

## **January 11, 1999 - Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

#### **Scott Creek Beach:**

There has been no change since last month.

## **February 20, 1999 - Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Department received notice from Caltrans that if the TEA funds for the project have not been appropriated by State Transportation Commission on or before September 1, 2000, then the funding will be canceled. Currently, the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is being revised by the County Planning Department to incorporate the latest comments from Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. Once all the agencies agreed on the draft, then it will be released for public comments, which we anticipate will happen this spring and permits for the project by fall of 1999. At this time, the Department believes that the deadline for TEA funding can be met.

## **March 8, 1999 - Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Department received notice from Caltrans that if the TEA funds for the project have not been appropriated by State Transportation Commission on or before September 1, 2000, then the funding will be canceled. Currently, the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is being revised by the County Planning Department to incorporate the latest comments from Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. Once all the agencies agreed on the draft, then it will be released for public comments, which we anticipate will happen this spring and permits for the project by fall of 1999. At this time, the Department believes that the deadline for TEA funding can be met.

## **April 19, 1999 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Department received notice from Caltrans that if the TEA funds for the project have not been appropriated by State Transportation Commission on or before September 1, 2000, then the funding will be canceled. Currently, the project's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report is being revised by the County Planning Department to incorporate the latest comments from Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. Once all the agencies agreed on the draft, then it will be released for public comments, which we anticipate will happen this spring and permits for the project by fall of 1999. At this time, the Department believes that the deadline for TEA funding can be met.

## **May 10, 1999 - Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Department received notice from Caltrans that they have accepted the Environmental Impact Statement and Report. Caltrans have forwarded the report onto the Federal Highway Administration with a recommendation to approve it.

## **June 14, 1999 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Department received notice from Caltrans that they have accepted the Environmental Impact Statement and Report. Caltrans have forwarded the report onto the Federal Highway Administration with a recommendation to approve it.

## **July 1999 – No Meeting**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** The Parks Department received notice from Caltrans that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Environmental Documents for public circulation. The County Planning Department will need to make a few minor changes as requested by FHWA, before releasing the document for public comment. We anticipate that the Planning Department will release it by mid September.

## **August 23, 1999 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** On July 22, 1999, the Environmental Documents has been released for public comment by the County Planning Department. A copy of the document should be enclosed with your agenda packet. Any comments your Commission wished to forward to the Planning Department regarding the environmental document must be submitted by September 6, 1999.

## **August 23, 1999 - Minutes**

### **Director's Report**

A. Scott Creek Beach Access Enhancement & Habitat Restoration EIR/EA

Lacy Holtzworth, Park Planner, gave a presentation on Scott Creek Beach and it's background in regard to the EIR/EA reports. Construction is anticipated for the Fall of 2000. Discussion took place concerning the traffic impacts, signage, parking and turnouts, and the snowy plover. The next meeting of the Commission on September 13, 1999, will be a public hearing on the Scott Creek Beach project.

Harold Short, Chairman of the North Coast Beaches Advisory Committee brought up the fact that some of the funds will expire by September, 2000, and therefore moving the project along on a timely basis is extremely important.

## **September 13, 1999 – Agenda**

### **Status Report on Current Projects**

**Scott's Creek Beach:** On July 22, 1999, the Environmental Documents was released for public comment by the County Planning Department. Unfortunately due to a miscommunication with Caltrans, the release document was not adequately notified. As a result the comment period has been extended to September 28, 1999, and a public hearing to inform the public of the project is scheduled before your Commission September 13, 1999. Any comments your Commission wished to forward to the Planning Department regarding the environmental document may be taken during the September 13 Public Hearing.

## Public Hearing for Scott Creek Beach Projects



### Public Hearing County of Santa Cruz

#### Scotts Creek Beach Enhancement Project Environmental Assessment

The County Parks Commission is holding  
a Public Hearing to inform persons of the  
pending project and to provide an opportunity  
for  
oral and written testimony.

Monday, September 13, 1999 at 7:15 P.M.  
701 Ocean Street - fifth floor  
Santa Cruz, CA

For additional information please contact:  
Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services at 454-7900



# County of Santa Cruz

## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17th AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7900 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

*Vote 5/0*

*Tim:*  
*Strongly encourage an improved & more*  
*system of monitoring specifically*  
*for off road vehicles. That duty not*  
*be handled by the parks dept as that*  
*they have the responsibility for deciding*  
*the best way to handle the*  
*monitor restoration either in house*  
*or use of a private firm*

September 1, 1999

Santa Cruz County  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
c/o County Parks Department  
979 17th Avenue,  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**SUBJECT: Scott Creek Beach Access Enhancement and Habitat Restoration Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, Environmental Assessment**

Dear Commissioners:

September 28, 1999, completes the public comment period for the Scott Creek Beach Access Enhancement and Habitat Restoration Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, and Environmental Assessment (SEIR/EA). In the Commissions August agenda package, you received a copy of this document, and on September 13, 1999, your Commission will be holding a public hearing regarding the same.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow community members an opportunity to learn more about the Project and the draft SEIR/EA from the project planners. If members of the community still have unresolved concerns after the meeting, there will be a minimum of 15 days remaining in the 60 (+) day comment period for individuals to submit written comments. If concerns are expressed during this meeting that your Commission would like to forward to the County Environmental Coordinator, those comments will be recorded at that time

Staff has reviewed the draft SEIR/EA and have found that outside of minor technical and grammatical mistakes the document has only 5 areas of substance that the Department is concerned. These concerns are as follows:

- 6. On page 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, under C. Revegetation, the draft SEIR/EA indicates that "Dune restoration would be maintained by a professional maintenance service for three years after planting". The Department recommends that this statement includes the County Parks maintenance. The Department would like to have the option of providing it's own restoration maintenance with the acknowledgment that additional maintenance staff will be necessary to maintain this and other north coast recreational access points once constructed.

*The Mission of the Santa Cruz County Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services is to provide safe, well designed and maintained parks and a wide variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for our diverse community*

2.7. On page 59, Mitigation Measure LU-3, suggests that one "No parking" sign along Highway One shall be removed for each new freestanding sign installed by the project so the total number of signs in the vicinity remain the same" The Department supports the intent of this Mitigation Measure, that a minimum number of signs be used, but recommends that law enforcement officials be consulted to determine the appropriate number and type of regulatory parking signs needed, as well as the spacing requirements between signs.

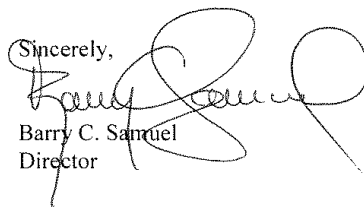
3.8. On page 72, Mitigation Measure TRAF-2, recommends that the County develop a gravel turn-around north and south of the project and post signs indicating the presence of pull outs for U-turns. The Department does not support the use of any signs regarding U-turns. Nor does the Department support the notion that the County would encourage visitors to make U-turns any where along this stretch of Highway One by developing additional pull outs. Because traffic conditions change from one moment to the next in the vicinity of this Beach, the Department does not believe the County should assist the drivers of vehicle as to when, where, or if it is safe to make a U-turn.

However, in light of Mitigation Measures LU-3 and TRAF-2, the Department does support a post-construction evaluation of traffic movement and parking conditions for the possible inclusion of additional traffic regulatory signs if determined necessary.

4.9. On page 63, Mitigation Measure BIO-2A, recommends setting a side 2 acres of coastal strand and dune habitat as a snowy plover refuge. For the last several years the Department, working with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and volunteers, have seasonally set aside approximately 6 acres of this type of habitat as a plover refuge during the plover breeding season, April - September. During the winter months, October - March, the size of this beach is significantly reduced and much of this habitat area is inundated by waves. The Department supports the protection of a seasonal snowy plover refuge, that encompasses the dune and as large an area as reasonably possible west and south of the dune. However it is important that the SEIR/EA acknowledge that the size of the plover refuge is determined by seasonal conditions and in the winter that the size is significantly reduced.

5.10. On page 63, Mitigation Measure BIO-2B, references the US Fish and Wild Life Service's (USFWS) Biological Conference and Opinion located in Appendix D of the Technical Appendices. Mitigation Measure BIO-2B combines the Terms and Requirements of the USFWS Biological Conference and Opinion with their Conservation Recommendations. As a result, the Conditions and Requirements have been over simplified and the Conservation Recommendations have become a project Condition. The Department supports the USFWS Biological Conference and Opinion as stated in Appendix D, with the exception that the monitoring of Laguna Beach not be a requirement of the County because it is a privately owned piece of property.

After thorough review and evaluation, it is therefore Recommended that your Commission forward the above concerns to the County Environmental Coordinator during the Scott Creek Beach Access Enhancement and Habitat Restoration Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report, and Environmental Assessment public comment period.

Sincerely,  
  
Barry C. Samuel  
Director

## September 13, 1999 – Minutes

### A. Public Hearing for Scott Creek Beach Project

The public was notified by mail of the County Parks Commission's public hearing to provide an opportunity for oral and written testimony.

Park Planner Lacy Holtzworth stated that Scott Creek Beach, is located 10 miles north of Santa Cruz on highway 1. The proposed enhancement project will include a board walk to a vista site, revegetation with native plants, bus stop, widened road shoulders, designated trails, and a post and cable barrier. She explained the many checks and balances the planned enhancement project must pass before approval is granted to proceed. The protection of the environment and the snowy plovers is very important.

There were two speakers: Jerry Kuizz, representing Cal. Poly. University and Swanton Pacific Ranch; and Carleton Eyster, representing the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Both speakers agreed that the ecological balance should be maintained and that the snowy plovers nesting area should be carefully protected. It was asked if the monitoring would continue beyond 1999, if delineation fences would be installed, if it would also include the Molina Creek area, if the Swanton Pacific easement will continue to be available, and also if dogs could be prohibited completely.

The public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Parks Commissioners inquired if five hours per week would be sufficient monitoring time after the installation work is complete on the enhancement project. Staff replied it would be sufficient and needed only during certain periods of the year. A Parks Commissioner would prefer an improved and increased system of monitoring the area, especially for off-road vehicles. He is concerned about enforcement of the ban on off-road vehicles during the summer and snowy plover nesting season and would like to see hang gliders and dogs prohibited at all times. It would be best if a maintenance person could be assigned specifically to the north coast to monitor the area.

Mr. Samuel pointed out that there are five areas of concern in the Scott Creek Beach Access Enhancement and Habitat Restoration Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment. These are: dune restoration, number of signs, gravel turn-around, and the size of the snowy plover nesting area.

**MOTION:** It was moved that the draft letter from the Santa Cruz County Parks Department Director be forwarded to the Zoning Administrator with an added request for increased monitoring of the Scott Creek Beach area, especially for off-road vehicles. (Jenkins/Rosenberg - MSC)

Modification of Minutes  
Item VI. A.  
Public Hearing for Scott Creek Beach

A. Public Hearing for Scott Creek Beach Project

The public was notified by mail and by a public notice in the Santa Cruz Sentinel of the County Parks Commission's public hearing to provide an opportunity for oral and written testimony in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Park Planner, Lacy Holtzworth, stated that Scott Creek Beach, is located 10 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1. The proposed enhancement project will include a board walk to a vista site, revegetation with native plants, bus stop, widened road shoulders, designated trail, and a post and cable barrier. She explained the many checks and balances the planned enhancement project must pass before approval is granted to proceed. The protection of the environment and the snowy plovers is very important.

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Staff responded positively to all questions except it would be virtually impossible to prohibit dogs at this remote location.

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**MOTION:** It was moved that the draft letter from the Santa Cruz County Parks Department Director be forwarded to the ~~Zoning Administrator~~ Environmental Coordinator with an added request for increased monitoring of the Scott Creek Beach area, especially for off-road vehicles. (Jenkins/Rosenberg MSC)

## **October 18, 1999 – Agenda Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott's Creek Beach: The public comment period closed on September 28, 1999. Six comment letters were received. Staff anticipates the final environmental document to be published by December, 1999. The project is scheduled to go before the County Planning Committee in January 2000.

## **November 9, 1999 – Agenda Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott's Creek Beach: The public comment period closed on September 28, 1999. Six comment letters were received. Staff anticipates the final environmental document to be published by December, 1999. The project is scheduled to go before the County Planning Committee in January 2000.

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### **PARKS, BUILDING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

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- ❖ North County Parks (Highlands, Ben Lomond, Probation, Michael Grey Field and the North Coast)

Staff worked at Scott Creek Beach removing unwanted iceplant and repairing damaged protective fencing.

## **December 13, 1999 – Agenda Director's Report**

Several projects are moving forward: renovations to the locker rooms at the swim center will be out to bid in the near future, repair to the slide area at the polo grounds will be out to bid after the first of the year, Scott Creek Beach improvement project is on track for bidding this spring and construction next fall, and we are also working on the details for our mobile recreation unit so it can be operational this summer as well as a new home for our teen program at Shoreline Middle School.

## **Status Report on Current Projects**

Scott's Creek Beach: On November 22, 1999, a meeting was held with all the key players involved with the implementation of the Scott Creek Beach Access and Habitat Restoration Project. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the limited time line available to allocate the ISTE Funds, and how this time line could be met.

Commitments were made by individuals representing state and local agencies to work together and ensure that the project will be delivered on time.