



June 27, 2023

**Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee Statement to Select Board:**

The Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee encourages the directly involved parties (Baxter Road property owners, the Select Board, the Conservation Commission, and Town staff & consultants) to continue negotiating the process for managed retreat from the Sconset Bluff and relocation of Baxter Road due to the threat of erosion cutting off access and destroying infrastructure. The interests of the island community as a whole must also be kept in mind so that the efforts in this area do not place either adverse environmental impact or excessive cost burdens on island residents not in the project area.

Although erosion control structures may be effective at reducing erosion at their specific locations while they are properly maintained with the addition of sacrificial sand, the possible harm to adjacent and 'downstream' properties from deflected wave energy or sand starvation and the high monetary cost, disproportionate allocation of sand, significant management time, and neighborhood disruption all speak against relying on such structures in highly dynamic and vulnerable environments such as the Sconset Bluff.

In addition, erosion of the bluff will continue to occur from other environmental factors such as wind, rain, runoff, and instability, and erosion of unprotected portions of the bluff will eventually affect currently protected portions as well, supporting a sense of urgency for the road relocation and managed retreat even if the portions of the bluff toe remain protected.