

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Adam Samuels <ahsamuels@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2025 4:35 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Grand Avenue pathway

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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### Members of the City Council City of Capitola

April 10, 2025

Regarding: Grand Avenue pathway

Dear Council Members,

I have lived in Capitola since 2007. During that time, I have witnessed the effects of our shoreline being eroded:

- As you're aware, the Grand Avenue pathway – which was open from the top of the village stairs up to Hollister Avenue – has become accessible now for only a portion of that distance;
  - Due to the efforts of the community and the City, we've been able to keep remaining sections open while in spite of what seems to be the inevitable loss of the coastal bluff.
1. I applaud the most efforts that were made in 2023 by a combination of city and volunteer resources to keep the stretch between Saxon and Oakland Avenues open:
    - We – citizens and government – found a way to make this work and have residents;
    - Our combined actions allowed residents and visitors to enjoy continued access to the path.
  2. It seems like the larger question at hand is whether the city and community are prepared to act to continue to provide access:
    - The city does have the right to recover encroachments from those residents on the path;
    - This may involve taking action where residents made improvements while promising to remove them if needed;
    - And asking residents who made improvements without obtaining authorization from the city to comply with regulations.
  3. I have heard that (at least some of) the homeowners whose property abuts the pathway would be open to a request from the City to recover the encroachment in the interest of maintaining access for the community:
    - If that were the case, it seems like it's worth investigating how to do so;

- Perhaps the same approach could be taken for the section between Saxon and Hollister Avenue as well.
4. Avoiding the process of making the case for permanent closure to the California Coastal Commission seems highly desirable.

Thanks for your service to the City and its citizens.

Adam Samuels