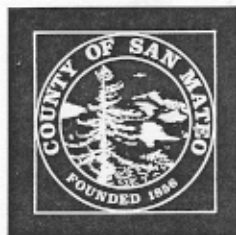


8/1/96

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NEIL R. CULLEN  
DIRECTOR

July 29, 1996

Mr. Chris McComb  
Mid Coast Community Council  
P.O. Box 64  
Moss Beach, CA 94038

Dear Mr. McComb:

*Re: State Highway Projects*

I reviewed my notes regarding questions about Caltrans Projects and citizen/Mid Coast Council input into the "Caltrans process" that were asked at your June 26th meeting, and talked to staff at Caltrans in order to provide you with answers. The following is a summary in a Question(Q) and Answer(A) format:

Q - Who should we contact to get responses to maintenance questions involving the State Highways?

A - Glenn Behm is the District Division Chief of Maintenance for Caltrans's District 4 which includes San Mateo County. His mailing address is:

California Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Glen suggests that maintenance complaints in your area should be referred to Chet Moran, Maintenance Manager of the Peninsula Maintenance Region at (415) 358-4127.

Q - What is the status of the signal projects that were proposed for El Granada and the intersection improvements in Montara?

A - Attached is a copy of the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) - 1996/97 thru 1999/00. Page XVI identifies the projects that were deleted which includes the El Granada Signals and the Montara Intersection Improvements, as well as the Half Moon Bay Maintenance Station. Page 13 and 14 indicate the projects which are currently in the SHOPP which includes reinstatement of the Half Moon Bay Maintenance station. It is my understanding that the signal/intersection projects were eliminated as the funds were needed for a safety project that was ready to be constructed in another part of the State.

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Q - Can we get a project reinstated?

A - I talked to Ernie Satow in the Design Division of Caltrans, and he said that the El Granada Signal/Montara Intersection Modification Project, or portions of the project could be re-inserted into the SHOPP if there was local support for the work. In terms of the signal work, he believes Caltrans would be looking for a commitment from the local agencies for a share of the cost of the signal work based on the legs of the intersection being served by the signal. As an example, a signal at Coronado in El Granada would be paid for 1/4 by the County, 1/4 by Half Moon Bay, and 1/2 by Caltrans based the City limits at this intersection.

Q - How do we get input into projects?

A - I believe that there are two answers depending on the status of the project:

For projects which Caltrans is moving ahead on - the Scoping meetings, the Coastal Development and the Environmental Permit process provides an opportunity for citizen and Council input. For projects which you wish to propose, or which you want Caltrans to proceed with - Caltrans is looking for local citizen support through the local legislative body, which in this case would be the Board of Supervisors. As an example, Caltrans did have a project to install a signal at the intersection of California Avenue and Highway 1. However, the survey that was conducted by the Mid Coast Council indicated that there was no local support and project funding was used for other projects. Similarly, the El Granada project mentioned above was dropped since there were more pressing needs on the State Highway System for the limited dollars, and there still seems to be a mixed reaction to having the signal work done. Caltrans suggestion, which I agree with, is that if your Council has a position on the installation of a signal, that it be made known to the Board of Supervisors. We can then bring a report and resolution to the Board recommending that Caltrans reinstate the project in the SHOPP.

Q - Why won't the County landscape the area between the State Highway and Carlos Street? The landscaping was destroyed when Caltrans parked its vehicles in this area a few years back.

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- A - This area is within the Caltrans right-of-way. I have referred this question to Caltrans for their response and reply. The County also has limited funds to maintain the 320 miles of road within the County's maintained system. We have an encroachment permit process which allows property owners to plant trees and landscaping in the road right-of-way. I have enclosed a copy of the permit. However, this permit pertains to County right-of-way only, and not the State rights-of-way. You would have to contact the State to determine what it will allow by its encroachment permit process.
- Q - Who should we contact for traffic problems/questions on Highway 1?
- A - Traffic questions should be referred to Aki Morimoto, Caltrans District Traffic Engineer at (510) 286-4560. His address is the same as Glenn Behm's.

I believe that the above addresses the Caltrans related questions that were asked on June 26th. I will try to answer any other questions that I may have missed or that may have come to your attention after that meeting.

I have received your letter with regards to the Ocean Boulevard closing and we are still evaluating if there are viable options to reopening the closed section of the road. I will cover the closure in a separate letter.

Very truly yours,



Neil R. Cullen  
Director of Public Works

NRC:sdd  
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Enclosures: As stated

cc: Ernie Satow, Caltrans  
Glen Behm, Caltrans  
Aki Morimoto, Caltrans  
George Haines