



October 9th, 2020

Julie Moore
EIR Coordinator, San Francisco Planning Department
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Moore,

Thank you for your hard work on this project in helping bring forth a plan to resolve the complex issues facing the southern end of Ocean Beach. The Surfrider San Francisco Chapter has been advocating for a long-term solution for this area for well over a decade through our Restore Sloat campaign. We believe that the project proposed will benefit the Western neighborhoods, the beach, and the City and County of San Francisco and are therefore generally supportive and are excited that it is finally coming to fruition. The chapter is fully supportive of managed retreat and sees this as an important milestone in coastal preservation. We hope that the City seizes the opportunity to make this project truly great and a model for others to follow. As it has often been said, as California goes, so goes the nation. And as San Francisco goes, so goes California. We encourage you to move this project forward and submit the following questions in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

Recreation

- What are the impacts on surfing and swimming from this project?
- What will be the effects on access? How far will a surfer/beach goer have to walk from the proposed Skyline parking lot to get to the three proposed access points?
- Will there be amenities such as parking and bathrooms, and within a reasonable distance from access points?
- In a high erosion zone, will a dry beach be maintained for safe entrance and exit from the water?
- Will sandbars be affected with the ongoing dune nourishment?
- What are the considerations for waste management? Garbage cans, recycling, park service and pick up, etc.? Signage for pack in and pack out?
- Warming Hut/Interpretive Center: The OBMP recommended a center for interacting with the public, such as the one at Sutro Baths. Is a structure for educating the public on the park, biodiversity and managed retreat being considered?

Aesthetics

- The seawall that is being considered does not look like the low-profile wall with a cap per the OBMP and conceptual engineering report prepared for the SFPUC in September 2019. The 3:1 slope angle is steep, and we are not optimistic that dunes can be maintained on the top of such a steep and hard surface. Is there a study that the engineering team is basing their decision on? Have dunes been successfully maintained on such a steep slope angle with a hard surface? If the sand slides off, it may require more sand replenishment than the city has initially planned for. Has the project team



done a study on “big” sand placement less frequently vs “smaller” sand placements more frequently?

- Will *all* the rock and rubble be removed? (A lot of rip rap and rubble is currently buried by sand below the mean high tide line at times.)
- Is SFPUC access road the furthest east it can possibly be? OBMP concepts excluded the access road; we understand that due to the equipment in the water treatment facility and for emergency access to the beach, the road is considered non-negotiable. If a road is necessary, has the City considered alternative materials in construction of the road to reduce environmental impact? (i.e. recycled materials)
- As erosion continues, what is the beach nourishment plan? Are there triggers built in? For example, if a big swell hits, and washes away a lot of sand, how long before sand is replaced in that location?
- Have the three proposed access points been designed for the worst-case scenario, such as a combination of high tides, huge swells and an intense storm? (The last thing we want is for a nice wood walkway and stairs to be knocked out by a big swell and then left on the beach.)

Water Quality

- What is the project doing to prevent hazardous waste from flowing directly into the water during construction?
- Is there any danger of the LMT to leak during the construction process spilling raw sewage on the beach or into the water table?
- Are there plans to plant native species and design for minimal runoff directly into the water?

Transportation and Circulation

- What are going to be the traffic effects on the Lower Great Highway and what are the modifications proposed to mitigate traffic impacts on the neighborhood?
- Besides the proposed Skyline parking on the southern end of the project, what other locations are being considered for dedicated beach access parking?

Thank you for taking these questions under consideration and looking forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Kyle Stanner & Mike Grizzle

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