

# Seacliff Improvement Association Fall 2017



## Mar Vista Bridge Stakeholder Meeting Review

Rebecca Downing

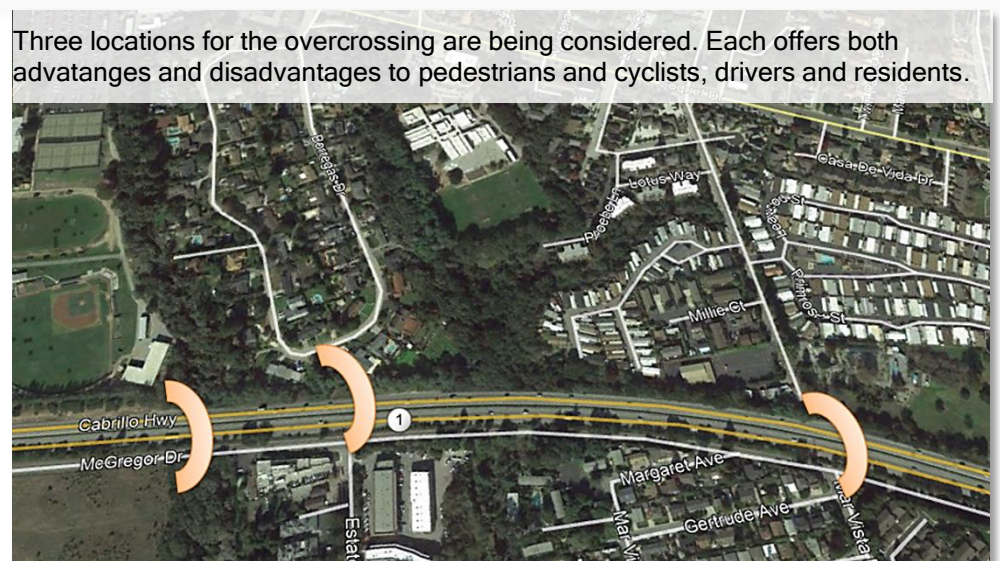
In October, interested members of our association attended a kick-off stakeholder meeting to provide input to Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff for the planned pedestrian and bicycle over-crossing reconnecting Mar Vista Avenue over Highway One.

Steven Grover, the project consultant architect opened his presentation by describing the design element factors of the overcrossing including bridge placement, spatial restraints, environmental factors, current and future transportation needs, future road projects and aesthetics. Tight building constraints on both sides of Mar Vista Drive present unique aesthetic challenges the project. For example, a spacious and inviting pathway with a slope that meets ADA requirements might not fit in the Mar Vista Drive location. Steeper ramps will require flat areas along the way to meet the same requirements in a smaller space.

Steve stated that design goals depend on priorities of the community. He asked participants to complete a survey prioritizing bridge elements including its location, aesthetics, parking, and access to the rail-trail. Location of the trail was discussed in relation to Mar Vista Elementary School, Cabrillo College, and the future rail trail. Participants raised the issue of increased traffic, parking and safety issues along the Seacliff side of Mar Vista Drive before and after school as parents drop children off along the road to walk over the bridge, park to accompany their children to and from school, and the increase of students cycling the route. Increased commuter traffic, in general, on Mar Vista Drive in Seacliff was also discussed since it already creates pedestrian safety challenges.

Over 35 questions and comments were generated from participants during the meeting,

indicating the RTC has a lot more work ahead before they present the design options for public review, discussion and a public workshop to identify a preferred option for environmental analysis. For more information: <https://sccrtc.org/projects/streets-highways/hwy1-mar-vista-bikeped-bridge/>





## Drainage Issues in Seacliff

Zach Friend  
Second District Supervisor  
County of Santa Cruz

As we head into the rainy season it's always good to do some advance preparations for your home or business. But for those of us that live and work in Seacliff, we know that drainage issues in our neighborhood are particularly acute. There are a few things that we can do in the short term to help

address the drainage issues and we can work together to consider a longer term fix for drainage issues as well. First, the short term:

In advance of the rainy season Public Works has been clearing culverts, and mowing and clearing brush in an attempt to reduce flooding potential. If you know of any culverts that need inspection or repair or brush that needs to be cleared, please reach out to them directly at 454-2160. Public Works is also asking residents to rake (if it's safe) and clean around storm drains to help prevent flooding. This simple task can significantly improve drainage. Road hazards can always be reported via the 24-hour Public Works dispatch number at 477-3999 (option 1) or by calling 911. Additionally, you can use the free County Citizen Connect mobile app from the Apple or Google stores to request services and report non-emergency issues.

Doing some of these simple things will help prevent some of the inevitable drainage and flooding issues in our neighborhood. But what is the best long term fix? I've spoken extensively with Public Works and our drainage experts at the County and a solution may be helping to fund a true drainage district in Seacliff (and in Rio Del Mar - which faces some of the same issues). A drainage district can provide the proper infrastructure to improve upon our 80+ year-old drainage systems. The failures at Beachgate, the issues on Mar Vista, the flooding on State Park by the entrance and on North Avenue and more - they all tie back to an antiquated drainage approach that doesn't adequately convey water to proper channels. Many homes simply push water off of their properties and into a street where it ideally heads to an old culvert or, in many cases, just heads downhill flooding our neighbors.

I will be working with the Seacliff Improvement Association to hold a community meeting with Public Works to discuss long term drainage solutions. Once we work out a date and time we will be sure to let you know. As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts. Please feel free to call me at 454-2200 if I can be of any help to you.



These are the remains of the storm drain at the entrance to Seacliff State Beach that failed during a winter storm in January, 2017. Repairs and replacement of the drain pipe was completed immediately because the location of the damage was within six feet of the main Seacliff sewer line. Other Seacliff storm damaged sites are still awaiting repair.

# Preparing the Beachgate Trail for Winter and Beyond

Rebecca Downing

If you have travelled on the Beachgate Trail lately, all looks well and the pathway is clear. This is, in large part, due to work completed earlier this year by State Park employees, neighbors Dianne and Steve Pereira, and other resident volunteers. What you don't see is the long, crumbled storm drain beneath the ground that collapsed, broke or disintegrated along its route from the head of the trail to Seacliff State Beach.

At our annual dinner in October, State Parks District Superintendent, Chris Spohrer stated that the Beachgate Trail is just one of 90 FEMA sites in our district. This list also includes previously damaged roads, sinkholes, and the pier, creating a huge backlog of projects. Chris then explained that once State Parks gets reimbursement authorization from FEMA, they will start the process of permitting, environmental documentation and compliance to begin addressing repair of the trail.



Members of the association gather with State Parks staff and local engineering firms to evaluate the trail.

The trail has been inspected and it is likely that there will be a small amount of FEMA funding, but the underlying drainage pipe was in bad shape before last winter's storms so FEMA funds won't pay for the entire repair. State Parks is looking at ideas and possible designs that are environmentally compliant and can be accepted by the Coastal Commission for a coastal development permit. With your generous donations, the association will continue to shore up the trail and work with State Parks staff to keep it safe and open until a more permanent repair is completed.

## *SIA needs a Secretary in 2018*

Our association is looking to our members to help us fill a vital position within our organization. If you have considered increasing your participation in caring for our Seacliff community, this opportunity might be for you. Required responsibilities and skills:

- ✍ Attend Board meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
- ✍ Record minutes of SIA board and membership meetings
- ✍ Email notices to members and compose documents on behalf of the association
- ✍ Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Web based email (training available)

Board membership not required but encouraged as you would be able to vote on vital issues (2 year term). Visit <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/membership/> and select "By-Laws" for more information. If you are interested, let us know by writing to [info@seacliffimprovement.org](mailto:info@seacliffimprovement.org)

# SIA Third Quarter Meeting Notes

Rebecca Downing

Based on the results of our June Aptos Village Pedestrian Survey, our association invited the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department and the Regional Transportation Commission to address our community's pedestrian safety needs at our third quarter membership meeting. Although our pedestrian concerns were only partially addressed at this meeting, the agencies presented a realistic description of the backlog of repairs due to funding limitations along with a more positive picture of upcoming plans for our area thanks to the passing of County Measure D.

Supervisor Zach Friend presented an overview of this recently passed measure and State Senate Bill 1 that increase and match funding for local roads and transportation projects. He stated that our district does not have the same level of representation as the northern county, especially regarding regional allocation of transportation funds with more people representing the north county and the city of Santa Cruz. Zach said he has an uphill battle negotiating on our behalf, but Seacliff is one of the very first areas to be attended to over the next two years. These funds will also be used to build the Mar Vista pedestrian bridge reconnecting the neighborhood separated by the construction of Highway One.

Steve Wiesner, Assistant Director of the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department began his report by stating that the major arteries on the county roads have been generally well maintained but, due to lack of funding, smaller roads and neighborhood roads are not in good repair. Measure D's passage means funds are now available to bring our roads back up to standards including repairing the tremendous amount of storm damage in the mountains. Steve described their five year plan with projects that seek to remedy the severe deficit for road funding and prioritizes repairs to fix our local roads throughout the large unincorporated areas in the county.

In Aptos, most of the work will happen in Seacliff, including work in downtown Seacliff as the undergrounding project finishes. Public Work's goal is to finalize design issues so that, in the next year or two, Seacliff will receive our downtown streetscape beautification including resurfacing roads and creating parking and sidewalks.



Highlighted streets in Seacliff and Rio Del Mar that are included in the current County Public Works plan for repavement within the next five years.

Steve also shared that Public Works is looking at bicycle and pedestrian continuity throughout the county to ensure each project connects to another area or activity center such as Seacliff, State Park Drive, the development of Aptos Village, and the beach at Rio Del Mar. The hope is to create connecting sidewalks over the next several years that will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety between Aptos Village and downtown Seacliff. In updating the county Bike Plan for the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz, the County will examine where paths are currently located and where they need to be connected. He spoke of new green bike lanes that help provide safety for the large Santa Cruz County biking community. This work allows the county to tap into state bicycle and active transportation grant programs to leverage larger pedestrian and cycling grants. Steve completed his remarks by stating that the county is looking to new funding opportunities near elementary schools, located in densely populated areas of the unincorporated county to improve and extend sidewalks to connect pedestrian areas.

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director of the Santa Cruz Regional transportation District (RTC) began his presentation by describing the history of the purchase of the rail and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network Final Master Plan. The first trail segments are to be built in Santa Cruz beginning next year followed by Watsonville then the North Coast. Measure D funds will be used to fund the trail and used as leverage for pursuit of other funds. Luis said there is a significant challenge to building the trail through Aptos because of the bridges. All bridges along the line need inspections to determine how and if they can accommodate trail components.

The RTC is responsible for maintaining the rail line but storm damage repair and drainage issues have been delayed because local contractors are busy and the RTC's rail operator, Iowa-Pacific Railroad, has not fulfilled its maintenance duties. Federal rules do not allow people to walk on the rail line but people still use it, so the RTC also deals with vegetation abatement, homeless issues, and graffiti. Luis concluded by saying the RTC may be able to look at some of the Aptos rail segment being routed to avoid the bridges.

Questions were raised about how priorities for paving are set and what improvements include. Steve explained that the county currently only repaving streets that can be maintained this way, and that Measure D revenue will increase, enabling the county to repair more damaged roads, leveraging these funds to get state and federal grants. Comments from attendees included the lack of visibility of pedestrian right-of-ways, speeding on local roads, and the reality of people using the rail line as a trail.

Zach reported meeting with Google and Waze to address the impact on local roads when the route sends drivers through residential neighborhoods. Our county roads are defined as residential, collectors and arterial so he requested they eliminate residential roads from their algorithms. They only agreed to remove storm damaged roads. The local road challenge is a national issue that needs addressing so municipalities don't "close" a road to keep the apps from sending drivers through residential streets. This will become even more important once the traffic calming measures in the Seacliff Streetscape projects are installed.

The meeting adjourned for ice cream sandwiches from Marianne's.



*SIA  
Annual  
Dinner*

*A  
Tasty  
Success!*

**Welcome New Members!**  
Denis and Susanne Endisch  
Lesley Holtaway  
Doug and Anne Thomas  
We thank all 348 member households  
and friends for your continued support!

Seacliff Improvement Association Treasurer's Report for November 2017

	September	October	November	YTD
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Donations		\$1,411.03	\$440.00	\$2,129.03
Membership Dues		\$3,540.00	\$130.00	\$5,973.00
Annual Dinner Meals		\$2,280.00		\$2,280.00
Annual Dinner Door Prize Tickets		\$242.00		\$242.00
Human Race Donations				\$2,393.00
Volunteer Center (Human Race)				\$4,284.85
Credit for Wells Fargo Checks				\$43.53
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,473.03</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>	<b>\$17,345.41</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
Web Hosting				\$143.88
Web Administration		\$175.00		\$315.00
Newsletter Editing		\$525.00		\$1,680.00
Postage				\$63.70
Newsletter Printing/Postage		\$110.23		\$1,128.24
Survey Monkey				\$29.00
Chamber of Commerce Dues				\$150.00
Farmers Insurance				\$563.00
PayPal Reconciliation				\$95.93
Returned check plus bank fee				\$32.00
Wells Fargo Checks				\$43.53
Beautification Gift Certificates				\$150.00
Volunteer Center for Human Race				\$2,263.13
CA Sec. of State				\$29.50
Post Box Annual Rental		\$90.00		\$90.00
Membership Supplies				\$89.62
Annual Dinner/Renewal Mailing		\$446.71		\$446.71
Sound Equipment				\$16.31
Refreshments	\$196.58			\$411.58
Room Rental	\$50.00			\$50.00
Parade Permit				\$24.00
Annual Dinner				\$3,223.18
Seacliff Gardens				\$2,539.60
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$246.58</b>	<b>\$4,175.12</b>	<b>\$480.00</b>	<b>\$13,577.91</b>
<b>ENDING CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$24,236.35</b>	<b>\$27,534.26</b>	<b>\$27,624.26</b>	<b>\$27,624.26</b>
			<b>DESIGNATED MONIES -- BEACHGATE TRAIL</b>	<b>\$4,331.85</b>

**Seacliff Improvement Association**  
**PO Box 533**  
**Aptos, CA 95001-0533**

*Share your newsletter with a neighbor and invite them to join!*

Membership Application/Renewal-Newsletter

Annual Dues are \$20.00 (January– December)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Seacliff Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address if different: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (for newsletters and bulletins):

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_



Please include your check and mail to: Seacliff Improvement Association, P.O. Box 533, Aptos, CA 95001

To learn more or join the Seacliff Improvement Association visit: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>