



C. Agency & Organization

C. Agency & Organizational Goals

There are several groups and organizations that are likely to participate in the process of evaluating the options presented in this report. Many of the options presented will also require the approval of these organizations. The interested parties include, but are not limited to:

- California Coastal Commission
- The Sea Ranch Association
- California Coastal Conservancy
- Sonoma County Regional Parks Department
- Public Access Advocacy Groups such as COAAST and the Sonoma County Trails Council

The California Coastal Commission outlines its position in a letter dated April 4, 1998 from Bill Van Beckum. In the letter he stated "it is clear that the intent of Section 30610.6 is to establish a means for the public to permanently enjoy the use of a shoreline trail and other access opportunities at the Sea Ranch." He goes on to say that "The Commission would strongly support the County in efforts to maintain the trails in or near their present location." (Exhibit 2).

The Sea Ranch Association (TSRA) provides safe private trails for homeowners and vacationers that link to a safe public trail system. In some cases, as in the case of this section of Bluff Top Trail, the public trails and the private trail systems overlap. The Sea Ranch Association Board of Directors has indicated that it believes its obligations under the Bane Bill concerning public access have been met and any further encroachment into TSRA lands is problematic. See *Press Democrat* article "Close to Home." (Exhibit 3).

Sonoma County Regional Parks Department is charged with providing safe public coastal access trails and facilities for the use and enjoyment of the public. The Bluff Top Trail is a part of the California Coastal Trail system as identified by the California Coastal Conservancy, and therefore holds both regional and national significance in respect to public coastal access trails.

The position of COAAST, Coastwalk, and the Sonoma County Trails Council is to advocate that public trails along the coast continue to be open for the public to use and enjoy.