



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY AWARDS \$350,000 FOR SHARK FIN COVE COASTAL ACCESS PLANNING

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce a \$350,000 grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy to advance planning for improved public access and safety at Shark Fin Cove, one of the County's most iconic and heavily visited coastal destinations.

The funding will support technical studies, preliminary design, and environmental review for a paved coastal access parking lot with accessible pedestrian pathways connecting visitors safely to the coast and nearby trail systems.

The project will lay the groundwork for safer, more sustainable access that separates vehicles from pedestrians and improves connections to the Coastal Rail Trail and California Coastal Trail. Currently, visitors rely on an informal, unpaved turnout along Highway 1 with no defined spaces or pedestrian pathways.

"Shark Fin Cove is one of the most iconic and beautiful places on the North Coast, but we can do more to improve access and safety," said Justin Cummings. "This funding allows the County to take the next step toward a thoughtful plan that improves safety, protects the surrounding environment, and ensures more equitable access for everyone who wants to enjoy this incredible place."

The project will include studies related to traffic, biology, cultural resources, drainage, and geotechnical conditions, along with preliminary design plans and environmental review. These efforts will position the County to pursue future construction funding and ultimately implement long-term improvements at the site.

In addition to enhancing safety, the project is expected to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, reduce impacts to sensitive coastal resources, and support responsible public use as visitation continues to grow.

The County thanks Sen. John Laird, Assemblymember Gail Pellerin and the Davenport/North Coast Association for their support in securing this grant.

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