

# Sunny Cove

## Drainpipe has neighbors fighting mad

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STAFF WRITER

The furor raised last year over an illegally installed drain pipe on a Live Oak beach is likely to be revived in the months ahead when the issue again comes up for public hearing.

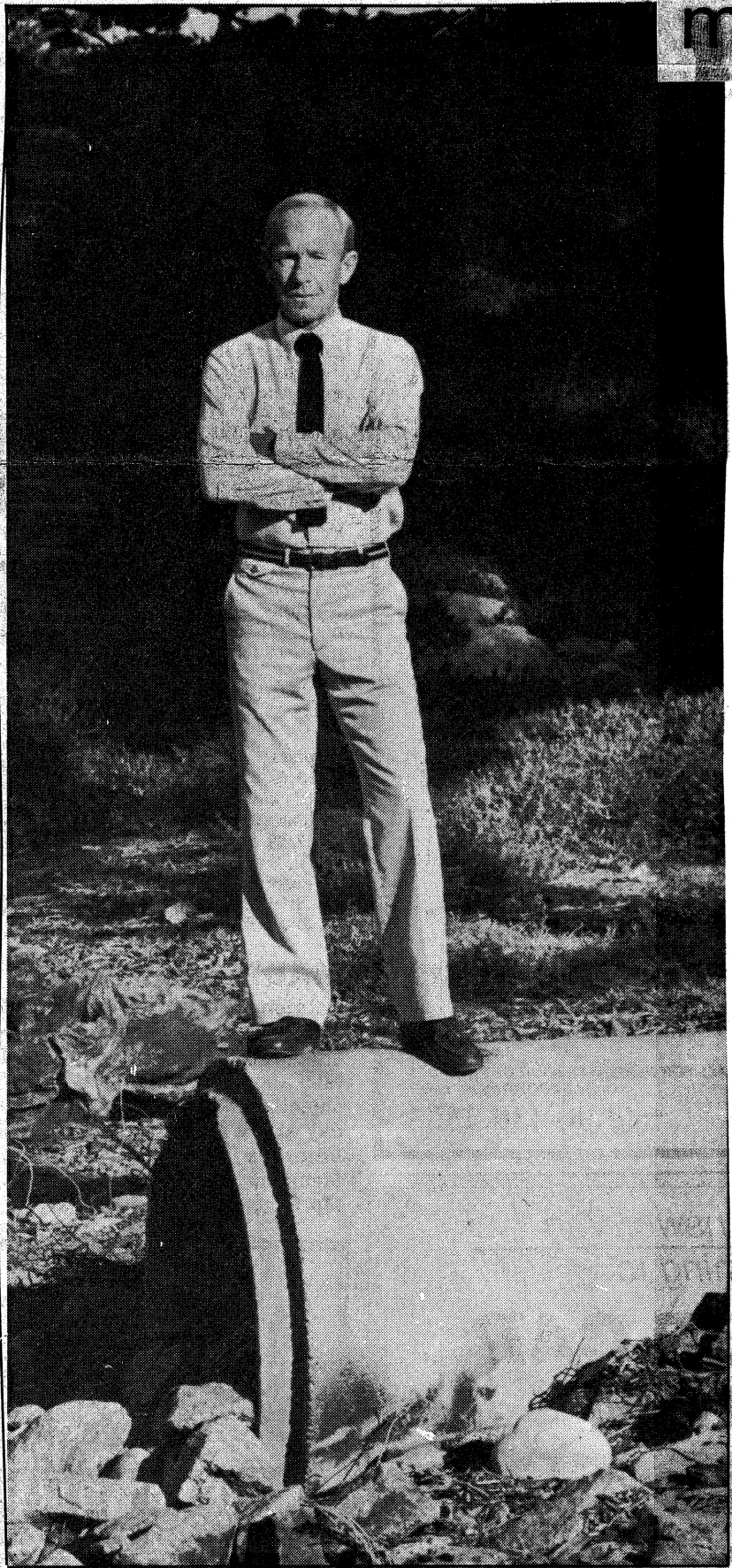
Neighbors, users and owners of Sunny Cove Beach — also known as Johan's Beach — have protested the presence of a 36-inch cement pipe that juts several feet onto the beach and was installed with the county's approval in late 1984. It was designed by developers of Volunteers of America, the non-profit group building the Eastcliff Village Apartments, a low-income senior citizen housing project on 17th Avenue.

Sunny Cove Beach neighbors were unaware of the pipe until it was discovered in its last stages of construction by resident Don Geoffroy, as he was out bicycling one day. His reaction, he said, was one of disbelief — first, that the pipe was there at all and second, that neither he nor any of his family members, who own the beach, had been notified that it was going to be placed there.

Geoffroy and his neighbors were further appalled to discover that, following light rains in January 1985, water draining through the pipe had cut a wide swath on the beach. Their subsequent complaints to the California Coastal Commission resulted in a query that revealed that the county had failed to hold the necessary public review prior to the pipe's installation.

The result was that the Coastal Commission ordered the drain from the housing project closed. Last winter's runoff from land surrounding both that project and a nearby 26-unit townhouse development drained into two temporary basins built by the developers of those projects. Water draining through the Sunny Cove Beach pipe was limited to runoff from the immediate area.

After the closing of the drain, the pipe's opponents — led by the Sunny Cove Association, a group of neighbors formed in reaction to construction of the pipe — filed an appeal of a geologists' report that said that no significant impact would result from the pipe's placement on the beach.



Chip Scheuer

Don Geoffroy stands firmly against this drainage pipe.

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