Engineering & Capital Projects Department

Sunset Cliffs Seawall Improvement Project

Community Informational Meeting
May 12, 2026

The City of SAN DIEGO

Objectives

- **Purpose:** This presentation is intended to share project information and educate the public about key aspects and need
- **Informational Focus:** The content presented is for your awareness and understanding

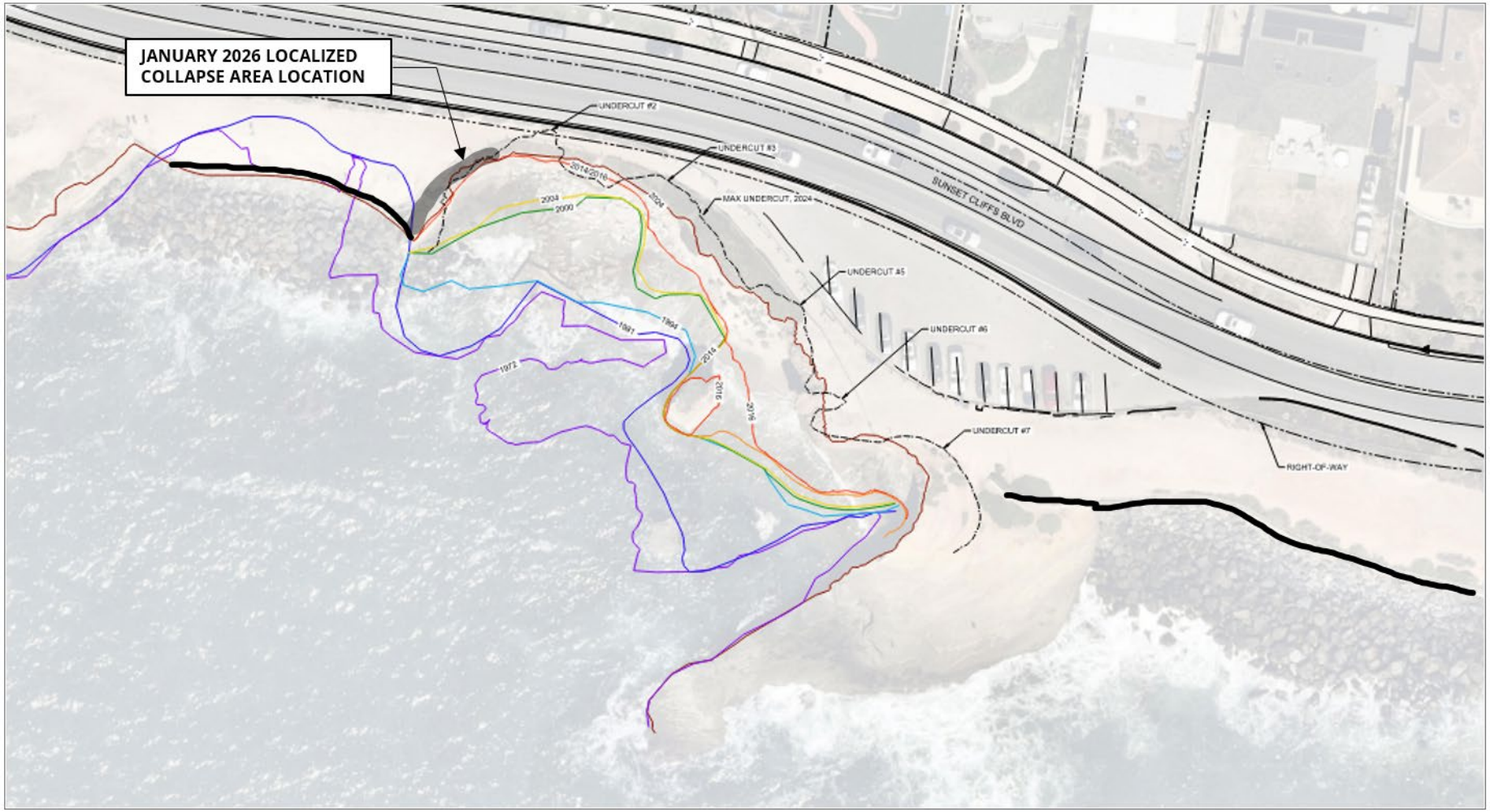
Project Location and Elements

Legend

- Existing Seawall
- Proposed Seawall
- AC Overlay
- Curb Ramp

Community Planning Area: Peninsula

Project Background & Need



Legend

- 1972
- 1981
- 1994
- 2000
- 2004
- 2014
- 2016
- 2024
- 2026-01 Collapse
- Existing MSE Walls

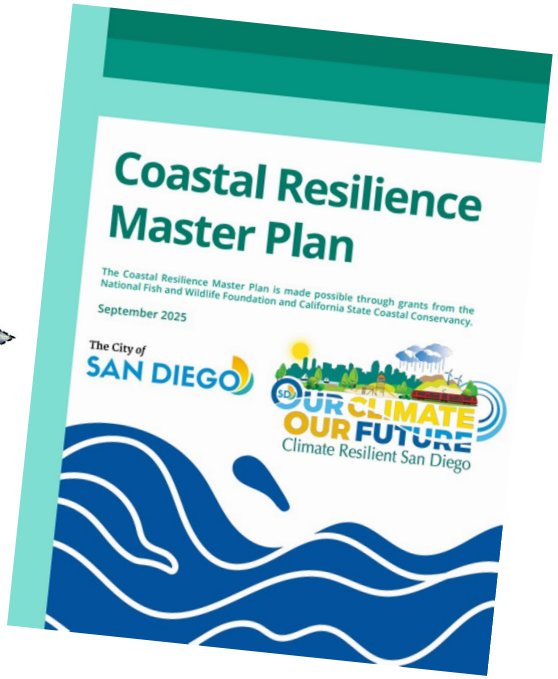
Project Background Continued

Physical Conditions at North Horn of the Pocket Beach from August 2021 to January 2026

Physical Conditions at the South Horn of the Pocket Beach from August 2021to January 2026

Design Solutions - Soft

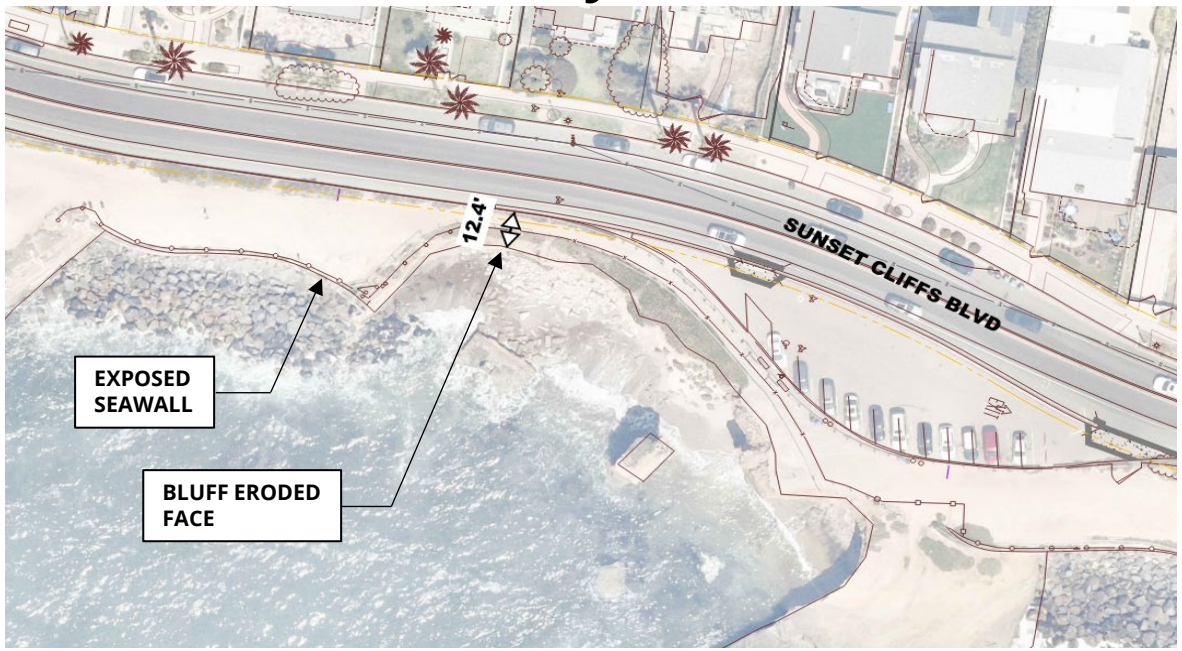
- Coastal Resilience Master Plan:
  - Identifies potential ***nature-based solutions*** for locations along San Diego's coast to improve the resilience of our communities to sea level rise while also benefiting coastal access, recreation opportunities, wildlife and natural coastal resources
- Nature-based – beach nourishment, managed realignment
- Allowing shoreline to exist in a natural state, while reducing manmade loading and impacts
- Best for more flexible and adaptive to changing condition over time



Design Solutions - Engineered

- Best for constraint sites/built environment close to bluff edge
- Structural – Seawalls, revetments
- Provides long-term protection and erosion stability of the built

Example: Existing Engineered Seawall



Constrained Site: Edge of road to bluff face

Design Alternatives

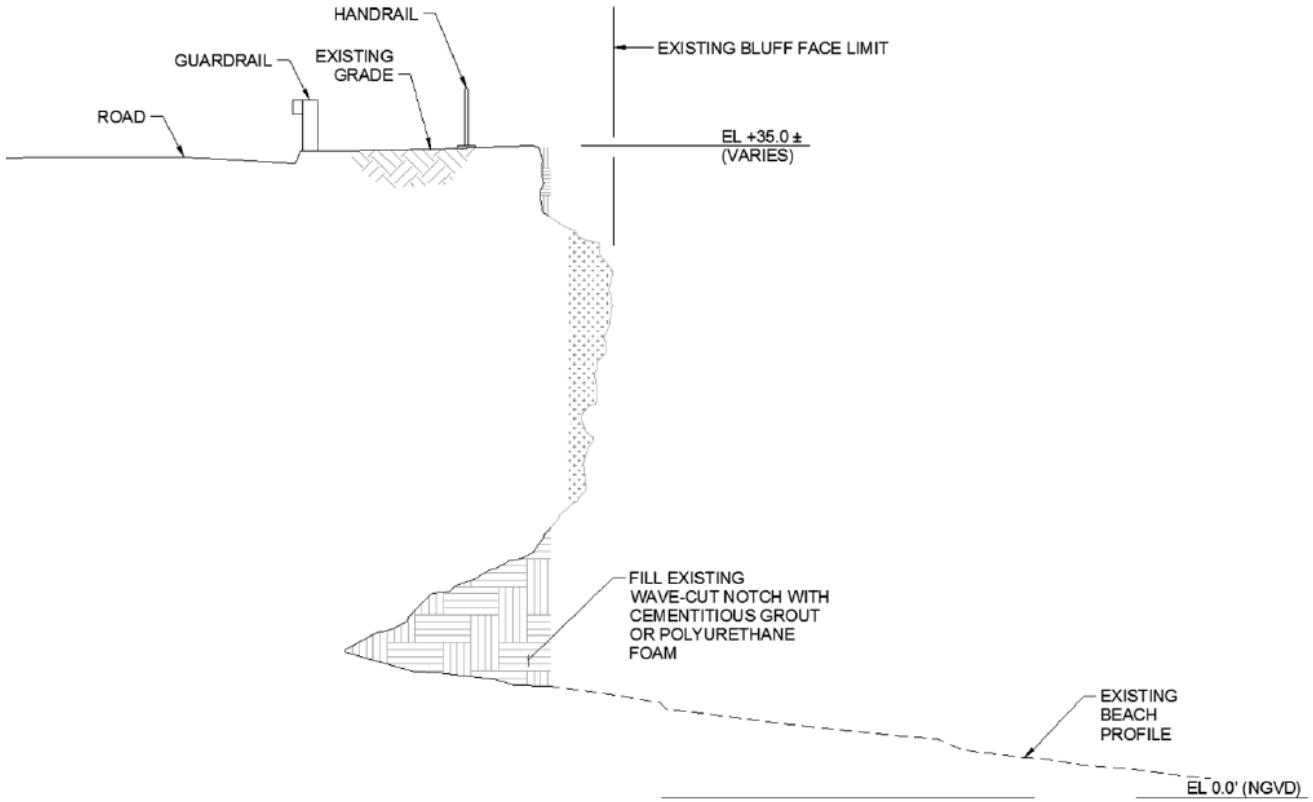
- No Build
- Temporary
  - Undercut Infill
- Walls
  - Partial Wall
  - Tieback and Shotcrete Wall
  - Secant Pile Wall
  - Conventional Retaining Wall
  - **Tieback and Secant Pile Wall**

Design Alternative – No Build

- This includes no structural improvements.
- Roadway, paths, fencing, concrete blocks, and bluff face would all remain untouched.

Design Alternative – Temporary Undercut Infill

- This includes a grout or polyurethane foam as a temporary solution to fill the caves or undercuts near the beach.
- No structural improvements are included.

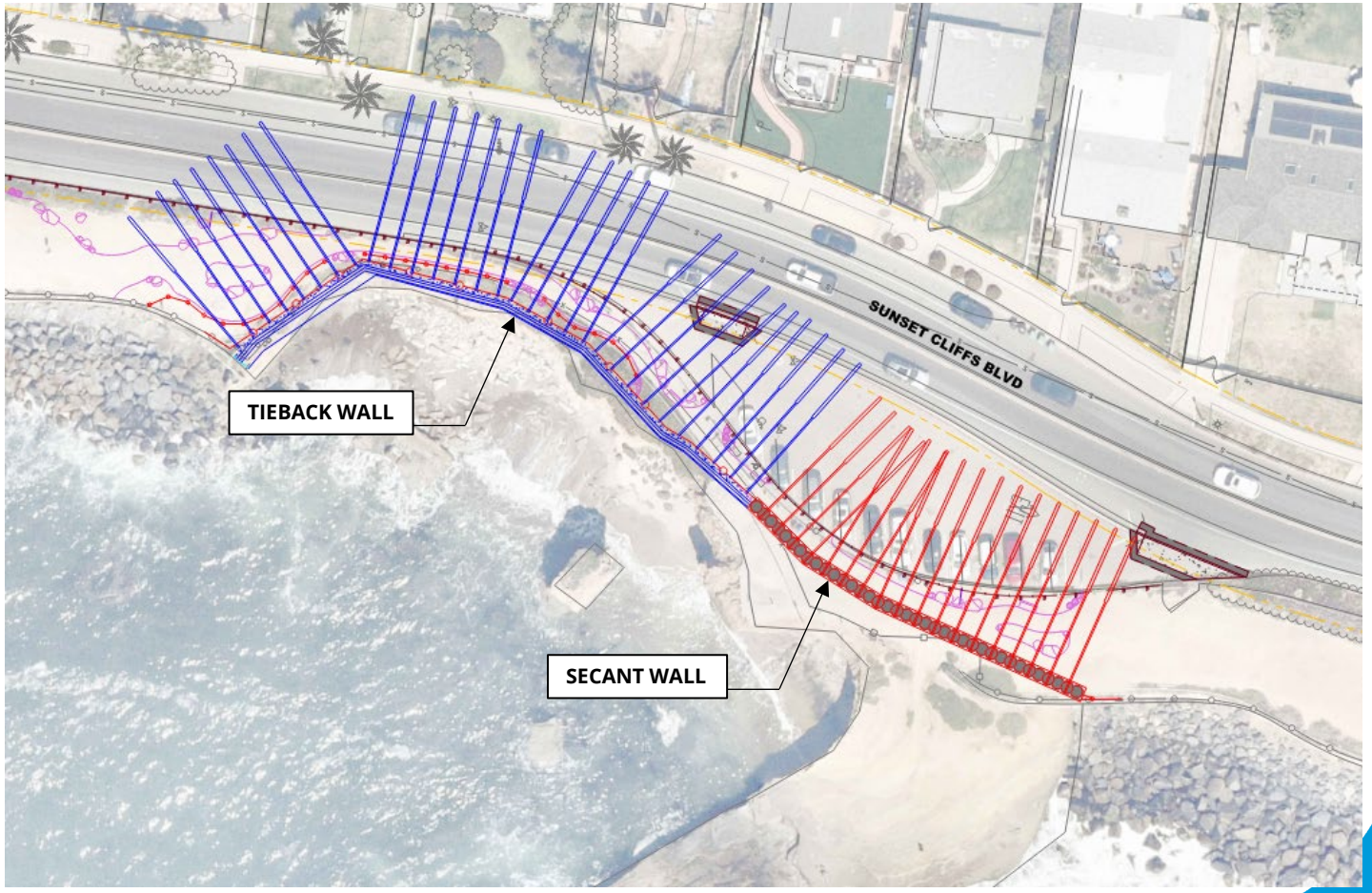


Section: Undercut Infill

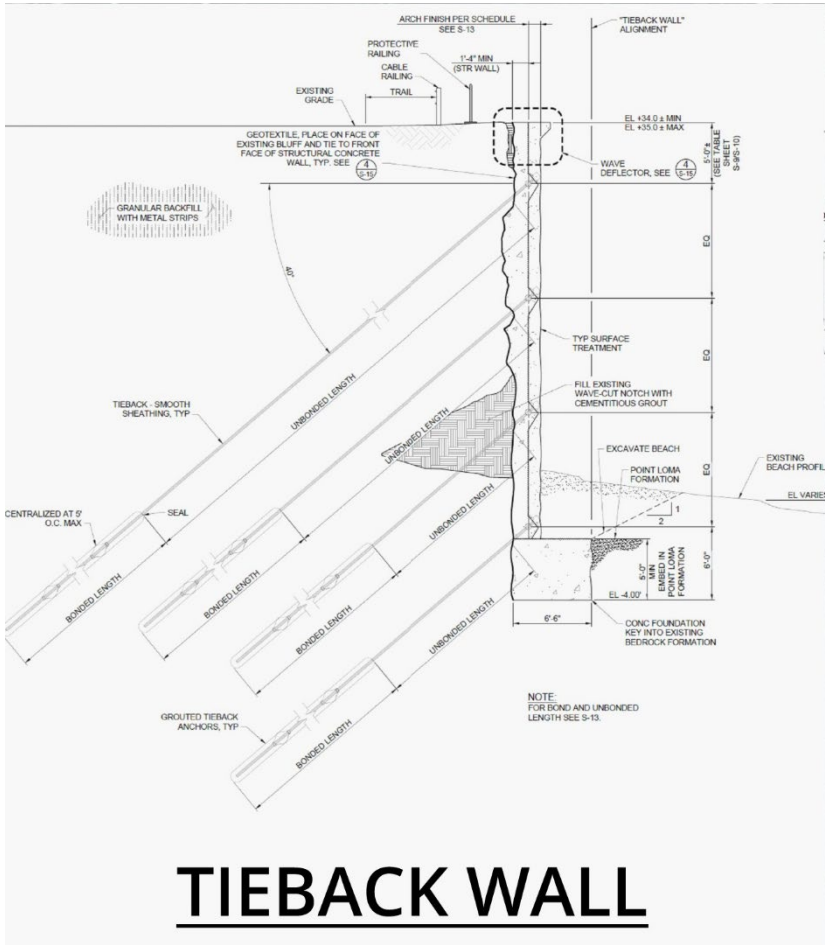
Design Alternative - Tieback and Secant Pile Wall

- **Recommended Alternative.**
- Combination of a tieback wall and secant pile wall.

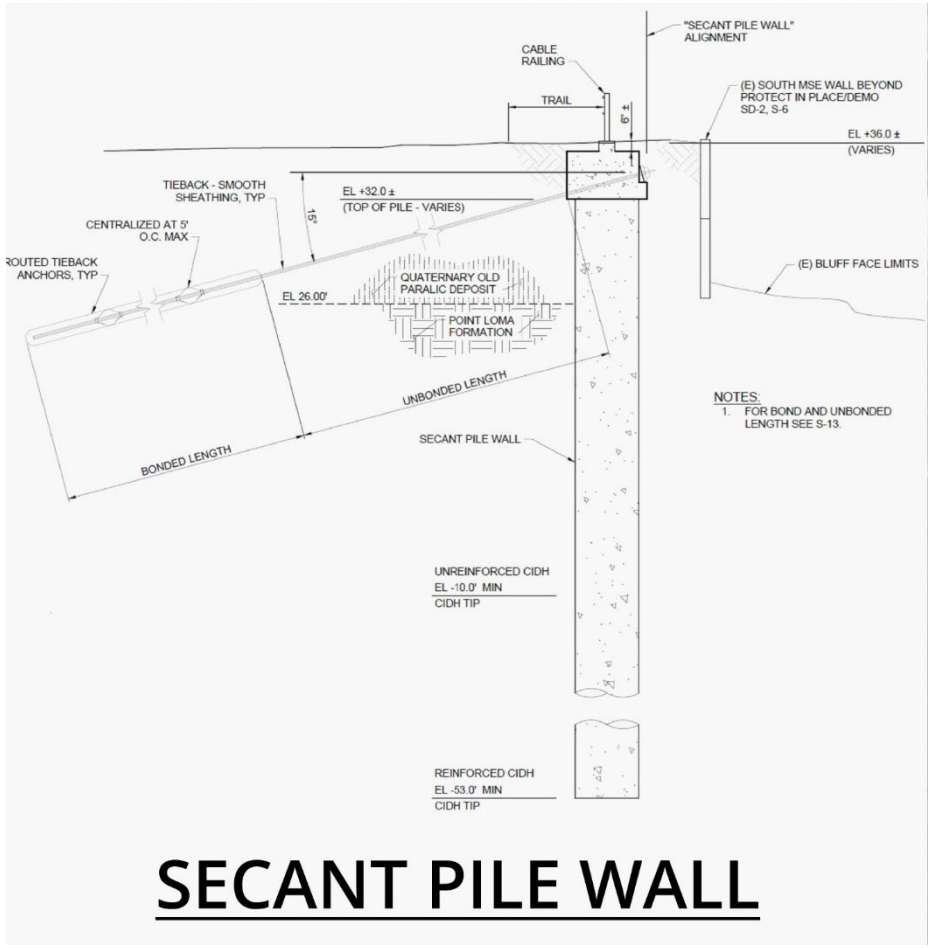
Tieback Wall	Secant Pile Wall
205 linear feet	130 linear feet



Design Alternative - Tieback and Secant Pile Wall



TIEBACK WALL

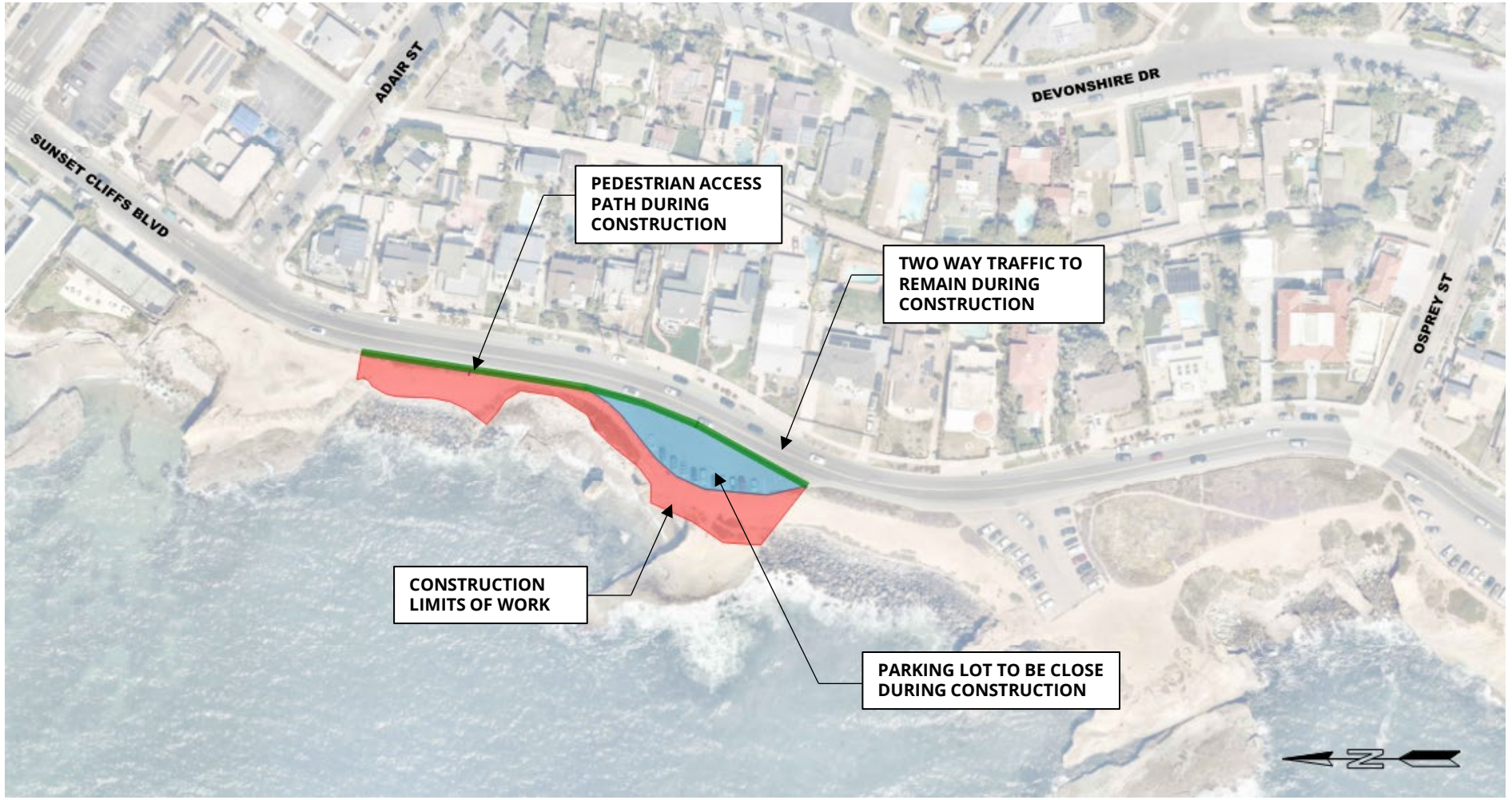


SECANT PILE WALL

Rendering of a Shotcrete Tieback Wall

Rendering of Pedestrian Trail

Traffic Control During Construction



Landscape Details

- The project incorporates native plant species from the plant communities listed in the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Master Plan

Railing Options

- The project will incorporate protective railing
- Options include
  - Guard rail
  - Cable railing
  - Other
- Goal to provide a cohesive railing aesthetic in the area and for public safety.

Environmental Permitting

- CEQA – Mitigated Negative Declaration
  - Impacts to Biological, Cultural, and Visual Resources
- Site Development Permit – Process 2 (City Staff Decision)
- Coastal Development Permit – California Coastal Commission (CCC)
- Resource Agency Permits:
  - United States Army Corps of Engineers
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - California State Lands Commission

Project Information

Estimated Total Project Cost:

$32.2 M ($26 M estimated construction cost at 60% design)*

Project Schedule:

- **Spring 2026** - Design currently at 60%
- **Summer 2027** – Complete final design and permitting acquisition
- **Winter 2027** - Construction start*

*pending environmental permit approval and funding allocation

Questions?