

DON HORSLEY

Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo

May 3, 2011

Mid Coast Community Council
P.O. Box 248
Moss Beach, CA 94038-0248

Dear Midcoast Community Council,

I am writing to follow up on our recent discussion regarding the crossing at the south portal of the soon to be completed Devil's Slide Tunnel. In our April 29th meeting of the Devil's Slide Coastal Access Task Force, the County presented your most recent proposal to amend the proposed and permitted crossing. It was determined by Caltrans and unanimously affirmed by all members of the Coastal Access Task Force, including representatives from the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Coastal Commission, that the planned crossing meets all safety and permit requirements. My concern, just as the MCC's, continues to be the safety of all pedestrians using the crossing. I believe that through a collaborative effort, we were able to enhance the safety features of the crossing. Your persistence in improving the original crossing led us to implement additional safety features such as the illuminated signs in the tunnel and lights on the crossing. I am confident that the crossing will adequately and safely allow pedestrians to cross Highway 1.

With that said, Caltrans assured the Task Force that once the tunnel is completed, it will monitor the crossing at the south portal to determine if there is high pedestrian traffic observed that would merit consideration in the future for a different type of crossing. In addition, Caltrans will consider any findings from the current Phase II Midcoast Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Improvement Study. Caltrans and the entire Task Force will support looking at any new information as it becomes available.

At this time there are no projections for traffic that justify a need for an aboveground or belowground crossing. The study you cited that was done by Dr. Pat Tierney (San Francisco State) for the Coastal Conservancy was conceptual suggesting possible traffic increases following the tunnel's completion. The study did not take into account the capacity limits of the area for parking and accessibility which will mitigate any potential significant increase in use. Without an accurate idea of how many people could enter the area, the study's claims of the number of visitors, like the need for a different crossing is only conjecture. Caltrans had taken all these concerns into account, and the Task Force supports their conclusion to monitor the use following the opening of the tunnel and grade level crosswalk with flashing lights.



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Your hard work and efforts were recognized and appreciated throughout the entire process. I thank you for your diligence in pursuing this issue. This letter serves to advise the Council that this is a final decision regarding this issue from my office, the County, and the Devil's Slide Coastal Task Force.

Sincerely,



Don Horsley, Supervisor
San Mateo County

