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JUL 21 2003

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

July 17, 2003

Stephanie Harlan, Chair  
SIA/SAC  
299 Foam St.  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Ms. Harlan,

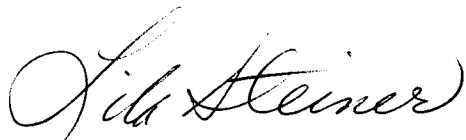
The Seacliff Neighbors' Coalition and the Seacliff Improvement Association (SIA) have been working hard to protect the coastal bluffs above Seacliff and the peaceful neighborhood environment here. The construction of a building on the bluffs overlooking Seacliff Beach will negatively impact the coastal bluffs and residential areas we strive to protect. In trying to preserve Foster Field in our small, residential neighborhood, we are protecting land that the public can enjoy as quiet openspace for viewing sunsets, walking dogs, playing frisbee or enjoying a picnic. The traffic, parking problems and noise of a public marine visitor center are not wanted by either local residents like me or by the larger community. It would simply destroy the current bluff-top and is more suited for a location that is not predominantly residential and has more schools, tourist attractions and commercial ventures.

For these reasons, I am opposed to locating the proposed MBNMS Visitor Center at Seacliff State Beach.

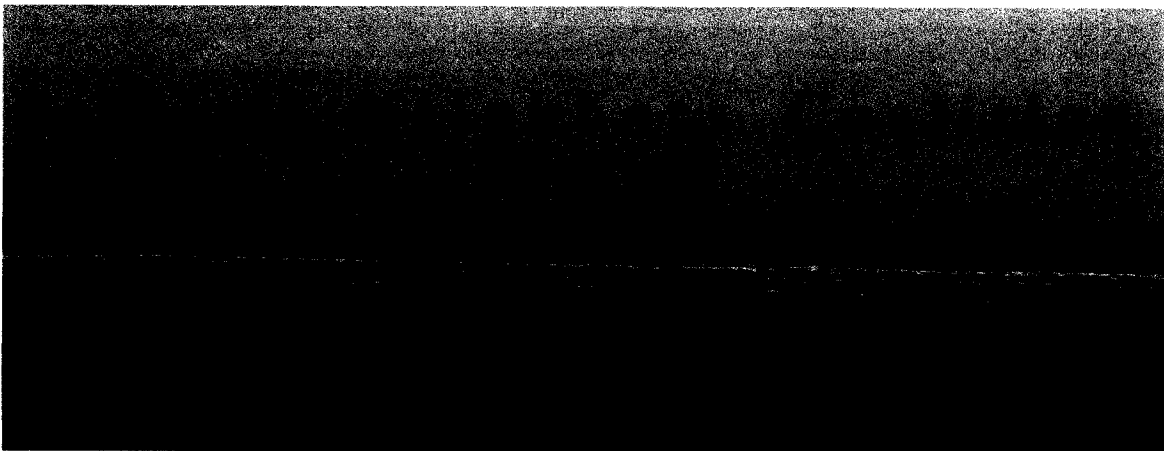
Please help insure the success of the center and preserve our bluffs and neighborhood.

Thank you for your respect of the local residents position.

Sincerely,

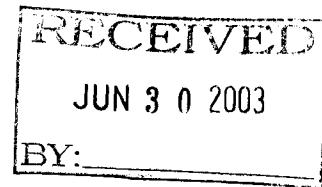


Lila Steiner  
Seacliff Neighbors Coalition  
203 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Aptos, CA



June 25, 2003

Mr. William Douros  
NOAA  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
200 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940



Dear Mr. Douros:

We, members of the Seacliff Neighbors Coalition, applaud your on going commitment to preservation of the marine life of the Monterey Bay. We believe the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center project belongs in a seaside community that is suited to accommodating large numbers of visitors, like Santa Cruz or Monterey -- communities that are eager to attract a visitor center. We are writing to you to reiterate that we oppose the construction of an MBNMS visitor center at Seacliff State Beach. Additionally, we are writing to ask your assistance to ask Stephanie Harlan to step aside as Sanctuary Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairperson during NOAA Phase II discussions and Visitor Center Site Selection.

As you are aware, the Phase I MBNMS report submitted by AMS has designated three locations for the possible placement of the visitor center. These are in Santa Cruz (2), ~~Monterey and Seacliff State Park~~. Of all the locations, it appears that ~~only the Seacliff~~ site has strong opposition by residents to the placement of the visitor center in their residential community. Seacliff State Beach also has the lowest reported visitation.

Our coalition has obtained over 2000 signatures opposing the placement of the visitor center at Seacliff. In early September 2002, the Seacliff Improvement Association (SIA), a long-standing group that represents a region of more than 1,000 households in Seacliff, again voted unanimously to oppose the MBNMS Visitor Center in Seacliff State park. Over ninety percent of recorded comments received by the SIA Board from the SIA membership indicated that association members do not want the MBNMS Visitor Center at Seacliff.

Stephanie Harlan, the current MBNM Sanctuary Advisory Committee Chair, is also a Capitola City Councilperson. It is problematic that she is biased toward selecting the Seacliff site as evidenced by both her words and actions:

1. Harlan stated in February 2002, before the beginning of the Phase I NOAA study process, that she wanted the visitor's center at Seacliff, and would "not allow" the VC to go out of Santa Cruz County to a Monterey location.
2. After the Phase I report presentation at the April 2003 meeting of the SAC, several SAC members suggested that Seacliff State Park should be removed from consideration due to low visitation and community opposition. They tried to suggest that the Phase II should focus on the other Santa Cruz and Monterey sites. Harlan overrode their voice allowing no further discussion.
3. On the agenda of the recent Capitola City Council meeting of June 12, 2003, Ms. Harlan introduced the following published recommendation in spite of the fact that Capitola has no jurisdiction in Seacliff:

Proposed action 5 A: "I recommend that the City Council send a letter to Sanctuary Superintendent William Douros strongly supporting the Seacliff site, and also supporting the other two (Santa Cruz) sites for consideration of a Sanctuary Visitor Center while we are awaiting the results of Phase II of the study."

The Capitola City Council did NOT accept this endorsement of Seacliff as a targeted site, but rather took a general action to support a Santa Cruz County location. In discussion, Council members also acknowledged the better visitation of the Santa Cruz Boardwalk and Wharf locations.

~~Since Ms. Harlan is a biased proponent of one of the Phase II Study Sites (Seacliff), we believe she should step aside as SAC Chair during discussions of the AMS report and Site Selection Process. It is clear that she has pre-judged the process for selecting a site for the visitor's center and only wants Seacliff. The SAC Chair should be a more neutral and fair minded individual to oversee full consideration of all nominated sites.~~

Mr William Douros  
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The Seacliff Neighbors' Coalition members are strong supporters of the MBNMS and the concept a Visitors Center to educate the public about preservation of our beautiful Bay. However, we have major concerns about placing the center at Seacliff which can not be mitigated. Please do not allow development in the name of preservation. The Seacliff bluff and field, called Foster Field, is about a 3 acre parcel which was spared from subdivision in 1956 to be preserved for now and for future generations. Foster Field is the only public open green space in Seacliff. Seacliff is not a tourist area but homes, apartments, and trailer courts with a small business intersection and accessible beach. The upper bluff area is used regularly for beach parking allowing multi-generational families from the region to easily access the Seacliff State Beach without destroying community integrity.

Please consider the replacement of Ms. Harlan as Chairperson of the SAC during discussion of the AMS Phase II report for NOAA and deliberation on Site Selection. We hope to hear from you and be able to share our concerns.

  
Dave Boggin  
212 Seacliff Drive  
Aptos, CA 95003  
Co-Chair  
(831) 688-8285

RECEIVED  
JUL 14 2003  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BLUFF HOUSE  
413 COATES DRIVE  
APTOS, CALIFORNIA 95003

Dear Mr. Douros,

July 9, 2003

I am opposed to establishing a Monterey Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center at Seacliff because of the damaging effect on the local neighborhood as we now know it.

Clearly more appropriate sites have been identified. Please arrange to have the Center located at one of these alternative sites.

Sincerely,  
J. A. Baer