

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

November 16, 2020

Mr. Len Erickson, Chair
Midcoast Community Council
PO Box 248
Moss Beach, CA 94038

Dear Mr. Erickson:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on November 2, 2020. At this meeting, The California Department of Transportation (Department) and the Midcoast Community Council (MCC) discussed your concerns about the proposed SM-1 Traffic Operations Systems (TOS) Improvement project on State Route (SR-1) between Miramonte Pt. Road in Half Moon Bay to Clarinada Avenue undercrossing near Daly City. Along the 20-mile stretch of SR-1, the project proposes to install five Variable Message Signs (VMS), six Wireless Detection Systems (WDS), two Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts (MVPs), guardrails for protection and activating two existing Changeable Message Signs (CMS) at the Tom Lantos Tunnels.

The purpose of the VMS and WDS is to provide real-time travel information and facilitating the Department's ability to improve emergency incident management along SR-1. The messages transmitted to the signs would assist to relieve congestion and enhance corridor mobility by providing timely direction to the traveling public. The project would greatly benefit and improve emergency communications and connectivity for the residents and visitors between the remote coastal communities and the greater Bay Area.

In our meeting, you reiterated MCC's position in your letter dated October 28, 2020, and expressed support for using the VMS only for purposes of urgent, emergency communication with motorists, visitors and residents about major disruptions, such as evacuations in the event of fire, a tsunami and/or closures due to accidents. The Department would coordinate with the local jurisdictions and limit any continuous use of the VMS and CMS for any non-emergency related communications, such as travel time, event information, beach parking availability, or weather conditions. The Department commits to working with the MCC regarding the following during the project's design phase:

- Focus on safety-oriented traffic management

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- Limit use of VMS only for emergency or essential communications: evacuation or detour instructions in the event of fire, earthquake, tsunami, public safety power shutoff, Amber alerts, accidents, tunnel and road construction or closures.
- Adopt a dark sky friendly approach and adjust lighting brightness to ambient light conditions
- Accommodate changes to VMS appearance, color and design to match rural setting; and
- Incorporate MCC/community input and adjust proposed individual sign locations during the design phase to ensure functionality and minimize impact to the environment.

The Department appreciates the partnership and feedback from the MCC, Supervisor Horsley and San Mateo County, and anticipates completing the Final Environmental Document by March 2021 to secure funding for design in 2020 and construction in 2022. MCC's input and support will facilitate the coastal development permit during design to advance to construction timely.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself at nidal.tuqan@dot.ca.gov or 510-715-7748 or Nandini Shridhar, Project Manager, at nandini.shridhar@dot.ca.gov 510-290-7039.

Sincerely,



NIDAL TUQAN
Division Chief, Project Management West

C: Supervisor Don Horsley
Michelle Weil, Vice Chair, MCC