



Midcoast Park Lands
PO Box 1754
El Granada CA 94018

October 21, 2009

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**Re: Funding Sources to fix 400 Feet of Danger
California Coastal Trail at Surfers Beach**

Surfers Beach, right next to Highway 1 south of Pillar Point Harbor, is a very popular local and visitor destination with steep and slippery beach access. Between the highway and beach runs a narrow unimproved 400-foot section of the California Coastal Trail. To the south of this section is the newly completed multi-use trail across Mirada Surf, and to the north is another completed multi-use trail along the breakwater and harbor beaches.

This popular route has glorious views and gets heavy use, but the 400-foot incomplete section is very unsafe and unattractive. The conditions in this section could, at any time, cause serious injury as a mixed flow of pedestrians and cyclists traverse the inadequate trail right next to the busy highway. At the same time, beach users attempt to cross the highway and trail for beach access.

Two trails studies completed in 2009 (1,2) brought clear attention to the severe problems of this 400-foot section, but neither was linked to a funding source to directly address the problem. Fixing this area will improve the quality and safety of trail use and provide safe beach access.

San Mateo County Parks is coordinating trails and beach access efforts, working with the City of Half Moon Bay and Caltrans who have jurisdiction over parts of this area. These agencies acknowledge the need to resolve the problems in this trail section and understand what needs to be done. However, they have no funding or prospects for funding to create a coordinated plan, perform environmental analysis and do the needed construction. San Mateo County Parks' rough cost estimate for this work is \$500,000.

Midcoast Park Lands (MPL), a Midcoast non-profit organization, works to support park lands. It has a history of volunteer work to address local problems and collaborating with government agencies when their attention and funding is needed. Our volunteers would like to help in this situation, but other than pruning back vegetation, the scope of the problem is beyond our capability, resources and authority.



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MPL, working through San Mateo County Parks, asks help to identify funds that can be available next spring to address this problem and benefit the entire Half Moon Bay coast. We are available to host site visits to promote understanding of the problem. Further references are listed below.

References:

- (1) "Traffic and Trails A Community Planning Event" sponsored by Caltrans
- (2) "California Coastal Trail from Mirada Surf to Pillar Point," a detailed study by local citizens.
- (3) Details of these studies available at <http://mprc.sanmateo.org>
- (4) Mirada Surf CCT segments opens in Summer, 2009: Half Moon Bay Review - <http://www.hmbreview.com/articles/2009/09/30/news/doc4ac3afa6c4fe8356154389.txt>
- (5) Midcoast Park Lands - <http://mpl.sanmateo.org>
- (6) Site Video: <http://mprc.sanmateo.org/images/400FeetofDanger.mov>

400 Feet of Danger



Location Pillar Point Harbor / El Granada Area



Green: Existing Coastal Trails / Red: The 400 Foot Problem

400 Feet of Danger
Congested and Overlapped Pedestrian and Bike Trails



**400 Feet of Danger
Overlapped Trail and Beach Access
Dangerous Beach Access**

