

No on Prop I: Ocean Beach climate adaptation plan fact sheet

Proposition I contains a **critical flaw** that would derail the city's enormous efforts to protect San Francisco from climate change, endanger the sewage treatment infrastructure we all rely on, cost taxpayers **\$80 million or more**, and most worryingly, cause serious environmental harm to Ocean Beach and Fort Funston. This flaw is so significant and costly that voters should reject Prop I regardless of their views on JFK or the Great Highway.



Coastal erosion on Ocean Beach and the Great Highway Extension.



Lake Merced Sewage Tunnel.

Photos: SFPUC

The Westside's sewage treatment infrastructure is under threat

- Coastal erosion exacerbated by climate change has undermined the structural integrity of the Great Highway Extension and the Lake Merced Tunnel, a sewer pipe that runs under the highway and **keeps the city's sewage from overflowing straight into the ocean.**
- The plant serves [20% of San Francisco's sewage](#); costs to move the plant are prohibitive.

City, State, and Federal agencies have been working to protect the coastline and our infrastructure for decades

- The Board of Supervisors and California Coastal Commission **unanimously [approved](#)** a plan years ago to move forward with rerouting the Great Highway Extension and instead reshape the bluffs to adapt to climate change and increase beach access.
- The plan strategically removes the Great Highway Extension (0.9 miles of road between Sloat and Skyline boulevards) and replaces it with a park, multi-use trail, and parking lot.
- The plan is one of the first of its kind in the nation, and [a model for other cities](#).

Prop I would obstruct these plans to protect our critical infrastructure with little benefit

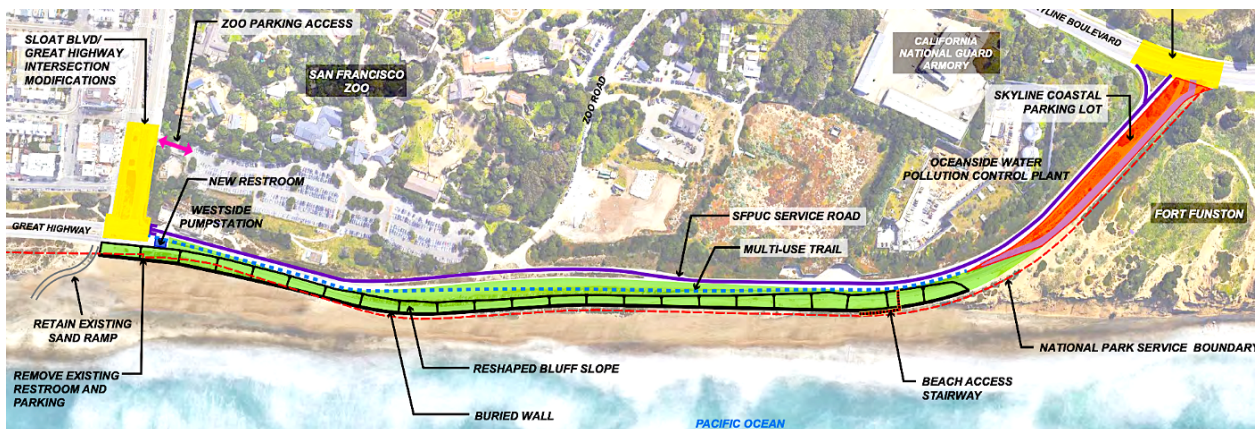
- Prop I requires the city to maintain this short stretch of road forever, regardless of environmental realities or the costs required.
- [According to the City Controller](#), if Prop I passes and prevents the city from moving forward with the plan, the city would need to build a "conventional seawall...this alternative is estimated to **cost approximately \$80 million** more than the current

preferred Project.” This \$80 million would come out of the city’s general fund, money that could otherwise go to fund essential services like schools and first responders.

- A massive seawall would be an environmental tragedy. The seawall would need to rise **over 30 feet high** to stabilize the road and infrastructure and would require moving 100,000 cubic yards of sand every single year. According to the draft Environmental Impact Report and expert analysis, the seawall would result in [accelerated erosion](#), [reduced access](#) to the beach, and “bluff instability at Fort Funston.”

Prop I is a poorly crafted ballot measure with a critical flaw, and it could cost much more than \$80M

- Similar to Prop K which was ultimately withdrawn from the ballot, it’s unclear if the authors of Prop I understood the full financial and environmental implications of their own ballot measure, and the fact that it would derail decades of climate change adaptation work and consensus across local, state, and federal levels.
- Construction estimates rarely turn out to be low. Prop I could end up costing a lot more than \$80 million due to additional outreach, redesign, environmental review, and years of inevitable lawsuits.
- Starting over on planning with a whole new design just as construction is set to begin would also introduce **years of delay** to the project, which would almost certainly result in even more costs and risk to our infrastructure. The parking lots and road shoulder have already crumbled, and the Lake Merced Tunnel is at risk from further deterioration.
- The ocean is rapidly coming for our critical infrastructure. If we don't act promptly, the rising seas will damage the pipes of the Oceanside Treatment Plant, which according to the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) "would almost certainly result in raw sewage leaks" straight into the ocean.



Reference – Proposition I does three things:

1. **Ends the JFK Promenade in Golden Gate Park**, bringing back dangerous traffic every day of the week except for 12 hours on Sundays and some Saturdays.
2. **Ends the Great Highway compromise**, which allows private motor vehicle access on weekdays, and safe recreation space on weekends, instead requiring traffic 24/7
3. **Costs taxpayers \$80 million or more** by preventing the city from moving forward with the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Plan, an approved plan to protect critical sewage treatment infrastructure and the Ocean Beach ecosystem from coastal erosion.

Resources:

- [Draft Environmental Impact Review](#)
- [Controller's estimate on Prop I's cost to taxpayers](#)
- [SFPUC Ocean Beach Climate Adaptation Plan resources](#)

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