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Retaining-wall woes delay West Cliff work

Beach Erosion

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SANTA CRUZ — West Cliff Drive will remain an obstacle course for another month or so because construction work near Columbia Avenue is a couple of months behind schedule.

Work on a retaining wall, 16 new parking spaces and a wider path is now scheduled for completion sometime in February.

The \$654,000 project was scheduled for completion in November but problems with an existing retaining wall and a storm drain replacement caused delays, said Tom Sharp, an engineer in the city's Public Works Department.

He said the fill behind the retaining wall was beach sand that it had to be replaced because it was not solid enough to brace the wall.

The extra work means some extra costs for the city because the problems were "unforeseen," Sharp said.

The contractor is Hillside Drilling of

Richmond. The project includes building a retaining wall 200 feet long and 17 feet tall between Woodrow and Columbia avenues.

The city began repairing several areas of West Cliff Drive after February 1998 storms wiped out some parts of the coastal road and roadside path. During that work, in October 1998, the area now under construction was damaged when a sea cave collapsed and the retaining wall gave way.

Of the \$654,000 originally budgeted for the work, \$124,000 comes from the Federal Highway Administration's disaster relief program.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Work on this retaining wall along West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, originally scheduled for completion in November, will continue into February, city officials say.

