

Public Comment to
Shamli Tarbell's Design Consideration for Use and Development of the
Caspar Headlands and North Riparian Area of Caspar Creek
Presented at the Caspar Community Meeting on March 12, 2000

USE

The Caspar Headlands and North Riparian Area of Caspar Creek are the critical link in the seven-mile walk from Russian Gulch State Park to Pine Beach.

A bridge over Caspar Creek would facilitate this trail use and access to Caspar Beach.

Look at what the land has to offer besides beach access, history and viewshed; for example, recreation.

Concentrate on the Caspar Mill history and de-emphasize the natural history.

The most sensitive habitat is the first 20' in from the bluff.

Grazing has kept the plants cropped and the views open. Need to watch now that cows removed.

The Steelhead and Coho Walk would take people into sensitive areas which would degrade those areas for both fish and birds. Example given of Van Damme Park trail which difficult to maintain along creek without degrading the creek.

Habitat studies will show what we can interpret and how.

People are drawn to the water. We need to find a way to allow for that without degrading habitat.

What are the costs of maintaining the trails and interpretive areas?

Could there be no development of the Headlands for day use?

Conversely, developing the Headlands for day use would appropriately share the impact on park land with existing parks.

PARKING

Park clear of the roadway to reduce accidents.

Don't park in the Riparian Area.

Use permeable surfacing for parking areas.

Park on both sides of Highway One with access to Riparian Area and Headlands under the bridge. Land under the bridge is already damaged so access wouldn't cause more erosion.

Small parking areas will balance the impact on the town and are better than one or two large areas.

Caspar Beach parking areas should be coordinated with Caspar Headlands parking. For example, additional RVs could be accommodated at the Beach, and there could be parking on the pull-out at the south side of Caspar Bridge on Pt. Cabrillo Drive.

RECREATION

One of the UC Berkeley plans included recreation areas.

Headlands would not be a city park, so frisbee could be played in other areas.

Remember that open areas will draw "event pressure."

OTHER

Build a pond on the Headlands to rebuild soil. Be sure that federal guidelines wouldn't preclude this.

Arcata Marsh and city water treatment go hand-in-hand. Possible on Caspar Headlands?

Toilets and trash need to be considered.