

Ian Gibb  
851 40th Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 20, 2026

Historic Resources Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Re: Letter of Merit Supporting Historic-Resource Review of APN 032-251-07**

Dear Members of the Historic Resources Commission:

I submit this Letter of Merit in support of historic-resource review concerning APN 032-251-07.

**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this letter is not to make a final determination regarding historic designation, but rather to identify a basis for continued evaluation under the County's historic-preservation framework.

The subject parcel exists within a historically significant coastal setting associated with the development of Pleasure Point surf culture, California coastal recreation, and the broader historical and cultural legacy connected to Jack O'Neill and the evolution of modern surfing identity along the Santa Cruz coastline. Historical references further indicate longstanding coastal and recreational association within the surrounding area, including references to "Breakers Beach".

## **BASIS FOR REVIEW**

A member of the public has initiated review under Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 16.42 of APN 032-251-07 for consideration of inclusion in the County Historic Site Inventory.

Santa Cruz County Code Chapters 16.42 and 2.58 establish the County's historic-preservation framework and authorize the Historic Resources Commission to evaluate sites, structures, objects, and districts for potential historic significance and inclusion in the County Inventory of Historic Resources.

County staff has further explained that if the site is determined to meet the criteria for historic significance, it would be evaluated against National Register guidelines established by the U.S. Department of the Interior and National Park Service.

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

Under the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, 36 C.F.R. § 60.4(a), a property may be historically significant if it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. The subject parcel and surrounding coastal context present potential association with the historical development of Pleasure Point surf culture, California coastal recreation, and broader surfing history and identity associated with the region.

Under the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, 36 C.F.R. § 60.4(b), a property may be historically significant if it is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. The subject parcel and surrounding coastal context present potential association with Jack O'Neill and the broader historical and cultural

legacy associated with the O'Neill family and the development of modern surfing culture.

## **CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, APN 032-251-07 presents a prima facie basis for continued historic-resource review under Santa Cruz County Code Chapters 16.42 and 2.58 and the National Register Criteria for Evaluation set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 60.4(a) and (b).

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Gibb

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851 40th Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

May 22, 2026

Historic Resources Commission  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Re: Supplemental Statement Regarding the Conservation and Stewardship  
Legacy of Jack O’Neill - APN 032-251-07**

This supplemental statement is respectfully submitted in support of continued historic-resource evaluation concerning APN 032-251-07 and the broader East Cliff coastal bluff corridor associated with Pleasure Point surfing history.

The current administrative record repeatedly identifies the subject area as culturally connected to the historical surfing identity of Pleasure Point, including direct references to the O’Neill family residence, the “Insides” surf break, and the longstanding community use of the “Dirt Farm” bluff area.

The historical significance of Jack O’Neill extends beyond his commercial association with surfing. Jack O’Neill became internationally recognized not only as a surfing innovator and wetsuit pioneer, but also as a longstanding advocate for ocean stewardship, coastal preservation, public access, and the protection of surfing environments.

The East Cliff bluff corridor associated with Pleasure Point represents one of the most recognizable surfing landscapes in California and remains closely identified

with the cultural legacy of Santa Cruz surfing history. The continued undeveloped character of portions of the bluff corridor, including the Dirt Farm area has itself become part of the community's historical and cultural identity.

The current administrative record reflects that concerns regarding preservation of the Dirt Farm and the character of East Cliff have existed since at least 2006.

Specifically, the County staff report states: "Concern over the preservation of the Dirt Farm, along with worries that the East Cliff Drive will soon resemble West Cliff have been voiced since at least 2006 when the Pleasure Point Community Plan was initiated." *Application #251522 Staff Report, APN 032-251-07, Page 4, "251522\_ZA\_Staff\_Report Signed.pdf"*

The County's own materials further recognize the area as a longstanding gathering place associated with surfing history, community identity, and the broader cultural landscape of Pleasure Point. The County appeal rebuttal states: "For decades, the area has served as a gathering place for surfers, spectators, and visitors overlooking some of Santa Cruz's most iconic surf breaks and is closely associated with the region's surfing history and identity." *Appeal of Application 251522, Page 5 of 10, "008. 251522 PC Hearing Appeal Rebuttal with Exhibits.pdf"*

Taken together, these factors support continued consideration of whether the conservation and stewardship legacy associated with Jack O'Neill, Pleasure Point surfing culture, and the East Cliff bluff environment contribute to the historical and cultural significance of the subject coastal landscape.

This supplemental statement is submitted in support of continued historic-resource evaluation and thoughtful consideration of the long-standing relationship between

Santa Cruz surfing history, the conservation and stewardship legacy of Jack O'Neill, community identity, and the East Cliff bluff landscape.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Gibb

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**Re: Supplemental Historical Context Concerning APN 032-251-07**

Dear Members of the Historic Resources Commission:

I respectfully submit the following supplemental historical context in support of continued historic-resource review concerning APN 032-251-07.

**SANTA CRUZ SURFING HISTORY AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

The Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve provides important local context for evaluating the historic and cultural significance of Pleasure Point and the surrounding coastal landscape.

According to the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve, Santa Cruz surf history dates to 1885, when three Hawaiian princes rode locally milled redwood surfboards at the San Lorenzo Rivermouth, described as the first documented board surfing on the American mainland. The Reserve further recognizes that surfing became deeply woven into the identity of the Santa Cruz community and remains a central part of the region's cultural character and lifestyle.

The Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve encompasses a coastline extending from Natural Bridges through Pleasure Point and recognizes the historical, recreational, environmental, and cultural significance of the area's surfing heritage.

### **RELEVANCE TO HISTORIC-RESOURCE REVIEW**

This context supports continued evaluation under National Register Criterion A because the subject parcel exists within a broader coastal setting associated with the historical development of Santa Cruz surf culture, California coastal recreation, and the recognized cultural landscape associated with the Santa Cruz World Surfing Reserve.

The foregoing supplemental context is offered not as a final designation argument, but rather in support of continued historic-resource evaluation under Santa Cruz County Code Chapter 16.42 and the National Register Criteria for Evaluation set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 60.4(a) and (b).

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Gibb

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**APN: 032-251-07 Historical evaluation**

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**From** Beachside Rental Cottages <arli3220@sbcglobal.net>

**Date** Thu 5/21/2026 11:29 AM

**To** Skyler Kriese <Skyler.Kriese@santacruzcountyca.gov>

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RE: APN:032-251-07

Dear Skyler,

I thought I'd forward a few *fun facts* relating to the historic content of the above noted parcel to be considered in the evaluation review.

**1876 (approx):** Santa Cruz railroad and timber industry connected Santa Cruz to Watsonville running directly past Pleasure Point. The tracks bypassed the Point to move heavy lumber/fright by local developer F.A. Hihn to steamships.

**1902-1904:** The Historic Pleasure Point Roadhouse, located along East Cliff from 38th to 41st Avenues, built by John J. Henchy. The Roadhouse was known as a local gathering place for ranchers, hunters, travelers and eventually surfers. Local lore claim this is how the name Pleasure Point became known. Although demolished in 2008, to allow the development of condominiums, The Roadhouse remains a well-known historic structure associated with Pleasure Point.

**Mid 1900 to date:** Area became internationally known as surfing expanded in Santa Cruz County. Much of its surf culture significance "Insides" surf break and wetsuit pioneer Jack O'Neill. This area represents the evolution of Pleasure Point from a relatively modest surf town in the 1960-1980s into a globally recognized destination in coastal Pleasure Point neighborhood.

From the beginning of time to now, this parcel displays the wonders of nature at it's finest. Located at a major recreational corridor providing open and unobstructed ocean views across Monterey Bay, in an area with nearby stretches of private development blocking shoreline visibility. This parcel holds a unique irreplaceable character and vistas sought after by our forefathers...and our people of today!

Please consider this parcel a historical resource.

Thank you,  
Linda Amador

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*Bill O'Neill*  
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