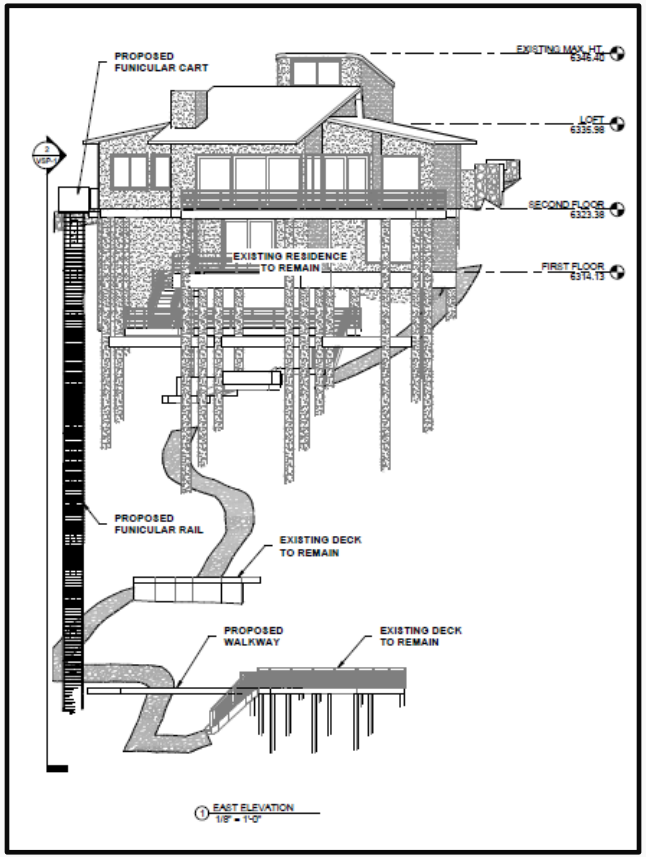
552 Gonowabie Rd Crystal Bay

WPVAR25-0006

Funicular for accessibility



- This funicular is proposed due to the steepness of the lot
- Particularly important for the aging owners' medical conditions

Visibility concern — view from road

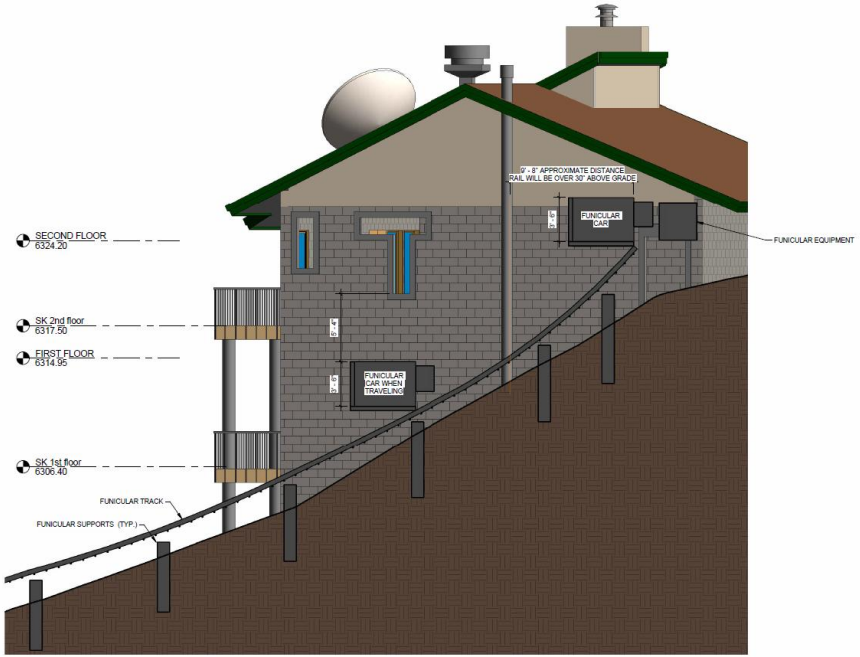
Currently partially screened by existing site features

Existing screening:
- Bear bin
- Gas meter enclosure
- Wall + fence
- Vegetation

Visibility concern — neighbor parcel

Rail height relative to windows and decks.

- Existing fixed bedroom windows are toward the lake corner.
- Neighbor decks are primarily on the south of the lake facing side and not the north.



- Once under the windows, occupants' heads are ~5' below
- Screening can be improved with approved vegetation.

Screening approach

Maintain defensible space while improving visual screening.

Vegetation can help screen the lower railing without reversing defensible space efforts both neighbors have made:

- Continue with approved, allowed plantings.
- Focus screening where the rail sits low on the slope.
- Keep sightlines and fuel reduction consistent with defensible space.

Noise

Manufacturer guidance indicates low noise levels at distance.

45.5 dB

at 15 ft (Hill Hiker® guidance)

For reference: typical conversation is ~60–65 dB.

How much noise do they make?

Hill Hiker® Inclined Elevator systems are designed to operate at an ambient noise level that is unobtrusive to the surrounding environment (arounds 60 decibels, which is about the same level as a normal conversation or background music). That being said, the noise level of the system varies based on factors such as the size and type of drive system as well as the distance from the system.

Distance From Drive System (feet)	Noise Level (decibels)
2	63
5	55
10	49
15	45.5
20	43
25	41
30	39.5

NOTES:

- Max decibel readings shown based on a 5hp WD drive system.
- Max readings occur during the short startup period when the elevator begins to move.
- Noise figures are general and may vary.
- Many factors such as motor housings, insulation, landscaping, foundation types, etc. can further reduce max noise levels.

Alternate locations

Feasibility and tradeoffs under the residence

Option studied: under the residence (neighbor’s proposal)

- Reduces useful distance ~40%
- Adds 30+ existing stairs
- Adds a new pathway connection

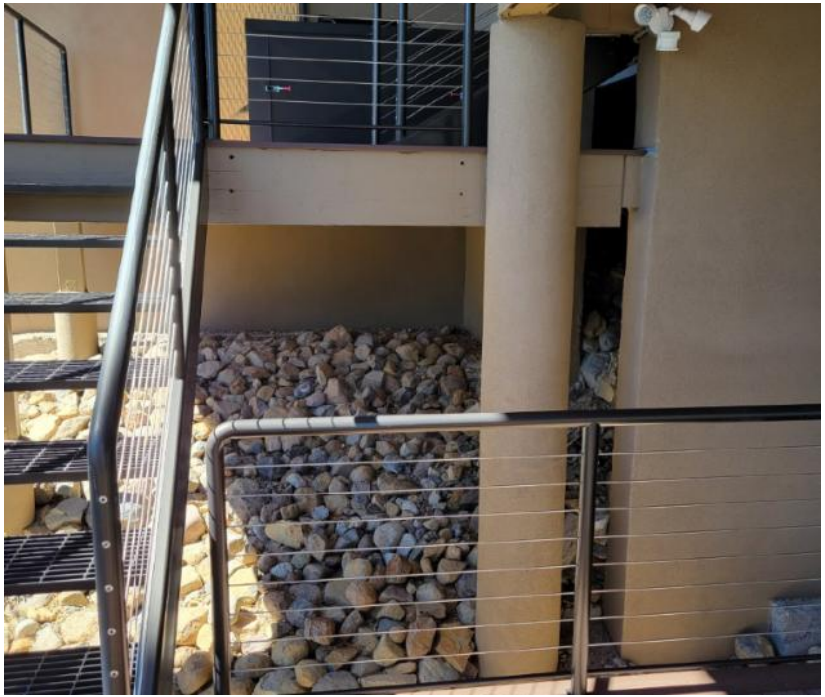
Structural constraints

Concerns

- Excavation needed to clear existing beams.
- Risk of undermining existing foundations.

Existing circulation constraints

Additional stairs and landings would be required in addition to existing.



Thank you

Elise Fett & Associates, Ltd.