

### **AGENDA TITLE:**

Non- Motorized Transportation Pilot Program – Sausalito Stairs – Consideration to Halt Project Development at the Sausalito Blvd./Prospect Stairs Site.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Adopt a Motion of the City Council of the City of Sausalito Authorizing the City Engineer to Halt Project Development at the Prospect/Sausalito Blvd. Stairs Site.

### SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Transportation, through Caltrans, awarded a grant to the City to construct a new stair along the 500 block of Sausalito Blvd to connect to Prospect Avenue. Funds were also provided for the rehabilitation of an existing stair between Filbert and Cazneau next to 202/204 Cazneau. The total grant amount is for \$340,000. The City has executed a funding agreement with Caltrans totaling \$56,000 for Engineering and Environmental Review activities.

In January 2009 the City Council awarded a contract to Questa Engineering Corp. to perform preliminary engineering services (engineering design and environmental compliance). In the course of developing plans, staff met with 3 of 5 property owners adjacent to the Prospect/Sausalito Blvd. site. These 3 parties oppose installation of the facility. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> property owner did not actively oppose but also do not support the installation of the facility.

Cable Roadway stair and walkway is between 150 feet (Sausalito Blvd) and 450 feet (Prospect Ave.) from the proposed stairway site. The opponents believe the proposed facility to be redundant and unnecessary.

Staff issued a notice and informal poll to 555 property owners and residents within 1,000 feet of the project site - likely potential users of the facility. 20 people responded in support and 7 people responded in opposition to the installation of the facility. In terms of strict numbers, support for the facility is greater than the opposition. Because of the lack of community consensus and the fact that the NMTPPP is a pilot program and politically sensitive, Staff recommends that the Sausalito Blvd./Prospect Stairs project not be developed further.

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### BACKGROUND

In 2006 Marin County issued a call for projects to be funded by the Federal Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program. The City proposed several stairway projects. The City was successful in securing funds to rehabilitate a stair between Filbert and Cazneau and to construct a new stair adjacent to 595 and 591 Sausalito Boulevard. The grant is to provide funds for Plans, Specifications, Estimate and to perform necessary environmental reviews (NEPA and CEQA). A subsequent grant for construction funding is expected to occur once the design is completed and the right-of-way and environmental review are certified in accordance with established procedures.

The City Executed agreements with Marin County and with Caltrans to obligate funds for the project. The City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering Design and Environmental Compliance in December, 2008. In January, 2009 the Council awarded an agreement to Questa Engineering Corp.

Questa performed field survey of the right-of-way and prepared preliminary plans for the Sausalito Blvd/Prospect stair site. In the course of performing this work, residents adjacent to the stair site inquired about the activity and then expressed opposition. Staff had a face to face meeting with residents to provide preliminary plans and to provide background information about the project. The residents expressed their knowledge of the project and past consideration of it. They provided documents from the past objecting to the creation of a stair facility. The City had conditioned property owners of 595 Sausalito Blvd. to develop a preliminary stair plan for the Site as part of a subdivision development. This condition is in conformance with City General Plan Policies recommending a "densification" of stair and path facilities to improve pedestrian circulation. Staff recommendations had been suggested to require the property owner of 595 Sausalito Blvd. and later 591 Sausalito Blvd. to build the stairs as part the public improvements for the site. The Planning Commission rejected these recommendations.

Public Financing was found for the project through the Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program. Funding is available up to \$340,000 for the two stair sites.

### **ISSUES**

Why these sites?: The two stairs sites were funded as a result of Marin County Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program Administrators perception that the projects could be designed and built by the end of 2009. The funded projects were part of a larger proposal prepared and included "steps, lanes and pathway" facilities in seven areas of the City. The original large proposal was prepared with the assistance of members of the Imagine Sausalito Transportation Action Committee. The original proposal had several stair project sites including new segments for the Richardson's Bay shoreline path, new stairs in Old Town/Hurricane Gulch area, and rehabilitation of several existing stairs in need of repair. Shoreline path facilities were also proposed.

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As was suggested in January of 2009, the new stair on Sausalito Blvd and Prospect could be controversial. Staff believed neighborhood concern could be expressed by the disturbance of ground from construction as well as concern about the foot traffic that the stair will generate. Such behaviors are a frequent response to proposals to change conditions in a neighborhood – the territorial imperative, so to speak.

Adjacent property owners did object on the basis that the stair facility could change the character of the neighborhood. The stair could result in loss of privacy for adjacent residents. Cable Roadway stair and walkway, nearby, already connects Prospect Ave and Sausalito Blvd and are between 150 and 450 feet away so a new facility could be redundant. The adjacent neighbors had objected to the stair concept during the entitlement hearings of 595 Sausalito Blvd. and 591 Sausalito Blvd.

The project site also contains a sanitary sewer that is in need of repair. A detailed video investigation has found that a full line replacement is not required. Four spot repairs are needed but can occur with far less ground disturbance than had been originally contemplated. Ground disturbance is currently occurring with the construction of a new home at 591 Sausalito Blvd. This home construction work only affects a relatively short segment (approximately 25 percent) of the stair site length.

Staff met with the adjacent property owners to discuss the project. They were provided early preliminary plans of stair alternatives being considered. After review of the plans they continue to object.

Staff also sent out an illustrated notice to 555 property owners and residents within 500 to 1000 feet of the project site. In this notice we requested responses regarding support or opposition. We received responses from 7 people opposing and from 20 people in support.

The existing Cable Roadway facility is useful. The proposed stair site is not optimally situated to maximized pedestrian circulation in that part of the City. Nonetheless, the proposed project was expected to improve and extend pedestrian facilities in the City and improve routes for residents to escape from effects of disaster such as wildland fire, earthquake or landslide. Alternative sites would potentially require purchase of property rights and possibly demolition of existing homes and residential landscaping.

The property owners adjacent to the site are deeply concerned by this project. Taking this active step - to direct staff to terminate the project - is expected to provide the assurances they seek and help restore trust between the affected residents and the City. Recent supporters for the project have never actively advocated for a stair facility at the subject site. Beyond general plan policies promoting new pedestrian facilities, and staff recommendation to build the stair to conform to the policy, staff is unaware of the source of the project concept at the subject site.

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Development is proceeding at the Filbert stair site project. The survey for this site revealed that the existing stair is encroaching on private property. Staff is planning to meet with adjacent property owners to determine if we can rebuild the stair in its current location or relocate into the adjacent formal pedestrian and utility easement.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed work would have had a limited impact on the General Fund. Directing that the work stop is not expected to affect eligibility for reimbursement of the City's costs for design work completed to date.

Residents have suggested that the City work with County and State officials to get the funds reassigned to another site. Staff researched this suggestion. A funding reassignment can be requested, however the necessary work cannot be completed within established deadlines. The City lacks a "shovel-ready" project at an alternative site that could be fast tracked through the established procedures. NMTPP goals are to have facilities designed and built as close to the end of calendar year 2009 as is possible. Developing the plans to build or rehabilitate a stair (or lane or path) at a new alternative site, performing neighborhood outreach, and certifying environmental documents and right-of-way documents would likely extend into 2011.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt a Motion of the City Council of the City of Sausalito Authorizing the City Engineer to Halt Further Development of a Stair Facility between Prospect Avenue and Sausalito Blvd, adjacent to 591 Sausalito Blvd.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

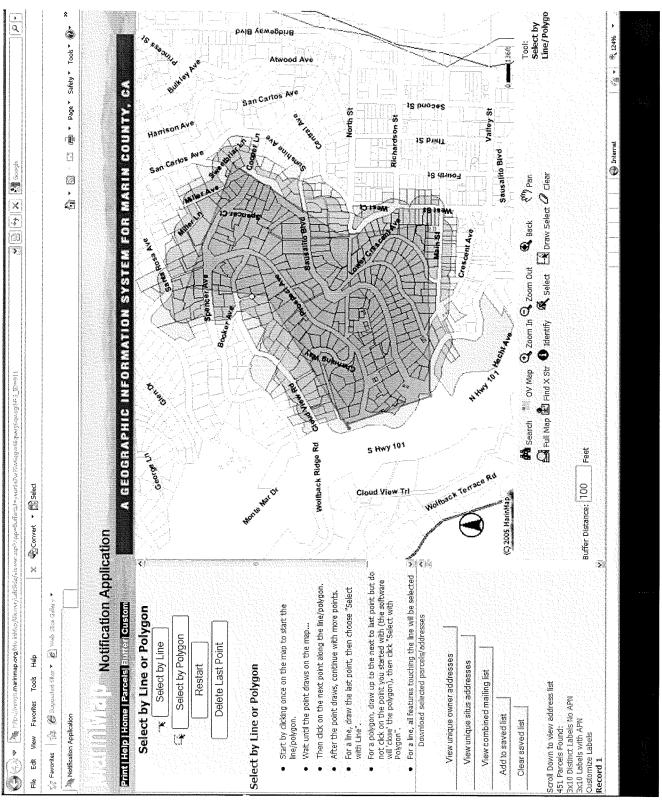
Adam W. Politzer City Manager

Vicinity Map Notice Concept Plan Alternatives Sample of Support and Opposition responses

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PREPARED BY:	REVIEWED BY (Department Head):
John Penhad	Juna le for
Todd Teachout,	Jonathon Goldman,
City Engineer	Director of Public Works
SUBMITTED BY:	

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# SAUSALITO BLVD./PROSPECT STAIR NOTIFICATION AREA







## CITY OF SAUSALITO

Jonathan Leone, Mayor

Adam Politzer, City Manager

July 21, 2009

555 Neighbors of the Proposed Prospect Steps

RE:

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF STEPS FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS/EGRESS

EXISTING SEWER EASEMENT BETWEEN PROSPECT AVENUE AND SAUSALITO BOULEVARD

### Dear Neighbors:

I'm writing to ask for your assistance. On the basis of community interest some time ago, the City identified the subject sewer easement as a candidate for construction of new steps to allow pedestrian access to and egress from properties in the vicinity of 40 Prospect Avenue and 600 Sausalito Boulevard (magenta line on Figure 1 below). Recognizing that Cable Roadway already provides that function (blue line on Figure 1 below), the thinking was that an additional route might be considered beneficial in the event of a fire or other disaster when vehicular movement to safety might be impaired. The project is funded by a federal grant. An oblique view of the proposed alignment along with the existing Cable Roadway alignment is shown below.

Existing
Cable Roadway
Path

57.0/reset Proposed
Prospect
Steps

(c)

At this point, the City has received a number of protests to the project from residents in the vicinity who feel that the adverse impacts associated with the proposed new pedestrian steps far outweigh the benefits. I am writing to you to ensure that any of you who feel that the proposed project would be of benefit have a chance to weigh in before Staff asks the City Council to end the project before the design is completed. Staff will recommend that the project be terminated in September unless we receive expressions of interest during August.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at jgoldman@ci.sausalito.ca.us or 415-289-4176 if you have any questions in this matter. Feel free to use "Support Prospect Steps" in the subject line of an email, or FAX me a note to 415-339-2256 to let me know that you would like the project to go forward. You are also welcome to email that you are undecided, have questions about the proposed project, or are opposed. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

**City of Sausalito** 

Jonathon Goldman

Director of Public Works

cc:

Mayor and Council

Adam Politzer – City Manager File – Prospect Steps NMTPP 2009

City of Sausalito
Department of Public Works
420 LITHO ST
SAUSALITO CA 94965-1933



Current Resident Street SAUSALITO, CA 94965



## Sausalito Blvd/Prospect Stairs Outreach Results

### Opposed Residence

B. Belding Lower Crescent
E. Yeazell Miller Ave.
F. Dekker Sausalito Blvd.
G. Foote Central

J. Belding Lower Crescent
K. Flavin Not Provided
N. Meister Cresecent
R. Powell Prospect Ave.
S. Foote Central

### Support Residence

B. Wallace Central

C. Kahn Sausalito Blvd G. Radley **Channing Way** JHS Cloudview L. Smith Crescent Pete Not Provided P. McKenna Sausalito Blvd S. Page San Carlos L.Page San Carlos S. Samols Prospect W.H. Goldman **Not Provided** A. Hayes Spencer Ave. C. Kennedy Prospect Ave. D. Lloyd Sausalito Blvd J. Saalfield Not Provided J. Gaul Cable Roadway

M. Samols Prospect E. Luchetti Sausalito Blvd P. Luchetti Sausalito Blvd R. Lussier Crescent D. Greening Crescent S. Peterson Crescent T. Hofman Spencer Ave. V. Hofman Spencer Ave.

> GC 9

JPLANG DESIGN 95 Unden Street #107 Oakland, CA 94697 415.385,2150 bit. \$10.986.1976 fix

CITY OF SAUSALITO SOMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CONTINUOUS CONCRETE RAILING WALL WY CONTINUOUS RAILING ON BOTH SIDES

PROSPECT AVENUE

CONCRETE STEPS (RR = 6'12')

5 SAUSALITO BLUD. 5 2 25 · On The Code 2

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION 2004-45 10/20/2004 PLOT PLAN 1 PREPARED TO CONFORM TO CONDITION 10 10/20/2004

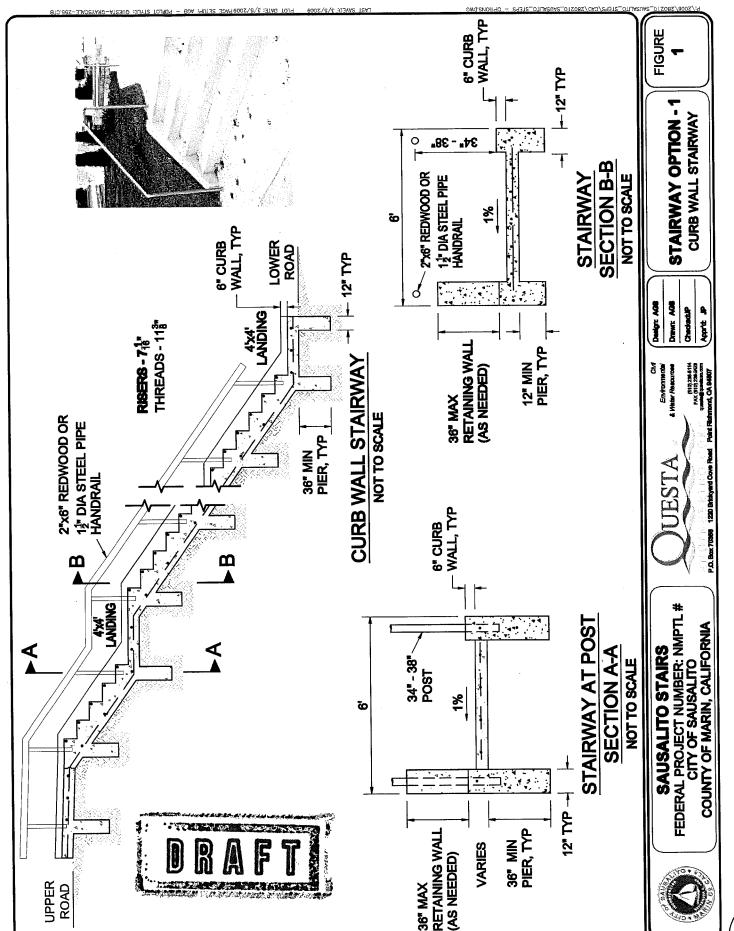
1/64" = 1'-0"

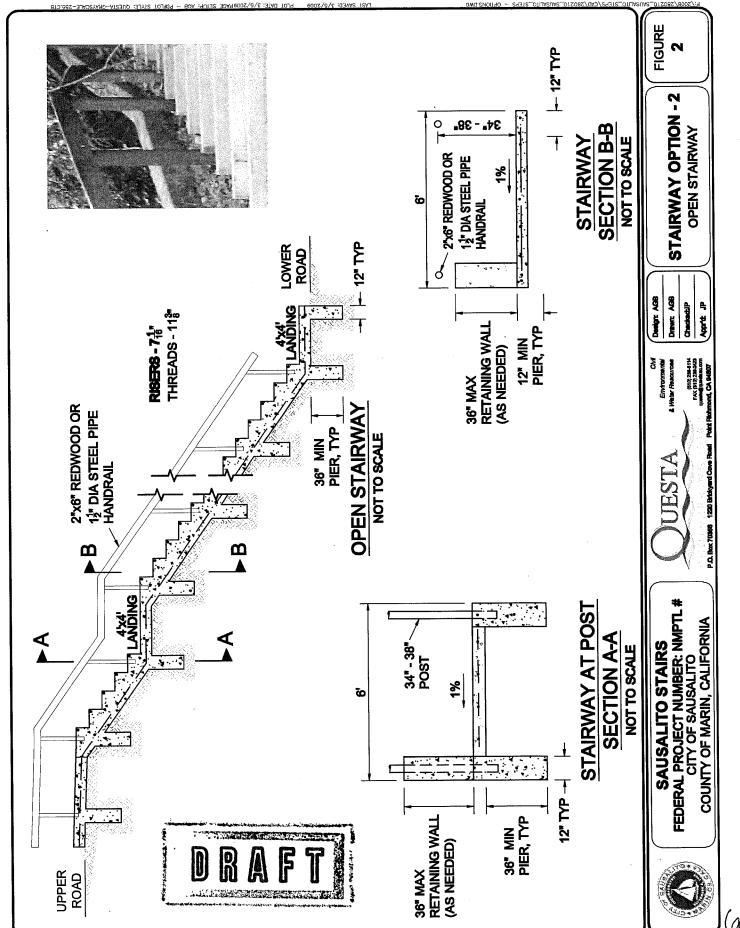
SAUSALITO BLVD.

1/32" = 1'-0" STAIRWAY PLAN

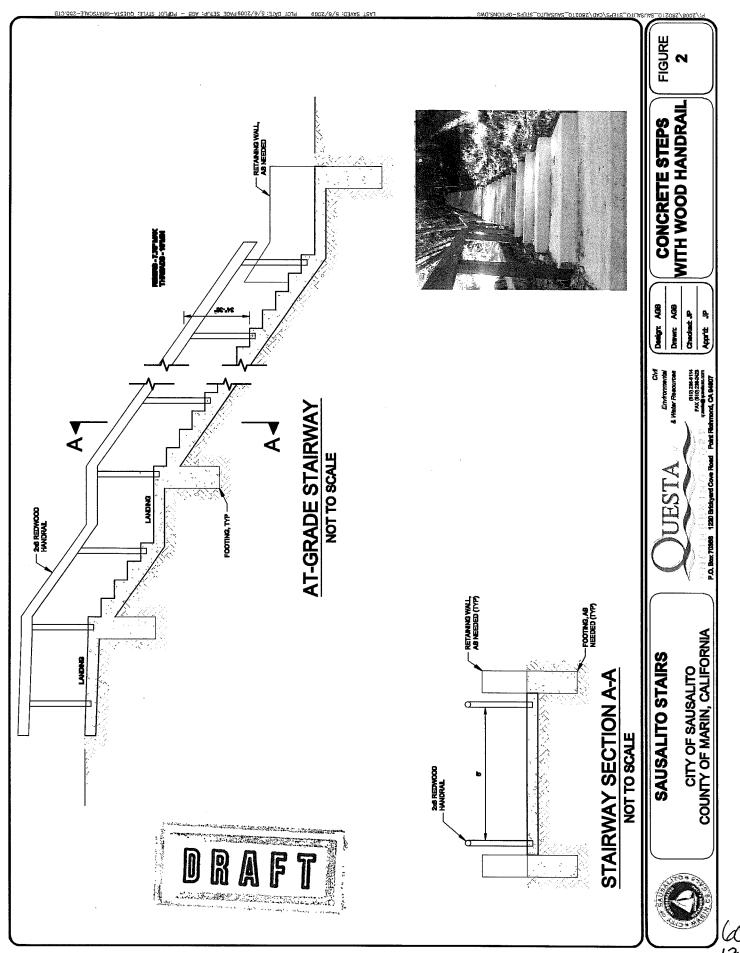
PUBLIC STAIRWAY MASTERPLAN

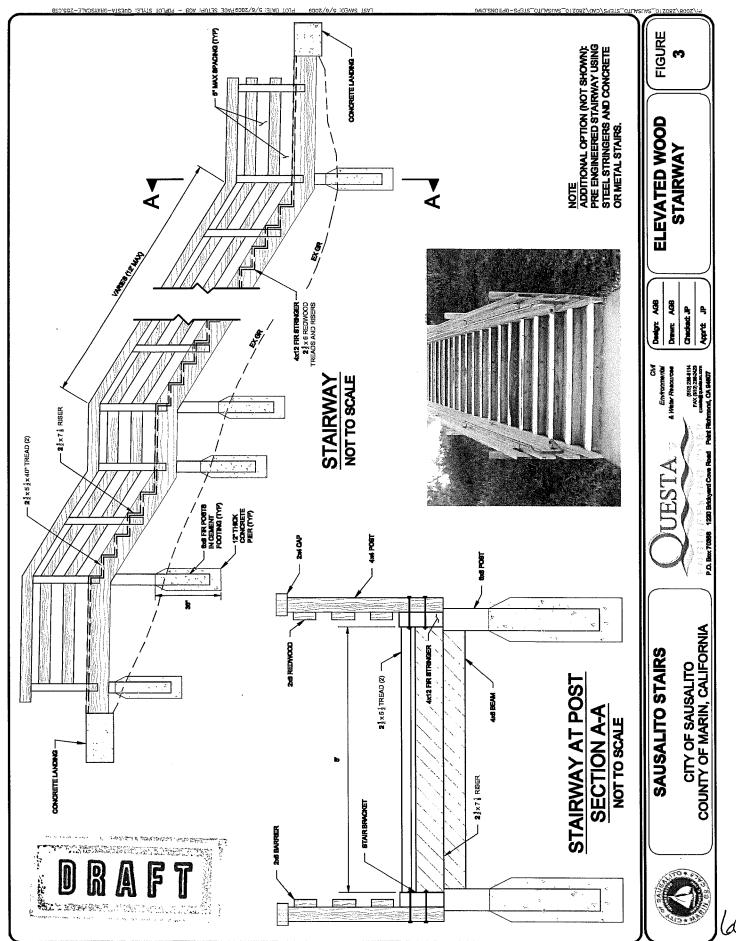
591-595 Sausalito Blvd.

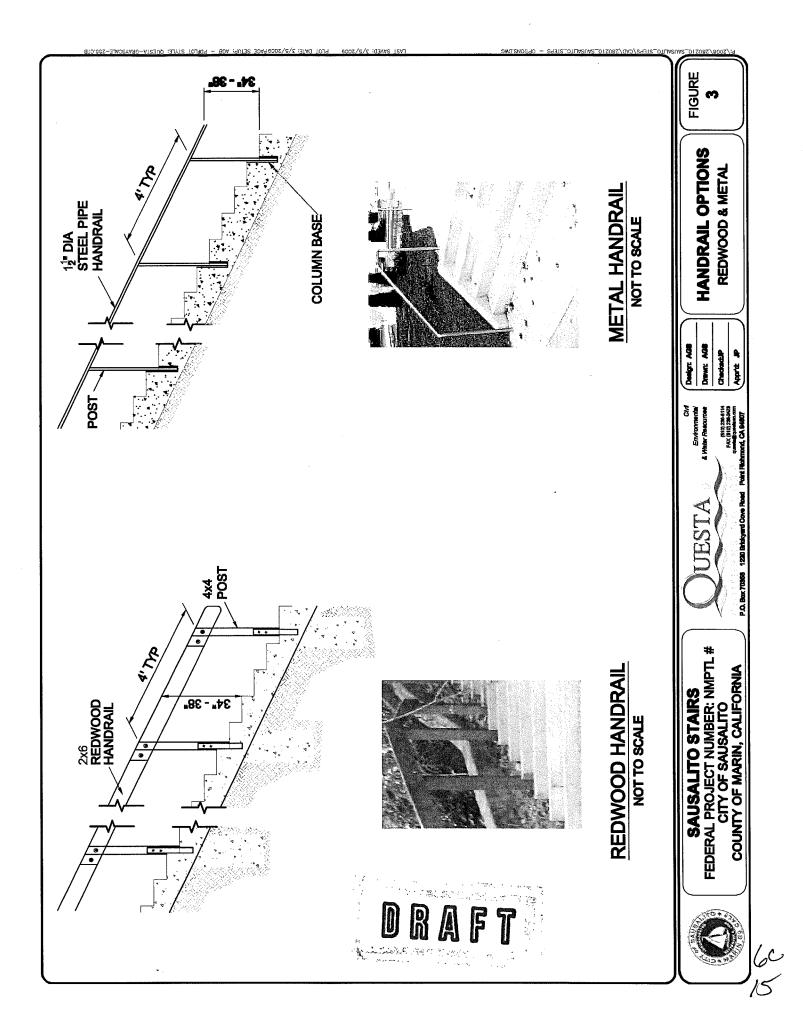


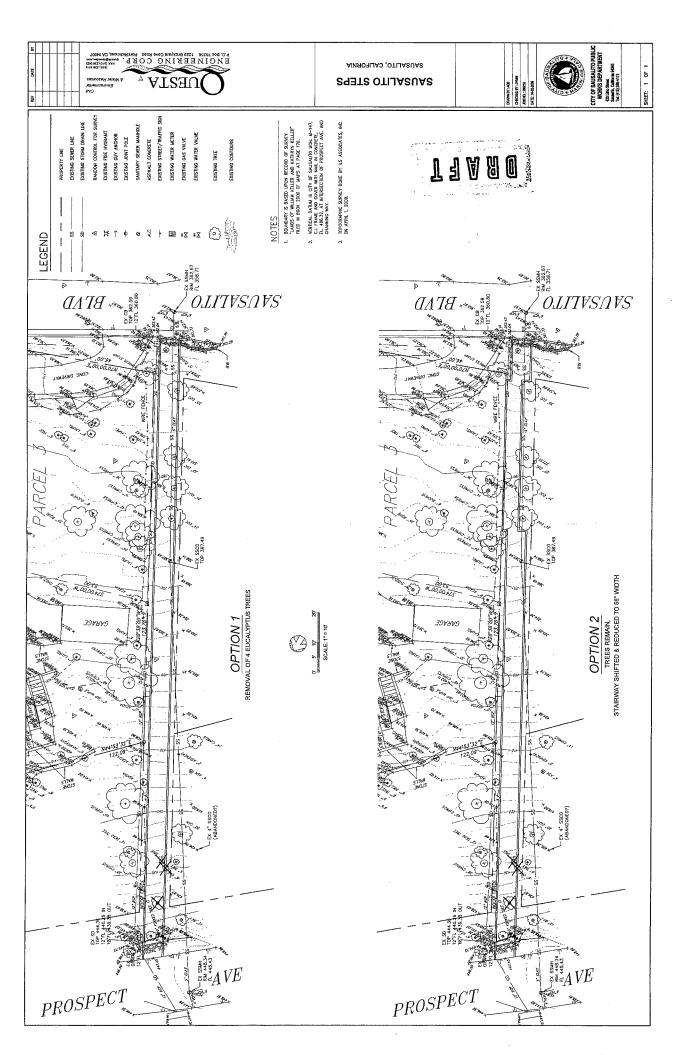


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## Sample of Opposing Responses

Jonethan Goldman Director of Public Works

Re: Propert Steps Propose

The streets in Saussito head typic this and existing paths would seem to warrant our attention first

I am against a new undertaking Wort attending to street versit.
When the federal grant to repair existing paths.

Thank you,

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CITY OF SAUSALITO

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Jonathon Goldman

Sent:

Monday, August 10, 2009 8:17 AM

To:

nina meister

Cc:

Doug Smith; Adam Politzer

Subject:

**RE: Prospect Steps** 

Thanks for the input. We'll advise as to the outcome in early September.

Jonathon Goldman
Director of Public Works
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, California 94965-1933
415-289-4176 Direct -- 415-339-2256 FAX
mailto: jgoldman@ci.sausalito.ca.us
www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

From: nina meister [mailto:

**Sent:** Sunday, August 09, 2009 2:12 PM

**To:** Jonathon Goldman **Cc:** Adam Politzer **Subject:** Prospect Steps

Dear Mr. Goldman:

I heartily do NOT support the "Prospect Steps". They are redundant, unnecessary, and therefore completely non-beneficial to anyone. It is unconscionable to use federal funds for this.

If the grant money cannot be re-directed toward something truly necessary for Sausalito, then we should give it back, achieving a positive and noteworthy position among all cities in the entire country.

We as a town don't seem to be able to fix things that are broken or in need of repair for whatever reasons. Speaking for only myself, as just a regular homeowner who happens to live on a corner, I get annoyed with dealing with city "rules". My curb got broken several years ago. When I contacted DPW, I was told it was my responsibility. But do I own that easement? NO. The city of Sausalito does. I had it repaired. Within weeks it got broken again (construction trucks often jump the curb) and I gave up. This is small potatoes, certainly. But there are are other more glaring areas needing fixing, of which I'm sure you are aware.

Please end this project before paying for any [further] design work.

Sincerely, Nina Meister

Determine Right - Decide Fast - Act with Conviction - Fight to the Finish - Move On. Nelllie Bly

Get your vacation photos on your phone! Click here.

(cc)

Jonathon Goldman

Sent:

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 5:42 PM

To:

Richard Powell

Cc:

**Doug Smith** 

Subject:

RE: Pedestrian Access Over Easement Between Prospect and Sausalito Blvd

Thanks for your input. We'll advise as to the outcome in early September.

Jonathon Goldman
Director of Public Works
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, California 94965-1933
415-289-4176 Direct -- 415-339-2256 FAX
mailto: jgoldman@ci.sausalito.ca.us

www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

From: Richard Powell [mailto:

Sent: Monday, July 27, 2009 3:06 PM

To: Jonathon Goldman

Subject: Pedestrian Access Over Easement Between Prospect and Sausalito Blvd

In my view this proposal is a waste of federal funds. It would create security and privacy issues for homeowners abutting the proposed steps and would provide no significant benefit in the event of fire or other disaster.

Lets not do this!

Richard Powell

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## Sample of Supporting Responses

### Peter McKenna

From: Jonathon Goldman

Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 3:00 PM

To: Peter Kosho McKenna

Cc: Doug Smith

Subject: RE: Support Prospect Steps

Attachments: Prospect Steps Alignment Corrected pdf; Corrected Prospect Steps

Location.pdf

Thanks for checking my work. You are correct, my Google Earth alignment was incorrect. I've attached a corrected Google Earth view and an overhead from Marin Map. I will disseminate corrected maps to everyone who has contacted me.

I also appreciate your input -- we'll advise as to the outcome in early September.

Jonathon Goldman
Director of Public Works
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, California 94965-1933
415-289-4176 Direct -- 415-339-2256 FAX
mailto: jgoldman@ci.sausalito.ca.us
www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

----Original Message----

From: Peter Kosho McKenna [mailto:

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:50 PM

To: Jonathon Goldman

Subject: Support Prospect Steps

Dear Johathon,

First I think I should point out that the aerial view in your mailing appears to have the "Proposed Prospect Steps" in the wrong location. I believe the right of way is located just north of the intersection of Crescent with Sausalito Blvd.

I am not strictly in favor of the Prospect Steps, however I do think something should be done to improve pedestrian access to this neighborhood. I have lived at for 15 years and can make the following observations:

- 1) From a few discussions with neighbors, my impression is that most of the opposition to the Prospect Steps is general opposition to any new projects in the neighborhood. Most people in the neighborhood do not walk to the bus or the headlands and do not have an understanding of the real issues involved in walking the neighborhood. However, there are a few of us who do so and pedestrian access is important.
- 2) The Cable Roadway stairs and boardwalk near Sausalito Blvd look very fragile and probably need sigificant repair. This is the main walking route from Sausalito Blvd to Prospect Ave and then up the stairway at the end of Prospect Ave to the Spencer Ave bus pads. So adding a second route (Prospect Steps) would seem redundant except that the upper portion of the Cable Roadway can be difficult and dangerous to walk.

Most of the Cable Roadway going up to Prospect Ave is a very steep lane and fairly treacherous to walk especially when wet or when cars are present. Perhaps something could be done to make that part more pedestrian-friendly, but aside from putting in a set of stairs, I cannot think of a good solution. The next best alternative for good pedestrian access may well be the Prospect Page 1

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### Peter McKenna

Steps.

3) As you might be aware, pedestrian access up and down Spencer Ave from the 101 Frontage Road to Sausalito Blvd is extremely hazardous. There is no shoulder and in many stretches hardly a place for someone on foot to get off the road when a car passes. With cars parked on some parts, 2 vehicles can barely pass each other and then when you add a pedestrian to the mix the situation becomes very dangerous.

Since Spencer Ave represents the only other pedestrian route up to 101 (besides the Cable Roadway) from this entire neighborhood, some improvement in one or both routes would seem like a very good idea especially if there are funds available.

I would like to see the city examine the issue of pedestrian access to our neighborhood in more depth and not simply terminate the Prospect Steps project.

Best, Peter McKenna

Peter	McKenna	 
Phone	Home —	

Jonathon Goldman

Sent:

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 10:03 AM

To:

Doug Lloyd

Cc: Subject: Doug Smith RE: Support Prospect Steps

Thanks for your input. We'll advise as to the outcome in early September.

Jonathon Goldman
Director of Public Works
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
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www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

From: Doug Lloyd [mailto:de

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 9:24 AM

To: Jonathon Goldman
Cc: mickielloyd@comcast.net
Subject: Support Prospect Steps

### Dear Mr. Goldman:

My wife and I strongly support the proposed steps between Prospect Ave. and Sausalito Blvd. for the following reasons:

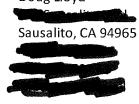
- · These proposed steps are very much in line with the purpose of the Federal grant to facilitate non-vehicular circulation.
- A safe pedestrian route will be provided between the bus stop at US101 (and Spencer Avenue / Mont Mar Drive) and the northern area of Sausalito Blvd. / Sunshine Ave. / San Carlos, etc.

  Spencer Avenue is extremely dangerous for pedestrians. The proposed steps will connect nicely with Cloudview and the steps down to the fire station at the top of Spencer.
- These steps will facilitate walking visits to friends and neighbors, thereby eliminating the current use of vehicles a particular advantage after a few glasses of wine with dinner.
- · Pedestrian steps are part of the unique charm of Sausalito and these proposed steps will fill a void in our current pedestrian circulation system.
- · City Council and staff worked hard to win the Federal grant, and the repair or maintenance of current steps is prohibited under the terms of the grant.
- This project can be considered one small element of the much needed stimulus of our national, state, and local economies.

The above comments are all made on the assumption that the steps will be built on city owned property which may currently be treated as private property by immediate neighbors.

Thank you for considering the above points.

Doug Lloyd



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Jonathon Goldman

Sent:

Monday, July 27, 2009 9:37 AM

To:

Joe Gaul

Cc:

**Doug Smith** 

**Subject:** 

**RE: Support Prospect steps** 

Thanks for your input. We'll advise as to the outcome in early September.

Jonathon Goldman
Director of Public Works
City of Sausalito
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415-289-4176 Direct — 415-339-2256 FAX
mailto: jgoldman@ci.sausalito.ca.us
www.ci.sausalito.ca.us

From: Joe Gaul [mailto

Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 10:04 AM

To: Jonathon Goldman

**Subject:** Support Prospect steps

### Dear Jonathon,

Please add an emphatic "yes" regarding the Prospect steps. We live very near the top of the Cable Roadway Path. The thought of "one way out" or relying on the Cable Roadway path as the only exit for the many lives who might be forced to use it, is terrifying. If there is a chance to change that, we should take it! Congratulations to you for bringing this to our attention.

I see the objections as another example of the selfishness of some of our citizens....trying to avoid a minor "distraction" during construction while ignoring the long term good.

Makes one wonder why we even have elected government....the next thing will probably be a "proposition" to once again overrule the decisions of the people elected by us to conduct the business of the City.

We received a notice in our mailbox against the stairs. Naive, not informed, obviously selfish. Do you have a copy? It should be addressed...perhaps competent people will react, and we will have a safety exit, and a convenient way "down".

Joseph Gaul

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