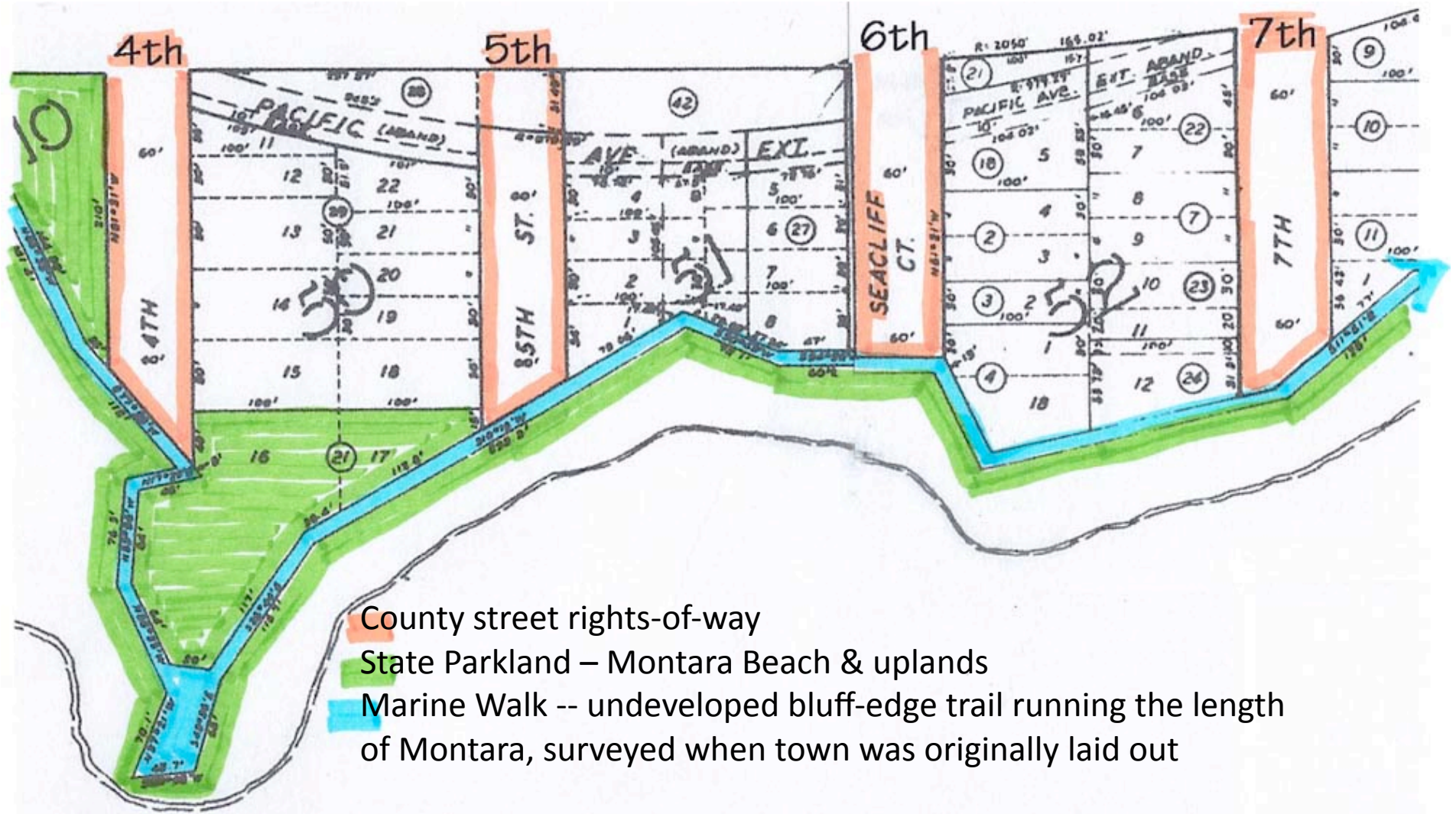


Montara Coast - Public Access & Views



MCC presentation October 2012 by Lisa Ketcham

The coastline of Montara is varied and spectacular, with each coastal street-end offering unique views. This public access must be preserved. This report covers 7th Street north to Montara Beach (4th Street).



7th Street

40 or more years ago, the County says they allowed 101 7th St. property owner to fence off the public right-of-way for private use.

What were they thinking?



7th Street fence – What is missing from this picture?



If you walked down this street, would you ever think that this solid 7-ft-tall fence with closed door leads to a publicly-owned vista point with spectacular shoreline views?

Neighboring property owner refuses to remove encroaching fence, or even leave the gate open. County says they can't challenge it.



Imagine if the County allowed neighboring property owners to wall off these street ends in Princeton for private patio viewing areas. That's what happened on 7th Street in Montara.

View from behind the 7th Street fence

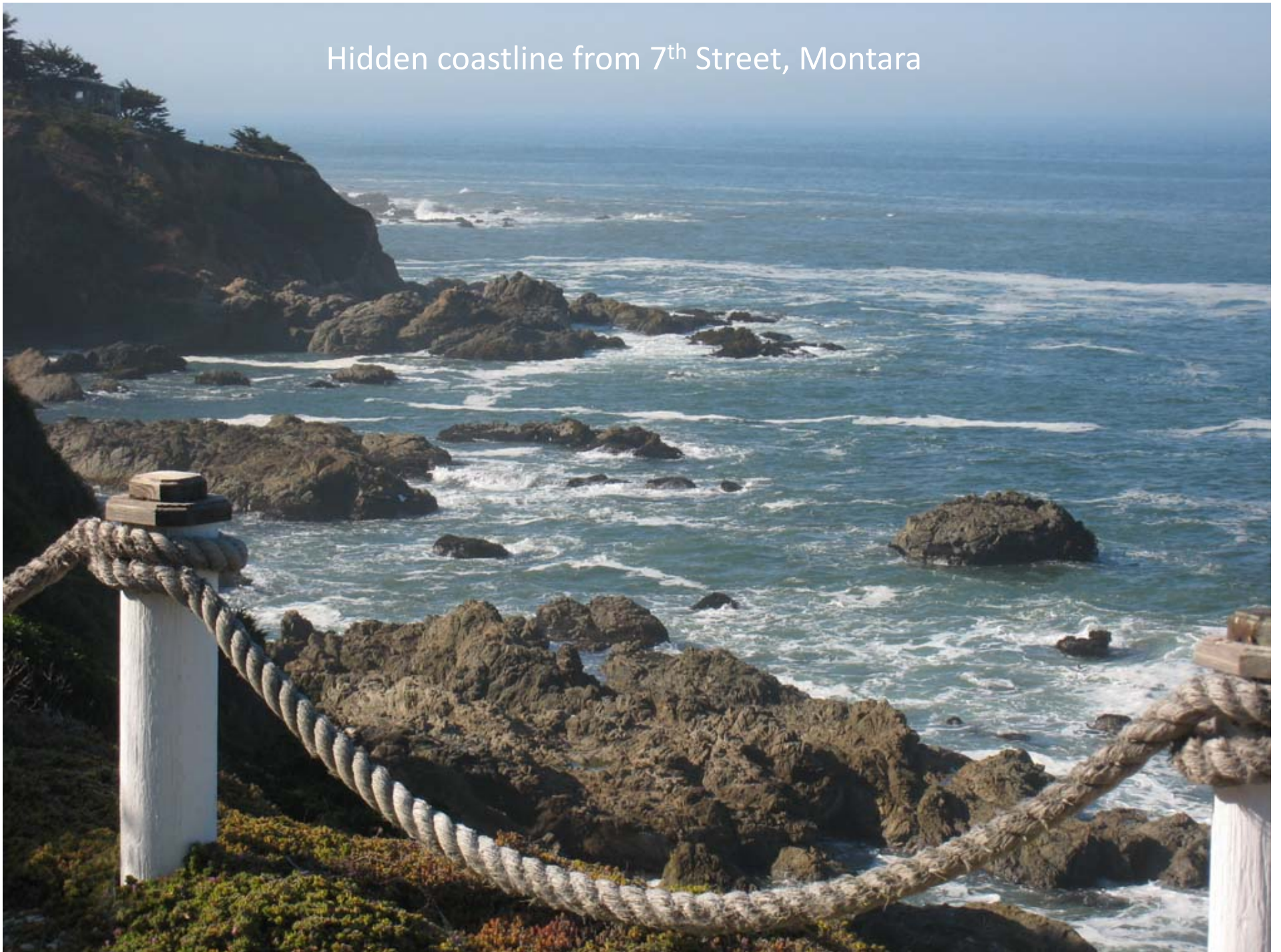


The County has allowed this public land and view to be walled off and hidden from the public for the private enjoyment of neighboring property owners.

View and Marine Walk behind the 7th Street fence --
hidden away for private use.



Hidden coastline from 7th Street, Montara



Along the back of 7th Street fence in public vista area –
Unsightly open storage includes gas can, paint bucket.



7th Street hedge blocks any view of the shoreline and is heavily entwined with barbed wire.



What ugly scene is this strategically planted & armored hedge meant to hide?

Here's the hidden view.

Seacliff Court

5-ft-tall solid wood fence blocks view of shoreline.

Who built this fence and why?

A simple auto safety barrier would be more useful and appropriate.



An aerial photograph showing a residential property on a cliffside. A long, dark wooden fence runs along the edge of the property, separating it from a steep, vegetated slope. To the right, a house with a light-colored exterior and a balcony is visible. The word "Seacliff" is overlaid in white text in the center of the image.

Seacliff

Gratuitous 5-ft wood fence would not stop a runaway car, but does block views and access to Marine Walk and bench on point.

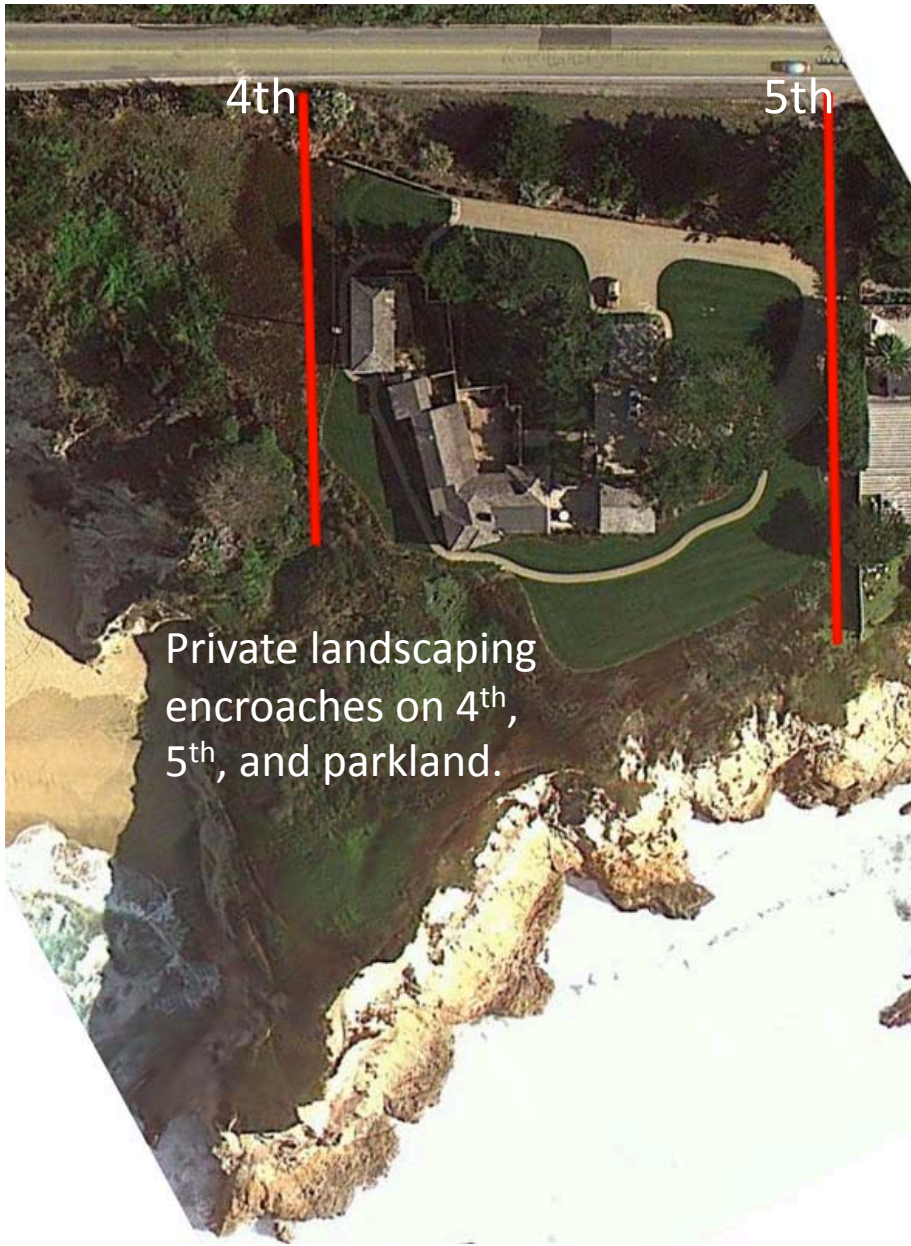
Seacliff view peering over top of 5-ft fence



Seacliff view peering over top of 5-ft fence



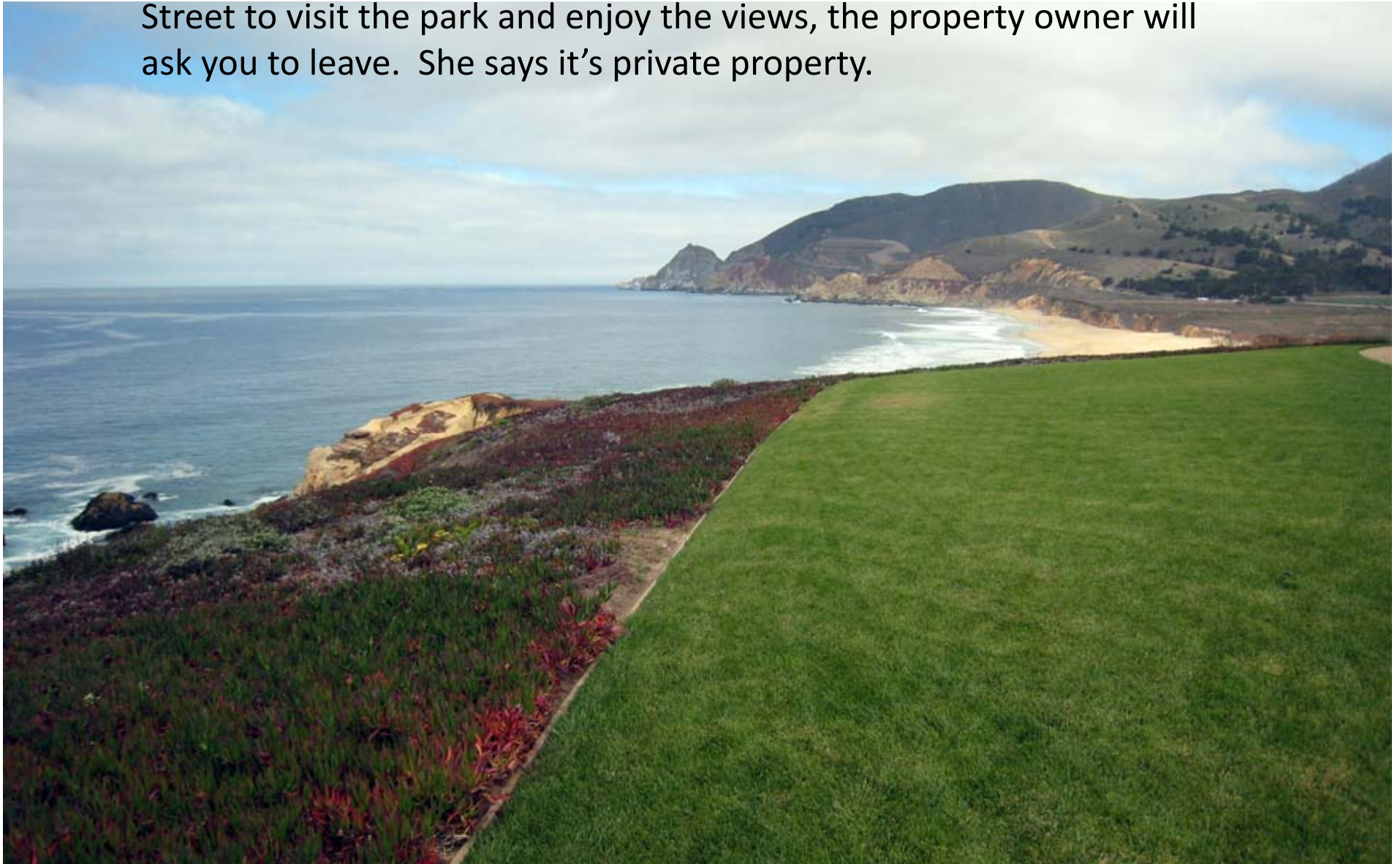
4th & 5th are paper streets, but these public rights-of-way are important coastal access routes that must be preserved. 5th St. is only access to this state parkland.





State Parkland between 4th & 5th Sts.
just south of Montara Beach

This large new sod lawn at 8200 Cabrillo Hwy covers former coastal scrub and appears to extend onto state park land. If you enter 5th Street to visit the park and enjoy the views, the property owner will ask you to leave. She says it's private property.





5th Street right-of-way –
only access to state park
uplands and Marine Walk at
south end of Montara Beach.

Upper 5th St coastal view going, going, gone.

8200 Cabrillo Hwy with Cypress trees planted in the highway right-of-way and a tall new wall the length of the block. Row of screening shrubs planted beyond the end of the wall, across the 4th St right-of-way to the edge of the picture, will grow up to hide the rest of the beach.



Upper 4th St. coastal view going, going...

Red outline indicates expected growth of non-native plantings in front of the wall and extending across 4th St right-of-way and onto state parkland, with accompanying drip and spray irrigation system.

