

Council discusses jetty safety with Army Corps

January 24, 2023



Crescent City invited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers via Zoom to its Tuesday meeting at the Flynn Center to discuss jetty security.

The Corps owns and manages the jetty. Neither the city nor the county has any law enforcement oversight on the Corps property.

USACE's Chief of Construction Jerry Harper addressed councilors from his USACE office in San Francisco concerning long-standing suspect public safety and signage issues at the Crescent City Jetty.

City outreach follows yet another close call when a couple escaped peril when huge waves hurtled over the jetty knocking the man and woman to the Jetty floor Dec. 11.

Over the last 21 years, three individuals have been killed after being swept off the Jetty. Another 15 individuals have suffered serious blunt force trauma after waves pushed them off the Jetty.

Harper was compliant and cooperative with councilors, expressing Corps interest in helping the community address the conundrum.

"The issue of Jetty safety is not new to USACE," he said. "The Army Corps of Engineers is open to helping the community and saving lives."

Harper is a former rock climber who has scaled National Parks' steep walls and stated he believes folks have the right to live their lives the way they choose.

Councilors all agreed more education is needed in outreach to the public which is why the city is researching options to improve public safety. Some of the options discussed were improving signage and thimble fencing. All agreed the decision to change the status quo is a difficult one, balancing one's right to choose and protecting public safety.

The Council agreed to instruct City Manager Eric Wier to assist in organizing a public information forum to weigh on any jetty restrictions.

Invited to be included in the proposed meeting would be Search and Rescue, City Police, Del Norte Sheriff and the general public.