

## **CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT  
455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
PHONE: (415) 904-5260  
FAX: (415) 904-5400  
WEB: WWW.COASTAL.CA.GOV



# **F13a**

A-2-MAR-21-0048 (GRONEMAN/SIBLEY SFD)

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

## **EXHIBITS**

### **Table of Contents**

#### **Exhibit 1 - Location Map**

#### **Exhibit 2 - Site Photos**

#### **Exhibit 3 - Existing Armoring on and Adjacent to Site**

#### **Exhibit 4 - Proposed Project Plans**

#### **Exhibit 5 - Marin County CDP Conditions**

#### **Exhibit 6 - Marin County Environmental Health Septic System Approval**

#### **Exhibit 7 - Applicant's November 30, 2021 Response to CCC Substantial Issue**

#### **Exhibit 8 - Bluff Edge Memorandum by CCC Geologist Dr. Joseph Street**

## EXHIBIT 1: PROJECT LOCATION





## EXHIBIT 2 – SITE PHOTOS



(Source: Coastal Records Project, 2019)



**Image at left:** View up the bluff face to proposed residence site. (Source: Huffman-Broadway Group, Biological Site Assessment for 183 Sunset Way, Marin County, dated October 29, 2019)



**Image at right:** View of site looking towards Muir Beach midway down the bluff. (Source: Huffman-Broadway Group, Biological Site Assessment for 183 Sunset Way, Marin County, dated October 29, 2019)





**Image at left:** View looking down from proposed residence site. (Source: Huffman-Broadway Group, Biological Site Assessment for 183 Sunset Way, Marin County, dated October 29, 2019)

**Image at right:** View of site from small beach at foot of bluff with rock revetment pictured. (Source: Commission staff visit, August 22, 2022)



EXHIBIT 3  
EXISTING ARMORING ON AND ADJACENT TO SITE



**A-2-MAR-21-0048**



## EXISTING ARMORING ON AND ADJACENT TO SITE



*Source: CCC staff visit to beach below subject parcel bluff, August 22, 2022.*



APN 199-235-66



## An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A small, light-colored building with a dark roof is situated on the left side of the image. A road or path runs vertically through the center of the forest. The trees are tall and thin, with their shadows cast on the ground. The overall scene is a natural, wooded area.

PROJECT DIRECTORY	
<b>Others</b>	<p>Paul and Debra Thompson 1055 West View New Braunfels, TX 78059 479/775-7707</p>
<b>Architect</b>	<p>Michael Powell, Architect, LLP 1203 Blair Ave., Suite 202, NW Water Canyon 415-845-5337 michael@mpaarch.com</p>
<b>Surveyor</b>	<p>Markus Shively and Engineering Inc. 10000 Highway 101 San Rafael, CA 94901 415/456-0500 markus@shivelysurvey.com</p>
<b>CNE</b>	<p>Muller Thermal Engineering Bioscience Center Bioscience Center 415/323-3696 mullerthermal@earthlink.net</p>
<b>Biological</b>	<p>Rei Bioscience Group, Inc. San Rafael, CA 94901 gph@rei-bio.com</p>
<b>Geotechnical</b>	<p>Meyer and Engineering Group Mike Meyer 201 Riverside Blvd., Suite 220 415/302-2444 Meyer@meyereng.com</p>
<b>Single</b>	<p>Civil/Struct-Design Engineering Corp., Inc. Rich Sauer 10000 Highway 101 Newark, CA 94609 415/383-0800 rich@csde-inc.com</p>

[illegible][illegible]

PLANNING REVIEW

Revisable Description	SPIN
PLANNING SUBMITTAL	12/20/2022
GIS SUBMITTAL	7/26/2023
PLANNING REVISION	02/07/2024

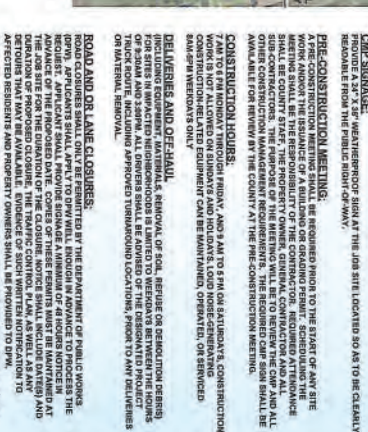
COVER SHEET

**A000**

SPIN: AS NOTED

415-845-5326

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN



**ENFORCEMENT:**  
IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT APPLICANT OR THEIR DESIGNATED AGENT TO ADVISE THE COUNTY OF ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE CNE TO NOTIFY THE AGENT TO ADVISE THE COUNTY OF ANY MODIFICATIONS TO THE CNE TO NOTIFY

ANY VIOLATIONS TO THE CAP MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DPM.

ARCHITECT:  
MICHAEL HESLOCK ARCHITECTS  
123 MILLER AVE., SUITE 221  
CHICAGO, IL 60601  
PH: (416) 946-0258  
mh@mhheslock.com

EMERGENCY CONTACT:  
GRADUATE PROGRAM  
PH: (416) 771-1555

COUNTY OF MARIN CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE  
PH: (415) 927-8100

## REV. 11/2002

MOBILIZATION	MAV	2011
SEPTIC TANK	JUNE	2011
EXCAVATION, GRADING & UNDERGROUND	AUGUST	2011
FOUNDATIONS	SEPTEMBER	2011
FOABING	OCTOBER	2011
ROUGH PLUMBING, SPRINKLER, HVAC & ELECTRICAL	NOVEMBER	2011
MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING	DECEMBER	2011
INSULATION	JANUARY	2012
PIPE TRENCH	FEBRUARY	2012
FINAL PLUMBING, SPRINKLER, HVAC & ELECTRICAL	MARCH	2012
FINISH CARPENTRY	MARCH	2012
SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION	APRIL	2012
OCUPANCY	MAY	2012







## STORY POLE PLAN

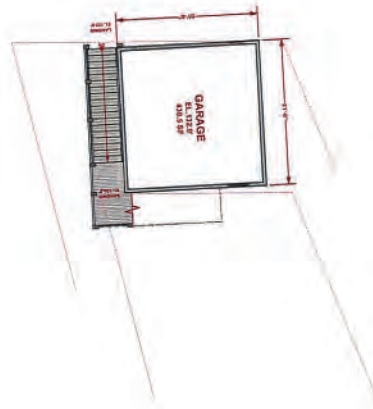


APN 199-235-66

GRONEMAN RESIDENCE  
183 SUNSET WAY  
MUIR BEACH, CA 94865

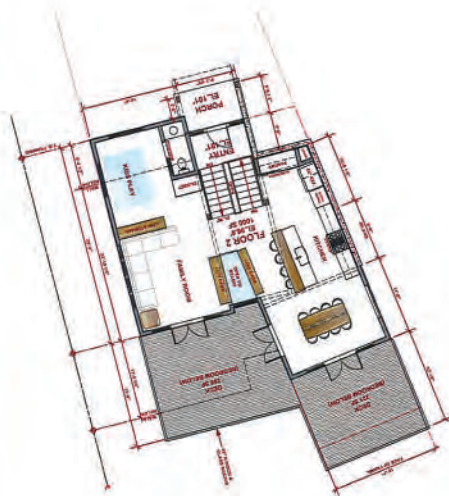
**A-2-MAP-21-0048**  
**Exhibit 4**  
**Page 4 of 9**





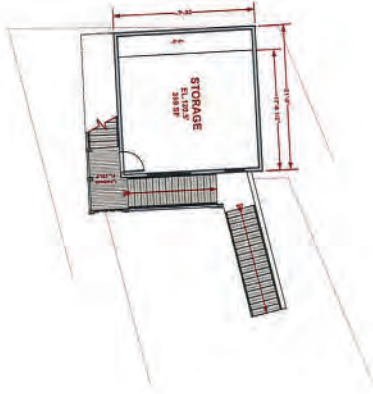
4 NEW GARAGE FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



2 NEW UPPER FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



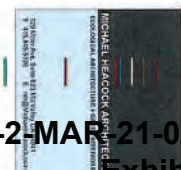
3 NEW STORAGE FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 NEW LOWER FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



GROHEMAN RESIDENCE  
183 SUNSET WAY  
MALIBU BEACH, CA 90465

APN 199-238-66



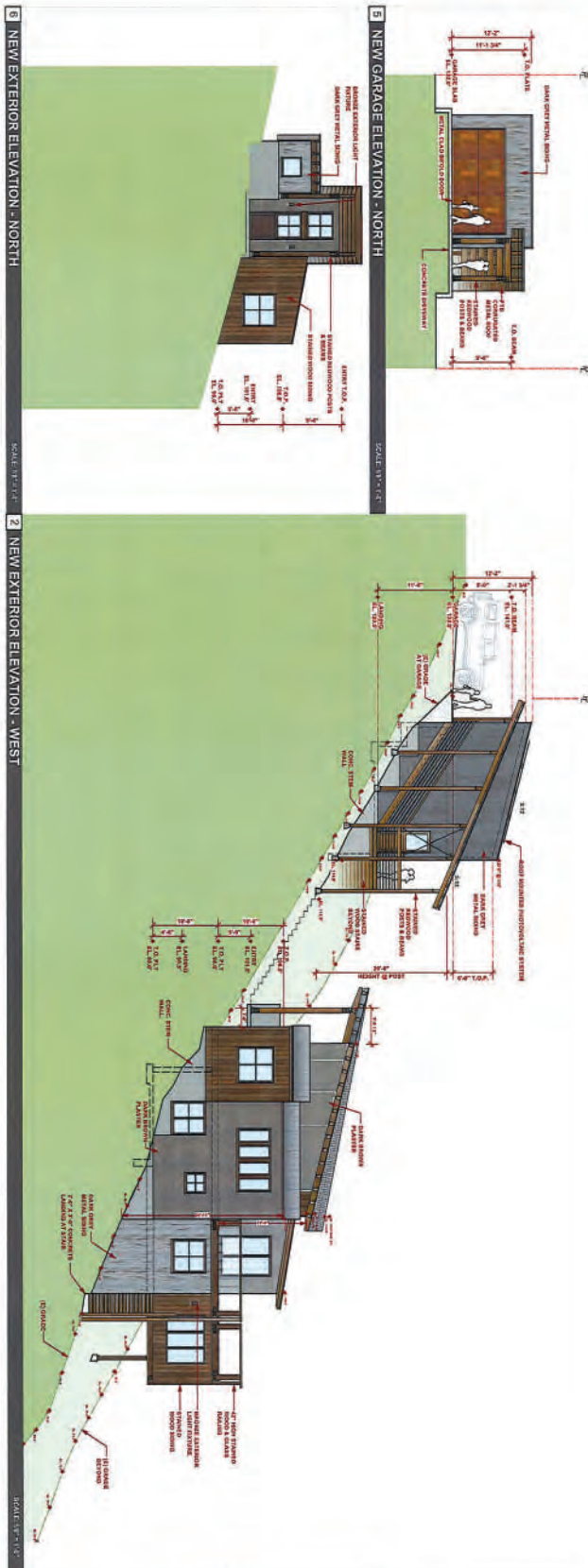
PLANNING REVIEW

Project Name	GROHEMAN RESIDENCE
Project Address	183 SUNSET WAY, MALIBU BEACH, CA 90465
Project Owner	APN 199-238-66
Project Description	NEW LOWER FLOOR PLAN, NEW UPPER FLOOR PLAN, NEW GARAGE FLOOR PLAN, NEW STORAGE FLOOR PLAN
Project Status	PLANNING REVIEW
Project Date	07/10/2021

FLOOR PLANS

A200





Michael Heacock Architects  
1500 K Street, Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
415.774.1111  
www.michaelheacock.com

A-2-MAR-21-0048  
Exhibit 4  
Page 6 of 9

GRONEMAN RESIDENCE  
183 SUNSET WAY  
MAIR BEACH, CA 94965

APN: 199-235-06

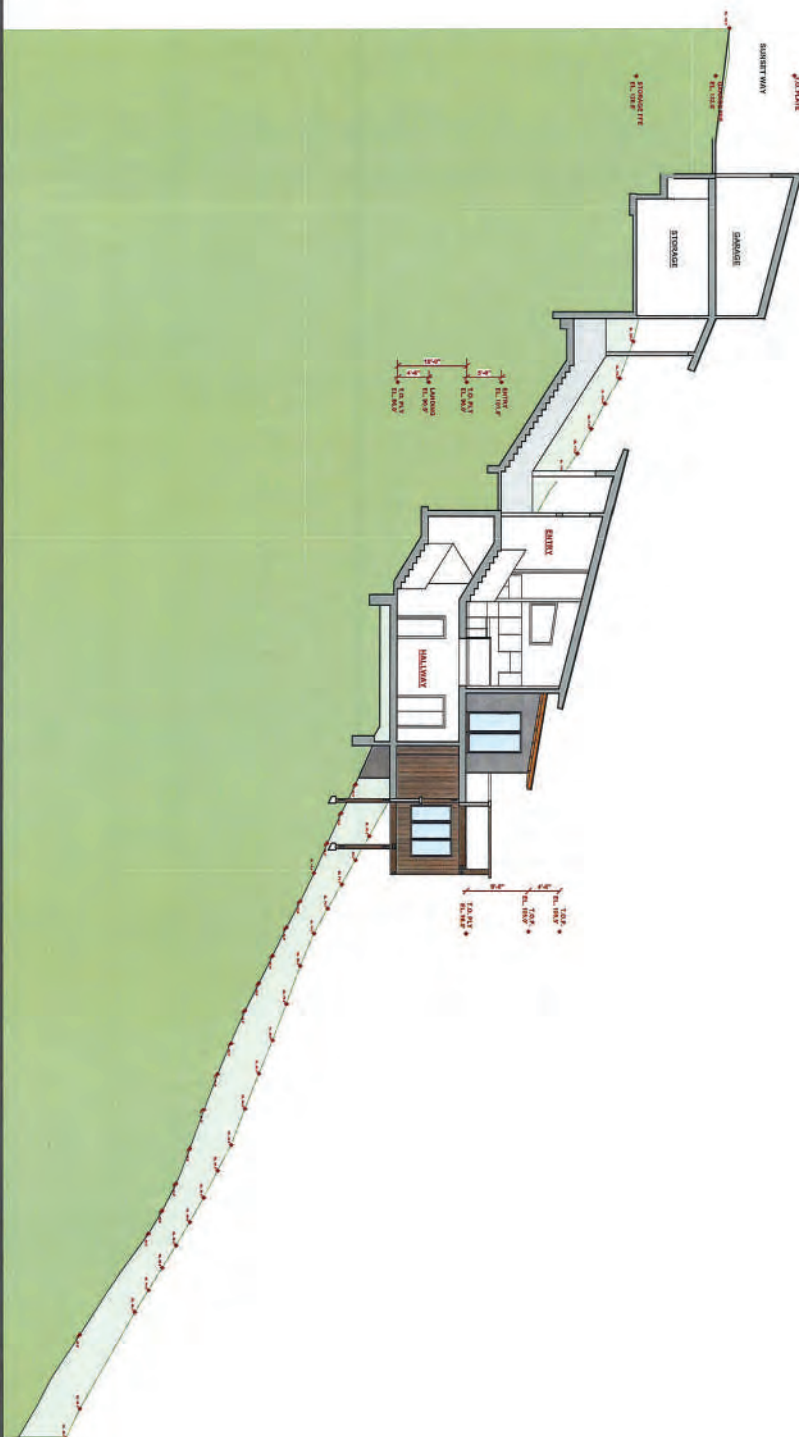


PLANNING REVIEW  
Project Name: GRONEMAN RESIDENCE  
Project Address: 183 SUNSET WAY, MAIR BEACH, CA 94965  
Project Type: SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE  
Project Status: SUBMITTED  
Project Date: 03/07/2021

Sheet: **A300**  
Date: **1/17/21**

EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

## SCALE 100-1000



APN 199-235-66



## PLANNING REVIEW

SITE SECTION

Sheet **A400**  
 Size 1/8" x 14"

**A-2-MAR-21-0048**  
**Exhibit 4**  
**Page 7 of 9**





## SEPTIC NOTES

- [illegible]

## ET

2. If outside building in septic tank is 6" or greater, have tank pumped.
3. Minimize the use of garbage disposal unit by composting or packing trash.
4. Minimize pouring grease down drain.
5. Minimize discharge of paper products, i.e. cigarettes, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins and tissues.
6. Do not dispose of oils, paint and flammable down waste line.
7. Minimize liquid load by repairing leaking fixtures and washing clothes with less.

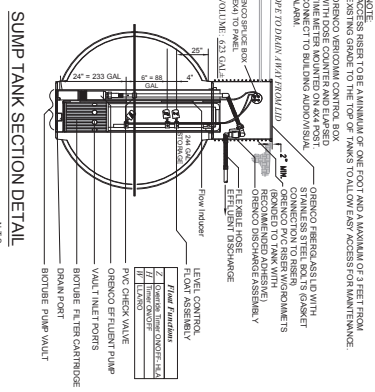
c. For evaluation and monitoring of the Grantor's sewage disposal system

- ## CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SCHEDULE

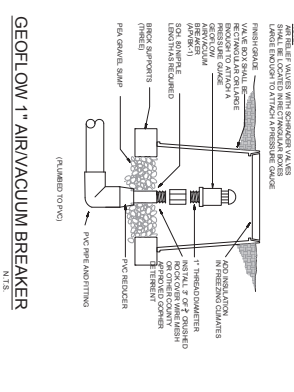
I CAN'T  
Muir Beach

1. Production conditions: when the design team will be verified  
a. conditions during operation  
b. design and construction  
c. layout and siting or making it all components of the system  
d. transport and disposal of the source materials to be used
2. Interim observations  
a. Design and construction components  
b. Drug test materials and functioning of their components  
c. Function and setting of all source choice components  
d. Design and construction components  
e. Waste systems that fit all conditions and this  
f. A physical inspection of the system and be scheduled with the  
g. The system is operational, then the  
h. The system is operational, then the  
i. The system is operational, then the
3. Start-up inspection  
a. Start-up inspection  
b. Start-up inspection  
c. Start-up inspection  
d. Start-up inspection  
e. Start-up inspection  
f. Start-up inspection  
g. Start-up inspection  
h. Start-up inspection  
i. Start-up inspection  
j. Start-up inspection  
k. Start-up inspection  
l. Start-up inspection  
m. Start-up inspection  
n. Start-up inspection  
o. Start-up inspection  
p. Start-up inspection  
q. Start-up inspection  
r. Start-up inspection  
s. Start-up inspection  
t. Start-up inspection  
u. Start-up inspection  
v. Start-up inspection  
w. Start-up inspection  
x. Start-up inspection  
y. Start-up inspection  
z. Start-up inspection

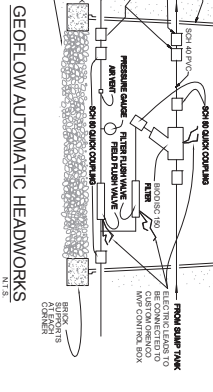
Date:	June 18, 202
-------	--------------



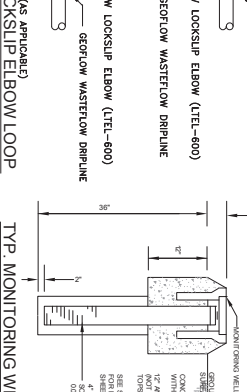
### SUMP TANK SECTION DETAIL



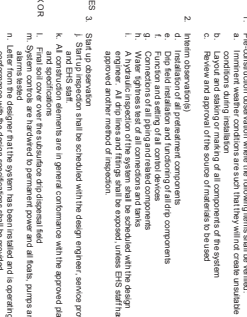
DECEMBER 1 MILWAUKEE BREAKFAST



# GEOL LOW ADIOMALIC HEADWORKS

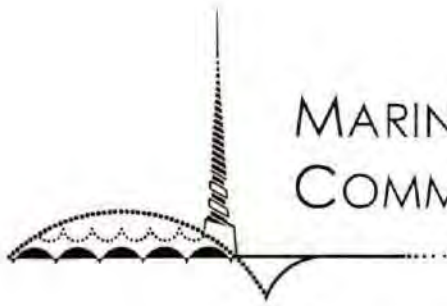


### CKSLIP ELBOW LOOP



Scale:	As Shown
--------	----------





MARIN COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

RECEIVED

JUN 18 2021

CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL COMMISSION

TOM K. LAI, DIRECTOR

**NOTICE OF FINAL LOCAL (DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR) DECISION**

Pursuant to Coastal Act Section 30603(d), Coastal Commission Regulations Section 13571, and LCP Policy and/or Implementation Plan.

June 4, 2021

California Coastal Commission  
45 Fremont Street, #2000  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Coastal Planner

Applicant's Name: **Eric & Madeline Groneman**

Coastal Permit Number: Coastal Permit [P2989]

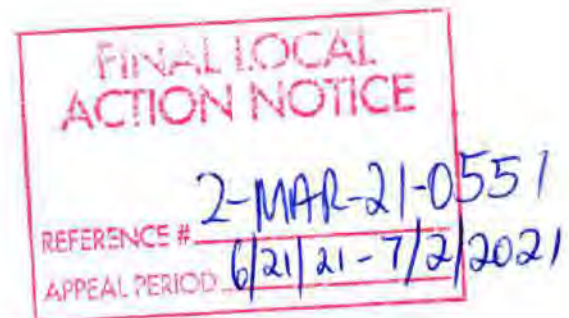
Assessor's Parcel Number: 199-235-66

Project Location: 183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach

Determination: Approved  
(Resolution of the May 27, 2021 Deputy Zoning Administrator hearing is attached specifying action.)

Decision Date: May 27, 2021

County Appeal Period: Five (5) Working Days



**Local review is now complete.**

This permit IS appealable to the California Coastal Commission (see Marin County Code Section 22.56.080 attached); please initiate the California Coastal Commission appeal period.

Any correspondence concerning this matter should be directed to Michelle Levenson, Planner at (415) 473-3615.

Sincerely,

Michelle Levenson  
Planner

Attachment1- Resolution

**The establishment, maintenance or conducting of the use will not, under the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort, convenience or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such use and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood.**

The detached accessory structure proposed with the project consists of a garage and a storage area. Because the garage portion of the structure is consistent with Marin County Interim Zoning Code Sections 22.72.055I and 22.70.060I for parking structures, discretionary approval for the garage portion of the structure is not required. However, because the storage portion of the structure is located within a required front setback, Use Permit approval is required to allow this portion of the structure in the proposed location.

The storage area would be located below the portion of the garage used for parking and would not be visible from Sunset Way. By enclosing the space beneath the garage, a more attractive profile of the structure would be provided and a potential fire hazard would be prevented. Due to the location and design of the storage area, the project would not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood.

## **SECTION II: ACTION**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the project described in condition of approval 1 is authorized by the Marin County Planning Commission and is subject to the conditions of project approval.

This decision certifies the proposed project's conformance with the requirements of the Marin County Development Code and in no way affects the requirements of any other County, State, Federal, or local agency that regulates development. In addition to a Building Permit, additional permits and/or approvals may be required from the Department of Public Works, the appropriate Fire Protection Agency, the Environmental Health Services Division, water and sewer providers, Federal and State agencies.

## **SECTION III: CONDITIONS OF PROJECT APPROVAL**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Planning Commission hereby approves the Groneman Coastal Permit and Use Permit subject to the conditions as specified below:

### **CDA-Planning Division**

1. This Coastal Permit and Use Permit approval authorizes the construction of a new, 2,160-square-foot single family residence, a 369-square-foot detached accessory structure (storage area located below a proposed garage) and associated septic system on a vacant lot in Muir Beach. The 2,959 square feet of development shall result in a 13.77-percent floor area ratio on the 18,372 square foot lot. The residence shall reach a maximum height of 25 feet and the portion of the detached accessory structure where the storage area is located shall reach a maximum height of 12 feet as measured from surrounding grade. The structures shall maintain the following setbacks: (1) single family residence-41 feet from the north, front property line; over 100 feet from the south, rear property line, and 10 feet from the east, side and west side property lines; and (2) detached accessory structure-3 feet from the north, front property line;



over 100 feet from the south; rear property line, 6 feet from the east, side property lines; and 14 feet from the west, side property line. A total of 13 trees shall be removed with the project, of which 8 are in poor health.

2. Plans submitted for a Building Permit shall substantially conform to plans identified as Exhibit A, entitled "Groneman Residence" consisting of 34 sheets and prepared by Michael Heacock Architects., received in final form on March 5, 2021, and on file with the Marin County Community Development Agency, except as modified by the conditions listed herein.

a. The applicant shall provide height verification of the single-family residence prior to close-in inspection.

b. The project shall conform to the Planning Division's "Uniformly Applied Conditions 2021" with respect to all of the standard conditions of approval as well as the following special conditions: 2, 3, 8, 12, and 17.

#### **SECTION IV: VESTING**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that unless conditions of approval establish a different time limit or an extension to vest has been granted, any permit or entitlement not vested within two years of the date of the approval shall expire and become void. The permit shall not be deemed vested until the permit holder has actually obtained any required Building Permit or other construction permit and has substantially completed improvements in accordance with the approved permits, or has actually commenced the allowed use on the subject property, in compliance with the conditions of approval.

#### **SECTION V: APPEAL RIGHTS**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this decision is final unless appealed to the Marin County Planning Commission. A Petition for Appeal and the required fee must be mailed to the Community Development Agency, Planning Division, Room 308, Civic Center, San Rafael, and postmarked no later than five business days from the date of this decision (June 3, 2021).

#### **SECTION VI: ADOPTION**

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the County of Marin, State of California, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.



---

IMMANUEL BEREKET  
DEPUTY ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Attest:



---

Michele Reed  
Deputy Zoning Administrator Secretary

**MARIN COUNTY UNIFORMLY APPLIED CONDITIONS  
FOR PROJECTS SUBJECT TO DISCRETIONARY PLANNING PERMITS**

**2021**

**STANDARD CONDITIONS**

1. The applicant/owner shall pay any deferred Planning Division fees as well as any fees required for mitigation monitoring or condition compliance review before vesting or final inspection of the approved project, as determined by the Director.
2. The applicant/owner shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County of Marin and its agents, officers, attorneys, or employees from any claim, action, or proceeding, against the County or its agents, officers, attorneys, or employees, to attack, set aside, void, or annul an approval of this application, for which action is brought within the applicable statute of limitations. The County of Marin shall promptly notify the applicant/owner of any claim, action, or proceeding that is served upon the County of Marin, and shall cooperate fully in the defense.
3. Exterior lighting for the approved development shall be located and shielded to avoid casting glare into the night sky or onto nearby properties, unless such lighting is necessary for safety purposes.
4. Building Permit applications shall substantially conform to the project that was approved by the planning permit. All Building Permit submittals shall be accompanied by an itemized list of any changes from the project approved by the planning permit. The list shall detail the changes and indicate where the changes are shown in the plan set. Construction involving modifications that do not substantially conform to the approved project, as determined by the Community Development Agency staff, may be required to be halted until proper authorization for the modifications is obtained by the applicant.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant shall submit a signed Statement of Conformance prepared by a certified or licensed landscape design professional indicating that the landscape plan complies with the State of California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and that a copy of the Landscape Documentation Package has been filed with the Community Development Agency.
2. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant shall mark or call out the approved building setbacks on the Building Permit plans indicating the minimum distance of the building from the nearest property line or access easement at the closest point and any of the following features applicable to the project site: required tree protection zones, Wetland Conservation Areas, or Stream Conservation Areas.



3. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant shall revise the plans to depict the location and type of all exterior lighting for review and approval of the Community Development Agency staff. Exterior lighting visible from off-site shall consist of low-wattage fixtures, and shall be directed downward and shielded to prevent adverse lighting impacts to the night sky or on nearby properties. Exceptions to this standard may be allowed by the Community Development Agency staff if the exterior lighting would not create night-time illumination levels that are incompatible with the surrounding community character and would not shine on nearby properties.
4. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant shall record a Waiver of Public Liability holding the County of Marin, other governmental agencies, and the public harmless related to losses experienced due to geologic and hydrologic conditions and other natural hazards.
5. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant shall submit written confirmation that the property owner has recorded the "Disclosure Statement Concerning Agricultural Activities," as required by Section 23.03.050 of the Marin County Code.
6. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT for any of the work identified in the project approval, the applicant shall install 3-foot high temporary construction fencing demarcating established tree protection zones for all protected trees that are not being removed in the vicinity of any area of grading, construction, materials storage, soil stockpiling, or other construction activity. The applicant shall submit a copy of the temporary fencing plan and site photographs confirming installation of the fencing to the Community Development Agency. Acceptable limits of the tree protection zones shall be the dripline of the branches or a radius surrounding the tree of one foot for each one inch diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above grade) of the tree trunk. The fencing is intended to protect existing vegetation during construction and shall remain until all construction activity is complete. If encroachment into the tree protection zone is necessary for development purposes, additional tree protection measures shall be identified by a licensed arborist, forester, or botanist, and the tree specialist shall periodically monitor the construction activities to evaluate whether the measures are being properly followed. A report with the additional measures shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Division before any encroachment into a tree protection zone occurs.
7. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, if encroachments into a tree protection zone have been approved, then the tree specialist shall submit a letter to the Planning Division verifying that the additional tree protection measures were properly implemented during construction activities.
8. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, temporary construction fencing shall be installed on the subject property at edge of the Wetland Conservation Area and/or Stream Conservation Area, as applicable to the site. The applicant shall submit a copy of the temporary fencing plan and site photographs confirming installation of the fencing to the Community Development Agency. The construction fencing shall remain until all construction activity is complete. No parking of vehicles, grading, materials/equipment storage, soil stockpiling, or other construction activity is allowed within the protected area. If encroachment into the protected area is necessary for development purposes, additional protection measures shall be identified by a qualified biologist and the biologist shall periodically monitor the construction activities to evaluate whether the measures are being properly followed. A

report with the additional measures shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Division before any encroachment into a protected area occurs.

9. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, if encroachments into a protected area have been approved, then the biologist shall submit a letter to the Planning Division verifying that the additional protection measures were properly implemented during construction activities.
10. BEFORE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, the applicant must provide written evidence that all appropriate permits and authorizations have been secured for this project from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Coastal Commission, the California State Lands Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and/or the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
11. BEFORE CLOSE-IN INSPECTION, the applicant shall have a licensed land surveyor or civil engineer with proper surveying certification prepare and submit written (stamped) Floor Elevation Certification to the Planning Division confirming that the building's finished floor elevation conforms to the floor elevation that is shown on the approved Building Permit plans, based on a benchmark that is noted on the plans.
12. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, the project shall substantially conform to the requirements for exterior materials and colors, as approved herein. Approved materials and colors shall substantially conform to the materials and colors samples shown in "Exhibit A" unless modified by the conditions of approval. The exterior materials or colors shall conform to any modifications required by the conditions of approval. All flashing, metalwork, and trim shall be treated or painted an appropriately subdued, non-reflective color.
13. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, the applicant shall install all approved landscaping that is required for the following purposes: (1) screening the project from the surrounding area; (2) replacing trees or other vegetation removed for the project; (3) implementing best management practices for drainage control; and, (4) enhancing the natural landscape or mitigating environmental impacts. If irrigation is necessary for landscaping, then an automatic drip irrigation system shall be installed. The species and size of those trees and plants installed for the project shall be clearly labeled in the field for inspection.
14. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, the applicant shall submit a Certificate of Completion prepared by a certified or licensed landscape design professional confirming that the installed landscaping complies with the State of California's Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and the Landscape Documentation Package on file with the Community Development Agency.
15. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, the applicant shall submit written verification from a landscape design professional that all the approved and required landscaping has been completed and that any necessary irrigation has been installed.
16. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, utilities to serve the approved development shall be placed underground except where the Director determines that the cost of undergrounding would be so prohibitive as to deny utility service to the development.
17. BEFORE FINAL INSPECTION, the applicant shall call for a Community Development Agency staff inspection of approved landscaping, building materials and colors, lighting and



compliance with conditions of project approval at least five business days before the anticipated completion of the project. Failure to pass inspection will result in withholding of the Final Inspection approval and imposition of hourly fees for subsequent reinspections.

### CODE ENFORCEMENT CONDITIONS

1. Within 30 days of this decision, the applicant must submit a Building Permit application to legalize the development. Requests for an extension to this timeline must be submitted in writing to the Community Development Agency staff and may be granted for good cause, such as delays beyond the applicant's control.
2. Within 60 days of this decision, a Building Permit for all approved work must be obtained. Requests for an extension to this timeline must be submitted in writing to the Community Development Agency staff and may be granted for good cause, such as delays beyond the applicant's control.
3. Within 120 days of this decision, the applicant must complete the approved construction and receive approval of a final inspection by the Building and Safety Division. Requests for an extension to this timeline must be submitted in writing to the Community Development Agency staff and may be granted for good cause, such as delays beyond the applicant's control.

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL TRANSMITTAL  
MARIN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
ROOM 236, 473-6907**

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>January 14, 2021</b>		<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="text-align: center;"><b>TYPE OF DOCUMENT</b></td></tr></table>	<b>TYPE OF DOCUMENT</b>
<b>TYPE OF DOCUMENT</b>				
<b>TO:</b>	<b>Michelle Leveson, Senior Planner</b>		DESIGN REVIEW	
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Gwendolyn Baert, Senior REHS</b>		LAND DIVISION	
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Groneman Coastal and Use Permit</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>USE PERMIT</b>	
	<b>Project ID P2989</b>		VARIANCE	
<b>AP#:</b>	<b>199-235-66</b>		MASTER PLAN	
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>COASTAL PERMIT</b>	
			LOT LINE ADJ.	
			OTHER	

<b>THIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:</b>
--

WATER	<b>X</b>	SEWAGE	SOLID WASTE
POOLS		HOUSING	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT

<b>THIS APPLICATION IS FOUND TO BE:</b>
---

FIND IT COMPLETE.

FIND IT INCOMPLETE UNTIL THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

**X FIND IT ACCEPTABLE AS PRESENTED, WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS.**

RECOMMEND DENIAL FOR THE REASONS LISTED BELOW.

**RECEIVED**

JUL 13 2021

CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL COMMISSION  
NORTH CENTRAL COAST

The applicant has submitted a set of septic plans that demonstrate the viability of a 3-bedroom design. The plans appear acceptable with the following conditions:

- The two lots will need to be merged, the house and the septic system must be on the same lot.
- Prior to building permit approval, the plans for grading and drainage will need to be reviewed and approved by EHS.
- Prior to building permit approval, the plans for the stabilization walls below the septic system will need to be reviewed and approved by EHS. These walls are recommended by the project geologist as a means of stabilizing the site and are required as approval of the septic system.

**A-2-MAR-21-0048**

**Exhibit 6**

**Page 1 of 1**





November 30, 2021

Julia Koppman-Norton  
California Coastal Commission  
455 Market St Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**RE: 183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach Coastal Development Permit for a S-F residence**

Ms. Koppman-Norton,

As you requested, we are providing information in response to the issues raised in the staff report for the September 9, 2021 Coastal Commission meeting (Attachment 1), at which time the Commission found Substantial Issue with Marin County's May 27, 2021 approval of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and Use Permit for a single-family residence, free-standing garage with storage below and an on-site septic system on an infill lot identified as 183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach.

The information in this submittal responds to issues cited in the July 1, 2021 appeal of the County's decision by two Coastal Commissioners (Appeal A-2-MAR-21-0048)(Attachment 2). We also address additional issues identified in the Staff Report for the Commission's September 9<sup>th</sup> Substantial Issue hearing (Attachment 3).

Given the infill nature of this project and its similarity to earlier CDP approvals in Muir Beach where the Commission found No Substantial Issue, our review found that the County's CDP approval was consistent with its LCP and the Coastal Act. Most importantly, all technical information and prior Commission actions demonstrate that the entire site does not meet the definition of a "bluff". In addition, after obtaining the Commission's 1985 CDP files permitting the existing rock revetment at the shoreline, which staff did not review prior to the Substantial Issue hearing, it is apparent that 183 Sunset Way owners were not any part of that work. The owners will cooperate with enforcement actions but there is no nexus for slowing consideration of their application.

Given that the Commission has required a De Novo review, the applicants are working with Marin County staff to explore modifications that can expand the bluff retreat zone. In addition, the Project Geotechnical Engineer has refined its bluff retreat analysis to reflect LCP and Coastal Act policies without reliance on the existing rock revetment at the shoreline. (Attachment 4)

After you and your colleagues have reviewed this information, we request the opportunity to meet at the earliest opportunity to discuss next steps and to identify an expeditious timeline for getting on the Commission's agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Kinsey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Kinsey" clearly legible.

Steve Kinsey

Attachments:

- Attachment 1- Applicant's response to identified De Novo review issues
- Attachment 2- Appeal Reasons identified in the Commissioner Appeal Form
- Attachment 3- CCC staff report identifying additional Coastal Act Consistency Issues
- Attachment 4- Miller-Pacific Engineering's memorandum calculating bluff retreat rates based on OPC Sea Level Rise estimates to confirm development will not require armoring during its economic life
- Attachment 5- Revised Site Plan illustrating Miller-Pacific's revised Bluff Retreat estimate



# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **Applicant's response to identified De Novo review issues**

November 30, 2021

### **183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach, CA**

This document provides information in response to the concerns raised by the two Coastal Commissioners who appealed Marin County's CDP approval as well as additional issues raised in the Coastal Commission's Substantial Issue staff report.

The July 1, 2021 appeal of the County's decision (Appeal A-2-MAR-21-0048) cited several questions of consistency with Marin County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) and the Coastal Act (Attachment 2) including:

- whether the entire site should be deemed a bluff
- whether it relies on unpermitted armoring at the toe of the bluff
- whether the proposed development's bluff setbacks would be sufficient to provide safety and security without needing shoreline armoring during its economic life
- whether the residence's foundation design exceeds safety and stability requirements
- whether piers to provide safety and stability for the septic system constitute armoring

The Staff Report for the Commission's September 9<sup>th</sup> Substantial Issue hearing (Attachment 3), raised the following additional issues:

- impacts to sand supply
- public access, and
- visual resources.

### A- The entire site is not a bluff.

The Commissioner's "Reasons for the Appeal" memo incorrectly characterized the property's slope, stating, "the entire site appears to extend from Sunset Way down to the beach at a roughly 45 degree angle". A similar assertion was made in the staff report for the SI hearing. Yet, to date, no Commission staff have visited the site to visually observe the bluff's extent.

This scaled north-south section, based on a field-based topographic site survey, demonstrates a clear break between the 46 degree (102%) slope of the bluff and the 26 degree (57%) average slope of the remainder of the site.

Miller-Pacific Geotechnical staff performed field reconnaissance and geologic testing and confirmed this in their August, 30, 2021 letter to the Commission, stating, "slopes extend from Sunset Way at the top of the site to the edge of the coastal bluff near the bottom." (See Ex A-3 of CCC 's 9/9/21 Substantial Issue Correspondence file)



### Bluff Definition

The *California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §13577 (h)* defines the term bluff as follows:

The upper termination of a bluff, cliff, or seacliff. In cases where the top edge of the bluff is rounded away from the face of the bluff as a result of erosional processes related to the presence of the steep bluff face, the bluff line or edge shall be defined as that point nearest the bluff beyond which the downward gradient of the surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the bluff. In a case where there is a steplike feature at the top of the bluff face, the landward edge of the topmost riser shall be taken to be the bluff edge. **The termini of the bluff line, or edge along the seaward face of the bluff, shall be defined as a point reached by bisecting the angle formed by a line coinciding with the general trend of the bluff line along the seaward face of the bluff, and a line coinciding with the general trend of the bluff line along the inland facing portion of the bluff.** (Emphasis added by highlight)

This is identical to the definition provided in Marin County's *Implementation Plan*, approved by the Commission on February 6, 2019. Based on these "bluff" definitions, the entire site should not be characterized as a bluff.

### Prior Commission Actions in Muir Beach

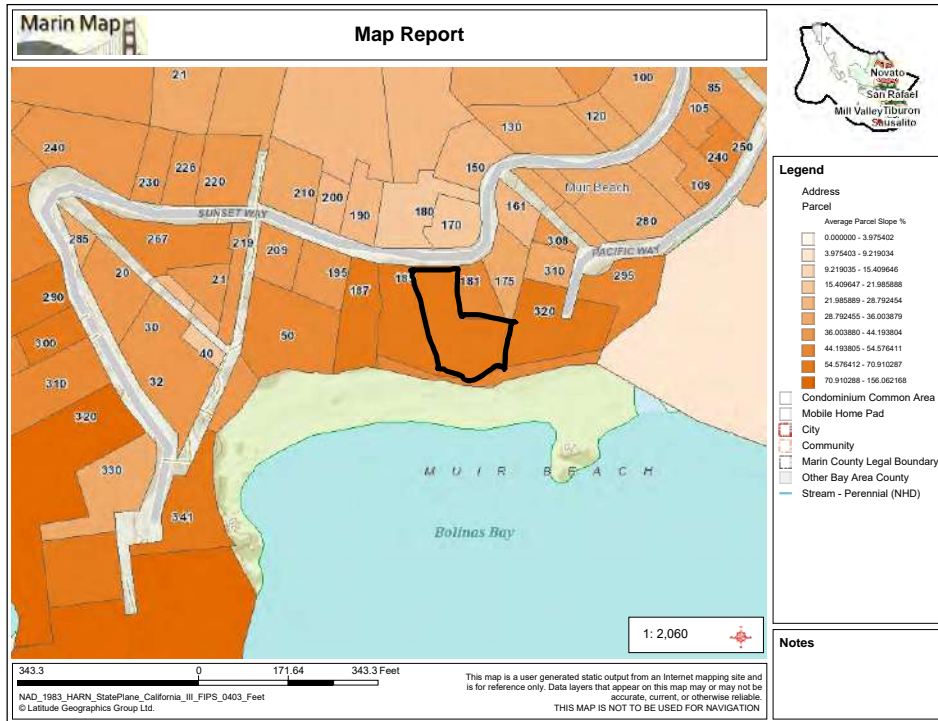
The Coastal Commission has previously approved projects on the steep slopes of Muir Beach without characterizing them as a "bluff".

- In 1977, the Commission heard an appeal of a shoreline project at 50 Cove Lane, three properties north of the site (Appeal 512-77). The site had slopes greater than 50%, with previously documented grading and landslides. The geotechnical engineer's report recommended cast-in-place reinforced concrete piers extending four feet into bedrock, except in the steep upslope area, where a concrete retaining wall was recommended. The appellant described historic bluff retreat to be a rate of 1 inch per year. The



Commission denied the appeal and issued Permit 242-77.

- The In 2009, the Commission also rejected a a Substantial Issue appeal for a residence at 9 Charlottes' Way (Appeal A-2 MAR-09-001), a site described as having slopes ranging between 50-140%.
- In 2009, the Commission also rejected a Substantial Issue appeal for a residence at 9 Ahab Way (*Appeal A-2-MAR-09-010*), a lot described as having slopes of 21-51%. The Commission also stated that appeal did not raise issues of regional or statewide significance.



183 Sunset Way is highlighted by black border

A review of the Marin Map slope analysis of Muir Beach illustrates that the 183 Sunset Way site slope is similar to other developed areas in Muir Beach, and less steep than some.

Based on the Project geotechnical engineer's field survey of slopes, the Commission's definition of "bluff", prior Commission actions on steep slopes in Muir Beach, and the prevailing nature of existing development on steep slopes in Muir Beach, it would be prejudicial to characterize the entire parcel as a bluff.

### B- 183 Sunset Way has never participated in permitting, placing, or maintaining armoring

Prior to issuance of the Substantial Issue report, Commission staff did not review existing Commission files related to shoreline armoring across 183 Sunset Way's southern boundary though the applicant requested that they do so. After Commission action on September 9, 2021, the applicant received files for the 1985 rip-rap CDP application.

After reviewing the files, they confirm that neither the current or any prior owners of 183 Sunset Way were ever party to the revetment application, which was originally associated with 185-189 Sunset Way and subsequently amended to exclude the 189 property (now 50 Cove Lane).

1985 PERMIT MONITORING  
FILE REVIEW FORM

CCC Office North Central  
File Reviewed 5/17/85  
Reviewed by Jim Raives

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:  
Muir Beach

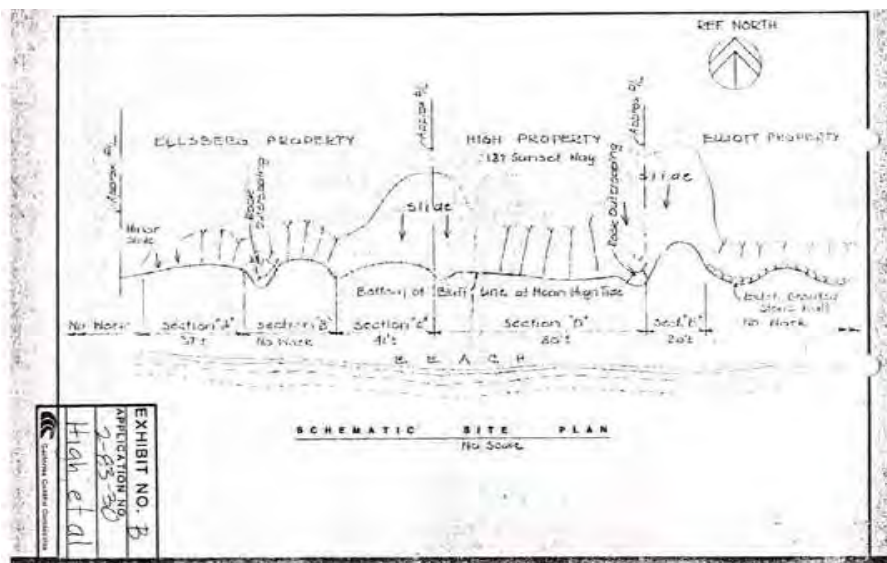
A. PERMIT NO. 2-83-30  
APPEAL NO.  
APPROVED/DENIED 11/29/83  
ISSUED

PERMIT APPLICANT High, Elliot, Ellsberg  
Last First  
PROJECT LOCATION 185-189 Sunset Way

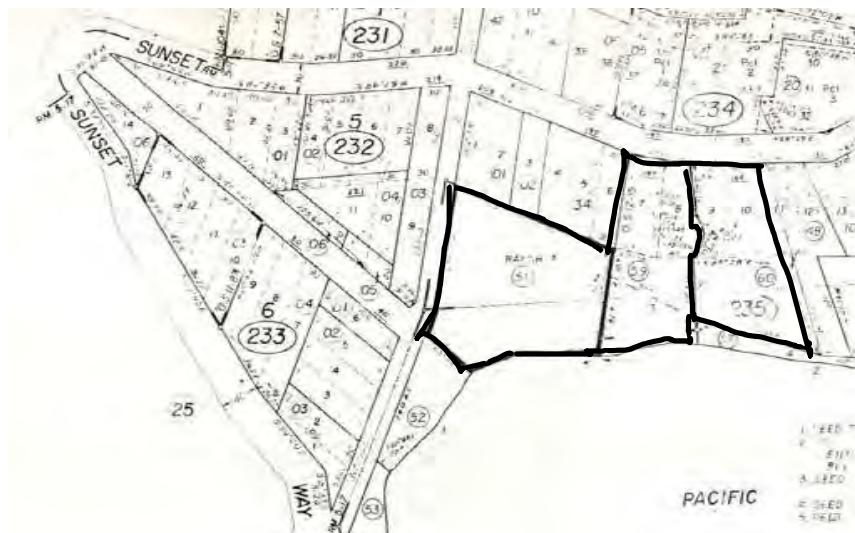
PROJECT DESCRIPTION rock revetment

APPROVED BY DATE MONITORING NO. DATE

Portion of 1985 CCC CDP application form



Portion of 1985 CCC CDP application form



Portion of 1985 CDP application form indicating which parcels were part of the original application (Outline added 11/21)

The current parcel that makes up "183 Sunset" (199-235-66) was created from the merger of 1922 bellow beach subdivision lots 199-235-47 and 199-235-48. Neither were ever apart of the shoreline armament permit (CDP 2-83-30).



The applicant does not object to future Commission actions addressing armoring on and below their property by current owners associated with its history. However, there is no nexus between the earlier permit, current enforcement issues and their CDP application for 183 Sunset Way.

**Given that no prior or current owner of 183 Sunset Way was part of the existing shoreline armoring permit and does not rely on the rip-rap for safety and stability of their development, its existence should not impede this application.**

**C- The Project does not rely on existing shoreline armoring now or in the future to provide safety and stability over the development's economic life**

Commission staff challenged the Geotechnical Engineer's estimated annual 6-inch per year bluff retreat rate because it relied on the existing shoreline armoring, inconsistent with Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30253 and not permitted by Marin's LCP.

The applicant's approved Marin County CDP application included two separate Miller Pacific engineering reviews, dated November 21, 2019 and August 20, 2021. The reports were based on available, published geologic mapping and geotechnical reference information, as well as knowledge gained during an October 16, 2019 site visit to observe existing conditions, map site geology, and evaluate geologic hazards

Miller-Pacific's August 30, 2021 letter (CCC SI Correspondence Exhibit A-3), stated that the project would be feasible from a geotechnical perspective, subject to recommendations and criteria for use in project design. Aside from one small slide mapped at the toe of the bluff in the southwestern property corner, none of the slides appeared to be the result of bluff instability, scour, or undermining. It also confirmed that rip-rap would not be necessary to provide safety and stability throughout the economic life of the development.

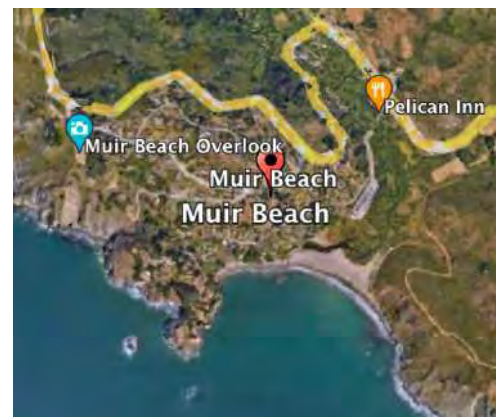
The C. J. Hapke, D. Reid and K.R. Green 2007 report entitled "*Vectorized Cliff Edge of Central California Derived from 1998/2002 Lidar Source Data*" indicated the average retreat rate at about 19.6-inches per year between Point Bonita and Tomales Point, but noted that the average was affected by high rates along some shoreline stretches. For example, the retreat rate along the south-facing cliffs of Point Reyes headlands was estimated to be 6.2 feet annually!

Miller-Pacific's revised calculation of 9.5"/ yr. was determined from images spanning the 1958-1982 period. Notably, adjacent areas in Muir Beach measured between 10-14" annual retreat over that same period, confirming that the site has a lower than average rate of retreat.



The Commission required an updated geologic and geotechnical evaluation, consistent with Ocean Protection Council (OPC) "high emissions" sea level rise standards, to demonstrate that the development can remain safe from coastal hazards for its economic lifetime without armoring.

Miller Pacific staff reviewed their prior Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports, the CCC 2018 Sea Level Rise Guidance report, and the 2018 OPC State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance document in preparing their new analysis (Attachment 4). The evaluation is based on keeping the structure 81 feet from the existing bluff edge.



*Cove's configuration reduces retreat rates.*



The revised analysis increases the estimated retreat rate from 6 inches to 9.5 inches per year, based on no effect from existing armoring. With that change, the residence would remain more than 49 feet in excess of the minimum 32 foot estimated retreat without reliance on existing or future armoring during the useful economic life of 40 years, as set forth in Marin's LCP. The septic dispersal field would be 29 feet beyond the estimated bluff retreat after 40 years, based on the OPC 2018 Sea Level Rise High Emission scenario .

**Miller Pacific Engineering concluded that the proposed development at 183 Sunset Way would be secure and stable during its anticipated economic life without the need for armoring, making it consistent with the Coastal Act Sections 30235 and 30253.**

#### **D- The Residence's Foundation Design is a normal and standard means of complying with Ca. Building Code and Coastal Act Standards**

The CCC staff report asserted, "these foundation elements are not normal and typical construction, but rather are extraordinary measures that are being used in place of an effective setback". That is not an accurate statement.

The purpose of the drilled pier foundation system is to provide adequate lateral support under seismic conditions, and also transfer building loads to weathered bedrock underlying the surface soils. Miller Pacific staff responded in their August 30, 2021 letter ( Exhibit A-3 of SI Correspondence) that the proposed foundation system is not extraordinary, but representative of typical hillside construction throughout California, especially following the widespread adoption and advancement of modern seismic design standards over the last 20 years.

In addition, setting the uphill portion of the project into the grade is necessary to stay within Marin County's maximum height requirements and is consistent with the County's Single-family Residential Design guidelines, which state on page 36, "

*Split pads, stepped footings, or pier and grade beam foundations should be used where geotechnically feasible to permit the structure to "step" to conform to the site's topography. Large single-form structures are discouraged. Buildings should be cut into the hillside to reduce effective visual bulk. Excavate underground or use below grade rooms to reduce effective bulk and to provide energy efficient and environmentally-desirable spaces.*

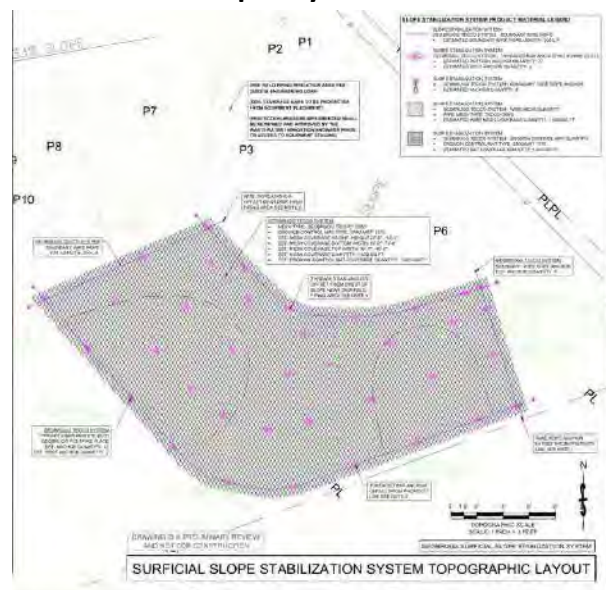
**Given subsurface geologic conditions and typical hillside foundation technologies, the design as proposed should be permitted.**

#### **E- Septic- The subsurface slope stabilization piers will not function as a shoreline protective device supporting the bluff during the 40-year useful life of the septic system**

Marin County EHS required subsurface stabilization piers to be placed 25' downslope from the septic system to prevent the failure of saturated soils during extreme weather events. The Coastal staff indicated that it considers that solution might function as a bluff protection device during the economic life of the system.

While the applicant's geotechnical engineer disputes that characterization, CSW-ST2, the wastewater engineer, has received conditional permission from Marin County EHS, to replace the piers with a heavy-duty steel mesh. This technique was approved by EHS after review with Coastal staff for a different residential Class 1 septic system in the coastal zone (22667 State Route 1, Marshall, CA.) within the past year; no appeal.

**While the applicant does not accept the characterization that the downslope soil stabilization piers constitute a shoreline protection device, they will accept a steel mesh technology previously approved in Marin's coastal zone as an alternative.**



**F- This Project does not create adverse public view or access impacts.**

A significant consequence of Coastal staff not visiting the site prior to preparing its Substantial Issue recommendation is the assertion that the Project would impact the scenic and visual qualities of the coast and public access along it. The Project is located on an infill site within the nearly built-out Muir Beach community. It is fronted on the shoreline side by a large stand of trees that will remain, further reducing visual impact when viewed from below.



What little may be seen when viewing the site from nearby public locations will be integral with the well-established pattern of the Muir Beach community.



Shoreline access is not impeded in any way by the development. Currently, daily tides limit access to the portion of the shore known as Little Beach. At high tides, visitors traverse a route across the rocks on a parcel owned by others, lying between the Project site and the beach.

**There is no basis to assert impacts to coastal views or access.**

End of Attachment 1





## ATTACHMENT 2

### Appeal Reasons identified in the Commissioner Appeal Form

Exhibit 5 of September 9, 2021 Staff report

#### Appeal Reasons

Marin County approved a coastal permit to construct a new 2,160 square-foot single family residence, 430 square-foot garage, 369 square-foot storage structure, septic system, and related residential development, all on steep bluffs and all fronted by new proposed shoreline armoring, as well as existing unpermitted armoring seaward of that, at 183 Sunset Way in Muir Beach in Marin County. The County's approval raises issues of consistency with LCP provisions related to development on steep bluffs along an eroding shoreline above the beach.

Specifically, the LCP requires that new development be set back from coastal blufftop edges a sufficient distance to ensure that such development is safe, stable, and won't be threatened by coastal hazards within its expected economic lifetime, and such setbacks are required to be of a sufficient distance to eliminate the need for shoreline armoring, all as measured over at least the development's expected economic life. In addition, the LCP has additional mitigation measure requirements in steep slope/landslide areas such as this.

In this case, the County identified a blufftop edge that appears to actually be a position on the bluff face, and measured setbacks from that point. However, it is not clear that the 'edge' is anything more than a point on the face of the bluff, including as the entire site appears to extend from Sunset Way down to the beach at a roughly 45 degree angle, and thus all of the proposed development may actually be seaward of the blufftop edge here. In addition, the project includes a substantial foundation system (carving the new structures into the bluff), as well as new armoring and a reliance on unpermitted armoring, to establish safety and stability for the development over time.

None of this appears to be LCP consistent, and raises concerns about LCP conformance as it relates to coastal hazards, landform alteration, public views, public access, and related shoreline and beach area coastal resources. These issues and concerns warrant further Commission review and deliberations.

## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### **CCC staff report- Additional Coastal Act Consistency Issues**

#### **Summary of Appeal Contentions- p. 9 of SI staff report**

The appeal contends that the County-approved project raises questions of consistency with the Marin County LCP and the public access policies of the Coastal Act related to coastal hazards, related shoreline and beach area coastal resource protections, public access, landform alteration, and visual resources. Specifically, the appeal contends that the approved development appears to be located seaward of the blufftop edge, to be partially below grade and set into the bluff itself via a significant foundation system, and to rely on shoreline armoring for safety and stability, all of which leads to coastal resource issues and concerns associated with beaches, bluffs, and public views. For all of these reasons, the appeal suggests that the Commission needs to further evaluate these issues to ensure LCP and Coastal Act conformance. See full appeal contentions in **Exhibit 5**.

## ATTACHMENT 4

Miller-Pacific Engineering's letter confirming development will not require armoring during its economic life based on OPC "High Emissions" Sea Level Rise estimates



November 23, 2021 File: 2944.001eltr.doc

Mr. Graham Groneman  
c/o CivicKnit  
P.O. Box 81  
Forest Knolls, California 94933

Attn: Mr. Steve Kinsey

Re: Updated Bluff Retreat Rate Evaluation  
183 Sunset Way (APN 199-235-47 and -48) Muir Beach, California

### Introduction

As requested following our recent communication, this letter summarizes our geotechnical response to issues raised by California Coastal Commission staff in regards to your proposed residential development at 183 Sunset Way in Muir Beach, California.

### Project Background

The proposed project generally includes construction of a new multi-story residence on a steep slope below Sunset Way. A new drip-type septic system is planned downslope of the residence for wastewater treatment and dispersal.

We previously performed a Geotechnical Investigation and provided design recommendations and criteria in our report dated August 20, 2020. Subsequently, we clarified our bluff retreat analysis and reviewed several iterations of project plans as summarized in letters dated June 30 and July 1, 2021. Following County approval of the project and CCC "Substantial Issue" determination, we provided further clarification and response to comments in support of your appeal (Appeal A-2-MAR-210048).



The purpose of this letter is to summarize supplemental/updated geologic analysis for calculation of bluff retreat rates absent existing rip-rap armoring in accordance with current applicable Coastal Act and Local Coastal Program (LCP) policies.

#### Bluff Retreat Rate Calculation

Our previous Investigation report summarized our review of literature, historic data, and historic aerial photographs that was utilized to determine historic retreat rates. As summarized therein, an average historic retreat rate of about 7.2-inches per year is likely skewed by the placement of rip-rap armoring at the toe of the slope in 1986.

In order to evaluate bluff retreat at the site under exposure to natural, un-armored conditions, we reviewed historic aerial photographs from 1958 and 1982, supplied by Photoscience of Emeryville, California. Each photograph was scaled and geo-located to allow accurate location and measurement of observed features. Figures 1 and 2 show the interpreted bluff edge location in 1958 and 1982, respectively. Based on these locations, we measured total retreat of between 8- and 30-feet at varying points along the shoreline, for an average total retreat of 19- feet. Over a time period spanning 24 years, this equates to an annual average (un-armored) retreat rate of 9.5-inches per year. Notably, this is relatively consistent with measurements taken from adjacent areas as discussed in our previous Investigation.

**RETREAT RATE** 24 years/19-feet = 0.79-feet = **9.5-inches/year**

Therefore, for a 40-year design life, we recommend a minimum setback for new structures of

32-feet from the edge of the bluff.

**SETBACK** 40 years X 9.5-inches/year = 380 inches = **32-feet**

#### Sea Level Rise Consideration

We have considered future Sea Level Rise (SLR) estimates developed by the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) as required by the Coastal Act. As documented in OPC's 2018 State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance document, and conservatively assuming "high emissions" scenarios continue through 2060, there is a 3% chance that SLR will meet or exceed 2-feet by 2060, and a 0.2% chance that SLR meets or exceeds 3-feet. Given that the lower 15- to 20-vertical feet of the bluff face is underlain by similar Franciscan bedrock, we do not anticipate SLR will have any substantial effect on bluff retreat rates or overall stability. We trust that this letter presents the information you require at this time. Should there be any questions or concerns regarding our review, please do not hesitate to contact us.

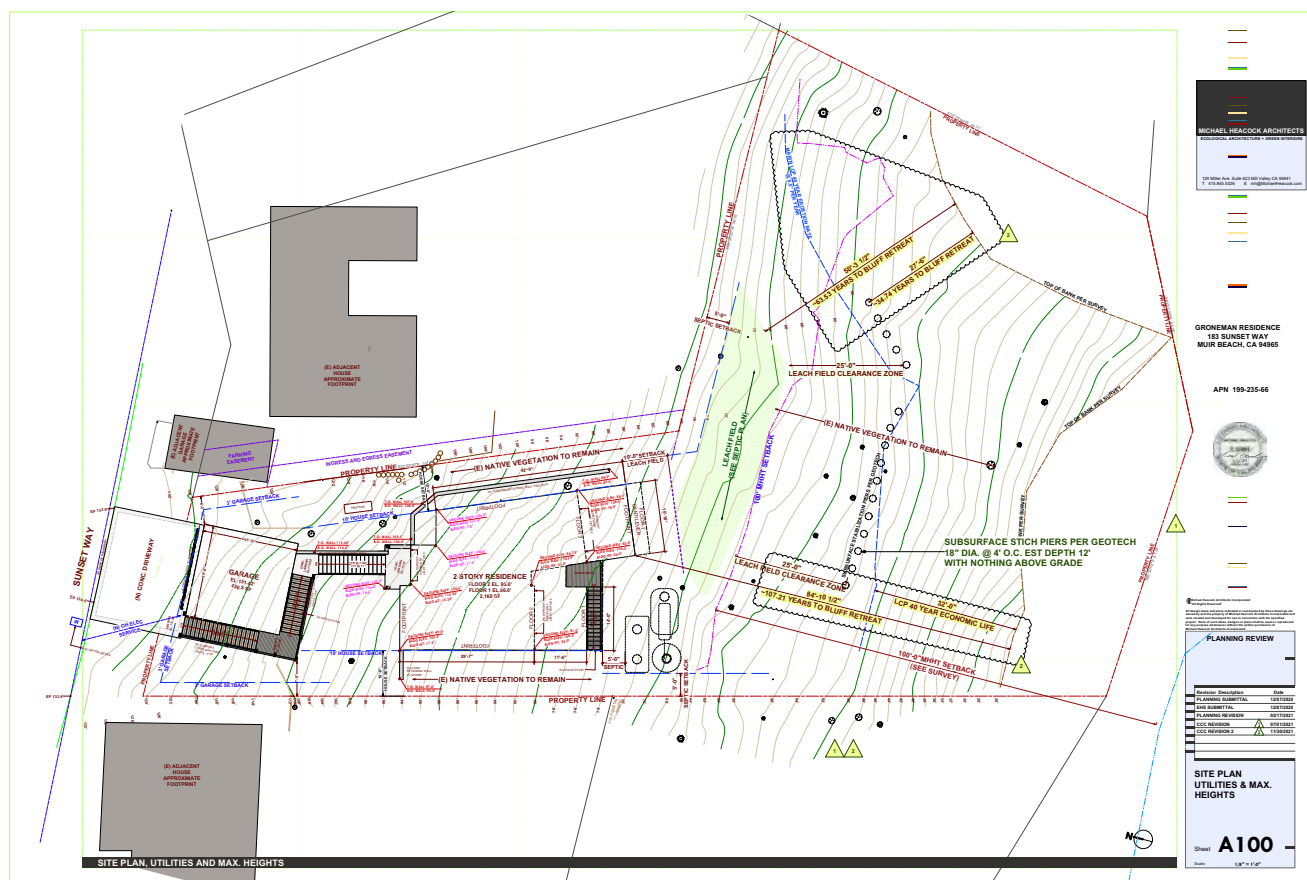
Very truly yours,  
MILLER PACIFIC ENGINEERING GROUP

Mike Jewett  
Engineering Geologist No. 2610 (Expires 1/31/21)



## ATTACHMENT 5

Architect's revised Site Plan showing Miller-Pacific's revised Bluff Retreat estimate



End of Document





**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 228  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219  
VOICE (415) 904-5200  
FAX (415) 904-5400



January 19, 2023

**BLUFF EDGE MEMORANDUM**

To: Honora Montano, Coastal Program Analyst

From: Joseph Street, Ph.D., P.G., Staff Geologist

Re: 183 Sunset Way, Muir Beach (Groneman Property),  
Appeal No. A-2-MAR-21-0048

The purpose of this memorandum is to evaluate the position of the bluff edge, as defined by the Marin County Local Coastal Program (LCP) and the Coastal Commission's regulations (Cal. Code Reg. Title 14, §13577(h)), on the subject property. To this end, I have reviewed the following documents provided by the applicant:

- 1) Miller Pacific Engineering Group, 2019, "Geologic and Geotechnical Feasibility Evaluation, Proposed Residential Development, 183 Sunset Way (APN 199-235-47 and -48), Muir Beach, California", dated November 21, 2019, signed by M. Jewett and S. Stephens.
- 2) Miller Pacific Engineering Group, 2020, "Geotechnical Investigation, New Single-Family Residence and Associated Improvements, 183 Sunset Way (APN 199-235-47 and -48), Muir Beach, California", dated August 20, 2020, signed by M. Jewett and S. Stephens.
- 3) Miller Pacific Engineering Group, 2021, "Response to California Coastal Commission Staff Report, Substantial Issue Determination, Appeal Number A-2-MAR-21-0048, 183 Sunset Way (APN 199-235-47 and -48), Muir Beach, California", dated August 20, 2020, signed by M. Jewett and S. Stephens.

I have also consulted oblique aerial photographs of the site provided by the California Coastal Records Project (<https://www.californiacoastline.org>) and topographic contour and slope data provided by Marin County (<https://gis.marinpublic.com/arcgis/rest/services;https://www.marinmap.org/dnn/DataServices/2019LIDAROrthos.aspx>). In addition, I visited the beach below the property on August 22, 2022.

**Site Description**

As described in Refs. (1 – 3) and shown in **Figs. 1 and 2** (attached), the subject property consists of a relatively steep, south-facing slope on the seaward side of Sunset Way, in the community of Muir Beach. The slope rises from beach level to an elevation of approximately +130 ft above mean sea level (MSL) at the road. The slope is composed primarily of Franciscan Complex "mélange", including blocks of relatively resistant graywacke sandstone embedded in a highly sheared and weathered, relatively weak shale and sandstone matrix. Both rock types are exposed at the toe of the slope. The Franciscan bedrock is overlain by a 4- to 7-foot thick layer of colluvial soils and, on the

**A-2-MAR-21-0048**

**Exhibit 8**

**Page 1 of 7**

upper slope, sandy fill likely placed during the construction of Sunset Way. Notably, the geologic investigations (Refs. 1, 2) identified the scar and debris pile of a 60-ft wide, 100-ft long shallow landslide in the central part of the slope, at least one smaller slide farther down the slope and evidence of surficial erosion due to runoff.

As shown in cross-section (**Figs. 2, 4**), the upper bluff slope is inclined at approximately 2:1 (horizontal:vertical, h:v), or about 25° - 30°, with local variations. Marine erosion at the base of the bluff has resulted in steeper slopes, ranging from about 1:1 (h:v, ~45°) to near vertical in places. Much of the lower bluff face on the property has been protected with riprap and a constructed “tidepool” seawall. Above Sunset Way the slope becomes more gentle, with an average slope of about 6:1 (h:v), or 10°.

## **Bluff Edge Definition**

The certified Marin County LCP defines “bluff edge” as follows:

**Bluff Edge.** The upper termination of a bluff, cliff, or sea cliff. In cases where the top edge of the bluff is rounded away from the face of the bluff as a result of erosional processes related to the presence of the steep bluff face, the bluff line or edge shall be defined as that point nearest the bluff beyond which the downward gradient of the surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the bluff. In a case where there is a steplike feature at the top of the bluff face, the landward edge of the topmost riser shall be taken to be the bluff edge ... Bluff edges typically retreat landward due to coastal erosion, landslides, development of gullies, or by grading (cut). In areas where the bluff top or bluff face has been cut or notched by grading, the bluff edge shall be the landward most position of either the current or historic bluff edge. In areas where fill has been placed near or over the historic bluff edge, the original natural bluff edge, even if buried beneath fill, shall be taken to be the bluff edge. (**LCP IP Definitions, page 146**)

The LCP definition follows the definition contained in the Coastal Commission’s regulations (Cal. Code Reg. Title 14, §13577(h)), but includes additional language providing direction on how to treat anthropogenic landform modifications (i.e., cut and fill) when determining the bluff edge. In addition to defining the bluff edge, Section 13577(h) also provides a definition of a “coastal bluff”:

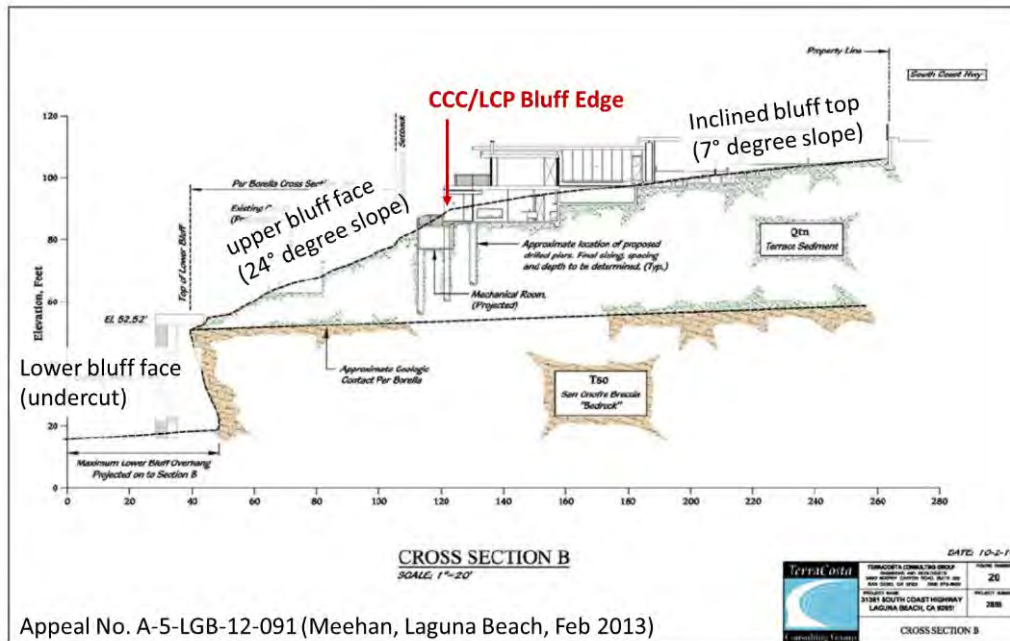
... Coastal bluff shall mean:

- (1) those bluffs, the toe of which is now or was historically (generally within the last 200 years) subject to marine erosion; and
- (2) those bluffs, the toe of which is not now or was not historically subject to marine erosion, but the toe of which lies within an area otherwise identified in Public Resources Code Section 30603(a)(1) or (a)(2).<sup>1</sup>

The toe of the bluff at the subject site experiences active marine erosion and terminates direct on a beach, and thus clearly qualifies as a coastal bluff. However, it is important to emphasize that the Commission defines a coastal bluff not exclusively based on the presence of marine erosion, but also based on a landform’s proximity to the coast and/or to important coastal resources. The delineation of the coastal bluff edge is pertinent not only to geologic hazards concerns but also to the potential for development to affect other protected resources, including visual/scenic quality, coastal landforms, and sensitive habitats.

---

<sup>1</sup> Areas identified in Coastal Act Section 30603(a)(1) and (2) include those within 300 feet of a beach or the mean high tide line, within 100 feet of a wetland, estuary or stream, etc.



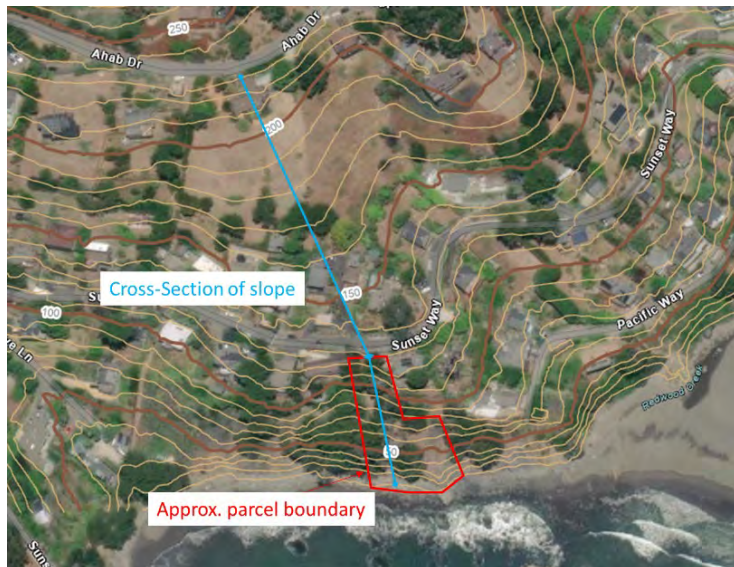
**Figure 3:** Cross-section of a composite coastal bluff with steep lower sea cliff (composed of resistant rock) and more gently-sloping upper bluff (composed of terrace deposits).

In numerous previous determinations, the Commission has interpreted the Section 13577(h) and similar definitions in LCPs to mean that a coastal bluff encompasses the entire slope between an upland area and the beach or shore, not just the steepest portion of the slope or the part of the slope experiencing marine erosion. Many coastal bluffs consist of a steep lower bluff, or sea cliff, where marine erosion is occurring, as well as a more gently sloping upper bluff where subaerial erosion processes also contribute to the bluff profile. An example of one such coastal bluff is shown in **Fig. 3**, above. The location of the Commission-determined bluff edge is indicated at the top of the upper bluff slope. In this example, at a location where the bluff top itself is inclined, the bluff edge is the point beyond which the downward gradient exceeds the general gradient of the bluff top.

### Bluff Edge Determination & Discussion

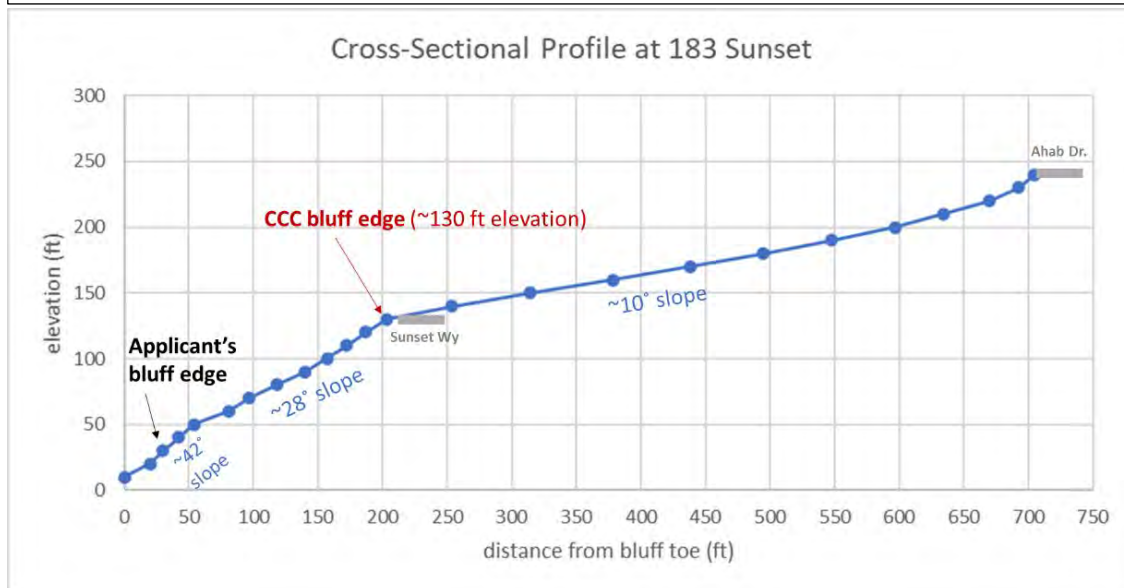
At the subject site, applying the LCP and Commission bluff edge definitions is complicated by the nature of the coastal landform. The project site is located on an arm of the coastal mountains where it intersects the coast, and lacks the level “bluff top” (often an uplifted marine terrace) characteristic of many coastal locations. Nonetheless, as shown in **Figs. 4** and **5** (below), the inclination of the local landform increases substantially moving seaward across the site, with a major change in slope (“slope break”) occurring just seaward of Sunset Way.





**Figure 4** (left). Aerial image of project area with topographic contours. Contour spacing decreases seaward of Sunset Wy., indicating steeper slopes.  
(Source: <https://gis.marinpublic.com/arcgis/rest/services>)

**Figure 5** (below): Cross-sectional profile of the coastal bluff at the project site based on topographic contours shown in Fig. 4.

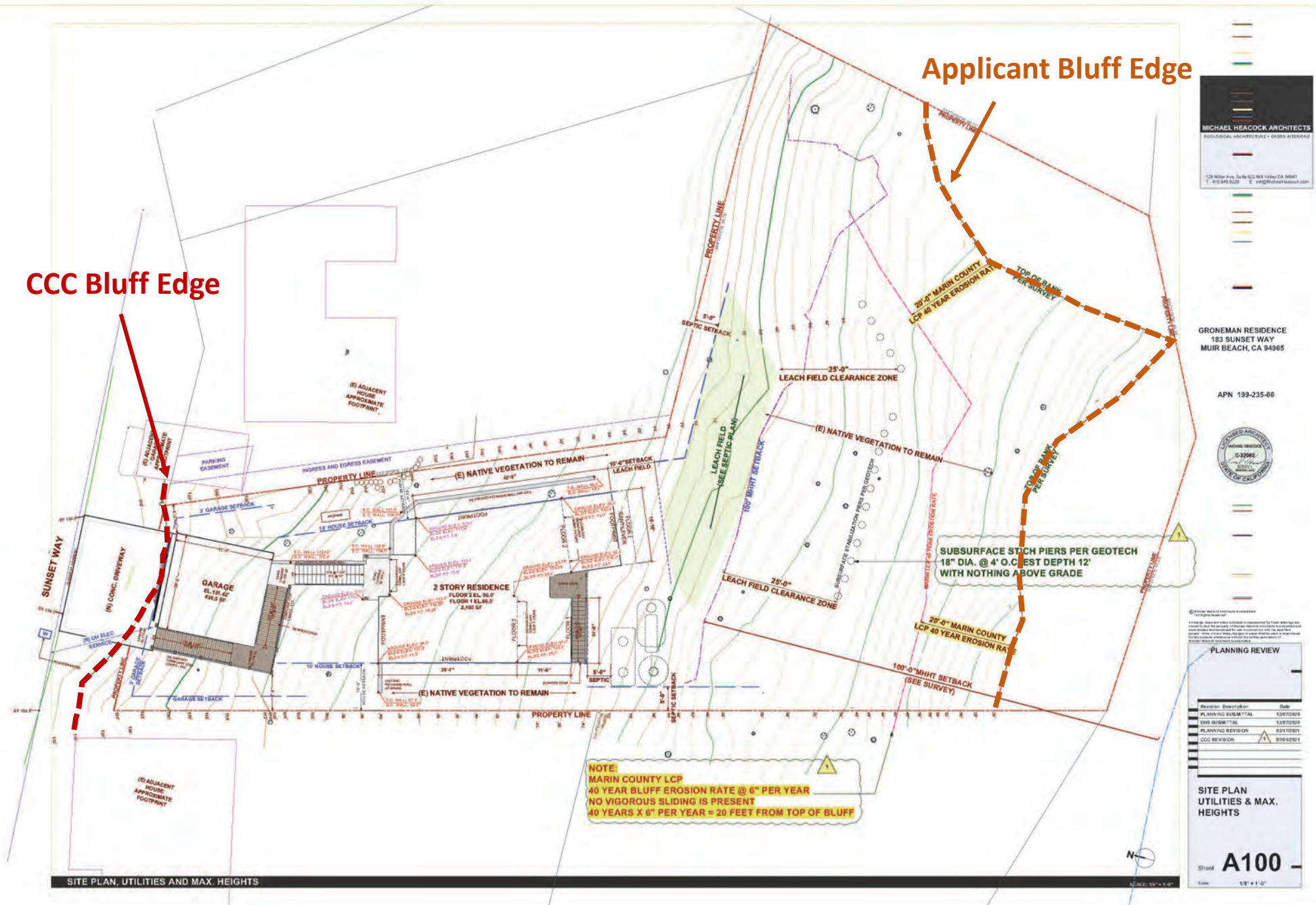


The applicant's geologic reports (Refs. 1, 2) identify the bluff edge as the top of the steep lower portion of the bluff, at elevations ranging from +26 – 34 ft MSL across most of the site and increasing to +56 ft MSL on the southeastern flank (**Figs. 1, 2**). This bluff edge line appears to correspond to an erosional scarp associated with recent marine erosion of the bluff toe, and as such is important for the evaluation of potential bluff retreat over the life of the proposed project. However, the applicant's bluff edge delineation does not account for the long upper bluff slope that comprises most of the property (the upper ~100 feet of elevation), nor its relatively steep inclination (~2:1 h:v), which, beginning just seaward of Sunset Way, significantly exceeds that of the gentler slope inland of the road (~6:1 h:v). In the context of the larger local landform, there is a *second* significant slope break, inland and uphill of the applicant's bluff edge line, that represents the point "beyond which the downward gradient of the surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the cliff", per the Commission and County bluff edge definitions. In my judgement, this upper slope break, at approximately +132 ft elevation,

best represents the bluff edge as defined in Section 13577(h) of the Commission's regulations. Applying the LCP bluff edge definition, the bluff edge determination also should account for prior grading and discount any fill that has been placed near or over historic/natural bluff edge. According to Ref. (1), several feet of fill was placed along the downslope edge of Sunset Way, and it is likely that the grading of the road also altered the natural topography at or near the original bluff edge. Without knowing the exact landform modifications that took place, it is difficult to identify the "original" or "natural" bluff edge, and I recommend the use of the existing 132 ft elevation contour, as shown in the applicant's site plan, as the bluff edge reflecting current topography.

As laid out in the LCP and Section 13577(h), the topographic criterion I have used to define the bluff edge ("that point nearest the cliff beyond which the downward gradient of the surface increases more or less continuously until it reaches the general gradient of the cliff") is to apply in cases where the bluff edge is "rounded away from the face of the cliff as a result of erosional processes related to the presence of the steep cliff face". The bluff profile at the subject site lacks a single, abrupt transition point from a relatively level surface to a steep cliff face; rather, the transition occurs gradually, through several smaller changes in slope. This condition is consistent with a bluff edge that is "rounded away" from the cliff face. Moreover, the relatively steep gradient of the slope below Sunset Way appears to be maintained by a combination of marine (wave attack at the bluff toe) and subaerial erosion processes (landsliding, surface water flow, etc.). Based on the site observations of Refs. (1) and (2) and my own site visit, erosion at the bluff toe appears to have triggered several modest slides and surficial failures on the lower portion of the upper slope, and it is likely similar or larger slope erosion events triggered by marine erosion have occurred in the past. In my estimation, the relatively steep upper bluff slope occupied by the subject property has likely been shaped by recurrent shallow landslides over time, and is the result, at least partially, of erosional processes related to the presence of the steeper portion of the lower bluff.

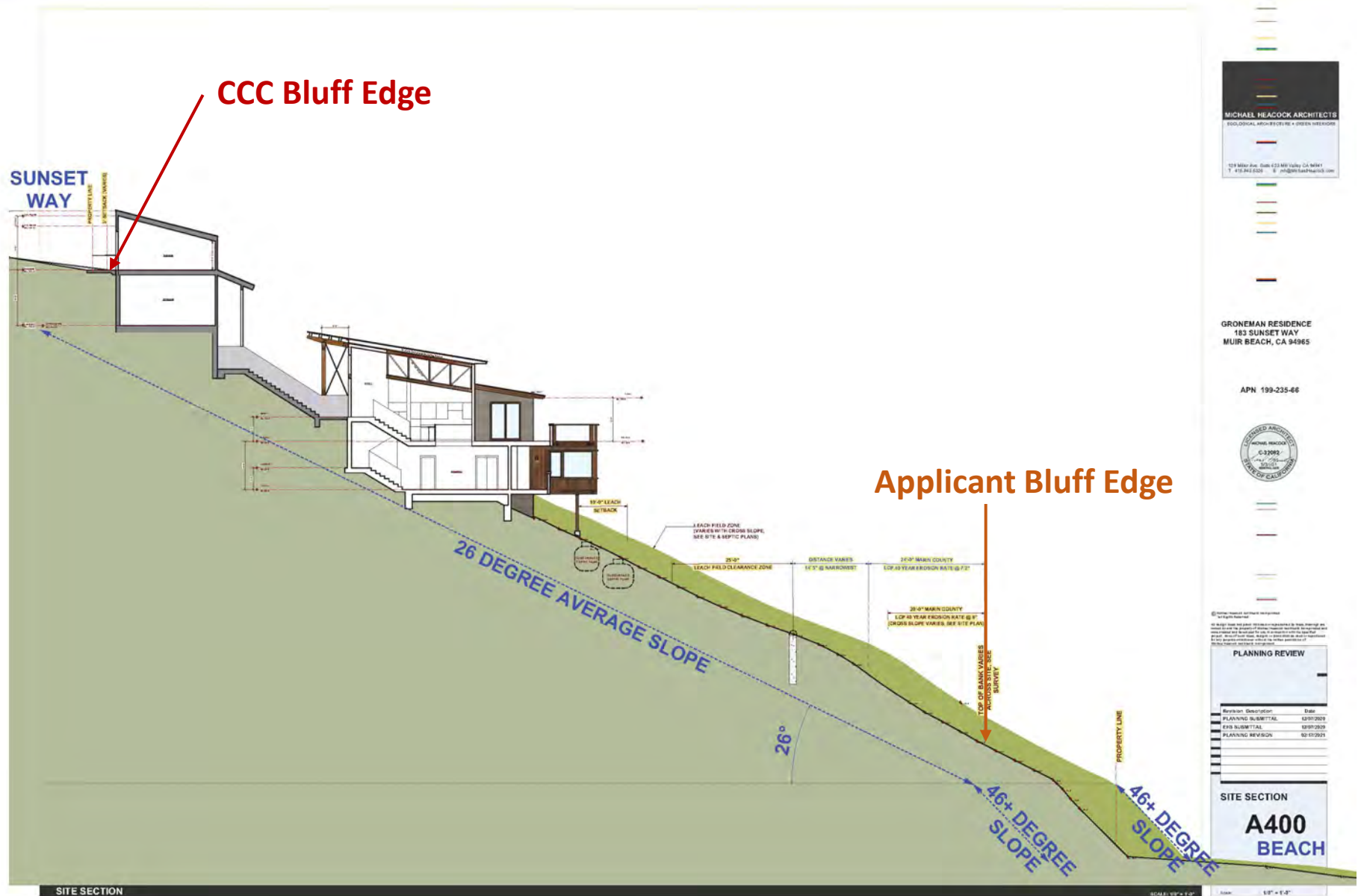
Figure 1 – Site Plan with Bluff Edges



(modified from Micheal Heacock Architects, 2021)



Figure 2 – Site Cross-section with Bluff Edges



(modified from Micheal Heacock Architects, 2021)

A-2-MAR-21-0048

Exhibit 8

Page 7 of 7