

Fairway Park Residents Fight Managed Retreat

by Jeff Guillet

Mayor Keener and the City Council are moving forward without checks or balances, against defending Pacifica from property value losses from sea level rise. Managed retreat, the doctrine of allowing the ocean to erode into our neighborhoods, stubbornly remains on the table to be included in official city policy in the next two weeks despite critical flaws and lack of local community support.

Council members supporting this issue will find it a major defining ingredient in this November's city council elections. Why the hurry to pass Managed Retreat without a proper community vote?

Sue Beckmeyer, Vickie Flores and Mike O'Neill support fighting to protect homeowner value. Existing council Keener, Martin and Digre have not clearly rejected managed retreat. Challengers Mary Bier and Adonica Shaw-Porter appear to be still studying the issue six months on.

The 173 home strong West Fairway neighborhood, just south of the golf course, is not waiting any longer for politicians to make up their mind. We are circulating petitions to Council opposing the flawed concept of managed retreat. We have 210 signatures and growing.

We seek to involve all other Pacifica neighborhoods in stopping Managed Retreat. Reject managed retreat; protect our coastline and beaches with technology already in place and available today. Every neighborhood in town will be damaged if managed retreat is adopted in any fashion and we ALL will have to pay for that. No one is going to buy or mortgage any property if it is subject to erosion 100 years projected by most of the doom-sayers. We must adopt policies to plan to fund thorough shore protection.

Lest we think this doesn't touch the whole community, homes off of the shore area will get hit hard as well. Sewer and water infrastructure relocation and Highway 1 relocation will cost every homeowner in town thousands in new taxes. Live in the east side of town, or a mile off the water? You have a dog in the fight. You use Highway 1 and the sewer.

So, we ask this question of current city council and all the candidates: Why wait to reject managed retreat? Why after six months of study is managed retreat still in the planning documents? This isn't a shell game; our home investments and city taxes are at stake.

As council rushes to pass managed retreat before the November elections, opportunities to meet with your local, state and federal elected officials to find funding for shoreline protection are not acted upon. Where is the leadership for future solutions?

Those of us in West Fairway think it is time to send a message. We would like to talk to anyone interested in getting shoreline protection back on track to protect homes and our businesses. Join with us and together we will make sure Pacifica remains a great place to live. Our email:

Visit www.nopacificaretreat.com for more information. Please plan to attend two critical town meetings: Public Workshop, Saturday September 15, 12pm at the Pacifica Community Center and the final draft meeting (get your 3 minutes to speak!) Monday November 19 at 7pm at Council Chambers. There will be many who are not part of Pacifica packing seats to express support for Managed Retreat. They do NOT have your best interests at heart, and want to see nature consume your home with no thought of the cost to Pacificans.