

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 4

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*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

July 12, 2016

Mr. Chris Johnson  
Chair  
Midcoast Community Council  
P.O. Box 248  
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

Dear Mr. Johnson:

This is in response to your letter dated May 25, 2016 regarding young cypress trees and small shrubs along the roadside of Route 1 in the vicinity of 14<sup>th</sup> Street near Montara Lighthouse. My staff performed a field inspection at the location and recommends the removal of one dead tree.

As for the young cypress trees, they are all in good health, appropriate for the setting and visually consistent with the surrounding landscape. Although these young trees may temporarily interrupt views as they develop, their mature growth habit will form an irregular flat-topped tree with a tall exposed trunk. Mature cypress trees near the Montara Lighthouse property are a good example of how the growth habit of a Monterrey Cypress minimizes blockage of ocean views.

The small shrubs and trees in this area are important for continued slope stability and erosion control as there are steep downslopes behind the guardrail along the southbound lanes in the vegetated area south of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street properties. This vegetation also masks the drainage infrastructure associated with the highway that allows water to flow under the highway into this big gully.

Caltrans maintenance crews will be in the area to remove the dead tree and trim some of the trees in the area. If you have questions, please call Jeanne Gorham, Office Chief of Landscape Architecture at 510-286-6112.

Sincerely,

BIJAN SARTIPI  
District Director