

Caltrans Hwy 1 vegetation management in Montara

Midcoast Community Priorities:

Preserve and enhance public ocean views and bicycle/pedestrian safety and mobility on Hwy 1.

General practices requested:

- Maintain west side Hwy 1 ROW vegetation for a clear 10-ft shoulder, where level ground exists, for pedestrian comfort and safety.
- Maintain open sight line 10 ft from highway. Prune lower tree branches back to trunk to clear the 10-ft shoulder area and avoid regrowth or unsightly dead branch stubs.
- Remove tree seedlings that volunteer at road edge to avoid expensive future maintenance of large trees in unsuitable locations.
- Remove hazardous broken tree branches hanging over the roadside trail.
- Require removal of private landscaping encroachments in the ROW that will grow to block ocean views from the scenic highway, or that take up space in the 8-10 ft level highway shoulder area where bike/ped use has priority.

Details & specific locations on following slides. Thank you!

Midcoast Community Council
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<http://www.midcoastcommunitycouncil.org>

4th to Montara State Beach lot



At 4th St, remove *Arundo donax* (giant reed) – spreading, invasive weed

Prune lower cypress branches off at trunk.





Block-long dense cypress tree planting in front of tall masonry wall is encroaching into the Caltrans gravel shoulder.

Prune off lower branches at trunks for long-term solution to maintain the wide shoulder clear for pedestrians.



8th St

Remove recently planted cypress trees in 8th St view corridor.
Landscaping is development – these trees require a CDP.

Remove young willow at 8th St arrow sign – fast-growing shrub/tree will block ocean view & require frequent pruning to keep shoulder clear.

Remove wire fencing from Caltrans ROW, both 2015 construction fencing at 8th, and new chicken wire along the road bank above the house.





between 8th & 9th



- Recently planted row of cypress trees (within the existing roadside canopy but only 10 ft from fog line) will require removal of all lower branches on the highway side.
- More suitable long-term screening would be achieved with shade-tolerant shrubs near the house where they were removed in 2015 for access to 8th St landslide repairs.
- Caltrans ROW extends down the road bank to within ~3 feet of the house.
- Pedestrian comfort and safety are higher priority than landscaping encroachments such as this hedge taking up space in the 8-10 ft level highway shoulder area.
- Cut back hedge width off level ground.
- Lower hedge height in view corridor above driveway to 3 ft maximum to open the ocean view to travelers on the designated scenic highway.

Just south of 9th



- Prune cypress branches back to trunks.
- Prune back & maintain shrubs even with fire hydrant -- makes level unpaved shoulder area available for pedestrians, fire truck, and driveway sight distance.
- See next slide for maintenance history at this location.



Maintenance requests just south of 9th St:

Nov 2012: hazardous condition reported

Jan 2013: maintenance pruning cut back to minimum width for shoulder trail

Jan 2018: hazardous condition reported



10th St.

Remove 3 small dead staked cypress trees from view corridor.



Prune encroaching lower cypress branches off at the trunk, instead of stub cuts, which quickly regrow, or die and look unsightly.

11th to 12th

Remove cypress tree seedlings at road edge to avoid long-term maintenance issue.

Consider that cypress trees naturally grow to 40 ft high & wide.





14th – 16th

Who is responsible for landscape pruning for hostel sign visibility?



Remove weeds and ice plant from asphalt shoulder, back to guard rail for full use of this narrow segment.



Remove 2 staked cypress trees from road bank near 14th St intersection in view corridor.



14th to 16th

Remove dead cypress branch stubs sticking out into paved shoulder area at about eye level.

Remove overhead broken branches before they fall.

Here's a good example of lower roadside branches pruned off at trunk, avoiding ongoing maintenance, opening the coastal view, and providing greater clearance and sight distance.



14-16th east side

East side unpaved shoulder across Montara Creek ravine, is critical trail connection between Montara and Moss Beach.

After 2012 highway widening for center turn lane, a citizen tree pruning effort regained lost trail space.

Rather than continuing the vigilante approach, would Caltrans step in and remove all lower branches that encroach on level ground for the trail?

