

Long Beach City Council Bluff Erosion Stabilization Presentation, 12/16/2014
by Isaac Waksul 2695 E. 1st Street, Bluff Park, Long Beach, CA 90803

Half-page ad in the December 11, 2014 issue of the Gazette by the Restore Our Bluff group —Deceptive advertising?

- This striking image is of bare and unstained shotcrete with protruding steel nails throughout. Turn to page 2 to see the finished shotcrete.
- The highly visible shotcrete project went on for four years, and just weeks from completion, when this group took action.
- ALL industry professionals who studied our bluff recommended shotcrete as the choice solution. One professional, invited by this group didn't. He wrote the City and spoke in front of Council, and claimed "We did not look at this site extensively" (see File 14-0313).
- No mention of planting pockets built into the shotcrete, the hundreds of plants recently planted in these pockets, as well as above and below the shotcrete, and the fact that plants and vines will mostly cover it.

Stop the Shotcrete!

NO MORE SPRAYED CONCRETE ON OUR BEACH BLUFFS

COMMUNITY CALL TO ACTION:

Our city leaders need to hear from you today!

Please join us in asking District 3 Councilperson Suzie Price or your district's representative to fulfill the community's vision from the beginning of this project: no more sprayed concrete on the bluffs. Treat our bluffs in Bluff Park with an environmentally-sound alternative, the way the community has envisioned and supported for years.

Email Councilperson Suzie Price, jurisdiction of Bluff Park: district3@longbeach.gov

And consider joining us at City Hall Tuesday night, December 16, to lend your moral and vocal support.

When: Tuesday, December 16, 5 p.m.
Where: City Hall, 333 W Ocean Blvd, Long Beach CA
Why: To advocate for biotechnical alternatives to shotcrete on our remaining Bluff Park bluffs

Please stand with concerned residents and industry professionals and send a clear message to Long Beach City Council: Restore and protect the natural beauty and ecological integrity of our bluff. NO MORE CONCRETE.

This Tuesday, December 16, Long Beach City Council will hear from city staff and engineers and make a critical decision about how to finish the long-awaited bluff erosion control project along Bluff Park.

The bluff project was halted earlier this year when residents and City Council were alarmed to discover that 40% of the bluffs would be armored with concrete to avoid naturally-occurring erosion. Before Council intervened, nearly one half of the bluffs were installed with "soil nails" for seismic stability and two thirds of that area were sprayed with "shotcrete" (sprayed concrete). The remaining third, those slopes near the Museum of Art and Orizaba, are unfinished and formally on hold – these are the areas now threatened with additional shotcrete (pictured above). On Tuesday, Council will be presented with 3 options by city staff and experts to manage surface erosion in these remaining areas. Two options that will be put before the council use biotechnical or less-invasive slope stabilization methods. **Unfortunately, city staff plans to advocate for the completion of the project using the 3rd option instead: concrete.**

The city's biotechnical options involve engineered re-vegetation and/or re-grading to recreate a natural bluff with a highly stable slope. This is the vision the residents supported during the original community outreach in 2000. These alternatives also allow the bluffs to provide habitat for rare plants and animals, beautify the beach for our enjoyment, and minimize natural erosion. **The city's experts state in no uncertain terms: either of the biotechnical methods can safely stabilize Bluff Park.**

Finishing with concrete is cheaper than biotechnical engineering, this is true. Biotechnical alternatives will require additional investments from the city's Tidelands Fund, funds earmarked specifically for coastal improvements.

But civil engineering should not be bargain priced at the expense of our natural resources. Our expansive bluffs at Bluff Park are the face of our public beaches, a looming symbol for residents and tourists alike. The City of Long Beach must make a commitment to preserve and protect our beaches and bluffs as a natural legacy for generations to come.

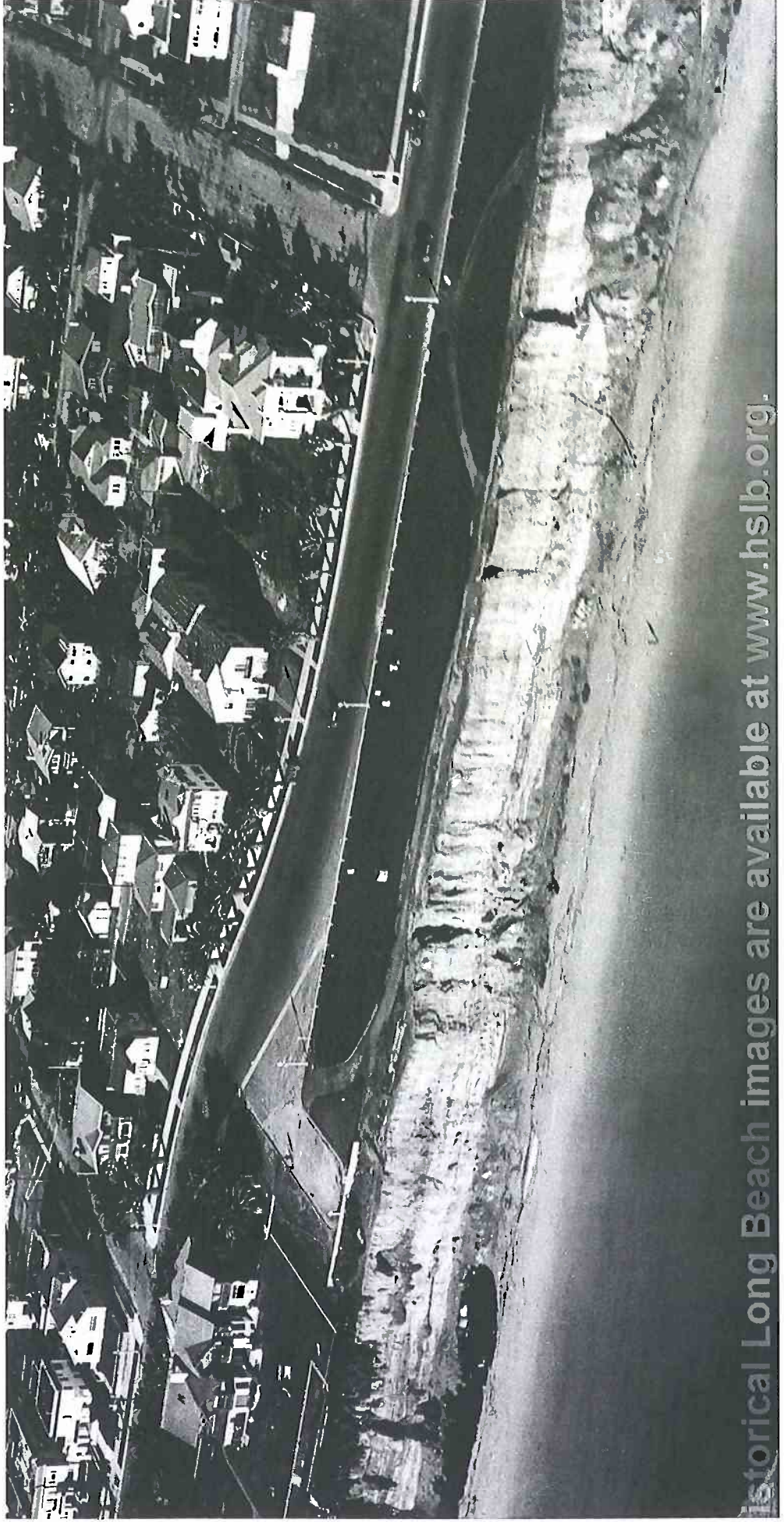
To learn more about the community campaign to protect and restore our bluffs at Bluff Park, please visit www.restoreourbluff.com or follow us at www.facebook.com/restoreourbluff.

**Formed and stained shotcrete with planter pockets.
If the objective is to RESTORE OUR BLUFF, this is what it
looked like historically (See photo on page 3)**

**Unformed and unstained shotcrete (pictured in ad),
attached to nails, 20 to 30 feet into the bluff.
ALL expert studies and reviews picked this as
top option.**

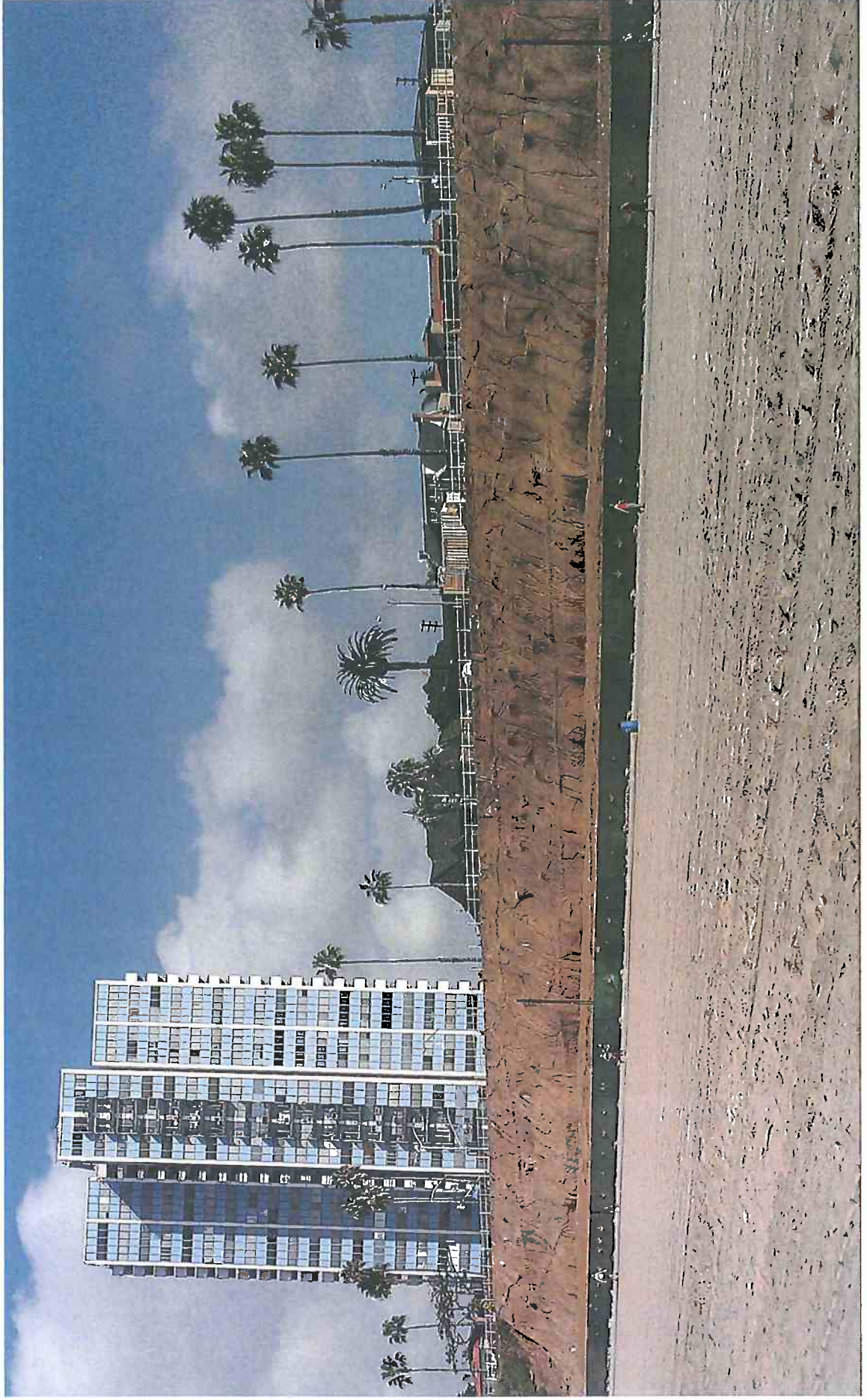


A 1927 photo of our bluff. Notice, NO VEGETATION. It looks just like the formed and stained shotcrete.



Historical Long Beach images are available at www.hslb.org.

**The way this bluff looked like in 1927, with planter pockets added.
Shotcrete with plants covering it is a wise compromise.
The bluff is properly engineered with a 100-year, earthquake-safe solution,
looks like the original bluff, and is planted with vegetation.
Everyone wins.
But, the most important detail that has not been discussed... (see pages 5-7)**



This is the source of erosion no one is talking about. The City has been struggling with this problem for decades. This photo was taken at the Junipero beach access, just steps from the biotechnical alternative you are about to vote on. This has been the greatest erosion cause on the bluff, and would be devastating to a gentler slope biotechnical solution.





Signs like this had been placed up and down the bluff for a reason. Some were just taken down recently when the shotcrete project was underway. They'll have to be put up again if a biotechnical slope is voted on. The Bixby Park sloped bluff had the same problem, until a large concrete ramp system was recently put across it. No one complained. That ended the foot trails erosion problem the City was fighting for decades without results. The planted shotcrete will solve this problem once and for all. And, be covered with plants and vines. The perfect compromise.

