
[PDF] Cliff Drive Protection Plan

From Leslie Nielsen <lpbeach21@gmail.com>

Date Wed 9/3/2025 11:39 AM

To PLANNING COMMISSION <planningcommission@ci.capitola.ca.us>

 1 attachment (208 KB)

Joint_Letter_Cliff_Protection_Plan.pdf;

Dear Capitola Planning Commission,

Please see attached our letter sent to the key constituents of the Cliff Drive Resiliency Project. We also copied Katie Herlihy and Breeze Kinsey.

Best regards,
Leslie Nielsen
(Cliff Drive Homeowners Coordinator)
(408) 391-6178

Sept. 2, 2025

Jamie Goldstein, City Manager, Capitola
Jessica Khan, Public Works Director, Capitola
Robert Stephens, President CSWST2
John Kasunich, Haro Kasunich Geotechnical and Coastal Engineer
Rainey Graeven, Kiana Ford, Kevin Kahn, Central Coast California Coastal Commission
Capitola City Council and Planning Commission

Re: Cliff Drive Bluff Protection Project

Dear Jamie, Jessica, Robert, John, Rainey, Kiana, Kevin, Capitola City Council and Planning Commission,

As the owners of the homes along the section of Cliff Drive between the public stairway providing access to the north end of the Capitola beach and the road access to the Capitola Wharf, we are important stakeholders in the design and scope of the Cliff Drive Protection Project. We believe the only feasible solution to protect our homes and the public right of way is to add more rip rap to the existing system that has been in place since the 1960's, originally constructed along the entire bluff as one unified project. The project and its associated protections cannot be stopped or started at random points without creating risks from eddies and flanking erosion.

In the 2023 City-facilitated meeting, while we did not commit to participate in an undefined plan that might not prove financially feasible for either the property owners or the City, we expressed interest in achieving a comprehensive solution and requested that we be kept informed and involved.

Recent disclosures suggest the City is exploring a design that includes additional rip rap because 1) the absorption provided by rip rap protects the wharf from reflected waves, and 2) it is significantly more cost-effective than a concrete sea wall, particularly given current funding limitations. We support this approach, have discussed the expected costs among ourselves, and are willing to pay for rip rap added in front of our homes as part of the overall protection plan.

We are available to meet with all parties involved to ensure a solution is implemented that addresses erosion risks without creating new problems for residents or the wharf. It makes no sense to adopt a piecemeal approach when we are ready to fund the portion that benefits both our homes, the portion of Cliff Drive behind our homes and the wharf.

Sincerely,



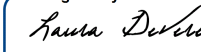
John M. Sobrato, 4940 Cliff Drive

DocuSigned by:



Leslie Nielsen, 4930 Cliff Drive

Signed by:



Laura DeVore, 4920 Cliff Drive