Council approves resolutions supporting coastal trails

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City Council enthusiastically approved a couple of resolutions that may lead to success in grant funding for priority conservation area (PCA) applications for the Pedro Point Headlands, California Coastal Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trails.

At Pedro Point Headlands, the proposed PCA will include all the undeveloped portions of the Pedro Point Headlands and the five-acre portion owned by David Colt, which the city has an option to buy.

"This will make us eligible to get the funding to complete the project," said Council Member Mary Ann Nihart. "Thanks to the Pacifica Land Trust for the restoration work and support. It will be an excellent addition to the county parks. The county will take up the bulk of the work."

Dinah Verby, vice president of Pacifica Land Trust, spoke in support and noted the work on this has spanned decades.

"This is the first project the Land Trust took on. We spent a lot of time working on it. This will put us on good footing to seek funding later on," she said.

Lynn Adams, president of the Pacifica Beach Coalition, said, "This is a huge opportunity. It will create a spot where people can safely bicycle to and from Pacifica."

The Coastal Trail runs the full length of Pacifica from north to south. The State Coastal Conservancy is shepherding a PCA application as the trail runs through several counties. The Bay Area Ridge Trail runs along Pacifica's eastern boundary from Sweeney Ridge to Milagra Ridge. This trail has already been approved as a PCA but requires a reapplication.

Nihart tearfully made the motion to approve the resolutions in memory of former City Council Member Jim Vreeland, whose work on local trails and environmental issues lives on past his untimely death.

-Jane Northrop