

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces their intent to adopt a U.S. Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(F), De Minimis Finding for two storm damage repair projects on State Route 1 (Shoreline Hwy) at post miles 7.7 and 8.1 in Marin County, CA.

The existing route, in the project area, traverses across a steep west-facing slope overlooking Slide Ranch and the California coastline. The road is winding, and has two narrow lanes with no shoulder, and nowhere for errant vehicles or sightseers to get out of the way of other traffic. The surface of the road has long parallel cracks, which are evidence that the roadway is separating and sliding down the hillside. Drainage of the roadway is problematic, as frequent storm events cause hill slope failure and sever erosion of the road-bed. The property up slope of the road is in the jurisdiction of Mount Tamalpais State Park, and down slope of the road is within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA). The repairs at post mile 7.7 propose to construct a 523-foot long, 20-foot tall retaining wall to shore-up the roadbed and prevent the road from completely slipping down slope. There would also be drainage inlets and pipe installed to control water to drain under the road, and a new roadbed would be constructed with new pavement. The repairs proposed at post mile 8.1 are exactly the same except smaller in scale with a 40-foot long, 15 foot high section of roadway to be repaired. Both would include installation of cable safety railing and metal beam guard railing (MBGR) at the outside edge of the roadway. The necessary improvements would be on the down slope side of the existing highway, and would necessitate a permanent easement from the GGNRA of 0.3 acres at post mile 7.7, and 0.24 acres at post mile 8.1. The proposed design and materials have been approved by the Mount Tamalpais State Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the county of Marin, and the California Coastal Commission for other locations on State Route 1 where this type of repair is necessary. No disturbance would occur on Mount Tamalpais State Park property.

Slope control/slope stabilization measures would be implemented as well as replacement planting of native plants from the immediate area. Non-synthetic fiber rolls (wattles) would be placed on the slope below the new wall during construction, and fiber rolls would be installed and plants would be planted once construction is complete. Areas next to the proposed construction area would be protected as an Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) by installing temporary fence prior to the beginning of construction.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

The proposed project is an action that is subject to the U. S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly owned parks and recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and historic sites considered to have national, state or local significance. The act includes a special provision to carry out this effort in 23 CFR 774.17, Section 4(f). In recent years, the Federal Highway Administration has assigned the responsibility for Section 4(f) findings to Caltrans under Section 6009 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005. SAFETEA-LU established a de minimis finding process, in which determinations are made regarding 4(f) resources when no adverse affects would occur. De minimis impacts are defined as those that do not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes for which the property qualifies as a 4(f) resource.

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Caltrans is soliciting input from the public, as well as, representatives from Mount Tamalpais State Park, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Public comments on the 4(f) de minimis finding would be accepted for 30-days beginning Friday, May 14, 2010 and ending Monday, June 14, 2010.

Send all comments to: gail_miller@dot.ca.gov or mail to Gail Miller, Senior Environmental Planer -Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch, California Department of Transportation, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726.

CONTACT

For more information about the proposed projects, please contact: Gail Miller, Senior Environmental Planer at (559) 243-8274.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS - Individuals who require documents in alternative formats or translated are requested to contact District 4 Public Affairs Office at (510) 286-5576. Telecommunications Devices for the deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.