

# Public Comment #8

Damico, Tracy

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**From:** Uri Driscoll <humboldthorse@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 2, 2022 4:58 PM  
**To:** Madrone, Steve; Bohn, Rex; Bushnell, Michelle; Bass, Virginia;  
Victor.Bjelajac@parks.ca.gov; County Administrative Office; Damico, Tracy  
**Cc:** to: Joan Clark  
**Subject:** Consent agenda item #8 for discussion

Hi Steve and Rex,

There is a concert agenda (#8) item that needs some further discussion. It involves beech mat installation for ADA access to Clam Beach. We would like this communication to be a part of the administrative record for this project.

Northern California Horseman Association (founded in 1937) has a long history of aiding in the development and maintenance of facilities for equestrian access to public lands. We also strongly support ADA access wherever possible. That would include Clam Beach. In fact many in the equestrian community utilize their horses for such access as many of us have limited mobility.

Utilizing a "beach mat" for less abled folks may be an appropriate method in this location however, little is provided as far as details for this project and a fair argument can be made that such a project may have (or have not) very significant impacts on established uses and the environment which have not been studied as is evident in the staff report. There may be additional impacts worth addressing once the project is further defined through the CEQA process.

I have seen beach mats successfully employed on beaches on the East Coast and they all involve significant infrastructure to keep them in place. Depending on the size and placement of the mat at Clam Beach there could also be significant constraints for emergency response/maintenance vehicles to access one of Humboldt County's most used recreation facilities. As you may know the proposed location is the only feasible access for emergency vehicles or for fishermen retrieving lost gear on Clam Beach. Due to the difficulties described below this access has also become the defacto access for nearly all horseback riders. Additionally horses may inadvertently damage the mat rendering it unusable for ADA access and causing unnecessary maintenance costs and issues.

As mentioned above NCHA fully supports ADA access to this spectacular beach and would like to suggest instead an ADA development at the County's Clam Beach South access at the recently completed ADA County campground. This County access has been impassable for those with mobility difficulties for several years and while it was originally developed as an equestrian access complete with picnic tables, parking and hitching rails, it has been unsafe for use for several years as well.

Stabilizing and reinforcing the existing board walk leading from the camp ground and parking area (with a beach mat extension) would solve many issues, accomplish ADA goals and reestablish the safe equestrian access. Such a project would not prohibit emergency response vehicles from accessing the beach and arguably cause other impacts yet to be studied or addressed.

Thank you

Uri Driscoll

Trail Chairman  
Northern California Horseman's Association