

Gautho, Julia

From: Brigitte Estey <esteymain@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:49 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Katheryn and Tom; Welch, Troy (TJ) (noworries4TJ@mac.com)
Subject: Grand Avenue Pathway

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Dear Councilmembers:

Item A on the Public Agenda for the April 10th meeting is to discuss and provide staff direction regarding the demise of the public pathway on Grand Avenue. The erosion of the bluff is not a new issue and has been considered by the City Council over many years. At multiple times in the past, the City has avoided taking any action to address the speed of the erosion, most recently in 2023.

The geological process of erosion of the bluff that underlies the pathway is well understood and has been documented in several geologic studies of this portion of the Purisima Foundation. What is lacking is any study of the damage that runoff from rainwaters causes to the Marine Terrace Deposits (topsoil) that lies on top of the rock formation. It is clear from the latest report by Pacific Crest Engineering that lack of proper drainage at the end of Saxon Avenue has exacerbated the current erosion rate. E-mails to the city by a property owner near that drain pipe complaining about the inadequate state of repairs have largely been ignored. Curiously, there is a large drain that sticks out of the bluff at the end of Sacramento dumping stormwater onto the rocks below (see the picture from Google maps below). The topsoil is not eroded at that location.

What is also lacking in the latest geological reports dating back to 2017, is any assessment of the state of the bluff between Central Avenue and Saxon Avenue. My concern is that the same conditions exist there as do at the sections of the pathway that recently fell into the ocean. This part of the pathway could represent a serious safety issue.

My recommendations for City Council to consider are the following:

- 1) Conduct a geological survey of the bluff between Central Avenue and Saxon Avenue to confirm the integrity of the pathway between these two streets,
- 2) Have a civil engineer assess the state of drainage throughout the neighborhoods adjacent to the bluff in Depot Hill because that information is not addressed in the geological reports.
- 3) Convene an ad hoc Committee of neighbours and experts to consider the near- and long-term solutions for the Grand Avenue pathway from Central to Oakland.

Sincerely,
Paul Estey
210 Central Avenue

Drainage pipe (in white) at the end of Sacramento Avenue

