SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

September 24, 2019, Consent Item #50

Delay Vote on LCP until 10/8/19

My name is Steve Forer, and I am President of Coastal Property Owners Association of Santa Cruz County. I am here to speak to Consent Item #50, to delay the vote on the County’s Proposed Local Coastal Program Public Safety Element. We have met with Kathy Malloy and David Carlson of the Planning Department to share our continued concerns about the proposed LCP, and have submitted a letter with detailed suggestions for changes to enhance the LCP and provide further clarification where needed. Without these changes, we feel the LCP is flawed and incomplete. We therefore support the delayed vote on the LCP to allow more time for staff to address the concerns of coastal property owners and those of the California Coastal Commission.

As an association, CPOA-SC is prepared to work closely with the property owners along Opal Cliffs to resubmit a proposal for a uniform seawall stretching from 41st Ave. to the Capitola City border, removing any patch-work seawalls and revetment rocks, provide increased public access, to protect public safety and prevent potential injury from falling rocks from the eroding cliffs. Opal cliffs is eroding at a rate of 4.2 to 11.0 inches per year, according to a geologist’s report. Of the 46 homes along Opal Cliffs, 16 are within 25 feet of the bluff’s edge, and 6 are now within 20 feet. We do not want to wait for a disaster such as occurred in Encinitas where the bluff cliffs collapsed killing 3 people. We need to act now. We will also work with the Opal Cliff property owners to form a GEHAD, to fund and oversee the installation of the seawall.

Thank you for your time