

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

KING GILLETTE RANCH
26800 MULHOLLAND HIGHWAY
CALABASAS, CA 91302
PHONE (310) 589-3200
FAX (323) 221-9001
WWW.SMMC.CA.GOV



Sent by Email to Sam.Schuchat@scc.ca.gov

May 28, 2021

Chairman Doug Bosco
Members of the Conservancy
California State Coastal Conservancy
1515 Clay Street, 10th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's
Carbon-La Costa Property, Malibu**

Dear Chair Bosco and Conservancy Members:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) offers the following facts in response to erroneous public comment to the Coastal Conservancy at its May 27, 2021 public meeting and by email alleging that the SMMC's removal of an unpermitted fence from its property contributes to a public safety problem along this portion of the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), Malibu.

Fencing Is Not A Public Safety Recommendation in Any PCH Safety Studies: There is no correlation between the fence and highway safety in any of the currently available PCH safety studies. See *City of Malibu and CalTrans' PCH Safety Study*, approved by the City in 2015 which cites no fatalities and one injury collision within its 1/3rd mile study range for this section of the PCH and does not recommend any safety improvements on the oceanside of this stretch of the PCH; see also *(2014-2017) Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS) UC Berkeley*. From 2012-2017, the data shows no fatalities and few injuries along this section of the PCH as compared to the rest of the 21-mile PCH (13 v 481 injury collisions). Collisions that occur along this stretch of the PCH are attributed to the many residential garages (1st type of collision is rear-ending).

Signalized PCH Crosswalk Implemented in 2020 and Site Deemed Safe for Two Metro Bus Stops: There are two Metro Bus Stops, a signalized PCH crosswalk 700 feet upcoast and a signalized PCH crosswalk 1600 feet downcoast. The latter crosswalk is in front of the private La Costa Beach Club; it was installed *after* the December 2019 Malibu Coastal Access Public Works Plan (PWP) Initial Study to implement the *City of Malibu/CalTrans'*

PCH Safety Study for a PCH crosswalk between Rambla Pacifico East and Rambla Pacifico West.

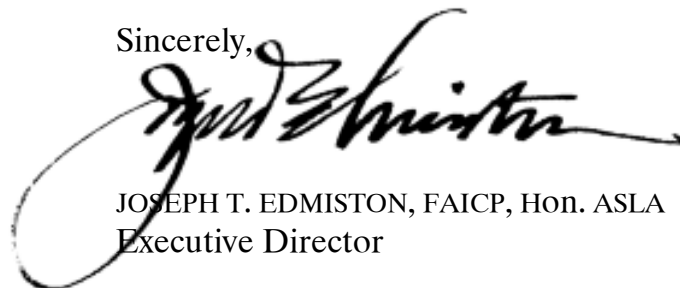
Pre-existing Fence Protected Private Property Not Public Safety: There is absolutely no evidence in the record that the pre-existing fence installed by the previous private property owner was installed as a safety measure for PCH conditions. The pre-existing fence likely was installed by the private property owner to secure the private property premises.

Pre-existing Fence Remained Until Implementation of Public Access Improvements and Not For Public Safety: Despite public ownership, the Coastal Conservancy and SMMC did not remove the pre-existing fencing, anticipating implementation of public access improvements in the Malibu Coastal Access PWP.

CALTRANS Did Not Install Pre-Existing Fence and Fence Not on CALTRANS' Property: In SMMC's communications with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), CALTRANS states it did not install the pre-existing fence and confirms the fence was not on its property.

2019 PWP Initial Study Recommends EIR to Analyze *Potential* Transportation Impact for 17-Site Project: The Initial Study does not state that there is a potentially significant impact on traffic safety at this location. It states that there is the potential for the PWP's 17-different public access sites to have a possible adverse impact on transportation and therefore recommends that an EIR be developed to analyze that potential transportation impact. Initial studies are used to assist a public agency and the public in general in the analysis of what type of environmental document is appropriate for the proposed project. See 14 CCR section 15365. The PWP Initial Study concludes that because there may be a potential environmental effect in the area of transportation from the proposed 17 site-project, an EIR is the appropriate environmental document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Edmiston", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title of the signatory.

JOSEPH T. EDMISTON, FAICP, Hon. ASLA
Executive Director