

Merrill Bobele, Co-Chair  
Coastal Issues Committee Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 2486  
El Granada, CA. 94018

April 6, 2013

California Coastal Commission  
C/O: Mr. Nick Dreher, Coastal Analyst,  
California Coastal Commission

***Re: Oppose CDP Waiver for Dredging Pillar Pt. Harbor Boat Ramp***

Dear Commissioners:

We oppose the proposed dredging and filling existing beach access at Pillar Pt. Harbor, San Mateo County Harbor District. Presently, Perched Beach provides important public beach access for kayak gatherings, outrigger canoe races, sailing regattas, and other group activities. The proposed fill from the dredge on the beach would eliminate over 200 feet of beach access. The following points support our position:

1. This is not an emergency. The launch ramp area is located at the outfall of Deer Creek, causing silt and build-up. Dredging has occurred in 1999 and 2006, and will occur in the future on a similar schedule. The District has had over six years since the last dredging to find a suitable site for dredge material and to apply for the necessary CDC permit.
2. Any sand placed on Perched Beach should not take away or restrict public beach access.
3. The Harbor District projects should not be piecemeal, but part of an updated General Plan with specific objectives that are consistent with the requirements of the California Coastal Act.
4. The West Shoreline Trail, within the harbor is threatened by shoreline erosion, and is scheduled for repair this year. It makes sense to use dredging material from the Boat Ramp as beach nourishment either at this location and/or at Surfers' Beach, south of the Breakwater.

We urge that the Commission deny the request for waiver so that the application can be processed as a regular CDP application.

Sincerely,

Merrill Bobele,  
Co-Chair Coastal Issues Committee