

Seacliff Improvement Association Fall 2018



Seacliff Traffic Safety Meeting Recap

Rebecca Downing

2nd District Supervisor Zach Friend, his analyst Patrick Mulhearn, Captain Craig Kunzler, California Highway Patrol Commander and Matt Machado, Deputy County Administrative Officer and Public Works Director met with over 35 residents on November 20th at the Aptos Library in response to recent appeals for help with growing traffic issues in Seacliff.

Matt Machado described traffic calming measures such as speed signs, speed tables, and optical road speed reduction measures that are all the responsibility of County Public Works. More information for these can be found at:

<http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/TransportationRoads/TrafficEngineering.aspx>

Matt said the most effective way to get help is through the Santa Cruz County Citizen Connect App <https://sccappstore.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/> so crews can fix problems, like potholes, abandoned vehicles and road damage. You can also report problems on the 24-Hour Dispatch telephone number: 831-477-3999.

Matt also stated the biggest issue for our county is still road storm damage repair including 54 projects alone in the 2nd district. Complicated and difficult processes for reimbursement from FEMA for \$75 million dollars of damage county-wide has slowed repairs. Matt also reported many streets in Seacliff and Rio Del Mar will be repaved in 2019 using Measure D funds approved by county voters leveraging matching funds from the state passage of SB1.

CHP Captain Craig Kunzler told attendees that he wants to hear directly from residents. He is creating a unit specifically to address constituent complaints so providing specific street details, times, and behaviors is important. Cuts statewide have reduced staff so it's important to give specific information to help apply appropriate corrective resources. Attendees pointed out streets in Seacliff that were particularly troublesome including: Center Avenue, Seacliff Drive from Broadway to the Mini Park then inland north to Center Avenue, El Camino Del Mar and Mar Vista Drive. Issues included speeding, hazardous behavior and cyclists not obeying traffic laws. Craig noted these and other problem areas for officers to pursue. He said there has been an increase in distracted driving and DUI's causing accidents in our county so tell family and friends to be careful. He said to call 911 if you hear drag racing because it is a dangerous and reckless behavior.

If you have questions or comments, contact:

Matt Machado: 831-4542368, matt.machado@santacruzcounty.us

Craig Kunzler: 831-662-0551, ckunzler@chp.ca.gov



Improvements to Parks and our Libraries

Zach Friend
Second District Supervisor
County of Santa Cruz

With the passage of Measure G in the November election new funding will be available for our parks and libraries. Significant funding is planned for regional parks such as the new all-inclusive playground for kids of all abilities - LEO's Haven - planned for Chanticleer Park in Live Oak, as well as improvements to the Simkins Swim Center.



Seacliff Village County Park

Our district is also due some needed upgrades. As part of the Measure G planned improvements to the clubhouse at Aptos Village Park progresses, I'm working with our district's great Parks Commissioner, Kate Minott, on the next phase of Seacliff Village Park including the much-needed permanent restrooms and other elements promised for Phase 2 of its development. Additionally, we are working on improvements to Hidden Beach Park in Rio Del Mar in the coming year.

Turning to libraries, for the first time in decades, significant upgrades and improvements are planned for libraries in our district. You may recall that in 2013, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries engaged in a comprehensive facilities master planning process to assess the needs of each of their branches and found significant challenges in everything from structural problems to technological needs to meet modern demands. In June 2016 you approved Measure S, the Library Improvement Bond Measure, which is slated to generate \$67 million for the library system. While improvements are planned throughout the system, here are the general plans for branches within our district:

Projects in Capitola, La Selva Beach and Aptos are in varying stages of the improvement process and will include important accessibility (ADA) improvements. All the projects will receive structural improvements, lighting, heating upgrades and will be brought up to current code.

The Capitola Library has already held its groundbreaking and has general design plans available. The La Selva Beach Library held a community meeting where initial design elements were shown. Feedback on the interior and exterior design, as well as community requests for how the space is allocated, were received and considered. The Aptos Library is in the earliest improvement stages and a preliminary community scoping meeting, where residents provided high-level inputs for what they would like to see in the library, was held in mid-November with several Seacliff residents attending. This is the first of multiple community input sessions planned for Aptos.

The updated libraries will also receive significant interior improvements with Capitola, for example, including a community meeting room with flexible furnishings, a kitchenette, a media wall, an expanded children's area, a dedicated teen area, reader and study seating spread around the

library, including an adult reading nook and a fireplace reading area, enhanced book and media collections and more.

In La Selva Beach, there are discussions about ways to improve the children's area, provide for flexibility in the space for meetings and book clubs, increase natural lighting and airflow, expand the available seating for reading and studying and much more.

How can you get involved?

Your input into these designs and renovations is essential! You can get involved in many ways by attending an upcoming community meeting, submitting comments to the project manager directly, joining or reaching out to the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and specifically the Friends groups associated with these branches and more.

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries website maintains updates on each project and ways to get involved. If you wish to contact the project manager directly with questions or suggestions on the Aptos or La Selva Beach projects contact: Damon Adlao, Project Manager, County of Santa Cruz, Department of Public Works at: 831-454-2343.

You can attend an upcoming community meeting on the Aptos Library in the branch's community room on Tuesday, December 11th from 7 - 8 pm. The Friends of the Aptos Library can be found at: <https://www.friendsofaptoslibrary.org/>

As always, you can also reach out to me with your thoughts. Feel free to call me at 454-2200.



Beachgate Trail Repair Funding Agreement Set

Rebecca Downing

Our agreement with the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks to raise funds for the trail repair has been signed and fundraising from agencies such as the California Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy can now begin. We are grateful for SIA member and attorney David Fulton for reviewing the agreement on our behalf to ensure a successful partnership. Thank you, David!

Since the repair includes both state and county land, our board of directors is working to ensure all sections will be properly funded. Auggie Ceballos, Santa Cruz District Maintenance Chief, is currently reviewing design bids so State Parks can apply for a coastal permit for the repair.

The winter rains have begun, and the trail may require interim maintenance, so we are accepting donations through our PayPal account, located on our website: <http://www.seacliffimprovement.org/>. Please include *Beachgate Trail* in the comment field, so we know to add it to the fund. Thank you!

Unified Corridor Study May Leave Aptos Chokepoint Unaddressed

Rebecca Downing

In 2017, as a result of our pedestrian survey, we formed a committee to pursue pedestrian improvements to make it easier for us to walk to Aptos Village. Our work now includes review of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) Unified Corridor Study that is currently in its final month of consideration by the commissioners before they vote in January to adopt a transportation scenario for the county. Because the study shows that all the scenarios are statistically insignificant in their ability to improve speed of transportation and safety, our association requested that all possible improvements to Highway 1 be maximized with auxiliary and HOV lanes and running busses on the shoulder before considering passenger rail. Our association has not taken a position on passenger rail service, but the study notes its construction cost is approximately \$500 million, is inefficient in its transit times and will not alleviate rush hour traffic. We asked the commission for a thorough survey of south county residents to find out where they go to work, how they travel, and what it would take to get them out of their cars before making any transportation decisions. Currently, there is no data detailing commute patterns from this part of the county.

The study seeks to establish equity for all county residents, so we asked the commissioners for equity for Aptos, the chokepoint for all the commuter traffic which now overflows into and through our neighborhood twice a day, diminishing our quality of life because we lack infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate traffic levels from over twenty years ago. We specifically mentioned Aptos Village that no one can reach safely on foot and is a challenge to drive to during peak traffic hours. There are no plans to ease this chokepoint unless a scenario is chosen that removes cars from our local roads.

In addition to our work representing the association to the SCCRTC, we are also seeking a change of Metro Santa Cruz Bylaws because current Metro representation on SCCRTC is not consistent with the SCCRTC bylaws requiring county-wide representation. With support for this from both the Rio Del Mar and La Selva Beach Improvement Associations we are working with Supervisor Friend to pursue this with Metro Santa Cruz. If Metro representation on the SCCRTC includes more members from the southern end of the county then votes funding infrastructure projects, road improvements and pedestrian safety measures will better reflect the county's population.

Currently, it can take over one hour to reach Seacliff from Aptos Village by bus, so we will be asking Metro to study the addition of an Aptos-only shuttle. A shuttle will reduce vehicles using Aptos roads since every person riding the bus leaves room for those who need to drive and park. It reduces emissions too. A shuttle will also connect with other Metro lines to more easily travel beyond Aptos.



Walking or cycling to Aptos Village requires such caution, especially at intersections like the one at Spreckels and Soquel Drive, that many Seacliff residents use their car or avoid visiting Aptos Village completely.



Don't Wait for Disaster, Join CERT Today

Mary Edmund

Of all the truths in the world, one is almost guaranteed: people will come together in the wake of disaster. While disasters may happen to individuals the more memorable disasters occur in communities where friends, neighbors and family are affected. People will remember the destruction and pain, but people will also remember how – after the event - their families and neighbors came together to overcome adversity.

How much better would it be if one planned and prepared for the disaster. Now is your chance! There is an active CERT Team in Seacliff and we invite to join in helping our community be better prepared. The training program is offered at no cost and skills taught are low-risk, but high benefit actions that may be taken to minimize life and property loss at a time when emergency services are certain to be overwhelmed by community needs.

Proper, preemptive training will prevent life and property loss among Seacliff neighbors, but also keep those responding safe. Sign-up classes on the website:

<https://santacruzcountycert.org/>

and click on the Training tab for information about classes.



Neighborhoods that are prepared for emergency and disaster situations save lives, reduce the severity of injuries and trauma, and reduce property damage. In addition, contributing as an individual and working together as a Team helps develop a stronger and more resilient Seacliff community. For questions or more information please email: CERTAuxiliary@gmail.com

The SS Palo Alto Needs You!

The 100th anniversary of the SS Palo Alto is in May 2019. The association plans to celebrate along with Seacliff merchants and Seacliff State Beach. If you have special Cement Ship memories you wish to share or are interested in helping plan the events for this anniversary, please write to us at:

info@seacliffimprovement.org so we may include you in the festivities.

Welcome New Members!

Dana Abbott

Geoffrey and Melanie Akers and

Michael and Carol Akers

Chrisman Clum and Denise Sedlacek

Bonnie and Tracy De Leuw

Jennifer Holt

Paul and Carol Mackinlay

Nannette O'Connor

Gretchen and Jay A. Reyes, Jr.

We thank all 352-member households and friends for your continued support.

*Seacliff Improvement Association Annual Dinner
Celebrating our 70th
Anniversary!*



Seacliff Improvement Association Treasurer's Report 2018 YTD

	August	September	October	YTD
Balance from 22869.69+4331.85 *				\$27,201.54
INCOME:				
General Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,060.00	\$1,259.39
SIA Dinner			\$2,580.00	\$2,580.00
Raffle Ticket sales			\$398.00	\$398.00
Membership Dues	\$40.00		\$3,624.47	\$6,119.31
Beachgate Trail Donations			\$174.05	\$2,342.54
TOTAL INCOME	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$7,936.52	\$12,799.24
EXPENSES:				
Website Hosting and Admin			\$55.00	\$385.88
Newsletter (edit, post, print)			\$700.00	\$2,820.54
Annual Dinner			\$3,658.53	\$3,658.53
Annual Dinner Music			\$225.00	\$225.00
Annual Dinner Décor			\$105.72	\$105.72
Annual PO Box Fee			\$96.00	\$96.00
Postage, shipping, etc.		\$90.80	\$408.13	\$637.33
Fundraising Event				\$80.00
Insurance				\$563.00
Membership Meeting items				\$241.09
Beautification Gift Certificates				\$200.00
Sign Contest: Drive Slow in Seacliff				\$191.25
Aptos Chamber of Commerce fee		\$250.00		\$250.00
Nonprofit registration fees				\$20.00
Membership Supplies				\$26.96
Gardening			\$240.00	\$1,222.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$340.80	\$5,588.38	\$10,823.30
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$27,170.14	\$26,829.34	\$29,177.48	\$29,177.48
*Beachgate Trail Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174.05	\$6,674.39

Get involved!

Our board of directors has one seat open so consider joining us. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Aptos/ La Selva Fire Station at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

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

If you have a suggestion for an improvement or a Seacliff question write to us at:
info@seacliffimprovement.org

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)

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION

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/>

