



Foghorn without a cause sits derelict in P.G.

The long-silent foghorn at Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove has become a coastal eyesore.

The structure consists of a concave wall on the landward side of Ocean View Boulevard near Asilomar Avenue and once was used as a sound reflector to bounce the foghorn's deep notes out to sea during the decades of its operation.

The Coast Guard, which operated the lighthouse and foghorn, no longer depends on such things as navigational aides because global positioning devices and radar have made them obsolete.

Now the foghorn sound wall serves as a perch for seagulls and pelicans, who leave evidence of their visits behind.

The 150-year-old lighthouse at Point Pinos is the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the West Coast and has guided mariners since 1855.

Its Fresnel lens still projects light that can be seen 17 miles out to sea and it is one of only

four remaining facilities that features the original lens in the original structure.

The National Park Service announced in September 2002 that 20 of the country's 300 lighthouses were available at no cost to those who can prove that they can take good care of them.

Who's responsible:

The federal government

Action needed: Transfer property from the Coast Guard to the city of Pacific Grove

Target date: Indefinite

Status: The transfer is in the works

holes of the municipal golf course. A city spokeswoman said the property transfer is still in the works, delayed by the transfer of the Coast Guard from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security.

And while the lighthouse is maintained by a volunteer organization, the derelict foghorn remains a forsaken roadside curiosity.

— Kevin Howe



The foghorn on Ocean View Boulevard in Pacific Grove.

THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

What needs attention? If you know of a problem, contact The Herald's Kevin Howe at khowe@montereyherald.com or 646-4416. Subjects can range from potholes to abandoned vehicles, from broken streetlights to breakdowns in the governmental process. This Herald watchdog feature runs on Mondays.