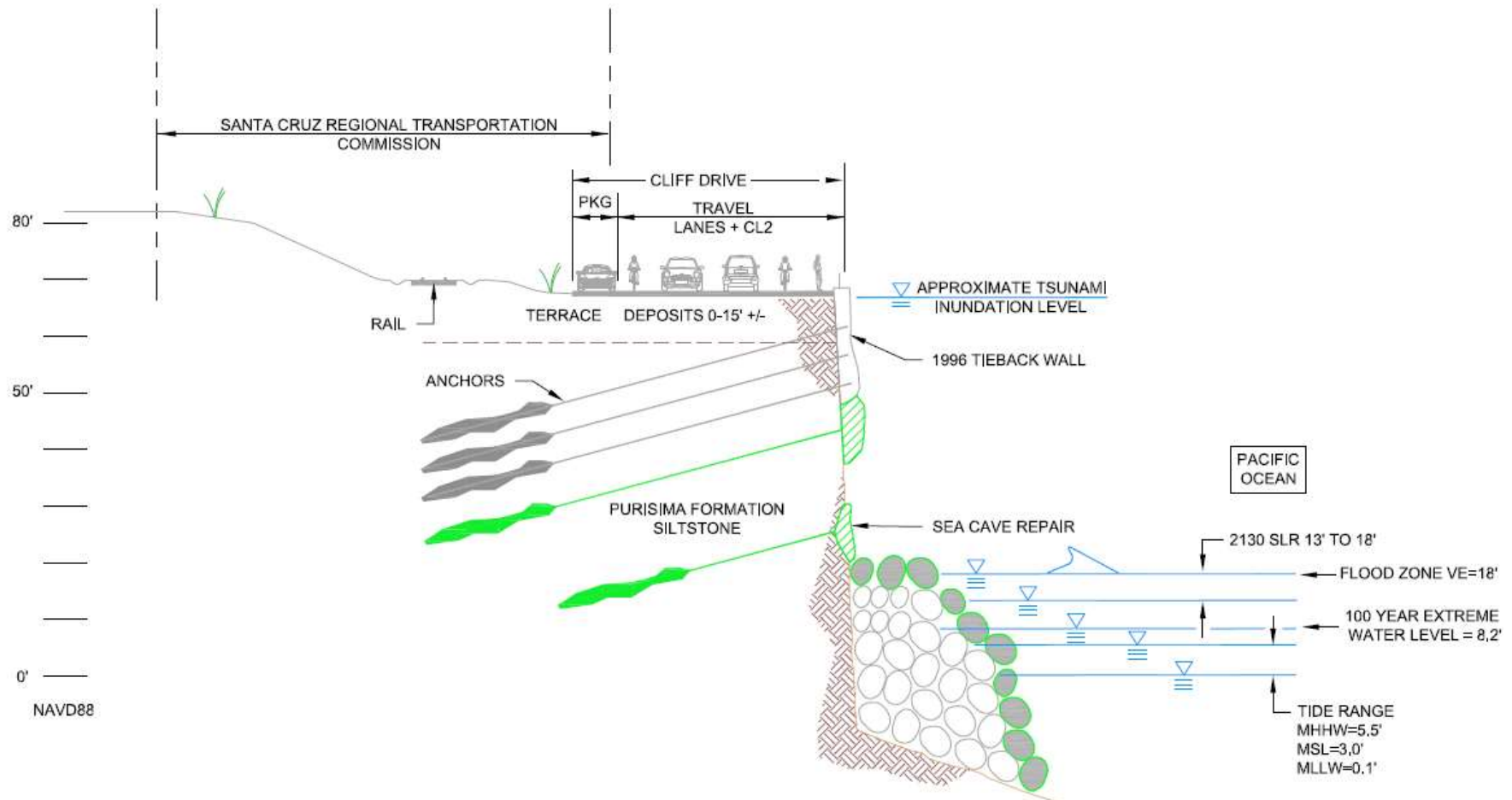
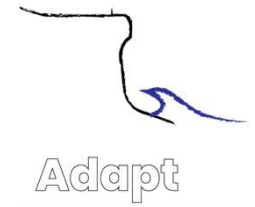


Retreat

# Option 1 – Do Nothing



# Option 2 – Adapt



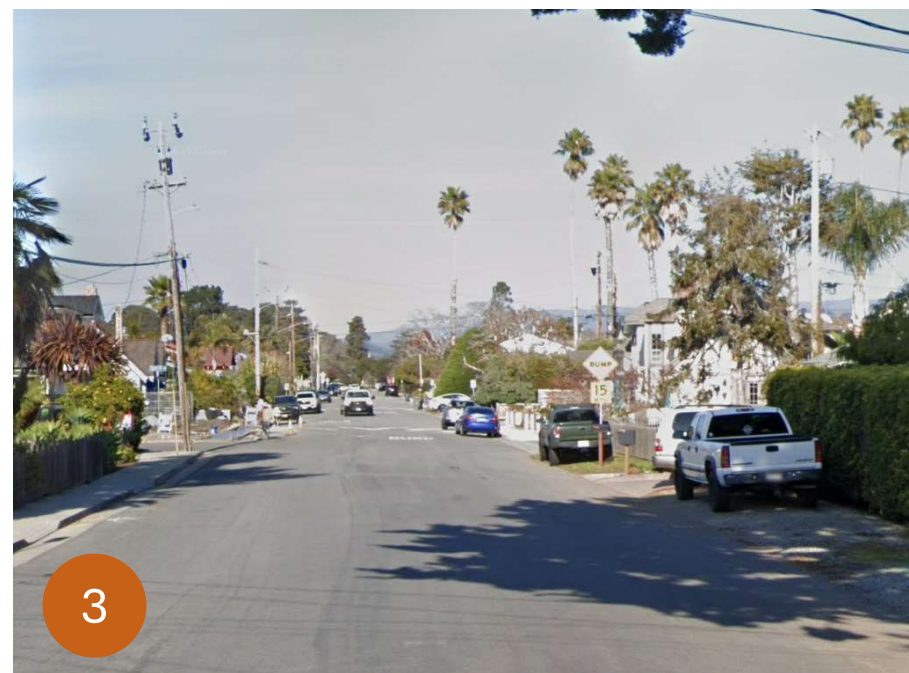
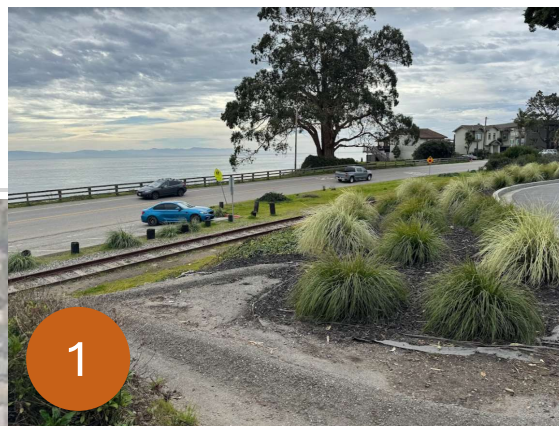
# Option 2 – Adapt



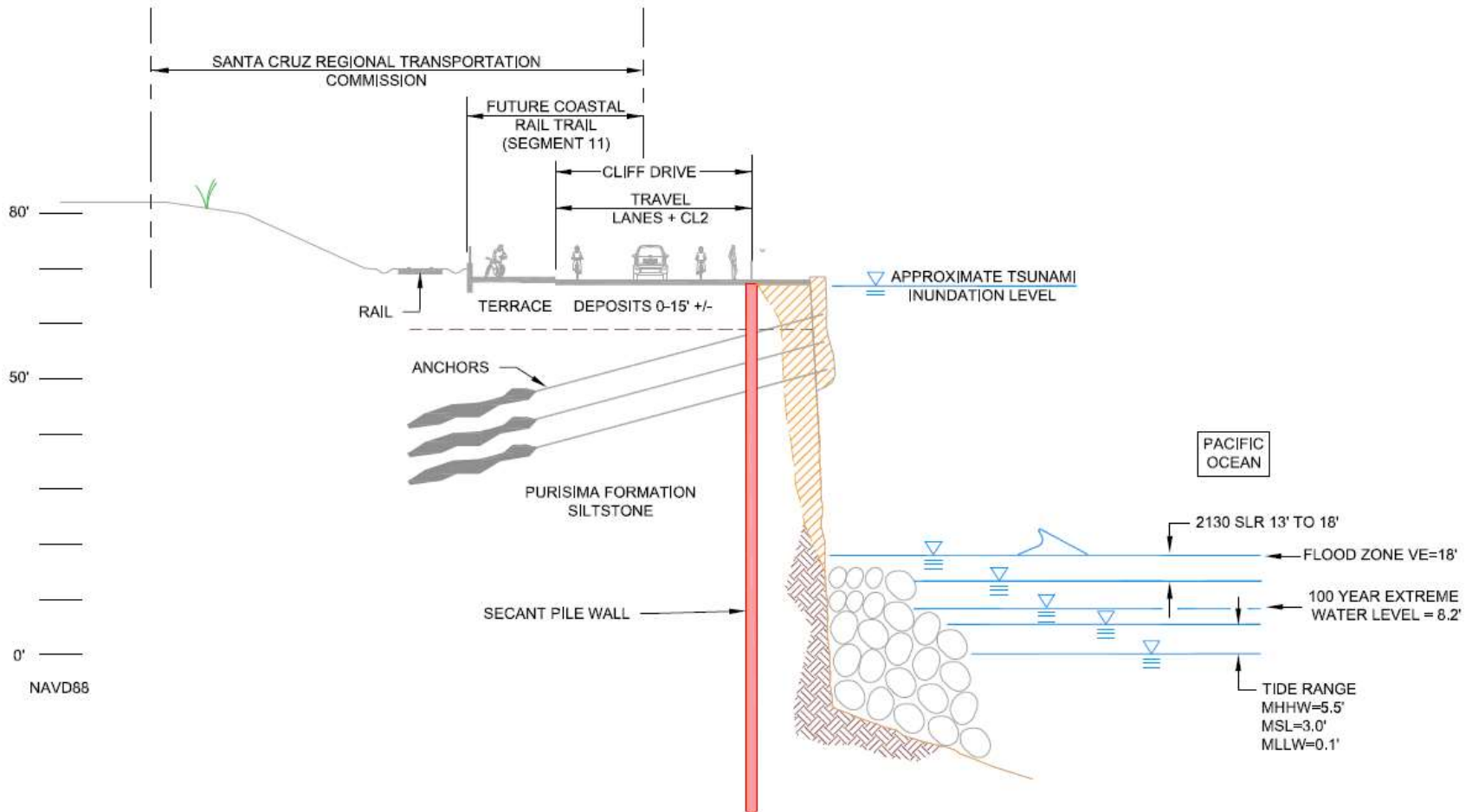
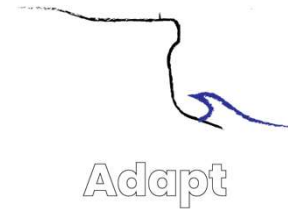
# Option 2 - Adapt



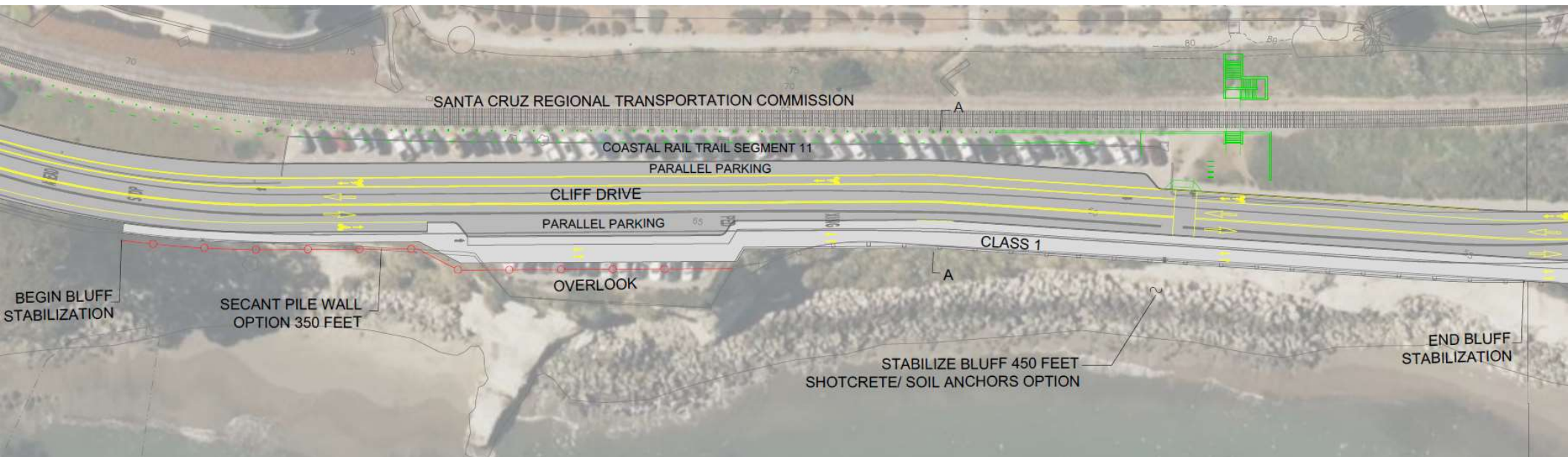
Cliff Drive operates in one-way direction.



# Option 2 – Adapt



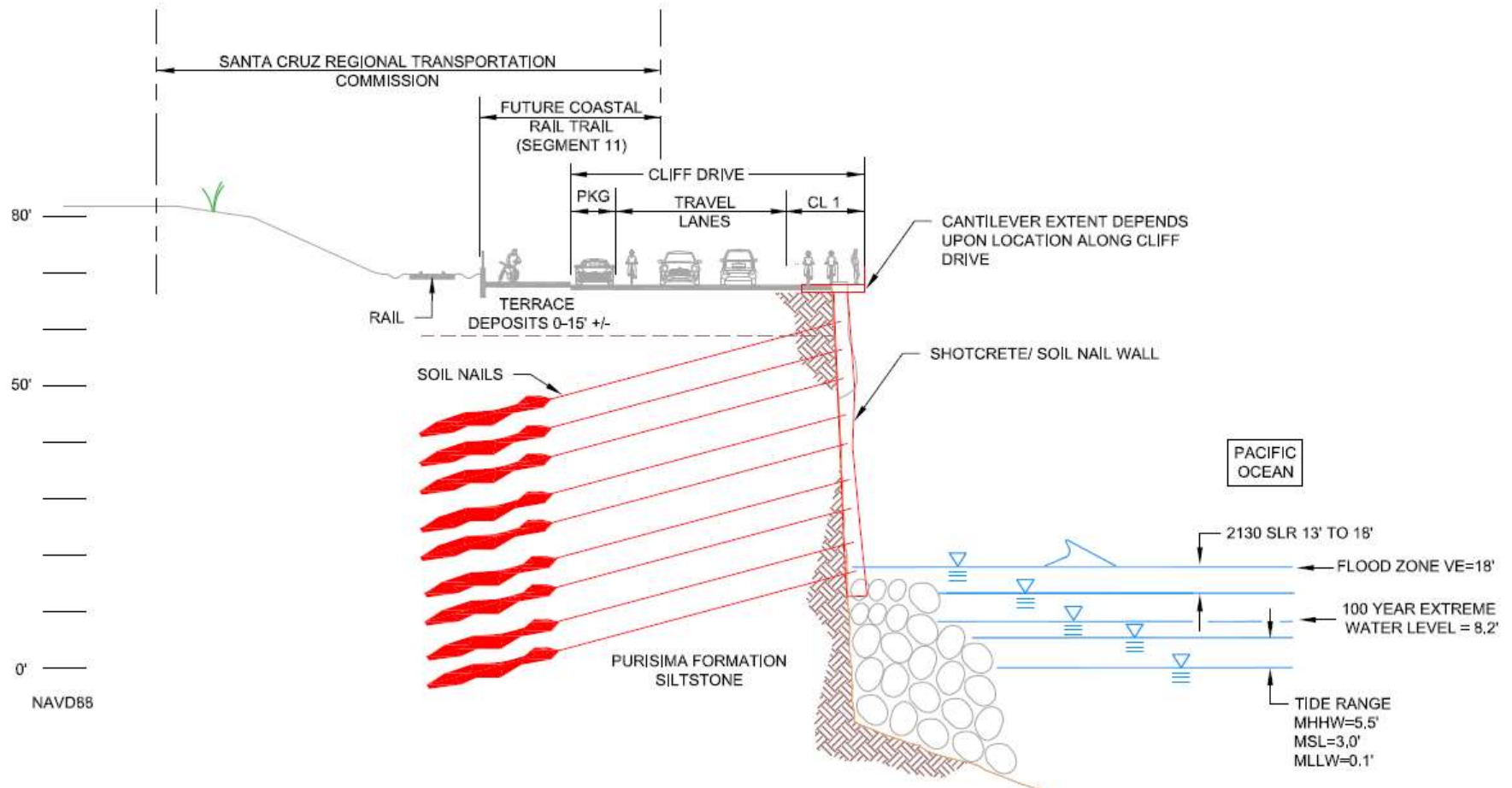
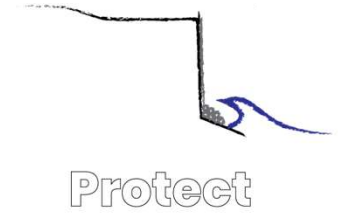
# Option 3 – Protect



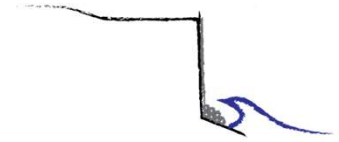
1. Provide vehicle travel lanes in the east and westbound directions.
2. Develop a Class 1 pathway eastbound towards the Village.
3. Maintain westbound Class 2 bike lanes.
4. Provide parallel parking.
5. Enhance the overlook.



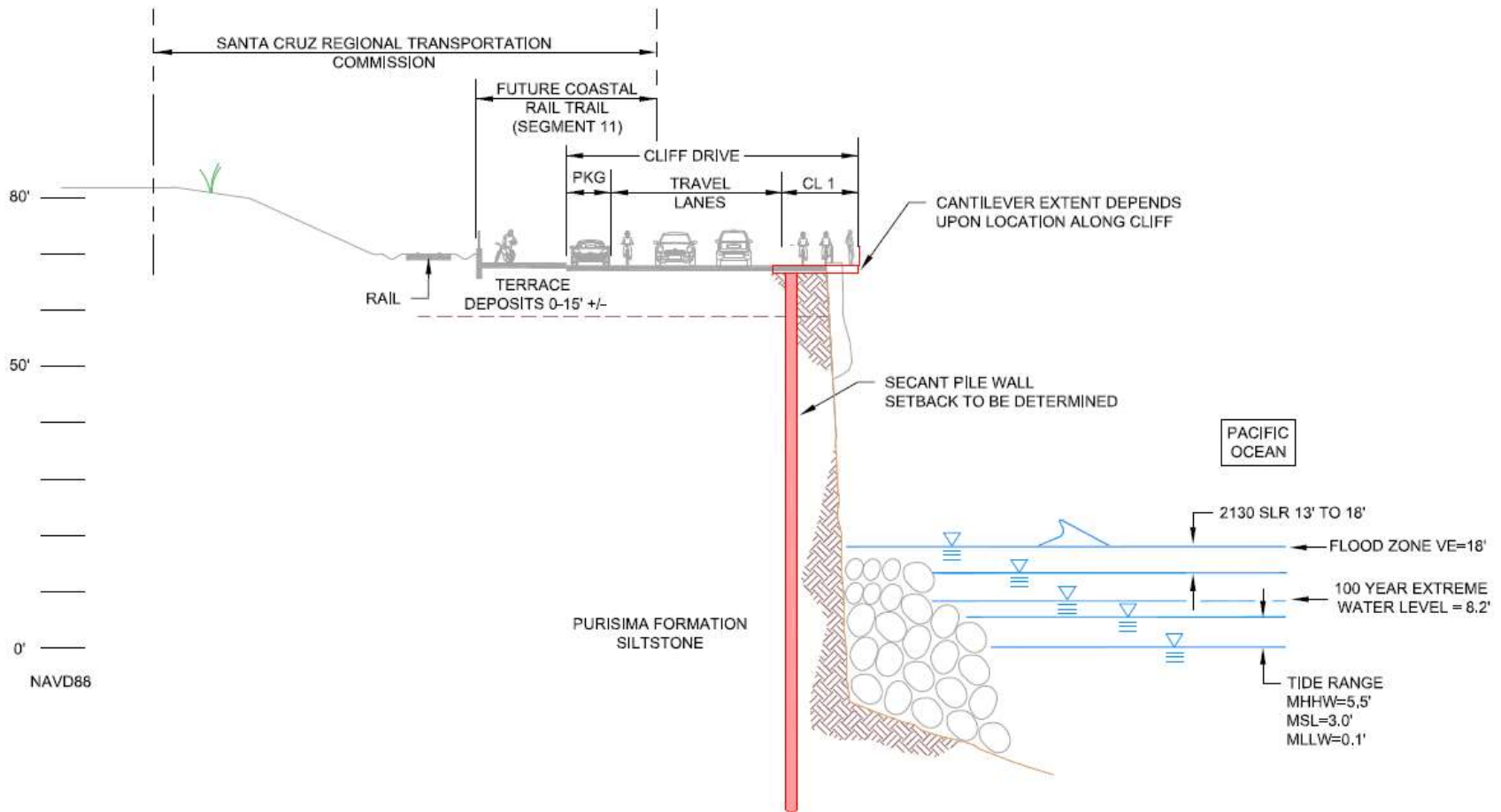
# Option 3 - Protect



# Option 3 - Protect

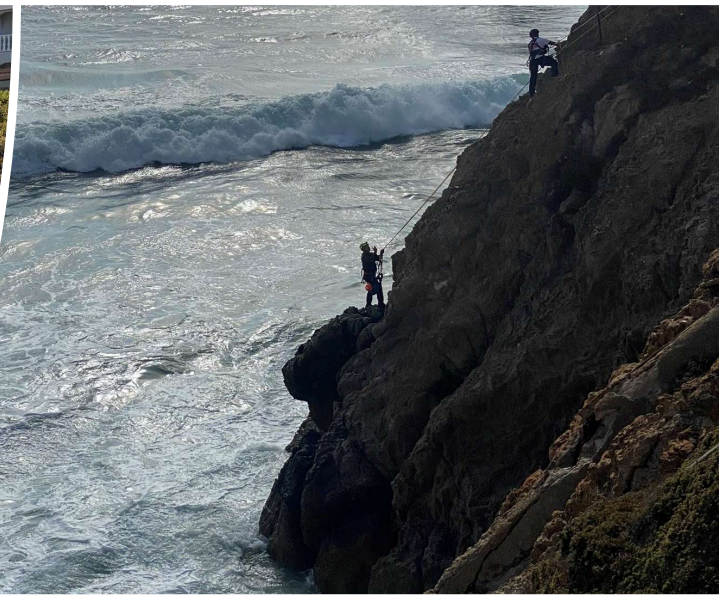
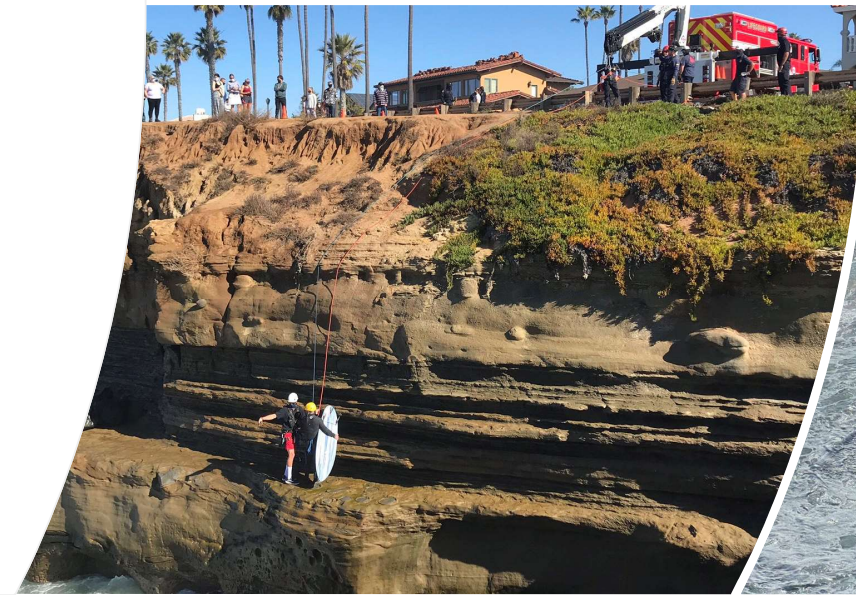
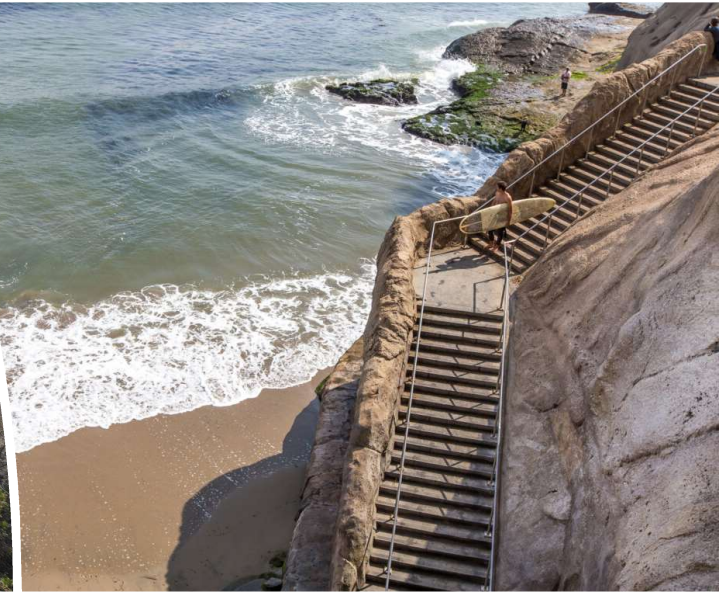
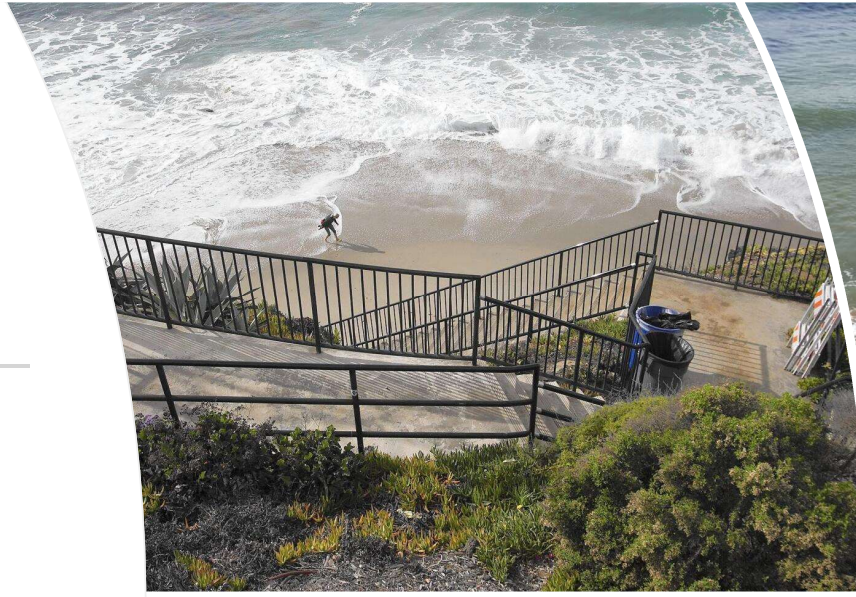


Protect



## Additional Design Considerations

- Vertical Access
- Surfer Safety





An aerial photograph of a coastal area, showing a road, buildings, and a beach. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text. A solid orange vertical bar is on the right side of the page.

# Next Steps

# Planning Schedule

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## Immediate Next Steps – July and August 2024

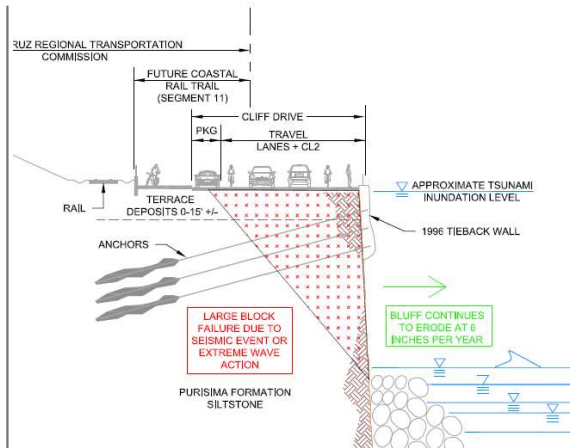
- Complete analysis of options, including detailing a preferred option.
- Community and Stakeholder Outreach including pop up event and online survey.

## Future Tasks - September 2024 to September 2025

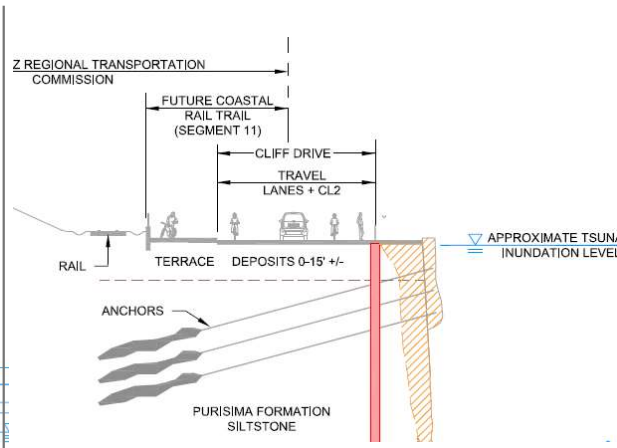
- LCP Amendment related to coastal access.
- Finalize preliminary engineering for the preferred option.
- CEQA IS/ MND
- Permitting
- Final Design

# Cliff Drive Comparison of Options

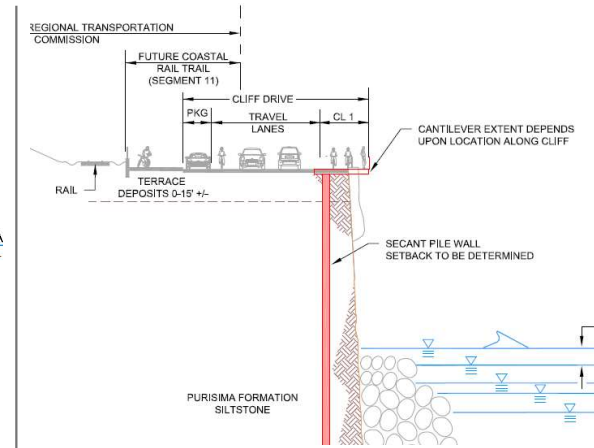
Option


























Option 1 Do Nothing



Option 2 Adapt



Option 3 Protect

Service Life	Marginal/ Negligible 		 
Capital Cost	\$0		  
Life Cycle Cost	   	 	
Coastal Access	No change or loss		 
Traffic Impact	  	 	No change