# SANTA CRUZ LOCALTM

News >	Noticias Watsonville	Guides v	About ~	Log In	English	Español	Q
	NEWSLETTER	DONATE	News ~Noticia	as Watsonville	Guides ∨About	∨Log InEnglishI	Español <b>Q</b>

# One-way traffic on West Cliff quashed by Santa Cruz City Council

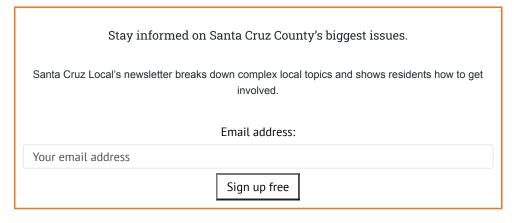
By Jesse Kathan | April 9, 2024 | Tags: City of Santa Cruz, climate change, environment, erosion, Jesse Kathan, Santa Cruz City Council, transportation, West Cliff



Storm damage prompts authorities to close West Cliff Drive near Woodrow Avenue in January 2023. (Stephen Baxter – Santa Cruz Local file)

**SANTA CRUZ** >> The Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday unanimously rejected a pilot program for one-way traffic on West Cliff Drive.

The plan would have converted the eastbound lane of West Cliff Drive from Bay Street to Natural Bridges State Beach into a two-way bike lane. Many lower Westside residents at the meeting strongly opposed the change, and some said they felt blindsided by the proposal.



A \$3.5 million state grant application to pay for the one-way pilot program opened in late March. City staff had little time to publicize it before Tuesday's council meeting.

Newsletter
Email address:
Your email address
First name: Your first name
Last name:
Your last name
SUBSCRIBE

About Santa Cruz Local

Santa Cruz Local is a nonprofit news outlet led by local journalists.

Our news responds to your questions and priorities. We specialize in investigative reporting on our community's pressing needs. Most of our funding comes from members — locals who keep our news free for everyone.

Donate or become a member of Santa Cruz Local.

# SANTA CRUZ LOCAL

The one-way plan came on the heels of a draft 50-year vision for West Cliff that included input from several public meetings and a survey of 1,120 people in December 2023 and January 2024. About 60% of survey respondents favored a one-way street with a separate bike lane. About half of neighbors near West Cliff Drive in the survey supported a one-way street.

Tuesday, the city council voted to:

- Adopt the 50-year Community Vision for West Cliff.
- Approve several amendments to the 50-year vision that add a focus on community
  engagement and clarify that creating a one-way road on West Cliff Drive would require a
  council vote.
- Create a city council committee to give city staff guidance on the implementation of the 50-year vision and a community advisory body for the city's climate resilience strategies.
- Direct city staff to return by the end of December with a 10-year roadmap and financing plan to carry out the 50-year vision.
- Approve a preliminary study of strategies to address erosion on Lighthouse Point.

#### One-way pilot

Santa Cruz City Planner Claire Gallogly was met with boos from some meeting attendees as she presented a proposed one-way pilot program.

City staff asked the city council if they could apply for a \$3.5 million state grant to pay for the pilot project. Due to budget cuts, the grant may not be offered again, Gallogly said.

The two-year pilot would have included:

- A separated bike lane between the walking path and westbound lane.
- Traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and roundabouts on some surrounding streets
- · Removable barriers without permanent changes to West Cliff Drive.

Santa Cruz City Planner Claire Gallogly, left, talks to residents about West Cliff Drive at a meeting at the London Nelson Community Center in April 2023. (Michael Warren Mott – Santa Cruz Local file)

City staff presented the pilot program as a proactive approach to dealing with erosion and frequent road closures on West Cliff.

# SANTA CRUZ LOCAL

#### Long-term plans

A one-way street on West Cliff Drive is an option included in the city's 50-year vision for West Cliff, a long-term plan for adaptation to rapidly eroding bluffs. A draft version of the plan was published in February and an updated version published in March.

"What we thought would take 30 years to happen with climate change took two sets of storms," said Santa Cruz Assistant City Manager Laura Schmidt. "We need to be proactive."

By 2100, West Cliff bluffs are expected to erode up to 7 feet, said Santa Cruz Transportation Manager Matt Starkey. In the future, the city may need to move the road inland, potentially buying property from homes along West Cliff Drive, he said.

A survey in 2023 suggested that respondents wanted one-way traffic on West Cliff Drive. (City of Santa Cruz)

#### Read more:

- West Cliff survey favors fewer cars, more recreation Feb. 1, 2024
- Input wanted on 50-year vision for West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz Aug. 18, 2023
- Future of West Cliff Drive explored by residents, city staff April 28, 2023
- One-way West Cliff Drive pilot advances in Santa Cruz Feb. 28, 2023
- Plans emerge to revive downtown Santa Cruz, reshape West Cliff Drive April 27, 2021

Questions or comments? Email info@santacruzlocal.org. Santa Cruz Local is funded by members, major donors, sponsors and grants for the general support of our newsroom. Our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support. Learn more about Santa Cruz Local and how it is funded.

### Jesse Kathan

Reporter / California Local News Fellow | + posts

Jesse Kathan is a staff reporter for Santa Cruz Local through the California Local News Fellowship. Kathan holds a master's degree in science communications from UC Santa Cruz.

# SANTA CRUZ LOCALTM

## Related Posts



Downtown Santa Cruz hotel approved by city

March 26, 2024



What went wrong at Live Oak School District

March 21, 2024



Live Oak School Board approves layoffs in new plan

March 7, 2024



О'На Trig Kala Johi Sant Cou March

## About Santa Cruz Local

Santa Cruz Local is a local news organization that serves Santa Cruz County, Calif. Our newsroom exists because we love Santa Cruz County. We strive to understand its story in all of its complexity.

Santa Cruz Local is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. EIN:37-2064285

877 Cedar St., Suite 150 | Santa Cruz, CA 95060

News Housing Government Environment Environment

#### Resources

Guía para las elecciones Wildfires Mudslides and Evac

# **Podcast** Housing Government

#### About

Membership Community Advertising Contact FAO

Account

### SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Email address:

Your email address

First name:

Your first name

Your last name

Last name:

SUBSCRIBE









