From: Helen Bryce [mailto:helen.s.bryce@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 1:02 PM To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Montery Avenue Park Proposed Skating Facility Draft EIR Comments

January 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Grunow, I am writing today to comment on the draft EIR for the proposed development of a 6000+ square foot skate boarding facility in Monterey Avenue Park.

I have numerous concerns about both the proposed skate park at the Monterey Avenue location and, in particular, about the inadequacy of the draft EIR.

I would also like to preface my comments by stating that the City of Capitola is in dire need of a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan process that would create sustainable parks, recreation facilities, and services throughout Capitola. The current draft EIR for the proposed skate park clearly demonstrates incredible shortcomings in the management of Capitola's extremely limited park space and a lack of overview with best-use practices in mind. The City Staff is, of course, instructed by the City Council. It is the City Council, therefore, that must rise to the occasion and provide direction for a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan process which would ensure a healthy and livable future in Capitola. This proposed project, by the way, utterly fails in those regards.

6-1 Please find attached the New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992). I bring this document to your attention for several reasons.

First, it describes Escalona Gulch. The Escalona Gulch Watershed is a 57 acre watershed (according the the New Brighton State Beach General Plan prepared by State of California - The Resources Agency Department of Parks and Recreation, May 1990, revised April 1992). Only 1.4 acres of this watershed are within New Brighton State Beach boundaries; the rest is within the City of Capitola. This watershed encompasses, among other things, Monterey Avenue Park in Capitola (700 Monterey Avenue).

Escalona Gulch itself is a valley described by the US Geographical Survey. The head of Escalona Gulch is at approximately 36-58.988N, 121-56.5158W, which it in the vicinity of Capitola Knolls. Just west of Shorelife Community Church (875 Monterey Avenue), the USGS 2015 topography map places the head of an intermittent stream at approximately 36-58.939N,121-56.630W. This stream, which I will refer to as Escalona Gulch Stream, flows slightly southwest. It crosses Monterey Avenue and parts of Elinor Avenue and Junipero Court before it traverses Monterey Avenue Park. Residents on Junipero Court identify a "spring" on their property.

Escalona Gulch Stream turns slightly south-east at Park Avenue. It then flows adjacent to the protected area of the endangered Monarch Butterfly site. The walls of Escalona Gulch become steeper in this area. Escalona Gulch Stream is above ground in this area, an important source of water for endangered Monarch Butterflies. Escalona Gulch Stream ends (its mouth) at approximately 36-58.548N, 121-56.581W, where it enters Soquel Cove. Please see attached maps "Escalona Gulch" and "Esc Gulch 2".

Escalona Gulch Stream north of Park Avenue, at this time, appears to me to be, in large part, currently underground, just as is the stream that runs through Noble Gulch. Before the City of Capitola placed a culvert along the Orchid Avenue side of Monterey Avenue Park, surface water was visible within the park boundaries. The water table in Monterey Avenue Park is high, and often the ground is marshy.

As an intermittent stream that runs through a protected Monarch Butterfly habitat, Escalona Gulch Steam deserves attention and discussion. The draft EIR does not address the Escalona Gulch Watershed. It must be remedied.

The Escalona Gulch Watershed is an important component of our water system. And, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), intermittent streams are an important part of groundwater recharge.

I am concerned that removal of the permeable ground in Monterey Avenue Park will damage the groundwater supply. I am also concerned that the project will compromise the quality of the groundwater. I am concerned that use of the skateboard facility will have long term negative impacts on the watershed.

Negative impacts on the water in Monterey Avenue Park would also negatively impact local wildlife, particularly the salamanders and frogs living in the park. In addition, damage to Escalona Gulch Stream could be disastrous to endangered Monarch Butterflies at the Escalona Gulch Butterfly habitat.

How will you determine the possible impacts of the proposed development on groundwater in the Escalona Gulch Watershed, on Escalona Gulch Stream itself, and on the wildlife (particularly endangered Monarch Butterflies), served by Escalona Gulch Stream? I believe there needs to be a comprehensive study of the water table in Monterey Avenue Park and the Escalona Gulch Watershed -- and a survey of plants and animals in the riparian area.

The New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992) is useful in pointing out other shortcomings of the draft EIR of the proposed skate park at the Monterey Avenue Park. The New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992) mentions many of the plant and animal species that inhabit New Brighton State Beach. The draft EIR in questions mentions no plants or animals living in Monterey Avenue Park and does not address disruption to their habitat. This is a glaring omission.

6-2 Many birds - from tiny hummingbirds to large falcons - reside in Monterey Avenue Park, along with a vast array of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. These plants and animals are important to our ecosystem. They are also important to the enjoyment of Monterey Avenue Park, and they must be be given appropriate consideration.

Monterey Avenue Park a designated birding site. Numerous types of birds live in and visit Monterey Avenue Park, from tiny hummingbirds to hawks and falcons. Recent studies show that noise causes an overall decline in species richness. Noise has very detrimental effects on wildlife, including disrupting breeding and feeding. Birds who eat insects or small mammals, such as endangered peregrine falcons, red shouldered hawks, and red tailed hawks, are more sensitive to noise than birds who eat seeds and plants (since birds use acoustic cues when they're hunting), but all birds are at risk. The draft EIR fails to

take these issues into consideration. Please consult with our local famous bird expert UCSC Professor Emeritus Dr. Todd Newberry.

6-3 I am very concerned to read the draft EIR makes mention of the possibility of removing the eucalyptus grove and the mature redwoods.

This is an utterly horrible idea. This is a terrible idea. Removing the trees would not actually improve visibility because the skating features are below ground.

Again, I'd like to refer you to the New Brighton State Beach General Plan, May 1990 (revised April 1992). This plan mentions that eucalyptus trees are non-native, yet understands the tees' importance to wildlife and the environment -- opting to not remove eucalyptus trees.

The eucalyptus grove and the mature redwoods are extremely important to the wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park, particularly the birds that need to hunt from heights, such as endangered peregrine falcons, red shouldered hawks, and red tailed hawks. These trees are also important feature of the scenic scape of Monterey Avenue Park. In addition to making Monterey Avenue Park visually attractive, they provide shade, cooling, homes for wildlife, and a popular gathering place in Monterey Avenue Park.

The trees are an important feature of Monterey Avenue Park, for people. They are clearly important to the students at New Brighton Middle School and the children who live in the neighborhood. We know that the grove is a place where children gather and socialize, families take photos, especially at graduation, and children do a little climbing. We know that the Special Ed students on the NBMS campus especially enjoy the grove as a safe and beautiful location during the school day. These trees are very beloved by residents and visitors alike. Clearly, people who live in the vicinity of the trees were not consulted in the compiling of the draft EIR.

Monterey Avenue Park is a very important green space in a city that already has a shortage of green space. Study after study after study demonstrates that having access to natural features -- especially TREES & grass -- improves learning, self-esteem, and sociability.

Students who can see and visit trees are calmer, better able to concentrate, and make more appropriate choices. I have attached one recent study: "Exposure to nature linked to stronger communities and reduced crime (December 2015)."

We also know that the trees provide shade and cooling for the school district office.

6-4 I believe that the cumulative effects of the proposed development are obvious. Noise from multiple sources (skating, people, boom boxes, announcements, traffic) will exponentially increase the damage caused by noise to both people and wildlife.

Increased noise, traffic, and parking problems will accumulate and compound the stress of people in the area impacted by the proposed development, especially considering another skate park is 1200 yards nearby.

The dangers to the wildlife in the park are also disturbing -- and the potential impacts on at least two endangered species (peregrines and Monarchs) cannot be ignored).

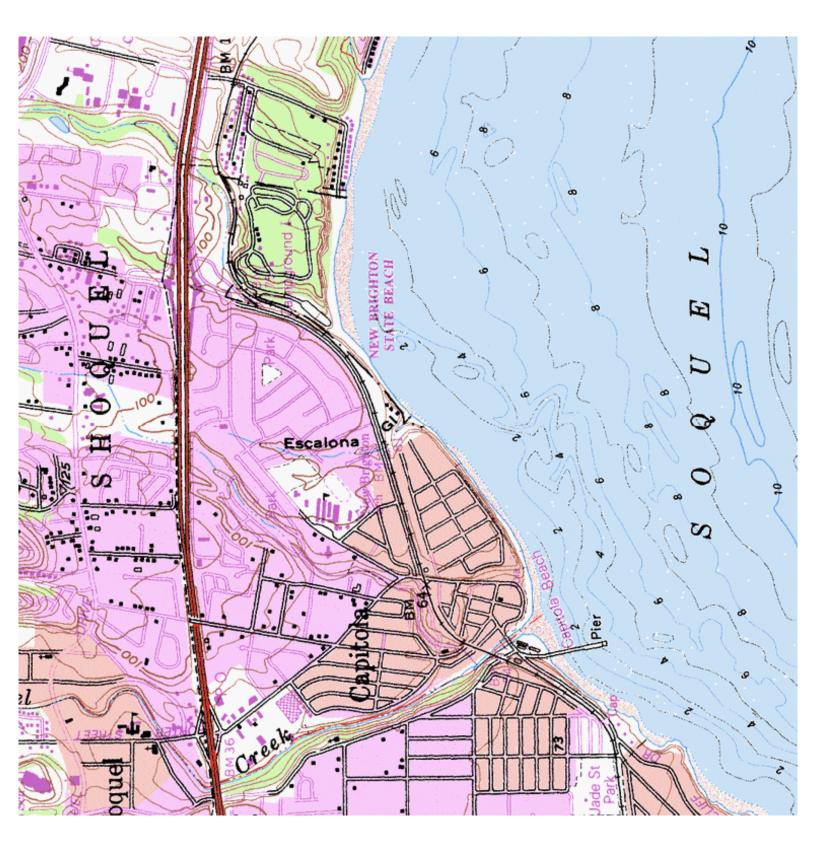
The Escalona Gulch Watershed is also at risk. Damage to the watershed could have far-reaching consequences.

Decreased quality of life, and poorer health, for everyone living, going to school, and working (such as school staff / teachers) in neighborhood is the obvious outcome of the proposed development.

Thank you very much for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely Yours, Helen Bryce Orchid Avenue Capitola CA





Exposure to nature linked to stronger communities and reduced crime Page 1 of 2

By Carolyn Gregoire on 17 Dec 2015

This story was originally published by Huffington Post and is reproduced here as part of the Climate Desk collaboration.

As urbanization, population growth, and the rampant destruction of the natural world increase, human beings have become more and more isolated from nature — and at a significant cost.

Spending time in nature is good for both the body and the mind, leading to health benefits including reduced depressive symptoms and lower blood pressure. As it turns out, the benefits of exposure to nature don't stop with individuals — they also extend to entire communities and societies.

A study recently published in the journal BioScience finds that contact with nature is associated with stronger communities and lower crime rates.

For the study, the researchers measured the relationships between individual and community assessments of exposure to nature, community cohesion, and crime rates. They asked a group of 2,000 participants from various communities to report on their access to nature, the amount of time spent in nature, and how much nature they can see from their homes. These responses were then pooled to come up with a measure of the community's exposure to nature.

The results were striking: Contact with nature appeared to have a significant effect on promoting community ties and reducing violence.

Controlling for other factors such as socioeconomic deprivation, population density, and unemployment, exposure to nature accounted for a full 8 percent of variance in community cohesion — meaning that people felt closer to their communities. To put that in perspective, individual factors such as age, income, and gender together accounted for only 3 percent of the variation.

Exposure to nature was also linked with reduced crime. The analysis revealed that the amount of accessible green spaces or farmlands in a community accounted for 4 percent of variability in crime rates, making exposure to nature nearly as large of a factor in crime as socioeconomic deprivation, which accounts for 5 percent of crime rate variability.

What explains these dramatic effects? "It might be that green space encourages people to band together and support their communities in ways that discourages local crime," Netta Weinstein, a psychologist at Cardiff University and one of the study's authors, told The Huffington Post in an email.

Exposure to nature linked to stronger communities and reduced crime Page 2 of 2

Alternatively, it could have something to do with the psychological benefits of exposure to nature, which include lower stress levels, reduced depression and anxiety, and even putting the brain into a state of meditation. If individuals enjoy improved physical and psychological health as a result of spending time in nature, they may be more likely to feel connected to their community and less likely to engage in crime.

With increasing urbanization and environmental destruction related to climate change, more people are becoming alienated from the natural world. Although further research is needed to confirm the findings, they do suggest that improving access to nature — for instance, through urban planning initiatives to create more green spaces in cities — could reduce crime rates.

"It's important for people to have natural spaces available to them," Weinstein said. "In future research, we will need to examine the extent to which biodiverse and wilderness areas, those that hold a greater diversity of species and are more vulnerable to climate change, contribute additional variance to these outcomes."

http://grist.org/living/exposure-to-nature-linked-to-strongercommunities-and-reduced-crime/ From: Trevor Bryce [mailto:trevorbryce@gmail.com] Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 12:14 AM To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us) Subject: Monterey Park Draft EIR

January 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Grunow,

These are my comments about the draft EIR for the proposed skate park development in Monterey Avenue Park.

First, I want to say that I grew up in this neighborhood and I plan to raise my children here as well. I attended both Capitola Elementary School and New Brighton Middle School, so I am very familiar with the site of the proposed skate park development in Monterey Avenue Park.

7-1 One of my biggest concerns is noise. The draft EIR failed to adequately address this issue. Noise and the perception of noise must be measured appropriately. The draft EIR did not even mention all the aspects of noise and noise perception, much less measure it and suggest mitigation. The residential neighborhood surrounding the proposed development is currently very quiet. Skate parks are noisy facilities. The presence of a skate park in Monterey Avenue Park will result in a permanent increase in noise.

Noise, even at levels that are not harmful to hearing, is perceived subconsciously as a danger signal, even during sleep. The body reacts to noise with a fight or flight response, with resultant nervous, hormonal, and vascular changes that have far reaching consequences. Problems caused by noise include stress related illnesses, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, increased blood pressure, cardiac problems, learning difficulties, developmental delays, emotional problems in children and lost productivity. The negative effects of noise have been well documented, but the draft EIR does not address those issues. Conventional dbA meters do not measure all types of sound that negatively impact people and wildlife. Other aspects of sounds must be measured. The proposed development is very close to noise sensitive receptors:

homes, churches and a school. The nearest property line is only 50 feet (60 feet to the home). Additional residences are 100 feet away to 300 feet away. Skate park designers (Spohn Ranch) state that skate parks should be no closer that 500 feet away from homes. How can there possibly be sufficient mitigation for homes and schools closer than 500 feet? I do not believe that that can be achieved at this proposed site. Restricting the hours of operation of the proposed development will not be adequate mitigation for nearby homes. Children and adults study and work at home during daylight hours. Residents who work at night must sleep during the day (nurses, firefighters, police, doctors, shift workers in manufacturing & shipping, etc.). What mitigation do you propose for these concerns? Again, this would be an unnatural burden on the people who love and go to school in this neighborhood.

- 7-2 The proposed development contains several noisy features. Not all of these features are included in other area skateboard facilities. How will you find these types of features for comparison to do an accurate assessment of the noise these features will generate in the proposed development? What are the different types of noises generated by these features?
- 7-3 Noise has well-documented negative impacts on adults, children, wildlife and domesticated animals. What resources will you be using to demonstrate these negative impacts? Please include several from each category we have listed with documentation. How will you measure these impacts on the people who live, work, study, and worship in the area around Monterey Park?

Noise has been demonstrated to have physical, emotional, and developmental impacts.

Children, the elderly, and people with health problems are particularly sensitive to noise pollution. New Brighton School is adjacent to Monterey Park. Children exposed to noise experience hearing loss, speech delays, difficulty understanding spoken language, difficulty concentrating, social and behavioral difficulties, and poor growth. New Brighton school also has Special Ed classes, whose students are especially vulnerable to noise. Noise will negatively impact the teachers directly and also their ability to teach.

Having attended school on the NBMS campus, I can attest to the way sound carries. How do you propose to protect children from the harmful impacts of the noise? Who will pay for these procedures? Will the school have to provide additional soundproofing in the buildings? What about on the campus? Children will be exposed to noise on campus outdoors. What happens if the proposed mitigation fails to provide adequate protection, requiring additional measures to be taken after the proposed development is in place? Who will provide or pay for that -- the city, the school, or the developer? There will be echoing of sound on the campus among the buildings.

Noise has a negative impact on unborn children, and can cause low

birth weight. How do you propose to protect pregnant women and their babies from these negative impacts?

- 7-4 The proposed development will generate noise from skating, from tricks, from jumps, clicking and clacking of the skateboards, and from grinding. In addition to the noise generated by the use of the skating aspects of the proposed development, noise will also be generated by the people congregating in the facility. How do you propose to deal with this contribution to noise? Do you propose to limit the number of people in the skateboard facility? If so, how? How about people loitering outside the skateboard facility -- do you propose to limit the number of people in Monterey Park itself? Again, if so, how? Or can you put into place in the proposed development mitigation features that will address crowd noise?
- 7-5 People who use skateboard facilities are known to bring appliances, such as õboom boxesö, to play music. How do you plan to mitigate that?

What will be done to mitigate noise generated by skating events (such as competitions and demonstrations) taking place at the proposed development, including amplified sound, music, announcements?

- 7-6 Unusually loud noise will also be generated by people skating to and from the proposed development, using city streets and sidewalks. Since the City of Capitola has nearly completed the skate park in McGregor Park, which is approximately 1200 yards from Monterey Park, there will a large influx of skaters into the neighborhood and skating between the facilities. How will the developer mitigate that noise? How will the damage to infrastructure (streets, sidewalks, curbs) be mitigated?
- **7-7** Skateboard facilities, even ones that are closed at night, attract after dark activities of all sorts -- which of course result in increased nighttime noise.
- 7-8 Also, there is the issue of traffic. The proposed development will greatly increase traffic in the area surrounding the proposed development -- both vehicular traffic and the skating traffic (mentioned above). The proximity of the proposed development to the existing skate park at McGregor Park will make this an even greater issue than cannot be measured by observing skate parks in other areas. How do you propose to measure this impact? How do you propose to mitigate it?

An increase in traffic will also cause another increase in Noise in the area surrounding the proposed development. Theses issues MUST be addressed. A skate park development in Monterey Avenue Park would be a very bad fit in the neighborhood with homes, churches and a school. The EIR does not accurately is clearly inadequate.

Sincerely, Trevor Bryce Orchid Avenue Capitola CA From: sheryl coulston [mailto:smcoulston@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 8:49 PM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us); City Council
Cc: POPP@greatoptions.net
Subject: Response to the Draft EIR for the proposed skate park in Monterey Park

- DATE:January 5, 2016TO:Richard Grunow, Community Development Dirctor
Capitola City Council MembersCC:Richard Lippi, Program Director, Protecting our Public ParksFROM:Sheryl Coulston, Capitola Resident
300 Plum St. #25
Capitola, CA 95010
831-227-9494
smcoulston@sbcglobal.net
- SUBJECT: Response to Draft EIR for the proposed skate park in Monterey Park
- **8-1** I am opposed to the proposed plan to place a skate park in the Monterey Park.

I would like to address several areas in the Draft EIR that may not be addressed to the extent necessary for informed decisions: noise, habitat, aesthetics.

I also want to restate something I have mentioned before: A skate park in this location does not meet the standards of the Capitola City General Plan that states that the City õHas a duty to preserve the character of residential neighborhoodsö.

8-2 Noise: Indeed the Draft EIR states a skate park would produce unfavorable levels of noise in the proposed vicinity of homes, offices, schools. The Draft EIR proposed solutions such as unsightly sound barriers that would lessen noise but not block noise entirely. Residents who use Monterey Park regularly do so for its lovely ambiance, their need to be in nature and in a quiet space. In our unique City of Capitola where we have a lovely very popular village that we all love, we also all love the quietness of -getting out of the busy villageøback to our homes & a few parks. We have few parks and green space in our community. I think changing this park forever with skateboard noise takes away a very special character of these nearby neighborhoods. For those that walk dogs, or jog, or walk at the parkí the clink clink of skateboards will be upsetting and not good for our health. Residents need those open spaces for health reasons. Not everyone can walk our hills or get to the beach, etc. A permanent increase in noise will forever change the use of Monterey Park

I am not opposed to skate parks in general. I have taken my grandsons to skate parks and pump tracks when they visit. However, the one being built at McGregor will be wonderful, has restrooms, and is a perfect location. I can¢t imagine why a city the size of Capitola would want

to ruin green space and have two big liabilities such as a second skate park within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of the McGregor site.

- Habitat: I saw consideration of nesting birds in the Draft EIR but no mention of other creatures 8-3 (salamanders, lizards, arboreal salamanders, and monarchs). Monarchs are on the list being considered as an endangered species. Our communities from Santa Cruz to Monterey have been proud of their Monarch sanctuaries. Our own Capitola Monarch Cove has them. You can see them in the trees on Depot Hill. In Brookvale Terrace, where I live, neighbors and myself are excited about our own Monarch population that appeared 3 or 4 years back and has grown each year. They hang in the trees in our park. The Draft EIR stated the possible removal of 8 trees at Monterey Park. Four of these trees are eucalyptus. It mentioned two redwood and I dongt know what other two they are considering. Eucalyptus flowers produce a great abundance of nectar, providing food for many pollinators including insects, birds, bats and possums. Trees are needed for the health of the creatures that live there, the people who breath the air, and the children that play. I cangt imagine why in a climate of Climate Change & drought one would consider a tree removed to be a healthy decision. Eucalyptus is the main tree that the monarchs use. They also use pine trees that are also growing near the coast, and just about any other kind of tree that is growing in the right locations. If you have ever visited the Monarch Sanctuary at Natural Bridges, Santa Cruz, you are asked to enter and be quiet in the sanctuary so as not to disturb the migration of the monarchs. Wouldnøt the noise of the skate boarding be heard at Monarch Cove? Or disturb Monarchs in Monterey Park?
- 8-4 Aesthetics of nature: The benefits of a natural setting like Monterey Park in a residential neighborhood, near a school, and offices, is so beneficial it is hard to believe that a Draft Environmental Impact Report did not note this. Or that it would suggest the removal of mature trees in the face of Climate Change and drought and not note all the health benefits of trees, and not note the adverse effects a skate park noise and cement structure and barriers would have on residents health.

It is important to remind ourselves that an Environmental Impact Report / Study should report all aspects. Environmental Effect - Definition. Any change that a project or activity may cause in the environment, including any effect of any such change in: the quality of soil, water and air. biodiversity and the condition/quality of habitats and human health. I am aware the study speaks about the soil contamination.

I am copying below a 2 page document on the benefits of trees in our changing climate and what we know now about the benefits of trees for communities. It is from Canopy.org and speaks to the benefits in urban settings in bay area communities (specifically Palo Alto). You may read more at: <u>http://canopy.org/about-trees/the-benefits-of-trees/</u> I appreciate the City of Capitolaøs Tree ordinance that requires two trees planted for each tree removed. Thus there would be more trees but sadly there is no replacement for mature trees removed unnecessarily. Perhaps our Tree Ordinance addresses the benefits of trees to the health and beauty of the community. I think Canopy.org addresses specific benefits of trees in certain locations and provides a lot of insight as to the benefits and their locations.

Thank you for your consideration of this opposition to the proposed skate park at Monterey Park.

Sincerely,

Sheryl M. Coulston (From: Canopy.org, January 5, 2016)

The Benefits of Trees

Public Health and Social Benefits

Air Cleaning: Trees produce oxygen, intercept airborne particulates, and reduce smog, enhancing a community respiratory health. The urban canopy directly contributes to meeting a city regulatory clean air requirements.

Access to trees, green spaces, and parks promotes greater physical activity, and reduces stress, while improving the quality of life in our cities and towns.

- Urban landscaping, including trees, helps lower crime rates.
- Studies show that urban vegetation slows heartbeats, lowers blood pressure, and relaxes brain wave patterns.
- Girls with a view of nature and trees at home score higher on tests of self-discipline.

Environmental Benefits

Climate change: Trees sequester carbon (CO2), reducing the overall concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Energy conservation:

- A tree is a natural air conditioner. The evaporation from a single tree can produce the cooling effect of ten room-size, residential air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
- Acting as a natural air-conditioner, Palo Altoøs lush canopy ensures that summer temperatures are at least 6 to 8 degrees lower than in comparable neighborhoods without trees.
- Tree windbreaks can reduce residential heating costs 10-15%; while shading and evaporative cooling from trees can cut residential air-conditioning costs 20-50%.

Water filtration and retention: Urban forests promote beneficial water quality and reduce storm water management costs.

• Palo Alto street and park trees can intercept 135 million gallons of rainwater. Trees capture and slow rainfall and their roots filter water and recharge the aquifer. Trees reduce storm water runoff, which reduces flooding, saves city storm water management costs, decreases the flow of polluted water into the Bay, and protects the banks of the San Francisquito Creek.

Wildlife habitat: Trees provide important habitats for numerous bird, insect and animal species.

Economic Benefits

Communities and business districts with healthy tree-cover attract new residents, industry, and commercial activity.

- Homes landscaped with trees sell more quickly and are worth 5% to 15% more than homes without trees.
- Where the entire street is tree-lined, homes may be worth 25% more.
- Trees enhance economic stability by attracting businesses; people linger and shop longer when trees are present.
- Where a canopy of trees exists, apartments and offices rent more quickly and have a higher occupancy rate; workers report more productivity and less absenteeism.

Even MORE Tree Benefits

- Trees provide inviting and cool areas for recreation and relaxation such as playgrounds and parks.
- Trees create a tapestry of color and interesting form that changes throughout the year.
- The color green is calming and relieves eye strain.
- Trees screen unattractive views and soften the harsh outline of masonry, metal, asphalt, steel and glass.
- People walk and jog more on shaded streets, which encourages interaction with neighbors and improves the sense of community.
- Trees absorb and block sound, reducing noise pollution by as much as 40 percent.
- Increase of traffic in the quiet neighborhoods and parking on Monterey Ave., Orchid Ave., & Junipero Court everyday of the week!
- Skate parks attract older skaters all day long. I\u00e9m not sure this nuisance (besides the noise) should be within the vicinity of the middle school.
- Along with skate parks does come some graffiti and vandalism and thus a cost of additional maintenance. This I am sure is a well known fact isnøt it?
- Sadly a skate park of any size would take away wonderful green space in a residential neighborhood.
- Additional events that would be held at the skate park (competitions & tournaments) would increase congestion in this area and add more noise.

-----Original Message-----From: Dan [mailto:dbt33@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:48 PM To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Re: Monterey skate park

Rich

 9-1 I know it may not be in the scope of the EIR but I would think that the effect of proposed park at Monterey Park would have a negative effect on the educational environment at New Brighten school. Thanks Dan Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----From: Dan [mailto:dbt33@hotmail.com] Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 8:22 AM To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Monterey skate park

9-2 As home owners near Monterey park we urge that the EIR on this project address the issue of the impact of a second skate park within close proximity of the existing park at McGregor . A response would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----From: Al Globus [<u>mailto:alglobus@gmail.com</u>] Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 10:48 AM To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Cc: Goldstein, Jamie (<u>jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>); Jesberg, Steve (<u>sjesberg@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Monterey Skatepart EIR question

10-1 Can you tell me when the noise study by Illingworth and Rodkin was performed (I'm looking for dates).

The reason I ask is that traffic noise from the freeway varies a lot depending on the time of year.

-----Original Message-----From: Al Globus [<u>mailto:alglobus@gmail.com</u>] Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 8:15 AM To: Termini, Mike (<u>michael@triadelectric.com</u>); City Council; Dennis Norton; Bertrand, Jacques; Jesberg, Steve (<u>sjesberg@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>); Harlan, Stephanie (<u>sharlan@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Cc: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Monterey Skatepark hours

10-2 In the EIR it says that the skatepark will not be open until 8AM in the morning.

How will this be enforced? Will there be a lock on the gate? If so, will a city employee come by every morning at 8 to unlock and at sunset to lock the facility?

If locked, how difficult will it be to hop the fence? If hoping the fence becomes a problem, who will pay for a higher fence?

-----Original Message-----From: Al Globus [mailto:alglobus@gmail.com] Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2015 10:55 AM To: City Council Cc: Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us); Jesberg, Steve (sjesberg@ci.capitola.ca.us); PLANNING COMMISSION Subject: Monterey skatepark EIR noise deficiency

10-3 It's not in the report, but the staff tells me that the noise measurements were done on four consecutive days in June.

One thing the contractor may not have known is that at frequent times there is a lot of freeway noise at the park. This varies from day to day and season to season. It is usually worst in November and when it is cold, but not always. Early summer and late spring (around June) the freeway noise is usually quite a bit lower than at the worst times of the year. Thus, it is likely that the EIR work underestimates the total noise at the park for a significant part of the year.

I would like to see additional measurements made at two or three other times to capture the true dynamics of the noise. Instead of choosing the day long in advance, it would be better to have someone go to the park and listen for a few minutes (actually a few seconds should be sufficient) to see if we're in a high noise time before taking data.

-----Original Message-----From: Al Globus [mailto:alglobus@gmail.com] Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 2:14 PM To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us) Subject: Oppose Monterey Park Skatepark

10-4 Skateparks make lousy neighbors. They make a lot of noise, they are ugly, and a small fraction of skateboarders are not the sort of people you'd like around your house.

There is a skatepark under construction less than a mile away. While it's less convenient for the parents, who will need to drive their kids to the park, there are no neighbors!

10-5 On a technical note, the EIR did not measure the ambient noise well. They did all the measurements at a time of year where the freeway noise is relatively low. The park tends to have much higher freeway noise in the fall and winter, particularly in November. The noise portion of the EIR should be redone with data taken on a number of days in November.

From: Nancy Goldstein [mailto:ncgneg@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: Skateboard Park 2015 EIR comments

Sir,

11-1 I am opposed to the proposed skatepark at Monterey Ave Park. This is not only because the November 2015 Draft EIR indicates the many issues that I feel cannot be adequately mitigated, but also because of the following issues that seem neglected in the EIR

1. Having two skateparks so close together will lead to a constant stream of skateboard traffic between the two, which will lead to the following.

A. The entire area from the Monterey Ave Park, down Kennedy Drive to Park Avenue will become one continuous skatepark, traveled heavily and continuously by skateboarders, many of them who have no concern for our neighborhood or our residents.

B. The route between the two skateparks crosses Park Avenue right next to the Hwy 1 interchange. The hill on Kennedy Drive is very steep at this point, and many skateboarders will continue across Park Avenue without stopping. Since vehicle drivers are very aggressive at that interchange, there will be a serious and continuing hazard to both skateboarders and drivers.

2. Our neighborhood on Rosedale Avenue will also be affected, both by the skateboard noise from the park and by increased skateboarding down the hill from Hill Street to Bay on the way to the new park. This is not acceptable.

3. Our neighborhood is already suffering under gross noise pollution from the SERFR1 jet route. We do not need more noise!

4. We already have a skatepark, and have absolutely no need for another one, especially not one just a few minutes from the other.

5. The little open space we have is precious, and we would be destroying it while adding no value at all to our city. Rather the opposite in fact.

6. Skateparks do not belong in residential areas, period!

7. There will undoubtedly be a huge rise in graffiti and vandalism throughout the entire area.

8. Senior citizens like myself cannot leap out of the way of oncoming skateboarders, and an increase in skateboarder numbers on the streets increases the odds of injury to myself and other seniors.

11-2 Additional issues:

- 1) A PERMANENT increase of noise
- 2) Safety of the New Brighton Middle School students,
- 3) Impacts to students and District personnel,

4) Visibility from Monterey Ave is poor.
5) Possible removal of the eucalyptus grove and the mature redwoods,
7) Increase in skateboard noise on sidewalks
8) Increased cost of police, emergency services and public works personnel to attend to skatepark issues.

Nancy Goldstein 725 Rosedale Ave, Apt. B Capitola, CA 95010

From: Neil Goldstein [mailto:negncg@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: 2105 Draft EIR reply and comments

Sir,

I am opposed to the proposed skatepark at Monterey Ave Park. This is not only because the November 2015 Draft EIR indicates many issues that I feel cannot be adequately mitigated, but also because of the following issues that seem neglected in the EIR

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8) Increased cost of police, emergency services and public works personnel to attend to skatepark issues.

Neil Goldstein 725 Rosedale Ave, Apt. A Capitola, CA 95010 From: Ariel Braswell Gray [mailto:arielbgray@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: Monerey Park skate park EIR response

Hi Richard,

12-1 Thank you for collecting and reviewing the community's feedback to the EIR. I would first like to say that I consider myself a fairly objective person on this topic. I live in Cliffwood Heights, but not along or around Monterey Park. I have pretty neutral feelings on skateboarding and skate parks, although my children are too young to have picked up the sport so I don't have a lot of firsthand experience.

I do have concerns about building a skate park at Monterey Park. My concern about building a skate park at Monterey Park is about how little sense it makes to have two skate parks approximately .7 mile from each other in a town with a population of about 10,000 people. From a rational, objective, big picture perspective this just doesn¢t make sense, regardless of who is funding the park. The people of Capitola have varied interests and activities and I don't think our precious outdoor space should not be dominated by this one specific activity ó unless there is overwhelming demand for this type of park above all other types of outdoor uses ó a claim I don¢t think we can make because a community-wide needs assessment has not been conducted to the best of my knowledge. And it¢s clear from the community response there are a lot of people who would not prioritize a 2nd skate park above all else.

I am generally excited about the MacGregor Park. I too have concerns about some of the access issues, but I believe the best way to address those are to channel our community efforts to drive the improvements many of us see as necessary (improved pedestrian access being primary). If the Monterey Skate Park proponents would have rallied together and with their donor to make MacGregor the best park it could be, the community members who plan to enjoy the dog park, or the kidsøplayground, or the pump track (that I understand will eventually be part of MacGregor Park) would benefit from those improvements. Instead, the Monterey Skate Park proponents are thinking only of those who might like to use the skate park and chose to splinter community support. I don¢t think small, special interest groups should get to dominate our community changes or splinter support away from improvements the broader community would benefit from.

Noise levels are a serious concern for the Monterey Skate Park. I have frequented the skate park in Scotts Valley and the noise is not insignificant. Skateboard wheels against concrete is loud, rough, and not sounds that are appropriate for a residential park. The skate park in Scotts Valley works because it is away from any houses and also away from the rest of the park. Not so for Monterey Park - anyone using Monterey Park would be subjected to the noise from the skate park, and the residents in particular could find the noise especially irritating. Monterey Park is a lovely park where the current sounds produced are soft and natural. I can't imagine how the sounds of the skate park wouldn't be disruptive to students at NBMS and the immediate neighbors. 12-2 The issue of whether any trees would be removed is unclear, but I would like to emphasize that there is nothing about removing beautiful, mature trees to make way for a concrete skate park that makes sense. I completely oppose any tree removal.

Letøs think big picture about Capitola and our outdoor space needs. Does removing an open grassy area and replacing it with concrete make sense given the availability of a skate park some 4000 feet away? Are there so many skateboarders in Capitola that this makes sense? Are there no other people in Capitola with an interest or a use for open space that should be considered? Can we work together to address some of the access concerns to make MacGregor the best park it can be? Or do we want to encourage community members to go rogue and push their special interests on the community? My children as recently as this summer frolicked on the rolling hill where the skate park would go, rolling down the hill in fits of laughter. There are many ways Monterey Park can be an asset to our community; adding a 2nd skate park at this time is not the best one. I would advocate for an approach that at a minimum let's us complete and use the MacGregor skate park, and only after the MacGregor park has been in use for some time do we consider what, if anything, is needed at Monterey Park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariel Gray

Capitola - Cliffwood Heights resident

From: Deryn Harris [<u>mailto:derynest@gmail.com</u>] Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 6:44 PM To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>) Subject: Skate Park EIR

January 7,2016

Dear Mr. Grunow,

I am writing regarding the draft EIR for the proposed skate park development in Monterey Avenue Park.

13-1 The draft EIR is woefully lacking in any discussion of the impact of the development (in either use or construction) on the natural habitat of Monterey Avenue Park. The draft EIR mentions only that construction should not take place during bird nesting times. However, the birds in question and their breeding cycles are not clarified.

A census of birds and other wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park must be included in the EIR. There are numerous species of birds and other animals in the park. They must be accounted for in any changes proposed to the park -- not just nesting, but hunting, feeding, pollination of plants, and interaction with other species -- to name just a few.

I highly recommend the inclusion of the work of UCSC Professor Emeritus Dr. Todd Newberry, our local expert ornithologist.

Monterey Avenue Park is abundant in wildlife: multiple species of mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians make it their home. It is also a National Audubon Society designated birding site. Numerous types of birds live in and visit Monterey Avenue Park, from tiny hummingbirds to hawks and falcons. Recent studies show that noise causes an overall decline in species richness. Noise has very detrimental effects on wildlife, including disrupting breeding and feeding. Birds who eat insects or small mammals, such as endangered peregrine falcons, red-shouldered hawks, and red-tailed hawks, are more sensitive to noise than birds who eat seeds and plants (since birds of prey use acoustic cues when theyøre hunting), but all birds are at risk.

In addition to noise (both from construction and regular use) an increase in people and traffic can all have a cumulative negative impact on wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park. And, since the Escalona Gulch Stream flows through/under Monterey Avenue Park, there may be serious consequences for the endangered Monarch Butterflies that reside downstream, near the mouth of Escalona Gulch.

I would like to see the EIR contain a list of all species living in Monterey Avenue Park and how you propose to protect them. Also, how do you propose to time the construction phases of the proposed development to refrain from adverse impact on the breeding and migration of vulnerable species?

Sound travels in all directions. How will you measure sound that is carried up into the trees

above the proposed development? Birds of prey such as red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, and endangered peregrine falcons perch in those trees. They need the height to hunt. Noise can have an extremely detrimental impacts on these birds and others that call Monterey Avenue Park home.

13-2The draft EIR mentions the possibility of removing the large eucalyptus trees in Monterey Avenue Park. This would be a terrible

idea. These large trees are extremely important to the wildlife in Monterey Avenue Park, particularly the birds that need to hunt from heights. Their removal would be extremely disruptive to the natural environment of Monterey Avenue Park.

These trees are also an important feature of the landscape of Monterey Avenue Park. In addition to making Monterey Avenue Park more visually attractive, they provide shade, cooling, homes for wildlife, and a popular gathering place. Please indicate how they will be protected from damage or destruction.

I would also like to add that the general plan for the City of Capitola includes Goal OSC-6: Protect natural habitat and other

biological resources. Monterey Avenue Park is an important natural habitat for numerous species -- not the least of which are the children and families who enjoy the park!

Sincerely yours, Deryn Harris Orchid Avenue Capitola CA -----Original Message-----From: Norm Lane [mailto:thenorm@sagatech.com] Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 9:58 PM To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us) Cc: helen.s.bryce@gmail.com Subject: Proposed skatepark in Monterey Avenue Park

rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us

January 7,2016

Dear Mr. Grunow,

Regarding the draft EIR for the proposed skatepark in Monterey Avenue Park

14-1 I feel the draft EIR is deficient. It does not sufficiently deal with impact of parking, traffic, and noise caused by the proposed development on the area around Monterey Avenue Park.

Skate parks are noisy. These noises are not natural ambient sounds. Skate park noise is jarring and disruptive to children and adults who are in school and in their homes. This proposal is next to residences, a school and a church.

The proposed development will greatly increase traffic in the area surrounding the proposed development -- both vehicular traffic and the skating traffic on both the sidewalks and in the streets. The proximity of the proposed development to the existing skate park at McGregor Park will make this an even greater issue than cannot be measured by observing skate parks in other areas. This needs to be addressed.

An increase in traffic will also cause another increase in noise in the area surrounding the proposed development. The proposed development will negatively impact the neighborhood by creating

- 14-2 problems with parking. The city of Capitola is already planning to remove parking along one side of the Monterey Avenue (the side with Monterey Avenue Park). Because of the possible coexistence of two skateboard facilities within 1200 yards of each other, parking will undoubtedly be in short supply. The parking lot at Monterey Avenue Park is quite small. Even now, parking on Monterey Avenue and side streets (Orchid, Junipero, Wesley, Cabrillo, Elinor), is negatively impacted by large events that happen at New Brighton School (such as graduation), and events at St. Joseph's Church. Theses events are fortunately not frequent. But the proposed development will create a skateboarding mecca in a residential neighborhood and parking will become a serious problem. Please address this.
- 14-3 Neighborhood safety is of course another concern. The proposed development will attract after dark activities. The fence will make a climbing structure irresistible to children/youth who will see it as a challenge to conquer. This will be unsafe for Capitola's children. The proposed skate park is not the "kiddie bowl" originally suggested. The draft EIR mentions that this skatepark proposal will appeal to young adults. That does not make a safe environment for young kids -- either during school hours or after school. I am concerned about teens and young adults congregating. In addition, there will be

graffiti, not just on the skating surfaces themselves, but most likely on the fences in the park and on school property. How will the cost of dealing with these issues be dealt with? As a Capitolian, I feel this is important.

I am concerned about how this area will be policed. This will necessitate an additional series of expenses for the city of Capitola the draft EIR does not address. These costs will add up -- and surely mount.

14-4 The draft EIR does not address the cumulative nature of these effects.

Increased noise, traffic, and parking problems will accumulate and compound the stress of people in the area impacted by the proposed development, especially considering another skate park is 1200 yards nearby.

Capitola needs to preserve and health and safety of its residential neighborhoods, schools, and parks. This proposed skate park does not do that, and the draft EIR is missing a great many areas of concern.

Yours truly, Norman Lane Orchid Avenue Capitola CA From: Richard Lippi [mailto:richard@greatoptions.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 1:06 PM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: Sept 9, 2015 Revision of Initial Study re: 6,000sf skatepark at Monterey Park

Dear Richard,

15-1 I was unaware of the September 9, 2015 revision to the Initial Study of the proposed skatepark at Monterey Park until reading about it in the Draft EIR. When was this revision made available to the public? How was it advertised?

More importantly, how does one determine what revisions were made to the Initial Study? Is it clear in the Draft EIR how to find the revisions? I'm assuming everything underlined, or struck out, represents the changes?

Your clarification on this subject is much appreciated.

Thank you, Richard Lippi

From: Richard Lippi [mailto:richard@greatoptions.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 2:34 PM
To: Grunow, Rich (rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Cc: Cattan, Katie (kcattan@ci.capitola.ca.us)
Subject: Draft EIR for Monterey Ave SkatePark----Project Description, Missing Elevations, Temp. Fencing

Dear Mr. Grunow,

The misleading project description that I pointed out in my July 14, 2015, email on this subject **still exists in the Draft EIR.** It is misleading to the general public and the neighbors who will be most heavily impacted by the operation of the proposed 6,750sf skatepark at Monterey Park to describe it as an "in-ground" skate park without benefit of elevations indicating how much is at-or-above ground level. For that matter, it should never have been represented as a 6,000sf skatepark when it is all of 6,750sf.

No ELEVATIONS of the project have been provided as required under the Master Application. If elevations were furnished, as required, then interested parties could see that the majority of noise producing aspects of the skatepark are at-or-above ground level sending shock waves in all directions. Just looking at the plan view entrance to the skatepark one educated in drawing interpretation can determine that the majority of noise-producing features are at-or-above the level of the walking path. Plus, the Applicants have added a rock textured slant bank to the project which is 2 feet ABOVE ground level and certainly a big noise producer.

Thank you for placing the staking and surveyor's tape out at the proposed site on November 20, 2015. It has been surprising how many people are not aware of the proposed project and, even seeing the tape, many think that the lawn area is being re-

seeded. These erroneous observations are why the proposed skate park location should be realistically outfitted with 6 foot high material so users of Monterey Park can assess the IMPACT of not having access to that area once the concrete skate park is in place.

Below is a copy of my email text from July 14, 2015:

In the referenced document, under section B., Project Description, 3rd paragraph, it is stated, "The skate park will generally be at a lower elevation than currently exists with a slightly bermed perimeter." Looking at Figure 4 of the Initial Study (and looking at the project drawings) it appears that the majority of the skate park features will be at-or-above the finished grade. The large depressed area down the middle is of little concern noise-wise and I believe that concerned citizens will be mislead by a depiction that the skate park "will generally be at a lower elevation than currently exists".

I know that the applicants have eluded to the description of the proposed skate park as being "an in-ground skate park" to try to repel arguments about noise generation, but the fact is that the noise producing features of the proposed skate park are at-orabove the finished grade----which in no way relates to what "currently exists".

I would appreciate public clarification of this important aspect of the proposed skate park at the next opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration, Richard Lippi

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 3:29 PM
 To: Grunow, Rich (<u>rgrunow@ci.capitola.ca.us</u>)
 Subject: Comments on the proposed Monterey Avenue Skate Park Draft EIR document

Dear Mr. Richard Grunow,

After reading through the Draft EIR for the proposed Monterey Avenue Skate Park (DEIR) I find both the alternatives analysis and cumulative impacts analysis for the project to be addressed at an inadequate level.

Alternatives Analysis

16-1 Under the alternatives analysis the EIR goes into great detail evaluating the placement of a skate park at Cortez Park. This alternative cannot be considered reasonable do to the extremely small size and close proximity to neighboring residences. The EIR then casually dismisses the McGregor Park site as an alternative, stating:

"There is no available space to locate a new skate park of the type proposed by the project or expand the skate park that is under construction without eliminating or reducing other approved uses at the approved park or developing environmentally sensitive and topographically constrained areas. Therefore, this site was eliminated from further consideration."

This statement implies that the larger park (~9,000sf) currently under construction would need to add an additional 6,000 sf, totaling ~15,000 sf in order for McGregor Park to meet the goals and objectives of the City of Capitola. The logic provided in this reasoning does not adequately address how the goals of the proposed project will not be met by the existing project that is currently under construction. If the objective of the City of Capitola is to provide a 6,000sf park, how will a 9,000 sf park not allow that objective to be met? As it is written the current alternatives section in the DEIR only truly evaluates the "no project" alternative and modifications to the proposed project at Monterey Park without presenting a reasonable alternative location evaluation.

16-2 Further, as stated in the DEIR the goal from the perspective of the City of Capitola is to minimize development and operational costs, as well as to minimize environmental impacts. The additional operational costs to the City of Capitola are not addressed in the DEIR. The provided study "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Study for the Proposed Monterey Avenue Skate Park" states the need for the park to provide better access for emergency services and law enforcement. In that document the author states that the proposed Monterey Sake Park "lacks ideal natural surveillance from law enforcement" and "The proposed design contains a sunken portion that can conceal unlawful activities". The problems identified in the CPTED study will only be increased by the proposed modifications to reduce the effects of noise, which call for larger walls that will create increased visual barriers for emergency services and law enforcement. In order for the City of Capitola to make an

informed decision on the project the CPTED study should be updated taking the noise modifications into consideration and also provide an evaluation of the increased costs from the increased need for emergency services and law enforcement created by the proposed project.

Cumulative Impacts

16-3 The DEIR fails to consider McGregor Park in the cumulative impact section. This oversight is problematic and has legal precedence that should be taken into consideration before the Final EIR is developed. In CEQA case law **Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control v. City of Bakersfield** (December 13, 2004) 22. Cal. Rptr. 3d 203

(http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/cases/2004/Bakersfield Citizens for Local Control-F044943.htm), they state that "the cumulative impacts analyses are defective because they did not treat the other shopping center as a relevant project or consider the combined environmental impacts of the two shopping centers." A parallel argument can be made here for the two skate parks. To prevent this same problem from happening to the City of Capitola, the EIR for the proposed Monterey Avenue Skate Park needs to include the McGregor Avenue Park when evaluating all cumulative effects. When considering this proposed project, the City of Capitola needs to be evaluating the combined environmental impacts to the community caused by the creation of two skate parks located approximately six tenths of a mile apart.

16-4 The intent of the CEQA process is to disclose all relevant information about a proposed project to allow for informed decisions to be made. As a homeowner in this community, and an environmental professional, I request that the City of Capitola revise and recirculate the DEIR once the alternatives analysis and cumulative impacts analysis have been updated to properly address how this proposed project will impact the City of Capitola. Those changes will allow the decision makers here in our City of Capitola to have all the information they need, looking at our community as a whole, and not at the narrow scale currently presented in this DEIR.

Thank you for your time,

Kailash Mozumder