



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS

April 7, 2013

Item Th.6  
Oppose Waiver

Chair Mary Shallenberger, and Commissioners  
California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, Suite 2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Re: Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 2-12-012 – W**

Dear Chair Shallenberger and Commissioners,

On behalf of Committee for Green Foothills (CGF), I am writing to object to the granting of the proposed Waiver, which would allow dredging 5,600 cubic yards of material at the existing boat launch ramp at Pillar Point Harbor without a Coastal Development Permit. CGF's particular concern is the proposed placement of the dredging spoils on Perched Beach.

Perched Beach is a rare section of beach within the Harbor that has long provided beach staging and access for group activities including gatherings of kayak clubs, outrigger canoe races, sailing regattas, paddleboard races and large water-based recreation group activities. Perched Beach has twice been used for disposal of dredged spoils from previous launch ramp maintenance (1999, 2006), which has steepened the natural beach grade. Placing an additional four feet of dredged materials over two thirds of the beach will make water access even more difficult, if not impossible, and thus would be inconsistent with the Public Access and Recreation Policies of the Coastal Act.

The San Mateo County Harbor District has characterized the dredging as an urgency project based on the need to complete the dredging (which is projected to take 25 days) by the start of salmon fishing season on April 6. That "deadline" has passed, which gives the District time to find a more suitable site for the dredging spoils.

One alternative location is the West Shoreline Trail, also within the Harbor, that is threatened by shoreline erosion. The District is considering three proposals to armor the shoreline to protect this trail: Rip-Rap, Soldier Pile Wall, and Shotcrete/Soil Nail Wall, all of which would appear to be inconsistent with Section 30235 of the Coastal Act, and thus may not be approvable. The District plans to move forward with the West Shoreline Trail repair this year, and is a logical place to use the dredging spoils as beach nourishment.

Other alternatives include the Princeton Shoreline, within the Harbor, and Surfer's Beach, south of the Breakwater where there is an accelerated loss of beach sand. Please deny the Waiver so the application can be processed as a regular Coastal Development Permit application.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts, San Mateo County Legislative Advocate