Free the Beach!
Public Access, Equal Justice, and the California Coast

Photographs: “No Trespassing” Signs and All-Terrain Vehicles

Report by Nicolas García
June 2005
MISSION OF THE CENTER FOR LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The Center for Law in the Public Interest seeks justice for traditionally under-represented people and organizations and engages in advocacy and litigation on a broad range of issues that have a significant impact on the public interest.

MISSION OF THE CITY PROJECT AT THE CENTER FOR LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

The mission of The City Project at the Center for Law in the Public Interest is to achieve equal justice, democracy, and livability for all by influencing the investment of public resources to achieve results that are equitable, enhance human health and the environment, and promote economic vitality for all communities. Focusing on parks and recreation, schools, human health, and transit, we help bring people together to create the kind of community where they want to live and raise children. The City Project works with diverse coalitions in strategic campaigns to shape public policy and law, and to serve the needs of the community as defined by the community.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Center for Law in the Public Interest
1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1660
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone (213) 977-1035 Fax (213) 977-5457
www.clipi.org
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Center for Law in the Public Interest has spearheaded a strategic campaign to preserve public access to the beach, and to prevent destruction of the beach. The California beach is the latest front in the struggle for equal justice. Wealthy beachfront enclaves like Malibu along California's coast have sought to cut off the right of the people to reach the beach.

For years, wealthy Malibu homeowners posted illegal “private property” and “no trespassing” signs, and hired private security guards on all-terrain vehicles that harassed the public and prevented people from reaching the public beach.

The California Coastal Commission ordered an end to illegal “private property” and “no trespassing” signs, fencing, and private security guards on all-terrain vehicles in June 2004. For more than a year the Commission negotiated with Trancas Property Owners Association, which represents property owners along Broad Beach in Malibu.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest, along with concerned California residents Bernard Bruce, Carol Jacques, and Edwin Rosales, and other advocates demanded that the Coastal Commission enforce the public’s rights under relevant state laws. The Commission unanimously voted to issue a cease and desist order against Trancas Property Owners Association, in August 2005.

Each of the following images was shot on Broad Beach in Malibu, California, on August 18, 2004. The images begin at the south/east end of Broad Beach at Zuma Beach, and go to the north/west end of Broad Beach. Each caption identifies the corresponding street address on Broad Beach Road nearest to the scene depicted in the picture. The street address is taken from the Broad Beach Coastal Access Guide (the Guide) published by the California Coastal Commission, which identifies each property on Broad Beach by street address. (The number in parenthesis is a unique identifier for each image.)

Broad Beach at or near 30712 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C20. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 70 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 6/01.”
Broad Beach at or near 30718 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C21. The sign reads: “ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA PLEASE KEEP OFF.”
Broad Beach at or near 30750 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C16. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 70 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30760 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C14. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30760 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C15. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 48 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30826 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C12. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30826 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C13. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30826 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C11. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 42 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30870 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C10. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30904 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C8. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 44 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30904 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C9. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 44 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30918 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C7. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30944 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C6. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 38 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 30952 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C5. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31000 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C3. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach between 30952 and 31000 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C4. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31000 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C1. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 36 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31000 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #C2. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 36 FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31038 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B37. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 35 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31052 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B36. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 32 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31054 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B35. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 30 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31108 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B28. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS -- FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED --.”
Broad Beach at or near 31108 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B29. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 30 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31122 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B26. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31122 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B27. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B19. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 32 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B17. Both signs read: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 32 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.” The sign on the fence reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B18. The sign on the right reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 32 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.” The sign on the fence reads “PRIVATE PROPERTY.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking south/east, August 18, 2004. #B16. The two signs on the picket fence read: “PRIVATE PROPERTY.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way, at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking south, August 18, 2004. #B20.
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, August 18, 2004. #B21.
Broad Beach at or near 31212 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B14. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 42 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31212 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B15. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 42 FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31214 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B12. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31214 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B13. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31240 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B9. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31240 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B10. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31250 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B7. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 38 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31250 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B8. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 38 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31272 Broad Beach Road, looking north/east, August 18, 2004. #B4. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31272 Broad Beach Road, looking north/east, August 18, 2004. #B5. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31280 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B2. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 34 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31280 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B1. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 34 FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, looking south/east, August 18, 2004. #A38.
Broad Beach at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A34. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A35. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 40 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A37. The wet sand is only a few feet from the signpost, but the sign says the private property begins 40 feet toward the ocean from the sign.
Broad Beach at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, August 18, 2004. #A36. The man’s foot (which is 12 inches long) is shown next to the seaweed in the preceding image for scale to illustrate the distance. The wet sand and seaweed in the water are much less than 40 feet from the signpost, yet the sign says the private property line begins 40 feet towards the ocean from the sign.
Broad Beach at or near 31336 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A32. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 35 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31336 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A33. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 35 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach Public Access Way at or near 31336 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. A29.
Broad Beach north/west of Public Access Way at or near 31346 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A27. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 38 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 7/04.”
Broad Beach north/west of Public Access Way at or near 31346 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A26. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS (38) FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 7/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31350 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A24. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 30 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31350 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A25. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 30 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 4470-017-069 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A8. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS 20 FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 4470-017-069 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A9. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS (20) FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED 8/04.”
Broad Beach at or near 31430 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A11. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS -- FEET FROM THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED --.”
Broad Beach at or near 31430 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A10. The sign reads: “PRIVATE PROPERTY DO NOT TRESPASS CALIF. PENAL CODE SEC. 602(N) PRIVATE PROPERTY LINE BEGINS -- FEET TOWARD THE OCEAN FROM THIS SIGN SURVEYED --.”
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31108 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #B34.
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31108 Broad Beach Road, looking south/east, August 18, 2004. #B33.
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31240 Broad Beach Road, looking north/west, August 18, 2004. #C27.
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31202 Broad Beach Road, looking south/east, August 18, 2004. #C30.
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31336 Broad Beach Road, looking north, August 18, 2004. #A31.
Broad Beach “security guard” on an all-terrain vehicle at or near 31316 Broad Beach Road, looking south/east, August 18, 2004. #A6.
Broad Beach at or near 31388 Broad Beach Road, looking north/west, August 18, 2004. #A22. The tracks from an all-terrain vehicle are in wet sand, which is generally public beach.
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