



California Coastal Commission  
455 Market Street, Suite 300  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
December 4, 2023

**RE: Agenda Item Th9.1-9.5, Cease and Desist Orders and Administrative Penalty Actions – Guarav Singh and Sonal Puri, and Rio Del Mar Beach Island Homeowners Association (Beach Drive, Aptos, Santa Cruz Co.)**

**Hearing Date: December 14, 2023      Position: Support Staff Recommendation**

Dear Chair Hart and Commissioners,

The Sierra Club represents over 500,000 members in the state of California who are concerned about the coast. The Sierra Club supports the staff recommendation of issuing Cease and Desist Orders to the Rio Del Mar Beach Island Homeowners Association, and the other named parties, which will return to the public, the use of the 12-foot-wide area of public walkway on the ocean side of the affected properties and, which would include removal of all barriers and fencing. The Sierra Club also supports the staff recommendation for permanent removal of all unpermitted development in this public walkway area. Additionally, Sierra Club supports the removal of the ongoing blockages of the public sidewalk just inland of the affected properties. Finally, Sierra Club supports the restoral of native dune plants over and forward of the revetment, as was explicitly required as a condition of the earlier Coastal Development Permit (CDP).

The two photographs below speak volumes about the situation at the site. An incredible level of disdain for public access is demonstrated. First, the public walkway seaward of the buildings has been blocked with barriers and fencing (left), and then the public sidewalk inland of the buildings is blocked by refuse bins associated with these buildings (right).





9. Within 30 days after completion of the seawall construction, the covered seawall shall be vegetated (with plant species native to the dunes of Monterey Bay where feasible) and maintained in good condition thereafter. Final vegetation plans shall be submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval.

In sum, Sierra Club strongly supports the staff recommendation. The importance of public access in these areas cannot be overstated, and the contempt of the owners and association for these values is self-evident. Sierra Club also supports, to the point of demanding, that the dune habitat which was required to be restored and maintained, finally be restored.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Nancy Okada  
Chair, Coastal Subcommittee  
Sierra Club California

Charming Evelyn & William Martin  
Chairs, Water Committee  
Sierra Club California