

Lighthouse Field Park Public Session Thursday

A proposed conceptual plan for the development of Lighthouse Field State Beach, which calls for the closing of West Cliff Drive on weekends, is scheduled for public discussion at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Santa Cruz High School cafeteria.

The plan was unveiled Friday at a meeting of the Lighthouse Field Joint Committee by the planning consultant, CHNMB Associates, as their interpretation of a concensus arrived at by participants at two earlier public workshops.

The plan also calls for some realignment of West Cliff Drive away from the ocean, for the closing of one block of Pelton Avenue from West Cliff Drive to Eucalyptus Avenue and minimum development of the field itself.

Estimated costs are more than \$1 million. Most are attributable to the relocation of West Cliff Drive and the construction of new parking facilities.

Bob Bell, chairman of the Lighthouse Field Joint Committee,

explained that the plan for the park will reflect the public's suggestions. The committee is responsible, though, to ensure that the plan is feasible and participants are aware of the implications of their decisions.

Bell pointed out at the meeting, for example, that the proposed plan calls for the relocation of West Cliff Drive onto state-owned property and this is only feasible if the state agrees and there are no legal obstacles.

The closing of Pelton Acenue and the weekend closing of West Cliff Drive, if approved, would divert traffic to other nearby streets, he added, and could result in substantial impact to those areas.

"We want to make sure that any decisions made by the participants in the workshop are informed, realistic decisions," Bell said, "and that the plan developed is feasible. Nothing has been decided finally and we welcome the participation of all who are interested."

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