

15 November, 2011

Councilmember Sherri Lightner

202 C Street, MS#10A
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Councilmember Lightner,

As residents on the 1500 Block of Coast Walk, surrounding area, and members of the Friends of Coast Walk (FOCW), we wish to express our concerns regarding the proposal for "Restoring Parking on Coast Walk" which was discussed at the La Jolla Community Planning Association meeting of November 3.

The fragile bluff top where the proposed spaces are located has deteriorated over the last thirty-five years. During this time, the city has implemented a number of policies and regulations including adoption of a local coastal plan as well as stringent environmental regulations.

Coast Walk Trail is a small and exceptionally beautiful scenic walk adjacent to Torrey Pines Road, just to the north of Prospect Street on Coast Walk. Currently, there are six existing parking spaces along a single lane road. Two are located adjacent to 1590 Coast Walk, two are located adjacent to 1585, and two are located on the other side of 1555. We would request that the following be taken into consideration for preserving this unique natural environment for generations to enjoy.

- In all iterations of the La Jolla Community Plan, Coast Walk is supposed to be maintained as a beautiful natural scenic area.
- Coast Walk is an historic trail for people to experience by walking while there is a small right of way paved for residential access and pedestrians walk freely of which Coast Walk residents are aware and drive accordingly for their safety. An increase of cars parking along the trail will interfere with the increasing number of visitors who come to enjoy the views and the hiking trail itself.
- To optimize the Coast Walk experience for visitors, we believe it is best to maintain the pedestrian orientation. A rough count indicates that there are over 100 spaces very close to Coast Walk on Prospect Place, Coast Boulevard, and surrounding streets. An influx of vehicles would debase the beauty of the experience.
- Coast Walk is a narrow, single lane, dead end Street, presenting safety problems for people trying to drive in, turn around, and get back out. Additional parking would impact safety for pedestrians and residents.
- In 2004, the City of San Diego Department of Transportation, Engineering Division, evaluated the 1500 block of Coast Walk for the possible expansion of parking spaces along that portion of the coast. Due to the instability of the bluff, and the tight driving conditions that exist on this portion of Coast Walk, the City of San Diego traffic engineers determined that no additional spots should be accommodated on the 1500 block of Coast Walk.

The residents of Coast Walk have been, addressing the restoration and maintenance efforts along the trail and formed a non profit 501(c). The Friends of Coast Walk (FOCW) have a clear focus on the safety and environmental preservation, restoration, and enhancements specifically for historic Coast Walk Trail that ensures continued use and enjoyment for the community today and in the future. The goals of this group are:

- Protect environmentally sensitive bluffs*
- Improve trail safety*
- Create an ongoing maintenance plan for Coast Walk Trail that manages the current fauna and foliage.*

In closing, the Friends of Coast Walk believe the environmental study is a critical step and important review, to provide the needed data behind any decisions that will impact to the environmentally sensitive bluff up to and including the possibility all parking be removed.

Regards,

The Friends of Coast Walk & Surrounding Residents