



POINT SAN PEDRO ROAD COALITION

"Promoting Quality of Life in our Community"

April 12, 2021

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Erin Riley, Capital Planning & Senior Project Manager
Department of Public Works, County of Marin

Dear Erin:

The Point San Pedro Road Coalition Board welcomes the much-needed renovation of Bayside Park. We understand that in order to obtain the necessary BCDC grading permit to proceed with this ADA compliance project, the County must provide a dedicated bike lane as required by the original 1971 San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) permit. The County has decided that the curb running along the park will become a no parking zone in order to provide the required dedicated bike lane. While we recognize and appreciate the benefits of dedicated bike lanes, and the time constraints that the County is under to move forward with this project, we are concerned that the community has not been adequately informed of, nor been provided adequate opportunity for input on, this decision.

The community was given notice of the April 15 BCDC hearing on the permit, via NextDoor, only one week in advance. Our Board has a number of questions we hope to discuss with you and are grateful that you have offered to arrange a meeting with other staff involved in this project. Some of the issues we would like you to consider are outlined **below**.

Our understanding is that the goal of the Park Project is to make the Park more accessible to all people, in particular people with physical disabilities—and to bring the Park into compliance with Federal Regulations under the ADA. Whereas the park design and construction work will theoretically achieve that objective, the County's current proposal to immediately remove all of the parking in front of the Park to allow for a dedicated bike lane, as opposed to the Class III bike lane that exists there now, will be controversial and very likely will be met with a strong negative public reaction.

Given that the dedicated ADA parking spot that had been planned has been eliminated from the project, the newly ADA compliant park will be utterly inaccessible to many with physical disabilities. Furthermore, elimination of ADA parking would evidently run afoul of Federal regulations that require ADA parking for the newly improved and otherwise ADA compliant park.

The loss of all nearby parking will make it exceedingly difficult for disabled, mobility-impaired people, and others to access this popular Park. The parking places have historically been well utilized by park visitors making it easily accessible to all. Removal of all parking at the site will put park users in danger and is otherwise objectionable for the following reasons:

1. The limited street parking west of the Park on the south side of Pt. San Pedro Road is often not available. Furthermore, the slope of the hill in that location is steep enough to make use of any available parking there problematic for people disabilities.
2. Accessing alternative parking located across Pt. San Pedro Road would require Park users to cross this four-lane street in a location where there is a blind curve for east bound traffic, no crosswalk or signals, and vehicles that travel at speeds of 40 miles per hour or more.
3. Five more “no parking” and “bicycle lane” signs in addition to the multitude of signs cluttering the views along this scenic stretch of roadway about which neighbors have already complained and would add to the visual pollution and be contrary to BCDC goals.

We have been informed that the County staff is working with City staff to consider a “traffic calming” strategy as longer-range solution that would narrow Point San Pedro Road from two lanes to one lane between Loch Lomond Drive and Riviera Dive. Although this strategy would allow room for a dedicated bicycle lane and for street parking adjacent to the Park, this proposal has not been fully developed, funded or vetted by the community and is not likely to be implemented for many years, if at all. In addition, this idea was proposed several years ago and rejected after much controversy and community input.

We would like to know what alternatives the County has explored to address the bike lane requirement. We hope that instead of the County’s current proposed resolution, a feasible alternative can be developed which will not result in the unintended consequence of reducing public access to this park, particularly to the elderly and physically disabled.

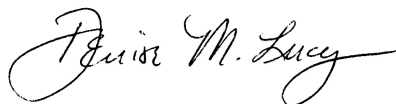
We request the opportunity to work with you and the project team in the next several days to address these issues. As mentioned in an email to you last week, it may be helpful to first have a phone conversation with you to discuss some of our questions. We are concerned that if this matter is not satisfactorily resolved in the next few days, our Board will feel in necessary to go to BCDC this coming Wednesday to request a delay in the issuance of the permit in order for our community to address the issues raised by the current proposal. We understand that this would result in a most unfortunate delay in the Project, but we believe that before forging ahead there are important considerations that need to be vetted with the local community, the disability community, and park users including those from outside the immediate neighbors of the park.

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Best regards,



Bonnie Marmor
Co-President



Denise Lucy
Co-President