

# ***DON HORSLEY***

Board of Supervisors, Third District  
County of San Mateo

September 26, 2013

Bijan Sartipi  
Caltrans District 4  
P.O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623

RE: Emergency Project at Surfer's Beach

Dear Bijan,

It is with great concern and urgency that I write to you asking Caltrans to take immediate action to resolve the imminent threat present at Surfer's Beach in Half Moon Bay. According to a Caltrans staff memo dated December 7, 2012, this location loses between 1.25 and 1.4 feet of road embankment per year due to erosion caused by high tides and big waves. It is currently estimated that there is only about 18 inches of road embankment remaining. Based on these figures, there will be virtually no embankment remaining after this winter. With virtually no embankment remaining, my constituents and I are very concerned about the potential catastrophic consequences of a road failure.

Complete erosion of the road embankment and failure of the Highway 1 roadway would create a chain reaction of debilitating effects to coastside residents and businesses. If Highway 1 is closed or subject to one way traffic controls due to a failure of the Highway 1 roadway, traffic would be forced through nearby neighborhoods, which would cause a significant increase in traffic and associated safety hazards throughout the residential areas. Commuter traffic, already a long standing issue on Highway 1, would worsen. In addition to the impact on the residents, businesses would surely suffer. Sam's Chowder House, the Beach House Hotel, and businesses in Princeton and the Midcoast would lose significant revenue. With Highway 1 closed, even partially, potential patrons will take their business elsewhere. This would negatively impact hundreds of jobs in this small coastal community.

The threat facing Highway 1 at Surfer's Beach, although not in the County's jurisdiction, is a regional issue. With the potential of both short term and long term implications, we at the County took it upon ourselves to find funding in order to address the issues facing Surfer's Beach. In January 2013, we received almost \$200,000 in grant funding to



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County Government Center  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

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design a structure that would protect the roadway, fix the coastal trail at Surfer's Beach, and provide safe pedestrian access to the beach. This funding will allow us to plan and permit a project in the coming months, but not by this winter. Because Highway 1 is the responsibility of Caltrans, we are limited in our ability to resolve this matter. We are unable to declare this an emergency and obtain the necessary permits to conduct an emergency project. For this reason, I am asking Caltrans to act. I am asking Caltrans to apply for an Emergency Coastal Development Permit to conduct an emergency project to protect Highway 1 for the 2013/2014 winter. I would also like to request that Caltrans establish a plan for how you would respond if a roadway failure does occur. I believe it is our joint responsibility to be prepared and willing to address this imminent threat.

San Mateo County is happy to work with you throughout this process and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Horsley", written in a cursive style.

Don Horsley  
Supervisor, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
San Mateo County

CC: Congresswoman Jackie Speier  
Senator Jerry Hill  
Assemblyman Rich Gordon  
Assemblyman Kevin Mullin  
Mayor Rick Kowalczyk