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MidCoast Community Council
P.O. Box 64
Moss Beach, CA 94038

April 14, 1995

The Honorable Tom Lantos
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Congressman Lantos,

The MidCoast Community Council is a locally-elected representative body of the unincorporated coastal area of San Mateo County, basically including the communities of El Granada, Princeton, Moss Beach, and Montara. A large number of our constituents are in your district, and they have asked us to solicit your ideas and energy on the subject of Devil's Slide.

In response to an earlier request for help, your office was good enough to send a copy of the March 1984 "Interstate Highway Construction; Apportionment of Funds" which authorized the funds "to repair or reconstruct" the route between Pacifica and Montara. We thank you again today for your efforts then to help restore this vital transportation route.

We also received a copy of a March 3, 1995 letter to you from Mr. Rodney Slater of the Federal Highway Administration, in which Mr. Slater stated that (a) the funds provided under the March 1984 act can be used only for the Martini Creek Bypass; and (b), if the funds are not used for this specific alternative, they "would have to be deobligated."

The MidCoast Community Council is at this time trying to gather all appropriate and useful information, which will allow us and the community to make an informed, rational decision. We therefore ask first for your thoughts on some specific questions:

1. Do you agree with the Federal Highway Administration, and the local court ruling, that the funds appropriated in the above-referenced Apportionment Act are restricted to the Martini Creek Bypass?
2. If the answer to number 1 is yes, do you believe it is possible to change the laws/codes/regulations that serve as the basis for this determination? How long would this take?
3. If the answer to number 1 is yes and number 2 is no, would you be willing to sponsor new legislation to fund an alternative to the Bypass, and if so, do you think such legislation would pass the 104th Congress, and if so, how long until such funds would be available?

Finally, we ask for your help in general. The MidCoast Community Council holds regular public meetings, and would very much appreciate the opportunity to welcome you to one of these meetings. We usually meet the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, but we can be very flexible, to fit your schedule. Also, if you have any general comments about this issue, whether in response to the questions posed in this letter, or to any of the comments that have been made by other parties, we would certainly value your perspective. And finally, any assistance you can provide in terms of prodding CalTrans to release information about a possible tunnel alternative would be quite helpful: this state department of transportation has taken a very obstructionist position, which would be one thing if the public was asking for new research, but all that has been requested is the data they claim to have used as the basis for decisions.

We hope to hear from you soon, as this issue has been an extremely contentious one for our community. Thank you for all your help and support to this community, and your consideration of our requests. Please feel free to call either of the Council members at the numbers listed below, if you would like to discuss this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Marsh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James Marsh
Chair, MidCoast Community Council

telephone numbers:

James Marsh, Chair, 415-726-3589

Chris McComb, Council member, 415-728-1907

attachment: March 3, 1995 letter from Mr. Rodney Slater