

✓ Erosion East Cliff Drive section closes

By CAROLYN McMILLAN
Sentinel correspondent

PLEASURE POINT — East Cliff Drive between 32nd and 38th avenues was closed to traffic Monday and will stay closed today as county work crews turn the two-lane street into a one-way eastbound road.

The change, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in April to help slow cliff erosion, will be re-evaluated in four to six months after the Public Works Department looks at the impact on local traffic.

"I'm glad somebody is doing something, or pretty soon there won't be a road here at all," said East Cliff Drive resident Jim

Paulsen, whose floor-to-ceiling living-room windows look out over Monterey Bay. "You can't pretend the cliffs aren't falling in."

Many residents seemed to share the sentiment that minor delays were worth it if the move would help shore up the crumbling coastline — or at least slow the cliff's steady inland progression.

"The main thing people here want is the cliff protected. A little inconvenience isn't a problem," said neighbor Don Gleason.

"Someday, (this house) may become an island," said Jack O'Neill, whose home seemed to hover just out of reach of the breaking waves. To shore up his oceanfront aerie from the pounding impact of surf

and sand, O'Neill has shielded the waterfront side of his home with dozens of three-ton boulders.

"I've got more money in these boulders than I do the house," said the well-known wet suit manufacturer.

Those without ocean-front homes at stake were less enthusiastic about East Cliff Drive's change to a one-way road. They were particularly upset over the loss of parking on East Cliff Drive near 32nd avenue.

"People who live (in Santa Cruz) are going to have to pay \$31 for a parking permit now because everything here is private parking," said Mike Mahoney. "It has come down to a cash thing. The county wants

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money; if you're going to park by the beach, you're going to pay."

Screeching to a halt in his black '65 Chrysler convertible, Noel Murphy, who had been about to "cruise the cliff," gave a public works employee an earful.

"You're turning this into a one-way? That really sucks," he yelled. "I'm moving to the Westside."



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