

**Fort Bragg, California
January 14, 2010 (Special Joint Meeting)
Town Hall**

The City Council of the City of Fort Bragg and the Fort Bragg Planning Commission met in special session on the above date at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA.

Present: Councilmembers Dan Gjerde and Jere Melo; Planning Commissioners Scott Deitz, Becky Ellis, Milt Kuhl, and Georgia Lucas.

Absent: Councilmembers Dave Turner, Meg Courtney, and Mayor Doug Hammerstrom; Planning Commission Chair Mark Hannon.

NOTE: A quorum of City Council was not present at the meeting.

1. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

A. Coastal Trail Environmental Impact Report Public Scoping Session

Community Development Director Jones reviewed the project's location, context, planning efforts to date, and the project design, engineering and description. She also briefly reviewed results from various botanical studies that have been completed for the site, provided an overview of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, the permitting process for the project, and she asked the public to help identify potential environmental issues and potential project alternatives that should be analyzed in the EIR.

Public in attendance included: Sue Smith, Ron White, Dorothy Tobkin, Lori Hubbart, Renee Pasquinelli, Amy Wynn, Teri Jo Barber, Ginny Wade, Ruth Sparks, Marilyn Boese, Gregg Young, and George Reinhardt.

Key Points Discussed:

- Very concerned about the stability of the bluffs, the project should both stabilize against bluff erosion and plan for the impacts of bluff erosion on the project.
- Establish handicap access to the beach as part of the project where the Monterey Cypress tree is located.
- The 40' bridge on Glass Beach Headlands should be shorter.
- Cypress should not be removed unless it can be rapidly replaced as it provides the only perch for raptors like the white tail kite (which currently perches there).
- Harlequin ducks frequent the ocean directly west of the proposed parking area on the Mill Site. They are there in large numbers when the tide is high. They may be affected by the parking and traffic and this should be studied in the EIR.
- Northern Harrier is nesting in the grass in the middle of the Glass Beach Headlands site.
- Burrowing Owls used to use holes at the base of the Trestle Bridge. This area should be surveyed for Burrowing Owls.
- Brian savannah sparrow, a species of special concern, nests at Glass Beach Headlands.
- Brown pelicans, black oyster catchers, black tailed kite, and peregrine falcons all use the site.
- Invasive plant removal should precede trail building, or weeds will invade the construction areas.
- Invasive plant removal should focus on ice plant, Himalayan blackberry, Pampus grass, wild radish, etc.
- All pavement on site should be removed, including the pavement on Glass Beach Headlands around the former dump site.
- Concerns about the visual impacts of the residential development of the Mill Site obstructing views from trail. Height limits should be imposed along view corridors as part of the Specific Plan process; daylight Alder Creek into the Mill Pond; include affordable recreations features on the Mill Site (dog park, skate park).
- Trail should not go through rare plant habitat.

- Rare plant communities, trail, and boardwalk should be on map on the web.
- Boardwalks may attract predators, and boardwalks are difficult to maintain.
- Boardwalks are preferred for hydrology and nutrient flow and are easily moved,
- Need to get rid of the ground squirrels as they dig holes that attract dogs which enlarge the holes and result in erosion.
- Move the trail further away from the rare plant area. The closer the trail is to rare plants the more likely people will get off the trail to see the ocean and damage the plants.
- The City should post a map on the City's website that includes all the rare plants, rare plant communities, trail, and boardwalk.
- Trail should not go through the *Blennosperma* habitat.
- Concern about impact on *Blennosperma* from people who want to park a car at the Trestle parking lot, and go to the bluff edge to look at Pudding Creek Beach. The trail does not extend to this area, and people will continue to go out on the bluff overlooking Pudding Creek Beach.
- Look at the transportation and climate change impacts of providing accessible bicycle/pedestrian access; EIR needs to consider that greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced because people drive less; bicyclists and pedestrians need a wide enough surface to feel safe.
- Some of the trails that go through the grasslands are hardly used, and rare plants benefit from small amounts of disturbance.
- Mendocino Land Trust surveyed people entering Glass Beach but did not survey those who were on the bluff.
- Trail can handle visitors other than on big holidays.
- Stormwater management is a problem.

Project Alternatives Discussion

- Hairpin switchbacks in the trail will result in trail cuts for the shortest route. The hairpin turns should be removed from the trail on Glass Beach Headlands.
- Consider using the sidewalk on the east side of Glass Beach Drive as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible pedestrian access for the project.
- There should not be a boardwalk on the rare plant area. California poppy and *Blennosperma* would be terribly impacted by boardwalk.
- California Native Plant Society would like to keep the southern loop of the Glass Beach headlands trail as designed, realign the north loop inland from the rare plant areas, and make it a two foot wide dirt trail.
- Concern that if trail is aligned where the California Native Plant Society suggests there would not be ADA accessible due to the grade.
- Look at changing the location of the parking area on the Mill Site to minimize impacts on the Harlequin ducks. Consider doing parallel or angled parking along the Elm Street extension and eliminating the parking area at the end of the extension.
- Examine the impacts of bluff retreat due to stormwater damage on the project. Consider recontouring, reshaping the land to accommodate stormwater, find old crenulations in the land to accommodate stormwater; Soft outfalls should not include the use of non-native materials. Non-native features are not conducive to restoration.
- Need a dog trail to near Glass Beach Drive to keep all the dogs and dog holes off of the ocean bluffs. A dog park would encourage people to keep dogs out of sensitive species areas.

Three alternatives on City property are:

1. The project as proposed
2. Project without overlooks on the Mill Site and an 8 foot wide multi-use trail along Glass Beach Drive
3. No project

Three alternatives for Glass Beach (State) property are:

- 1) The project as proposed
- 2) A relocated redesigned northern loop (relocated an additional 25 feet to the east of the current alignment, redesigned without switchbacks and surfaced with a two foot wide dirt surface instead of the 5 foot wide gravel surface) and the southern loop as proposed
- 3) No project

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

BECKY ELLIS, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Nancy Philips
Administrative Secretary

INDEXED: _____ (____)

IMAGED: _____ (____)