

RE: AP-1911

September 16, 2019



Ted Freeman, Chair

Curry County Planning Commission

Chairman Freeman:

I live at Nesika Beach, on the ocean. I am therefore very concerned about the fragile cliffs above the beach. From past experience, it seems that the erosion of one property affects all properties on the ocean side of Nesika Rd. A few years ago we obtained a map from the state that showed the erosion of our property over about 50 years, from the 1960's. We were happy to see that over 50 years, we had only lost a few feet. We hoped such a slow pace would continue. In the last few years, however, as the winter storms have become more intense, we have lost as much as we did in the previous 50 years. Even though we have moderate to heavy vegetation on our cliff (naturally occurring, not planted) it did not offer us complete protection from the ravages of the extreme weather.

A house on our street, Hayden Rd, was on the market for over a year and finally sold at a discount. The concern I heard about it was the fragile condition of the cliffs. I had never heard of that as a reason for falling property values before.

Several years back, before we had moved to our property, when we only came during vacations, we heard about some people in the area who went on to a vacant lot on Hayden Rd. and altered the cliff to make it easier to get down to the beach. Soon after that a large chunk broke off the cliff. It may have been a mere coincidence that it occurred soon after the cliff was disturbed but I doubt it.

Certainly, the above instances are only anecdotal, not provable results from scientific method, but I think it is without question that we need to be very gentle with the cliffs above Nesika Beach. I worry that a large group of persons on a continual basis will do irreparable harm. To my knowledge, we have never had such an operation on that side of Nesika Rd. My hope would be that any plan would include a prohibition of cliff disturbance and a method of keeping large groups of people from the edge of the cliff.

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