



Plastic sheets installed along Opal Cliffs Drive protect cliffs.

Residents move to protect shoreline

LIVE OAK — Seemingly just in time for protection against the early rains, massive sheets of a specially-made plastic have been installed along the ocean-side cliffs on Opal Cliffs Drive.

The resident-financed, cooperative venture will eventually involve 10 property owners in a first phase effort to prevent continuing erosion and protect their homes, says organizer Bob Moreland. So far, three properties have been protected.

The specially-manufactured plastic sheets are designed to prevent erosion, both from the ocean and rain that batter the cliff.

The 40-by-60-foot sheets of nylon-im-

pregnated plastic have been draped over the cliffs. Weighing several hundred pounds apiece, the sheets have been interlaced with heavy nylon rope and rebar steel is driven into the cliffs at top and bottom for support.

The sheets cost an average of \$3,000 apiece, according to Moreland, one of the residents. That is little, however, compared to the costs and magnitude involved in the proposed second phase of the protection project.

That would involve the placement of 25-ton, steel and concrete "cubes" at the bottom of the cliffs to take the brunt of ocean waves.

The average home frontage will take 10 cubes, according to Moreland, at a

cost of approximately \$15,000 per installed cube.

The cubes, being so heavy and square, will not be moved by the ocean, says Moreland.

The proposed second phase needs the approvals of the county Planning Department and the Coastal Commission, and Planning Director Kris Schenk says an environmental impact report is needed.

The plastic sheets in the first phase did not require formal approval since they are considered temporary protection measures, say representatives from the Planning Department and Coastal Commission.