

More Lighthouse Field hearings scheduled ✓

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SANTA CRUZ — Further hearings at the city level will be held on the proposed realignment of West Cliff Drive.

City Councilmembers agreed Tuesday that there is growing opposition to the realignment that is scheduled as part of the Lighthouse Beach State Park plans, which have yet to be approved by the state.

In the plan under review, a portion of the road would be moved back from the coastline far enough to allow for a picnic grounds.

Neighbors of Lighthouse Field say they fear the state will take over the road and could close it to traffic at certain hours as they have done at Natural Bridges.

City officials say the plans include a provision for the state to leave the road in city hands and that no closures to through traffic are in the cards.

Area resident Wes Reed told the council that he and other citizens want the historic road along the cliffs left where it is, as it's one of the most beautiful drives on the west coast.

Councilman John Mahaney balked at the suggestion there should be further hearings, saying, "We held hearing after hearing after hearing on this" and told the other members of the council "maybe you should put this on the ballot for a vote of the people."

Mahaney said the council seemed will-

ing to put other items on the ballot, such as the UCSC high-tech park, which appears as Measure A on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Mahaney and Councilman Joseph Ghio said they felt there had been an exhaustive hearing process in getting the plan from the city committee level to the state park commission hearings.

"But, clearly we're not exhaustive enough because the public's not exhausted yet," Councilwoman Mardi Wormhoudt said.

She got a polite round of applause from other councilmembers for her insightfulness.

One citizen who has not been happy with the realignment is Reed, who has ap-

peared at all, or nearly all, of the recent City Council candidates forums.

Reed said he represents two organizations that have been formed to stop the realignment since it's costly and unwanted.

Wormhoudt told him that if one of his organizations is the one that has endorsed council candidates and hung the posters on telephone poles "you'd better get them off, it's illegal to put them on telephone poles."

The council was unanimous in sending the proposed realignment back to the Lighthouse Field park committee. It will get a public hearing there and later at the City Council.