

May 2006
PROPOSED EAST CLIFF BLUFF PROTECTION AND PARKWAY PROJECT

REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIS/EIR)

This brief summary explains why a Revised Draft EIS/EIR was prepared. Previous work on the project has been updated based on continued communication, direction, and consultation with the Live Oak community, California Coastal Commission staff, and various consultants.

Wasn't there a Draft EIS/EIR prepared for this project before? Why is there another one?

A Draft EIS/EIR was released in March 2003 and a Final EIS/EIR was completed in October 2003. However, based on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' submittal, in November 2003 the California Coastal Commission determined that the project was not fully consistent with the California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). The Commission said that further information and exploration of issues was needed before the project could be adequately evaluated. In an attempt to fully address all of the issues and achieve maximum consistency with the CCMP, additional analysis has been prepared and the Revised Draft EIS/EIR reflects this new information.

What are the differences between the 2003 Final EIS/EIR and the Revised Draft EIS/EIR?

The main differences include:

- A geotechnical engineering company was hired to conduct an evaluation of the “threat” that coastal bluff erosion presents to East Cliff Drive, associated utilities, and the public right-of-way. This analysis indicates that roughly 65 percent of East Cliff Drive between 33rd and 36th avenues, and approximately 15 percent of the road at The Hook, are either immediately threatened by erosion or may be rendered unsafe within the next few years (see Section 2.3).
- The alternatives discussion has been reorganized and expanded to more fully explain why non-structural alternatives (e.g., drainage improvements, bluff vegetation, and beach nourishment) were initially considered but eliminated from further study (see Section 2.4).
- The project description and portions of the impact analysis, such as visual resources (see Section 5.2) and sand contribution calculations (see Section 6.1.9), have been updated to reflect the emergency cribwall repairs that were constructed during the summer of 2004. These repairs include three sculpted and colored concrete soil nail walls, which collectively cover about 290 linear feet of the upper bluff face (terrace deposits) between 33rd and 36th avenues (see Figures 2-9a and 2-9b for locations). These repairs were necessary to stabilize failing cribwalls and to protect public safety.
- Passages throughout the document were revised to reflect that the County Redevelopment Agency and Department of Public Works are now the sole project sponsors. Previously, the Army Corps of Engineers was a co-sponsor.

What's the public comment period on the Revised Draft EIS/EIR and whom should we send our comments to?

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 P.M. June 26, 2006. Comments should be mailed to:

Santa Cruz County Planning Department
Attention: Claudia Slater
701 Ocean Street, Fourth Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-5175

Will there be a public meeting on the proposed project and Revised Draft EIS/EIR?

Yes, a public open house will be held on June 8, 2006 from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the Live Oak Community Center (Simpkins Family Swim Center), located at 979 17th Avenue in Live Oak. The open house will provide an opportunity for people to review the updated information and analysis and ask questions.

What's the process for moving forward with the project?

First, a Revised Final EIS/EIR will be prepared. This document will include responses to all of the written comments received on the revised draft, as well as appropriate revisions based on those comments. The proposed project will then proceed through the County permitting process. Should this be successful and have community support, the California Coastal Commission will be asked to issue a permit(s) for portions of the project under its' jurisdiction.

Why has this project taken so long?

Just like any other development project, the County must comply with all applicable local, State, and federal environmental review and permitting requirements. Questions and concerns about various aspects of the project were also expressed, so it was necessary to collect additional information and update the environmental analysis to address those concerns, as well as changing circumstances (e.g., construction of the emergency repairs in 2004).