



(No subject)

From Bill O'Neill <oneillwfo@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 4:26 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>

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Ms. Rebecca Rockom,

I understand you continue to move forward with the approval of application 215522; E Cliff Statue.

Please allow me to explain my opposition...

I have traveled the world and assure you our East Cliff bluff is one of the most pristine coastal locations from Mexico to Oregon. It is true the cliff continues to erode. However due to our almost perfect weather conditions mild fog, wind, rain and moderate temperatures it continues to be a one-of-a-kind that must be preserved.

We can all agree doing nothing will not preserve the cliff...not even the native plantings that have been proposed.

I feel that our focus should be on preserving the bluff itself. Fortifying the area most at risk, being the toe area. Once that goes, so does the proposed development.

Again I ask, please do not approve application 251522.

Respectfully,
Bill O'Neill



Report

From Christine Evans <christine4arts@aol.com>
Date Sun 3/29/2026 3:27 AM
To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

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Hi Rebecca,

Thank you for the incredible work you've put into this report about the proposed statue on E Cliff Dr.

Is it possible to let me know how the 118 community members who live in or immediately adjacent to Pleasure Point (the red zone on the map) responded to the polling that was conducted by Supervisor Koenig?

At this point my primary concern is about "how" this project has advanced with so little local community input. It is creating divides, rather than community cohesion. In these divisive times, this feels especially important to me.

These numbers may help me move from opposition to support of this project, especially if our immediate community is largely in favor of this project.

One of the reasons for recommended approval sited the call for a "community's center" in 2008.

This report states " The proposed sculpture is in conformance with the County's certified Local Coastal Program, in that the structure is sited and *designed to be visually compatible, in scale with, and integrated with the character of the surrounding neighborhood.*"

p. 9

This statement is inconsistent with my perception and that if those of many I've spoken with. Maybe I need to hear from more of our community members.

I sincerely hope the information I'm requesting will help shift my concerns.

Thank you,

Christine Evans



Proposal to Protect the East Cliff Bluffs

From Dane O'Neill <daneoneill@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/1/2026 4:49 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jamie Sehorn <Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountyca.gov>; tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to respectfully oppose Application 251522 for the proposed 18-foot bronze sculpture on the East Cliff Bluffs.

Honoring women in Santa Cruz surfing is a worthy goal, however, this project, at this location, is not a good fit. The application itself makes this clear — it requires reducing the front setback from 30 feet to zero and the west side setback from 30 to roughly 13 feet just to make the structure work here. And unlike the existing surfer statue on West Cliff Drive, the East Cliff site offers none of the conditions that make a large monument appropriate: West Cliff has a 10-foot setback, a street at least twice the width, ample parking, and ADA accessibility. The statue there doesn't overwhelm the space. An 18-foot sculpture squeezed onto this blufftop would.

There is also a broader concern worth considering: *development begets further development*. This statue is being proposed precisely because a surfer statue already exists on West Cliff Drive. I urge you to consider the possibility that the approval of this development project will inspire further development elsewhere in the future. We must recognize when our decisions facilitate the subtle, but ever-present encroachment of our natural spaces. We face such a decision now.

It is my conviction that the bluff is best left as-is. However, if there is real community support behind a space to honor female surfers, a better path exists. The "Dirt Farm" site could be improved with natural landscaping and a smaller-scale tribute that honors these women without dominating the blufftop. This option would honor the impact female surfers had and continue to have on the area, *while preserving the natural spaces these surfers venerate*.

I respectfully ask that you deny this permit.

Thank you for your time,
Dane O'Neill



East Cliff Surfer Statue - phone comments

From Jillian Ritter <Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 4:30 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Cc Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jamie Sehorn <Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountyca.gov>; tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>

Hi All,

I received comments today via phone from County resident Donna Thompson regarding her opposition to this project. She stated, "Development in the East Cliff area, as well as all over Santa Cruz County, needs to stop. I am not in favor of this project." I let her know I'd send her comments over to be included in the official record.

Thank you,
Jillian

Jillian F. Ritter

County Supervisor's Analyst

Supervisor Manu Koenig, First District

County of Santa Cruz

701 Ocean St, Room 500

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

(831) 454-2200

jillian.ritter@santacruzcountyca.gov



Statue at the dirt farm

From Julie Wiethorn <manypony23@gmail.com>

Date Fri 3/27/2026 6:33 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

****CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Here are a few reasons, that is not a good idea to put a statue at the dirt farm. Traffic on 30th Ave. is increasing dramatically. There's a loop that people take it starts at 30th goes to the point and then travels Eastcliff to 41st St. People speed already and it won't help to have more traffic in this neighborhood. The dirt farm is the narrowest part of Eastcliff in between the two streets. The better solution would be to put it at the hook. There's nothing sacred about those garbage cans. It can be moved. It's already paved. There's a parking lot and a restroom. Putting the statue at the dirt farm is a safety issue. There's nowhere to stop in park so people will just slow way down to go look at it. This is poor planning. Sincerely Julie Wiethorn resident of 30th Ave.

Sent from my iPhone



Concerns Regarding the Proposed Surfer Statue at the Dirt Farm

From Kadri Kaldam <kadrikaldam@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 10:48 AM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

****CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Hello Rebecca,

My name is Kadri. I am an architect and a surfer who lives at Pleasure Point, just steps from the Dirt Farm. I am writing to formally express my concern about the proposed surfer statue at this location.

Both professionally and personally, I believe the statue as currently proposed — in its shape, size, and design — is inappropriate for this site. Beyond the design itself, I question whether a statue is needed here at all. There are more suitable locations along East Cliff that already offer public parking, restrooms, and paved areas better suited to handle increased foot traffic.

The Dirt Farm is one of the last natural, authentic spaces in Santa Cruz that hasn't been paved over or manicured. Any intervention here demands a far more sensitive and deliberate approach — particularly regarding traffic and pedestrian safety. The area is already a bottleneck: the street is narrow, residential homes sit directly across on the north side of East Cliff, parking is limited, and there is no sidewalk on that side.

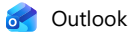
I'd like to raise several questions for the County's consideration:

- Has the County requested a traffic analysis and environmental impact assessment from the proposing party?
- Who is leading the professional planning effort? Are qualified professionals involved — city planners, landscape architects, architects?
- Has the County considered holding an open design competition? This would ensure a fair process, invite the best ideas, and result in a more fitting and inclusive design for such a prominent public installation.

As proposed, the design feels antiquated, the scale is oversized for the location, and the statue lacks the inclusivity this community deserves. I urge the County to pause and reconsider before moving forward.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Warm regards,
Kadri



Female Surfer Statue/ put email on record as official comment

From LEZLIE WARD <lmw77@sbcglobal.net>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 12:42 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>

****CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

I am writing to express my displeasure of the location of this statue.

After the community meeting on this issue it seemed that, 1 person was totally against the statue, the community organizing the statue was for it & a few others but the majority of the people present were against it at this location.

It seems that the people that live the closest to the location are not aware of this 18 ft statue being considered for this location. The notices that were sent out, went to houses 500 ft from location, and not everyone received them and it did not describe the project in full. Notices should have been sent to the neighborhood that is impacted by this statue, maybe from 30th to 41st up to Portola. This would get a real response from the residents that live in this immediate area. Not a survey online for only those that have online access.

You could poll 500 people on the Westside about putting up a female surfer statue on the east side and all 500 would probably say yes, but they don't know all the criteria and are not even familiar with the area proposed. Pleasure Point is a very unique area and the only one in Santa Cruz, if anything should be there it would be a tribute to Jack O'Neill. (a small tribute)

The location proposed already has three palm trees and three benches, the statue will be right in front of the residents across the street blocking a serene view of the ocean, also making it a hang out at night for suspicious activities which already happens there.

I understand there is criteria for this project which is exempt from certain requirements, as stated to me in previous email that " the improvements will not be eligible for shoreline armoring given they are being permitted under the exemption criteria for coastal erosion. So if the cliff does erode over time

Who will pay for the relocation of the statue if the cliff erodes to an unsafe point ???

Who will pay to fix the cliff ???

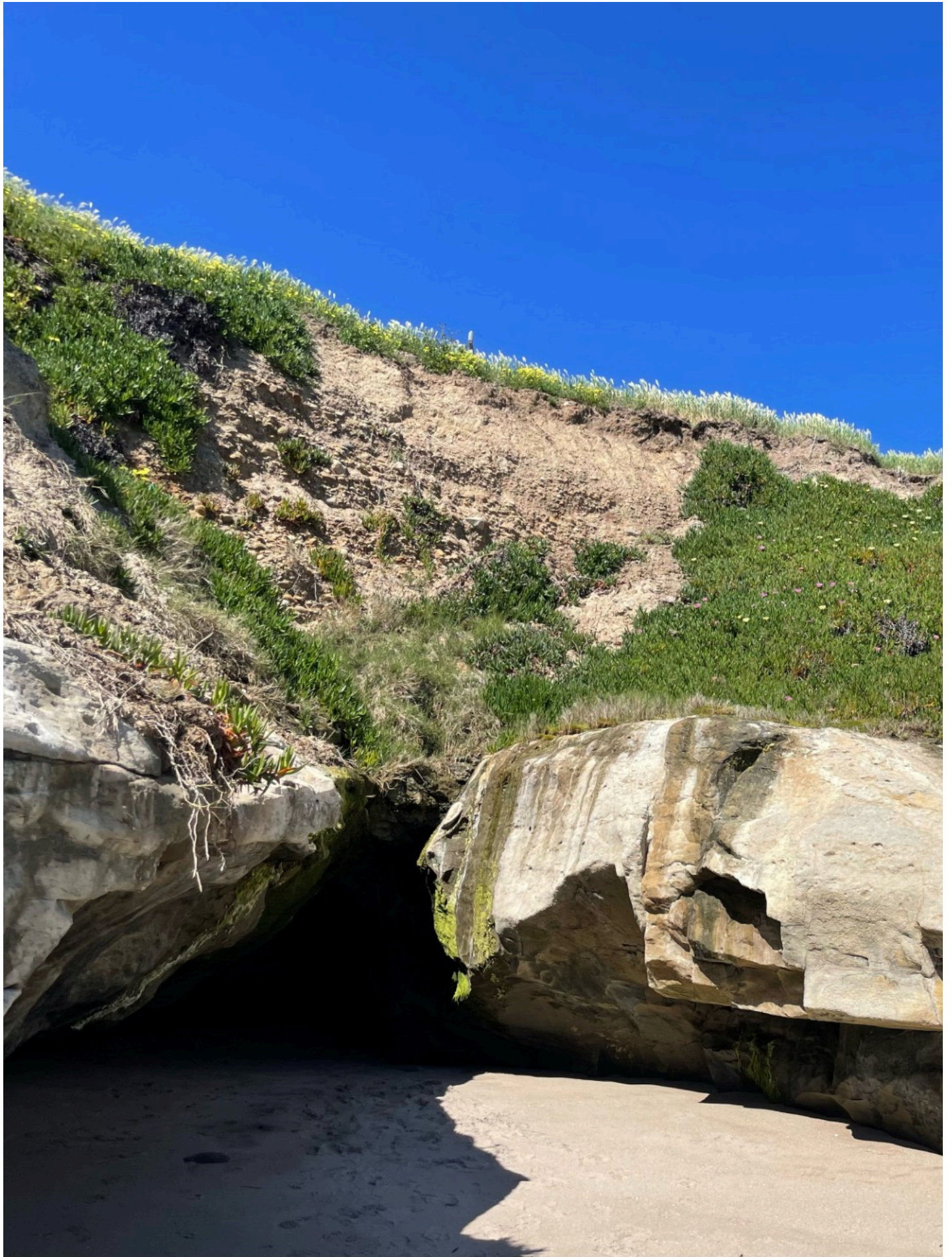
I think this strip of undeveloped land should be left alone, there is also the undermining of the rocks below the site and the cliff itself which will probably in time require the statue to be moved.

Alternate sites would be the Hook or the Point. The Point has a great space where the old tiki was, facing the ocean and already has benches there and people gather there all the time. Also the Hook has a very nice place next to the parking lot and road facing the ocean and already has picnic tables in that spot.

I think the actual location needs to be reexamined and people making the decisions should be listening to the people that it will affect the most. Just because all the rules are abided by doesn't mean it's a good idea.

I am wondering how long has this project been in the works because it was just announced to residents a month or two ago ???

I am attaching pictures of the beach side below the cliff showing the cave below, also a picture of the Point & Hook area to consider.









Please enter this email into the official record for consideration of this project.

Thank you,
Lezlie Ward
37 th ave

Sent from my iPad



APPLICATION 251522 - SURF STATUE

From Arlinda Amador <arlamador@att.net>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 10:31 AM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Rebecca Rockom,

I appreciate the opportunity to review the Staff Report for the above noted project, thank you for making available.

However, I still have issue with the location, more particularly the Pros (listed on page 4) as identified for the project site.

1. "*Site being open enough to be viewed from all directions*" - Vehicle drivers viewing the statue and not pedestrian and bicycle traffic going in both directions is a HAZARD, not a Pro.
2. "*View of ocean not blocked*" - Statue does indeed block view from traffic and those living across the street...again not a Pro.
3. "*Broad dirt area*" - Although Report states area not effected by erosion for "several" years, the fact remains it is eroding and will eventually need to be removed, or simply allowed to fall into the ocean...this should not be considered a Pro.
4. "*Sunny site*" - At certain times of the season, certain times of the day as are all the other sites. This is indeed a Pro, and perhaps the reason Mother Nature's work should be left as is for all to appreciate her untouched beauty!
5. "*Large enough to accommodate small groups*" - As are the other sites being considered.
6. "*Site County owned*" - Would County owned not mean that we, as tax payers own this property and have a right, if not an obligation to preserve this natural resource?
7. "*Additional landscaping*" - As can be seen from below bluff (on sand) heavy storms and high winds and the weight of planting (such as ice plant already there) create more weight and more erosion...again, this would not be considered a Pro.

For these reasons, I ask that your team reconsider.
This is not the correct location!

Respectfully,

Linda Amador

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*Linda Amador*  
*arlamador@att.net*  
*831.331.1496*



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**SOLVED - see image below!: East Cliff Drive "To Honor Surfing" Statue**

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**From** Luke O'Neill <lukejoneill@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 3/31/2026 8:34 PM

**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

**Cc** Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jamie Sehorn <Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jillian Ritter <Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountyca.gov>; tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>

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Hello,

As I'm sure you're all aware, the main opposition to the statue from almost every resident is that it blocks a beautiful ocean view (violating 5.2.3 county code - and no, adding a couple local plants doesn't make an 18 foot statue blend in) and ruins the natural landscape of the park.

While it seems like this project is not concerned about the local opinion on the subject - that no statue should be built here whatsoever, the below image offers an alternative that 1) preserves more of the natural beauty of the ocean that the insanely massive base blocks - I cannot emphasize how important this is 2) brings the surfer to the human level, among the actual folks that now get to see her, relate to her, and be inspired by her 3) reduces the weight being forced onto an already crumbling cliffside 4) proves that for women to be equal they don't need to be exact copies of their male counterparts.

Please consider. Thank you.



Luke O'Neill

On Mon, Mar 16, 2026 at 3:05 PM Rebecca Rockom <[Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov)> wrote:

Hello Luke.

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed bronze sculpture on the County owned property on East Cliff Drive. Your comments will be included with all the public comments and incorporated into the staff report presented to the Zoning Administrator prior to the public hearing (April 3rd, 9:00am – County office building, 701 Ocean Street, basement level).

Your suggestions are appreciated and we will take them into consideration.

For more information about this project and the current status, please visit the Major Project webpage on the Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) website at

<https://cdi.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/UPC/GetInvolved/MajorProjectApplications.aspx>.

Sincerely,



**Rebecca Rockom (she, her, hers)**

Planner III

Community Development & Infrastructure

(831) 454-3121

[701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060](https://www.santacruzcountycalifornia.gov/701-Ocean-Street-Santa-Cruz-CA-95060)



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**From:** Luke O'Neill <[lukejoneill@gmail.com](mailto:lukejoneill@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2026 6:23 AM

**To:** Rebecca Rockom <[Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>; Manu Koenig <[Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>; Jamie Sehorn <[Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>; Jillian Ritter <[Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>; [tohonorsc@gmail.com](mailto:tohonorsc@gmail.com) <[tohonorsc@gmail.com](mailto:tohonorsc@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** East Cliff Drive "To Honor Surfing" Statue

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Hello,

Good morning and hope you are having a great weekend. I wanted to send this message to strongly express my concern about the statue planned for construction on East Cliff Drive.

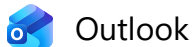
The open, undisturbed cliffs at that spot are absolutely breathtaking. There aren't many places left where the natural cliffside so perfectly joins the ocean, with the area above forming the perfect mini park - loved and treasured by the local community.

Any sort of construction or manmade object would destroy this natural beauty, shifting one of the towns favorite local spots into a what I can only imagine will serve as a giant easy-to-spot landmark for tourists to use as a reference point.

Please consider what the people who actually live nearby would want, because I cannot imagine any of them would vote to get rid of their gorgeous open bluff space and the stunning view that comes with it.

Thank you,

Luke



Outlook

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**East Cliff surfer statue proposal - NOT AT THIS LOCATION**

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**From** Matthew Balkman <mbalkman@turningpointra.com>**Date** Thu 4/2/2026 12:38 PM**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Rebecca and Manu –

Please do NOT construct the surfer girl statue at the proposed site on East Cliff.

We all love East Cliff and most love women surfing, BUT does this project make sense at this location? NO!

1. The public notification and input was not transparent nor was it done with proper notice.
  - A. \*Only 3 days ago did the large white and small yellow notice go up. This is NOT right.
  - B. \*The original description was not accurate and the size and scope was grossly downplayed.
  - C. \*It was alleged that the neighbors support it, I don't know one who supports it.
2. This location is too crowded with people and cars.
  - A. There is no parking within blocks of this. Building an attraction without parking is compounding an existing problem. This seems to be very poor planning and oversight.
3. A thin strip of dirt between the sidewalk and the eroding cliff. **How about we discuss infrastructure, the eroding cliffs, before we EVER discuss art projects on the eroding cliffs.** This seems like very simple logic. These cliffs and the Dirt Farm are eroding at a rapid rate that can be stopped with intervention from City, County, State, and Coastal Commission. It is likely that the O'Neill family who owns most of the Dirt Farm would cooperate.
4. Views for all will be gone with the erection of anything at this location. Affects pedestrians, bikers, motor vehicles, and residents.

City, County, State, and Coastal Commission rules are being set aside and exceptions made for this project why, when there is so much that needs to be addressed just on East Cliff.

Some of the needs on East Cliff: what else might these funds and City/County support and exemptions be targeted for?

- Planting more palm trees?
- Saving the Monterey Pines at The Hook that the Cormorants guano (poop) is killing?
- Improvements at and around the Dirt Farm?

- Saving the eroding cliffs?
- Real replacements for the fences that have been damaged (The Hook in 2 sections and PP where they were damaged by cars and the City/County has not repaired them to match the other fencing and it looks shabby). And other fencing is rotting along East Cliff.
- Repairing the stairs at 38th, 36th, and The Hook? Sections of these stairs and beach access is dangerous.
- Improving the dilapidated Rock View Park? (although the City says they will improve it...)?
- Improving the bath rooms?
- The trail needs resurfacing, and directional signs.
- Crosswalks at The Hook, both at the parking lot entrance and crossing East Cliff need repainting and a whole new improved sign package. This is a strange convergence of bikes and pedestrians sharing a very crowded and confusing space.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES THAT WE THE PEOPLE NEED AND WANT? Please ask and listen.

Thank you.

Cheers,

Matthew Balkman  
Resident of Pleasure Point

[mbalkman@turningpointra.com](mailto:mbalkman@turningpointra.com)  
425.445.0055



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**Increased transparency & better procedure: Female statue in Pleasure Point**

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**From** Nikki Hotvedt <nikki.hotvedt@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 4/1/2026 8:18 PM

**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Hello Rebecca,

I am writing as a concerned Pleasure Point community member to **express my opposition to the proposed female surfer statue at the "Dirt Farm."**

The current proposal feels out of scale and out of place. At 18 feet tall, the statue would significantly alter the coastal skyline, and paving over one of the last remaining natural sections of cliff between Pleasure Point and Capitola represents a meaningful public loss.

**Equally concerning is the lack of transparency and adherence to process.** Key details about the project have not been clearly communicated to the community, and several aspects raise questions:

- **Faulty date:** The poll that was sent to unknown recipients failed to mention the concrete space or the height — it was misleading and should not be used to signal public support.
- **Lack of clarity:** The petition and outreach materials were vague and did not clearly show the true scale and impact of the project
- **Proper notice:** Required public notice does not appear to meet the 10-day standard
- **Visual impact:** An 18-foot statue would significantly change the existing coastal skyline
- **Community consultation:** Local neighbors and regular users of the area were not meaningfully consulted
- **Process concerns:** The overall process feels rushed and inconsistent with standard expectations

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to the idea of honoring a female surfer. However, I strongly oppose this location and believe the process must be revisited with full transparency and proper community consultation.

I have also shared these concerns with local publications, along with feedback gathered from over 100 community members (thus far, I will continue to canvas) who have signed in support of revisiting the proposal. Few I talked to were aware of the project or the scale.

I hope the upcoming Friday meeting provides clarity on the City's approach and next steps toward a more transparent and inclusive process.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nikki Hotvedt



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**Public Comment on Application Number: 251522 Female Surfer Statue**

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**From** oceandweller1 <oceandweller1@proton.me>

**Date** Thu 4/2/2026 1:07 PM

**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

**\*\*\*\*CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.**\*\*\*\***

Dear Rebecca Rockom,

Please ensure public comment below is included for all public hearings regarding the proposed female surfer statue application number 251522.

This application screams of another wealthy Silicon Valley transplant who purchased beach property and now wants their name permanently affixed to a bench in order to feed their own ego and contribute to the gentrification of Santa Cruz.

There are much better uses of the private donor funds that could actually help people in this community instead of erecting a statue surrounded by the names of people who need to use their money to feel special, important, and relevant.

And what is the real meaning of this statue anyway? The applicant says she doesn't surf, but likes to live at the beach. It must be nice to have that kind of privilege while others in the community are struggling to find housing and pay bills. This entire project is tone deaf and the true locals do not support it.



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**East Cliff Statue**

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From R S <oomanopt@msn.com>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 1:43 PM

To Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Cc manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.gov <manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.gov>

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4/2/2026

ATTN:

Manu Koeing

Rebecca Rockom

I am expressing my opposition to this statute planned for East Cliff Drive.

Since the "improvements" were made, including turning East Cliff into a one way boulevard, those high-density condos, building steps down to the ocean, the installation of bathrooms and the paved parking lot at The Hook. Our once quiet neighborhood has been turned into a crowded human zoo. Something like this will cause even more overcrowding, from increased pedestrian and traffic congestion.

"A 18' tall monument in a 650-square-foot plaza with benches" is obscene. And why would we be providing free advertising for O'Neil wetsuits?

I am sick and tired of having our home exploited and turned into a tourist attraction.

Its important we work to maintain natural-looking, undeveloped open areas.

Since the changes to the intersection of 41st Ave and Portola Dr. It looks more like Santa Monica than Santa Cruz.

Enough already.

We don't need to add another gimmick to attract more people to this area, which will add to the commercialization, congestion, and overuse we are already experiencing.

To Kari Lochhead, the woman who came up with this idea, if you believe this is such a great idea. **PUT THE STATUE AND PLAZA IN YOUR FRONT YARD.**

Rick O'Shea

8086358322



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## Statue

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**From** Robert Giles <outwilds@gmail.com>

**Date** Sat 3/28/2026 8:42 AM

**To** Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>

**Cc** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

\*\*\*\*CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Hello, I am writing to you to express my opposition to the proposed Bronze Statue on East Cliff Drive. The development of a structure in this pristine natural open space area is not needed or wanted by myself and the many local residents who live pay property taxes and VOTE in this district. Thank You, Robert Giles 38th Avenue Resident  
Sent from my iPhone



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## Opposing surfer statue on East Cliff

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From Robyn E <robyneirich@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/2/2026 12:47 PM

To Sean Eirich <seirich@gmail.com>; Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Cc Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jamie Sehorn <Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jillian Ritter <Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountyca.gov>; tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>; Christa Martin <christadmartin@me.com>

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To whom it may concern:

My request is that the location of the statue and project be reconsidered and put on a pause before moving forward. Dirt Farm is one of the last open spaces along the cliff in the area. It is a place that allows the children of tomorrow to experience the rolls and hills of the dirt and the natural uninhibited landscape.

Further, my ask is that Dirt Farm become a protected open space preserve, free from construction and building, allowing the natural habitat, including the cranes, to have a safe space to thrive.

Additionally, I have concerns with the changes in rain, heat, and cliff erosion, that constructing the monument on the fragile cliff of Dirt Park is unnecessarily putting our coast in danger.

I realize that my email is arriving late in the game, and my hope is that you can consider these concerns, pausing on the project, before moving forward, to consider relocation options.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robyn Eirich

On Wed, Apr 1, 2026, 8:45 PM Sean Eirich <[seirich@gmail.com](mailto:seirich@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear planning commission and county supervisor:

While the proposal for a female surfer statue on East Cliff is rooted in a well-intentioned desire for representation, there are several compelling arguments against its installation. My opposition opinion generally focuses on environmental preservation, cultural authenticity, and the risk of over-developing the natural coastline.

## 1. Preservation of the "Dirt Farm" Character

The proposed location—the "Dirt Farm" in Pleasure Point—is one of the few remaining sections of the East Cliff coastline that retains a rugged, unpolished, and open feel.

- **Aesthetic Impact:** Installing an 18-foot bronze monument fundamentally changes the visual landscape of a neighborhood known for its "old school" surf grit.
- **Development Creep:** Many residents value East Cliff specifically because it is not a mirror image of the more manicured West Cliff. Opponents argue that adding large-scale monuments starts a trend of turning natural vistas into "sculpture parks," detracting from the raw beauty of the Pacific Ocean itself.

## 2. Lack of Artistic Originality

The proposal aims for a "near-identical replica" of the West Cliff statue (which features a man with a longboard).

- **Redundancy:** Critics argue that duplicating a 1992 design is a missed opportunity for actual artistic expression. If the goal is to honor women in surfing, some believe it should be done through a unique, contemporary piece of art that reflects the evolution of the sport, rather than a "gender-swapped" copy of a thirty-year-old monument.
- **Symbolic Laziness:** To some, a "replica" suggests that female surfing is merely an extension or a "version" of the male experience, rather than something with its own distinct history and aesthetic in Santa Cruz.

## 3. Environmental and Infrastructure Concerns

Though the project is privately funded, any construction on the cliffside carries long-term implications.

- **Coastal Erosion:** East Cliff is notoriously vulnerable to erosion. Adding a heavy bronze structure and a concrete pedestal to the cliff edge requires significant geological consideration. Opponents often point out that resources and community focus should be on cliff stabilization and maintaining existing beach access (like the 38th Ave stairs) rather than adding new weight to a fragile coastline.
- **Crowding and Traffic:** A new "iconic" monument is designed to be a tourist draw. Pleasure Point is already densely packed with limited parking. An influx of visitors stopping to take photos at the "Dirt Farm" could exacerbate traffic congestion and safety issues for local residents and pedestrians.

## 4. Commercialization of Local Culture

There is a segment of the local surfing community that prefers to keep the sport "underground" or focused on the water rather than on land-based memorials.

- **Performative Representation:** Some argue that true support for female surfers comes through sponsorship, equal prize money, and water safety—not through a bronze statue.
- **Museum vs. Nature:** Opponents may argue that if people want to see surf history, they should visit the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. The coastline itself should remain a place for the activity of surfing, not the commemoration of it.

## Summary of the Opposition Position

The opposition to the statue is not necessarily an opposition to women in surfing; rather, it is a defense of the **Pleasure Point environment**. The core of the argument is that the ocean and the cliffs are the only monuments Santa Cruz needs, and that "West Cliff-ing" the East Side destroys the unique, rustic charm that makes the Dirt Farm special in the first place.



## An opposition to surfer statue on East Cliff

**From** Sean Eirich <seirich@gmail.com>

**Date** Wed 4/1/2026 8:45 PM

**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jamie Sehorn <Jamie.Sehorn@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Jillian Ritter <Jillian.Ritter@santacruzcountyca.gov>; tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>

**Cc** Christa Martin <christadmartin@me.com>; Robyn E <robyneirich@gmail.com>

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Dear planning commission and county supervisor:

While the proposal for a female surfer statue on East Cliff is rooted in a well-intentioned desire for representation, there are several compelling arguments against its installation. My opposition opinion generally focuses on environmental preservation, cultural authenticity, and the risk of over-developing the natural coastline.

### 1. Preservation of the "Dirt Farm" Character

The proposed location—the "Dirt Farm" in Pleasure Point—is one of the few remaining sections of the East Cliff coastline that retains a rugged, unpolished, and open feel.

- **Aesthetic Impact:** Installing an 18-foot bronze monument fundamentally changes the visual landscape of a neighborhood known for its "old school" surf grit.
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### 4. Commercialization of Local Culture

There is a segment of the local surfing community that prefers to keep the sport "underground" or focused on the water rather than on land-based memorials.

- **Performative Representation:** Some argue that true support for female surfers comes through sponsorship, equal prize money, and water safety—not through a bronze statue.
- **Museum vs. Nature:** Opponents may argue that if people want to see surf history, they should visit the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum. The coastline itself should remain a place for the activity of surfing, not the commemoration of it.

### Summary of the Opposition Position

The opposition to the statue is not necessarily an opposition to women in surfing; rather, it is a defense of the **Pleasure Point environment**. The core of the argument is that the ocean and the cliffs are the only monuments Santa Cruz needs, and that "West Cliff-ing" the East Side destroys the unique, rustic charm that makes the Dirt Farm special in the first place.




## Female Surfer Statue

**From** Steve Van Wickle <stevevanwickle@gmail.com>

**Date** Tue 3/31/2026 9:10 AM

**To** tohonorsc@gmail.com <tohonorsc@gmail.com>; Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

 4 attachments (12 MB)

IMG\_3189.jpeg; IMG\_3184.jpeg; IMG\_3183.jpeg; IMG\_3182.jpeg;

**\*\*\*\*CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Hi Rebecca and Kari. I hope you both are well. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my message. I imagine you have been receiving a lot of emails and feedback regarding the female statue proposed for Pleasure Point. I live directly across the street at 23727 E Cliff Drive #5. While I like the idea of a statue recognizing women surfers, this feels like the wrong location. It is extremely large for this setting and will feel out of place. And it is no exaggeration that it is directly across the street from me (~30 feet away) and she will look directly into my studio. It will disrupt my view substantially as an oversized bronze statue will feel unnatural to me. It probably impacts my view more than anyone else along this stretch. I am surprised that something so large in a residential heavy place is about to be approved. The statue on the west side is in front of a church, a parking lot, a cross street, and lighthouse field. It is a completely different setting. I have attached some pictures for reference of the height and obstruction. Please note the image taken at night. The light from the street light will reflect very brightly off this bronze statue. This feels out of place for the natural feel of the dirt farm.

I would also like to mention that this is one of the most narrow areas (streetwise) along east cliff. I can't count how many times I have seen a driver checking out the surf or view and veering into the bike lane and almost hitting someone. If you add a giant statue, this already persistent issue will become exponentially worse. This is a major safety issue.

As I mentioned, I support this idea of a statue representing female surfers, but the location feels wrong. Why not down at the point where the concrete benches and bathrooms are? This already has a park feel and seems like a more appropriate location. Or if it has to be at the proposed location, why not something smaller scale that can proportionally fit in between the three palm trees?

I know it is impossible to please everyone, but I hope we can pump the brakes on this project to find a solution that better fits the community as a whole.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,  
Steve Van Wickle

831-252-5292



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## The proposed statue at the dirt farm

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**From** Suzy Mahan <suzymahan2010@gmail.com>

**Date** Thu 4/2/2026 4:11 PM

**To** Rebecca Rockom <Rebecca.Rockom@santacruzcountyca.gov>

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Dear Ms. Rockom, The dirt farm is a small special place with serious erosion issues. Construction of a 18 ft. Female statue in a bathing suit will affect the safety of the neighborhood. It would block the view for the residence and increase traffic. Car drivers are all ready not watching the road. It's hard to walk across East Cliff as it is. Especially for families with small children.The statue would make the dirt farm an amusement park and increase crime.

# East Cliff Surfer Statue Poll Results

Date Range

02/09/26

4/2/26

| <b>All Responses</b>                                      |     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Yes, I fully support the project                          | 631 | 72.11%  |
| I like the project, but I am concerned about the location | 64  | 7.31%   |
| I like the location, but am unsure about the design       | 24  | 2.74%   |
| No, I dislike the project                                 | 156 | 17.83%  |
| Total                                                     | 875 | 100.00% |

| <b>Responses with Addresses</b>                           |     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Yes, I fully support the project                          | 213 | 72.45%  |
| I like the project, but I am concerned about the location | 26  | 8.84%   |
| I like the location, but am unsure about the design       | 10  | 3.40%   |
| No, I dislike the project                                 | 45  | 15.31%  |
| Total                                                     | 294 | 100.00% |

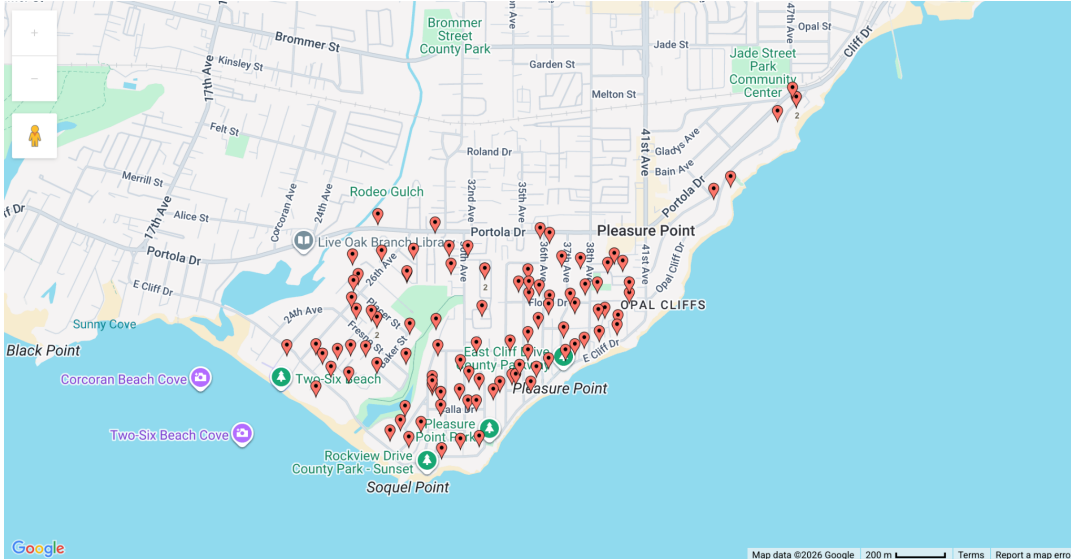
| <b>95062 Addresses</b>                                    |     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Yes, I fully support the project                          | 137 | 67.49%  |
| I like the project, but I am concerned about the location | 20  | 9.85%   |
| I like the location, but am unsure about the design       | 9   | 4.43%   |
| No, I dislike the project                                 | 37  | 18.23%  |
| Total                                                     | 203 | 100.00% |

| <b>Pleasure Point Addresses</b>                           |     |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Yes, I fully support the project                          | 65  | 63.73%  |
| I like the project, but I am concerned about the location | 8   | 7.84%   |
| I like the location, but am unsure about the design       | 5   | 4.90%   |
| No, I dislike the project                                 | 24  | 23.53%  |
| Total                                                     | 102 | 100.00% |



**MANU KOENIG**  
1ST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**Figure 1. Map of Pleasure Point Addresses**



**Figure 2. Copy of Poll**

**Should a Female Surfer Statue be placed at the East Cliff Dirt Farm?**

- Yes, I fully support the project
- I like the project, but am concerned about the location
- I like the location, but am unsure about the design
- No, I dislike the project

**Email Address\***



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**SUBMIT**



**MANU KOENIG**  
1ST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR