

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT
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W11b

Application No. 2-24-0241 (Caltrans Sonoma Safety Improvements)

JUNE 13, 2024

CORRESPONDENCE

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 15:21:57 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: Re: Caltrans Hwy 1 Centerline Rumble Strips Sonoma County (email of concern)

Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 9:26:21 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Les Erbst

To: Allen, Peter@Coastal

CC: Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal

Hello Peter,

Thank you for responding. We do still have serious concerns about the project. Having lived in this house for 28 years we are uniquely aware of the idiosyncrasies of the location, a particularly dangerous stretch of road that has seen several accidents over the years. None had to do with not having rumble strips or a bicycle lane and everything to do with drunk drivers running the stop sign on Valley Ford-Freestone Road and getting t-boned, one time ending up in our pasture and another right at the proposed site. The road has been resurfaced several times over the years, each time creating a more challenging site line and faster speeds. As it stands now it is dangerous when approaching our driveway which is just south of the site particularly from the north. Impatient vehicles tailgate as you begin to slow down and we have been lucky not to have been rear ended ourselves. We fear for the people who visit us on weekends. Consider a hypothetical scenario where a tailgated motorist now has to try to navigate through stopped bicyclists as they try to enter my property. You are setting up conditions for a catastrophic accident. So when David Moore states that there are "no right-of-way" concerns it's not entirely accurate. And it's avoidable. Just south of our driveway is a public turnout that could easily be expanded to accommodate a bicycle break or safe zone and a few hundred feet further is a large area used by Caltrans that has room to do the same. They say a picture is worth a thousand words so at this link,

<https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2024/6/Th11b/Th11b-6-2024-exhibits.pdf>

please view page 49 for a clear image of my house and the proximity to the project. It clearly illustrates how close the entrance to the driveway is and potential problems when someone comes around that sharp turn at high speeds or when someone tries to enter a driveway blocked by cyclists. With such a small number of these widening's taking place surely you can see that this location is not right for what you are proposing and makes it less safe rather than more.

There are additional issues. We are interested in seeing the biological study performed in front of my property as the mound you would be cutting into (as there is no existing 6 foot of gravel shoulder which is stated as a requirement in your proposal) contains plant and animal life that would be disturbed.

We are also not sure if by no rumble strips that means they will use the mumble strips instead or nothing at all. It is our understanding that neither should be within 600 feet of a residence. Our house sits a mere 100 feet from the road. After reviewing the proposal and the various locations none of them have a residence anywhere near.

We are planning on bringing these points up at the zoom meeting and in greater detail as necessary, We understand the need to create safety for everyone involved and respect the hard work of Caltrans and the Coastal Commission's dedication to preserving the environment and hope to pursue an amicable solution.

Sincerely,

Les and Sheryl Erbst

On Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 06:15:01 PM PDT, Allen, Peter@Coastal <peter.allen@coastal.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi Les and Sheryl – I believe Marlene from our staff reached out and responded to your comments, and informed you that rumble strips are no longer proposed in front of your house. However, I wanted to double check and make sure that did happen.

Feel free to reach out to me if you still had thoughts on the project.

Best,
Peter Allen
Statewide Transportation Program Manager
California Coastal Commission

From: Travis, Galen@Coastal <Galen.Travis@coastal.ca.gov>
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 at 12:10 PM
To: Allen, Peter@Coastal <Peter.Allen@coastal.ca.gov>, Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: FW: Caltrans Hwy 1 Centerline Rumble Strips Sonoma County

-----Original Message-----

From: Les Erbst <lerbst@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:57 AM
To: NorthCentralCoast@Coastal <NorthCentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>
Subject: Caltrans Hwy 1 Centerline Rumble Strips Sonoma County

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing in protest of the planned State Rt. 1 Centerline Rumble Strip Project. I received a notice dated my May 22 2024 and originally responded to a post card received on January 28, 2023.

I reviewed the proposal and found that one of the spot locations is directly in front of my house apparently the only such situation in the entire length of the project. That would be SB#2 Location 6 and my address is 14655 Hwy 1 Valley Ford. My house sits less than 100 feet from the road and the addition of a rumble strip would have devastating effects on our quality of life. There is also less than 25 feet from the highway to the easement road in front of my house and losing an additional 6 feet for a bicycle lane would create an even smaller and unsafe buffer between the highway and easement road.

The loud noise from the rumble strip would be heard inside our house ruining our quality of life and potentially decreasing our property value and desirability of our property. It would disturb and potentially frighten our pets and livestock. We would be unable to sleep or eat in peace and could have a negative impact on our mental and physical health.

Obviously this was not taken into consideration by Caltrans when doing your impact study so I would ask that this spot location be removed and that the rumble strip not be installed in front of our home. There is no need for it as the piece of road sits between two sharp bends in the highway that requires traffic to go slowly. In my 27 years here there has never been an accident caused by anyone crossing the center line.

Please contact me asap to discuss and resolve this matter.

Thank you,

Les and Sheryl Erbst
14655 Hwy 1
Valley Ford, Ca. 94972
707-876-3000

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 15:25:11 Pacific Daylight Time

Subject: RE: Question Regarding Caltrans Work
Date: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 9:56:59 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: John Prescott
To: Moore, David@DOT, Allen, Peter@Coastal, Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal
CC: Gassner, Brian R@DOT, Bonner, Lawrence E@DOT, Pincetich, Christopher@DOT, J Kohari
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image006.png

Hello David,

Thank you for the quick answer to my question!

Best,
John

From: Moore, David@DOT <david.j.moore@dot.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 8:34 AM
To: Allen, Peter@Coastal <Peter.Allen@coastal.ca.gov>; John Prescott <jprescott@tsra.org>; Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Gassner, Brian R@DOT <brian.gassner@dot.ca.gov>; Bonner, Lawrence E@DOT <Lawrence.Bonner@dot.ca.gov>; Pincetich, Christopher@DOT <Christopher.Pincetich@dot.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Question Regarding Caltrans Work

Good Morning Peter and John,

Mumble strips are proposed to be installed along the highway through Sea Ranch. The northern most segment of mumble strip is proposed from PM 31.95 through PM 58.53.

Please let us know if there are any more project details Caltrans can provide.

Thank you,

~David

David J. Moore
Senior Environmental Scientist (Biologist)
California Department of Transportation – District 10
Division of Planning, Local Assistance & Environmental
Email: david.j.moore@dot.ca.gov
Work Cell Phone: 209-986-9607

From: Allen, Peter@Coastal <Peter.Allen@coastal.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:19 AM
To: John Prescott <jprescott@tsra.org>; Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal

<Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>; Moore, David@DOT <david.j.moore@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: Question Regarding Caltrans Work

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Hi John – my understanding is that the mumble strips will be installed along Highway 1 in the area of Sea Ranch. David here at Caltrans will let us know if I have that wrong.

Let us know if you have any other comments or questions.

Best

Peter

From: John Prescott <jprescott@tsra.org>

Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 at 2:21 PM

To: Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>

Cc: Allen, Peter@Coastal <Peter.Allen@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Question Regarding Caltrans Work

Hello Marlene,

Thank you for your quick reply, I have another question. The mumble strips going to be installed along the Hwy through Sea Ranch or is that going to be considered residential?

Best,
John

From: Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 3:05 PM

To: John Prescott <jprescott@tsra.org>

Cc: Allen, Peter@Coastal <Peter.Allen@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: Re: Question Regarding Caltrans Work

Hi John,

There are three shoulder widening locations proposed between 49.72 and 58.10, which are listed as Locations 42, 42, and 44 in Table 5 on Page 11 of Exhibit 5 of the staff report.

Our staff report (with staff recommendation) and exhibits for this matter have been posted on our website:

<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/meetings/agenda/#/2024/6>

(click on the June 13, 2024 tab and scroll down to agenda item **Th11b**).

Regarding submitting written materials and/or comments, there are various ways to

submit materials and general comments.

You may submit written comments to Executivestaff@coastal.ca.gov.

- You may also submit written comments in relation to a specific project or particular agenda item directly to the district office. You will find a listing of staff and office contact information on the Commission’s contact webpage.
- Another option is through our agenda, simply find the item you wish to submit comments on and look for the “Submit Comment” feature found at the end of the item blurb. **Please note, if you are submitting comments and/or materials on an item on the agenda, they must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on the Friday before the hearing.** Staff will then post the comments on the Commission’s website if received in a timely manner. Because these comments will be posted online, please consider closely the personal information (email address, phone number) provided in such comments. You are discouraged from submitting written materials to the Commission on the day of the hearing unless they are visual aids. Anything received after 5:00 pm the Friday before the hearing may not be posted. Please identify the agenda item number on your submittal. You will find the item number on our agenda. Example – W12b (W for Wednesday). Please summarize your position in no more than two or three pages if possible. Please Note: We have a dedicated email address for those who wish to submit materials such as videos and presentations to display while speaking at a commission hearing. Please refer to “Submitting Presentations, Videos, and Other Materials for Public Comment” above for more information.

Respectfully,



Marlene Alvarado | Senior Coastal Planner
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Northern CA Coast Transportation Program

301 Ocean Blvd. Suite 300

Long Beach, CA 90802
[\(562\) 590-5071](tel:(562)590-5071)



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Please note: I am frequently working remotely. As such, email is the best way to contact me.

From: John Prescott <jprescott@tsra.org>

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 2:50 PM

To: Alvarado, Marlene@Coastal <Marlene.Alvarado@coastal.ca.gov>

Subject: Question Regarding Caltrans Work

Hello Marlene,

My name is John Prescott and I'm the Director of Facilities & Resources at The Sea Ranch Association, and would like more information on the shoulder widening.

Out of the 29 shoulder widening locations are there any between mile marker 49.72 and 58.10, these would possibly impact The Sea Ranch and I'd like to be able to have a chance to look at these locations before work is done.

Thank you for considering my question.

John

John Prescott (he/him/his)

Director Facilities & Resources

707-785-2444 ext. 232

The Sea Ranch Association

www.tsra.org

