SUMMERLAND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 508
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July 03, 2014

Clerk of The Board
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Sent via e-mail to: sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Re: Case No. 13APL-00000-00029, the Summerland Citizens' Association, Reeve Woolpert, and Tom Evans' Appeal of the County Planning Commission's approval of Case Nos. 12TPM-00000-00006, 11CDH-00000-00006, and 11CDH-00000-00054 for the Beach Club project.

Dear Board Members,

The Summerland Citizens Association (SCA) believes a substantial benefit of the Toro Creek Trail is that it will provide year round, permanent beach access to a remarkable area that is not accomplished by other trails.

Existing, approved access to this long stretch of coastline exist only west of Loon Point (on the east end of Summerland Beach) and at Santa Claus Beach. Access from the west and east along the shoreline to the Toro Canyon Creek area beaches from these outposts is often thwarted at Loon Point, Serena Point and Santa Claus Beach's west end.

Staff claims the Toro Creek trail is unnecessary, in fact, that it is redundant, because they believe other "nearby" trails provide equivalent access. This belief deserves a fair argument, but staff's gross under appreciation of the significance of this trail and conclusion that there "are more suitable beach access locations" is essentially unsupported. Staff's attempt to dismiss the considerable evidence to the contrary provided by the SCA is brushed off with vague references to occasional limitations.

I hope I am able to offer the beginning of a better analysis.

I do not know the exact elevation of the seaward margin of the hazardous Loon Point boulder field where rocks give way to wet sand at dilapidated Loon Point, nor the elevation of the ribbon of saturated beach at the foot of the granite revetments on the beach at Serena Point and at the west end of Santa Claus Beach where seawalls consume the shore. Fluctuations in the volume of sand in the littoral cell throughout the year, complicate this determination. My research, though, suggests

that the wet sand seaward of the Loon Point boulder field is no more than 2' above sea level, and the sandy intertidal zones fronting the Serena Point and Santa Clause revetments seem to be at about sea level with Serena Point typically being the lower of the two.

Further complicating my analysis is that the actual level of the sea at any given tide is affected by ephemeral things such as wind, air pressure, swell energy, wave run up, etc. which all tend to raise water levels and submerge beach. Regardless of these influences and variations in amounts of sand, one can still make some reasonable, thoughtful calculations about the availability of lateral access past the three constraints bounding Toro Canyon Creek area beaches.

My analysis is not intended to be a complete engineering study; this would require data and methodologies beyond my immediate reach. Nevertheless, I have been thorough in my effort to provide a meaningful, qualitative investigation, the results of which support the conclusion that lateral beach access to Toro Creek beaches is considerably more constrained than county staff suggests.

I picked two days as benchmarks. Summer Solstice and Winter Solstice.

On June 21st, Summer Solstice: If Loon Point rocks flood at tides above 2', on June 21st there was lateral, wet sand access around the boulder field for 4 hours on a 14.5 hour daylight day (28% of time).

If Serena and Santa Clause seawall toes flood at tides above 0', there was no dry access around Serena and Santa Clause seawalls during the daylight that day.

On December 21st, Winter Solstice: If Loon Point rocks flood at tides above 2', on December 21st there was wet sand lateral access around the boulder field for 5 hours on a 10 hour daylight day (50% of time).

If Serena and Santa Clause seawall toes flood at tides above 0', there was about 3.5 hours of wet sand access around Serena and Santa Clause seawalls during the daylight that day (35% of time).

This percentage of opportunity to pass generally exceeds my first-hand, on-the-ground, personal observations. Many variables affect actual conditions (most of which further limit lateral access), but I believe you now have before you a far better and more accurate assessment than staff's of the limitation of other vertical access points to serve the beaches of the Toro Creek area.

Sincerely,

Reeve Woolpert, Summerland Citizens Association