

State of California - The Resources Agency CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS		MANUAL
DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE		Operations
No. 99-18		
SUBJECT		CHAPTER
Coastal Erosion		1600 Natural and Cultural Resources
ISSUED	EXPIRES	REFERENCE
December 28, 1999	When Incorporated	

DPR 375 (Rev. 11/97)(Word, 12/30/97)

WHEN APPLICABLE, ENTER THE NUMBER AND DATE OF THIS DEPARTMENTAL NOTICE IN THE MARGIN OF THE MANUAL PAGE, ADJACENT TO THE SECTION(S) AFFECTED BY IT.

This Departmental Notice has been re-created for transmittal in electronic format. The original notice was signed by Rusty Areias, Director.

INTRODUCTION

Coastal erosion, seacliff retreat, and littoral sand movement are ongoing natural processes along the California coastline. Rates of coastal erosion vary from fractions of an inch per year to 50-60 feet in a year. Sections of the California coastline have eroded several city blocks eastward in the last 100 years. Coastal erosion is episodic, site-specific, and directly related to meteorological changes, as well as structural and geological characteristics.

Ocean wave erosion and seacliff retreat are responsible for creating invaluable scenic and esthetic resources by carving out graceful coves, rocky headlands, and steep ocean cliffs. Even the popular sandy beaches are the result of erosive factors. The dynamic processes of ocean wave erosion and seacliff retreat are problems only when facilities are in jeopardy, or when public safety is threatened.

POLICY

The Department of Parks and Recreation shall avoid construction of new structures and coastal facilities in areas subject to ocean wave erosion, seacliff retreat, and unstable cliffs, unless specific determinations have been made that the risk of loss of the facility is clearly offset by the investment and need for the facility. Measures shall be taken to minimize human-induced erosion by reducing concentrated surface runoff from use areas, elevated groundwater levels from irrigation and urbanization, and surface disturbance of blufftop soils. In recognition of California's actively eroding coastline, new structures and facilities located in areas known to be subject to ocean wave erosion, seacliff retreat, or unstable bluffs shall be expendable or movable. Structural protection and re-protection of developments shall be allowed only when the cost of protection is commensurate with the value (physical and intrinsic) of the development to be protected, and when it can be shown that the protection will not negatively affect the beach or the near-shore environment.