

Cliff Dwellers To Step Up Drive For Aid

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A group of 50 East Cliff residents, their property threatened by shrinking beaches and approaching winter storms, met Sunday to score government inaction and step up their drive for help.

In its organizational meeting, East Cliff Protective association voted to expand its membership into a group including shoreline property owners and residents from the Santa Cruz harbor to Capitola.

The association set another meeting for 8 p.m. Friday, with the site to be announced later.

The discussion Sunday centered around the problems caused by loss of beaches, but also touched on surfers, rodent problems, and the threat of annexation.

Construction of the harbor jetties is blamed for shortage of sand on downcoast beaches. Residents along the mid-county coasts fear heavy damage will be caused by high surf during the winter, and are asking government agencies to take quick action to restore the beaches. A sand bypass plant is to be built at the harbor next year to restore the normal sand flow.

One elderly East Cliff resident showed the audience a head wound caused by a surf-tossed rock as she stood in her front yard watching the sea. The woman underwent surgery for a fractured skull.

Another woman broke into tears as she asked that something be done to save her sea wall and house, in the beach-denuded area between Moran lake and Soquel point.

Stanley Lynn, acting chairman for the association, said that the state owns the coast outside the mean high tide line, and therefore has a responsibility to help "alleviate the financial, emotional and physical suffering of its shoreline residents."

One property owner said his property taxes have risen from \$600 to \$1000 in recent years while he has "less land, more problems and no help from the county or the state."

"As a group of taxpayers facing problems not of our own making," Lynn said, "we are beginning to feel completely abandoned. If our plea for aid made to the state disaster office goes unheeded, then we will appeal to Governor Brown directly."