

01/09/25

BPUD-Oneil Water Mitigation

NAME: Renee/DJ O'Neil

PROJECT: Water Mitigation/Mini Trench

In an effort to mitigate further erosion from the Laurel/Ocean Parkway/Maple portion of the Big Mesa, we would like to clear an existing mini-trench in an effort to move water to the natural run-off area. Ten years ago, BCPUD gave us permission to dig this very small trench because it moves water effectively and efficiently (see video). We are not asking to dig a new trench, but to simply clear the same one we've been clearing for ten years. Without the trench the water creates multiple pools at the most critical point of the trail, the ground becomes saturated, sinkholes form, adding to the further destabilization of the already endangered cliffside. The area of pooling has already been helped by this mini-trench, and yet the cliff side is now 10' or so feet from the walking trail and there was a fairly substantial "pancake" event just off the trail two years ago.

The sole purpose of this trench is to move water effectively; it in no way obstructs or infringes the many Bolinas folks that walk on the trail. Due to the recent large slide on the big Mesa, erosion is very much on our mind. The closest erosion, as we mentioned, is just ten feet from the trail. We believe(as do most people who have seen it) that this mini-trench is effective in moving water along and prolonging the erosion that will eventually reach and overtake the trail, thereby eliminating any egress. In our opinion, there is no downside to this mini-trench, but certainly downside to not having it.

The trail is not a county maintained road, however this does not interfere with emergency egress, it is wide enough for the Fire Department and BPUD. It is also cut yearly by the Bolinas Fire Department for emergency access only.

DETAILS:

-Location: End of Laurel Road and the trailhead formally known as Ocean Parkway(no longer considered a county maintained road due to erosion)

-Size of Trench(4" W x 4" Deep)

-Proposed length of trench, trench would be dug on the right side of the trail, meeting up with the natural water run off at turnaround.

-TIMING, dug yearly prior to the rainy season.

[TRENCH POOL](#)

[TRENCH MORE POOLING](#)

[TRENCH STALLED WATER](#)

[TRENCH VIDEO](#)