



NORTH COAST FACILITIES AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (NCFMP) STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY Davenport North Coast Association (D/NCA)

Date/Time of Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2022, 2:00-3:00pm
Format: Virtual (Zoom)

ATTENDEES

Project Team:

- Isabelle Minn, Principal, PlaceWorks
- Janet Chang, Senior Associate, PlaceWorks
- Rob Tidmore, Park Planner IV, County of Santa Cruz
- Michael Hettenhausen, Park Planner II, County of Santa Cruz

Participants:

- Board members: Mike Eaton, Noel Bock, John Barnes
- Members: Rachael Spencer, Walter Heady, Kristin Heady, Colin Hannon, Bill Henry, Josto Saleri Puddu, Alison Edwards

SUMMARY

Janet Chang welcomed stakeholders and the group did a round of introductions. Janet gave a brief presentation to provide context about the project, including the project scope and schedule, the draft vision and goals, and community engagement. After the presentation, there was a time for questions and discussion. Comments from the D/NCA were interactively recorded on a map of the North Coast. The following is a summary of the comments provided by D/NCA.

Discussion

Vision and Goals

- The current goal for Regional Planning and Partnerships focuses on the process, but also should be an outcome of the Plan.
- The online survey should describe the goals in layman's terms (e.g., Regional Planning and Partnerships).

- The vision statement should highlight “natural resource treasure” first, before “recreational destination,” and also include language about agriculture.
- As part of the Plan, there should be objectives as part of each goal.
- The need for communication between agencies and the public should be added as a goal or included as a high priority objective.
- The Public Access goal should be refined – the goal is not to increase public access but to improve and manage access so that natural resources are protected, and people can engage with nature in a positive manner.
- The goals should connect to the larger initiative for governments to designate 30% of Earth’s land and ocean area as protected areas by 2030 (30 by 30).

Public Access

- Rather than expanding access points, existing access needs to be assessed and potentially relocated so that natural resources and more of the North Coast’s “wild areas,” like bar-built estuaries and coastal lagoons, are protected and access to these areas are restricted or limited. Biological resources should be overlaid on a map to achieve this, which D/NCA could provide.
- Access could be provided via a parking lot and path that allows one to overlook natural areas without having direct access to it.
- Access to the old pier area/swing at Davenport Beach and Bluffs is very dangerous and should be restricted. New access could include a staircase.
- The Plan needs to be clear that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land (Cotoni-Coast Dairies) is not publicly accessible.
- D/NCA members witness the day-to-day impacts of the huge increase in visitation to the North Coast and the impacts of natural regionally recognized resources being used and abused. For example, D/NCA does not agree with 24/7 access to the Coastal Rail Trail.

Beaches

- San Mateo County beaches and their amenities should serve as an aspirational example for Santa Cruz County.
- Beaches need more structured amenities to help visitors respect the surrounding natural resources (i.e., trash cans, designated parking lots, bathrooms).
- Camper communities are living in Greyhound Rock and the bluffs above Davenport – they have “raves” and dump their waste.
- High Bluff Overlooks needs to be maintained (smells like urine).
- Consider adding Red, White, and Blue Beach (private) to the map.
- Bonny Doon, Panther Beach, and Sharkfin Cove are not well-maintained and need more facilities and maintenance.

Parking

- Areas for where and when you can and cannot park should be clear (i.e., markings).
- Parking for Sharkfin Cove is very difficult and congested. The County put up No Parking signs on the inland side of the road which has helped and is a good example of management.

Miscellaneous

- There needs to be a description of baseline conditions to gauge the effectiveness of the Plan.
- The North Coast should have consistent branding and signage throughout the area so that it is identified as a unified area.
- There needs to be more staffing for law enforcement to regulate parking, trash, fireworks, etc.