

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
PHONE (805) 549-3101
FAX (805) 549-3329
TTY 711
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/>



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

October 30, 2009

The Honorable William M. Monning
California State Assembly
99 Pacific Street, Suite 555-D
Monterey CA 93940

Dear Assembly Member Monning:

RE: MASTER PLAN FOR THE BIG SUR PORTION OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

Thank you for your leadership in facilitating the meeting in Monterey on September 28, 2009, regarding the California Coastal Trail (CCT), and hearing our agency's primary considerations in review of a CCT proposal. Please accept the following written comments as a recap of our views and suggestions.

Caltrans supports the completion of the Master Plan for the CCT along the Big Sur coast, which is funded in part by a Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways grant that Caltrans also administers. The input of all stakeholders and agencies should be included in the planning efforts; however the Conservancy should serve as the lead agency given that the California State Coastal Conservancy has been granted the funds.

Any transportation improvement is an opportunity to enhance the safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California. We recognize that non-motorized modes such as bicycling and walking are integral elements of the transportation system and believe that successful completion of the Master Plan is complementary the Caltrans Complete Streets policy.

There are three primary issues of concern for Caltrans regarding use of the State right-of-way for the CCT: planning and design, safety and operations, and maintenance. The planning and design of any CCT facilities need to comply with all State standards for design including but not limited to those for accessibility as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The location of a trail also may not interfere with maintenance activities of the existing highway and must consider the needs of crews conducting their operations. In addition, any new facilities on State right-of-way will require an agreement with another public agency that will take full responsibility for maintenance.

The Honorable William M. Monning

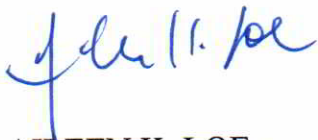
October 30, 2009

Page 2

We would also like to mention that this process should take into account the Big Sur Coast Management Plan (March 2004), which establishes a coordinated management of diverse stakeholders and agencies of the Highway 1 corridor along this sensitive coastline.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at (805) 549-3161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aileen K. Loeb".

AILEEN K. LOE

Deputy District Director
Planning and Local Assistance

The Honorable William M. Monning

October 30, 2009

Page 3

bc. S. Price

D. Murray

A. Fukushima

M. McCumsey