COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Staff

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Consideration of a Coastal Development Permit to install a Wireless Traffic Operation System at various locations in the unincorporated MidCoast area of San Mateo County. The decision on this application is appealable to the California Coastal Commission.

County File Number: PLN 2022-00009 (Caltrans)

PROPOSAL

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a Wireless Traffic Operation System at various locations in the unincorporated MidCoast area. The proposed scope of work includes installing Wireless Detection Systems (WDS) in existing cabinets or on existing structures, ground mounting Variable Message Signs (VMS) onto wood poles, adding Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), and adding Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts (MVP) to assist with equipment maintenance. VMS and MVP would be installed in unpaved areas and the WDS modules would be installed predominantly in paved and developed areas. The existing Changeable Message Signs (CMS) at the Tom Lantos Tunnels will also be enabled to display travel times when appropriate.

WDS are small wireless devices used for traffic monitoring. They use sensors to detect the presence of vehicles. The sensors are placed in small boxes and should not be very visible to the public. The installation of WDS modules involves work on new or existing poles and connecting to power using existing or new utility cabinets.

VMS are electronic traffic signs that are used to provide motorists with real time safety and guidance information about traffic, congestion, and emergencies. The VMS will provide emergency and incident-related information to the traveling public on Highway 1 and inform them of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the

causes of that congestion. The VMS signs will be located where motorists can safely reroute and turn around to avoid roadway closures, emergencies, and other incidents. The new VMS will be turned on only when communicating necessary information and will remain off most of the time.

The VMS proposed for this project will be approximately 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. The VMS panels will be installed on two wooden poles. The VMS foundations will require two holes; each hole will be 12 inches in diameter and 6 feet in depth. Based upon the photo simulations submitted with the application, the bottom edge of the VMS panels will be approximately 6 feet off the ground. New controller cabinets and service cabinets will be installed near the signs. Controller cabinets are 67 inches high by 24 inches wide by 30 inches deep. Service cabinets are 48 inches high by 12 inches wide by 7.25 inches deep. This overall project involves additional locations within the City of Half Moon Bay and the City of Pacifica, which are not subject to County permitting authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning Commission deny the Coastal Development Permit, County File Number PLN 2022-00009, by making the findings identified in Attachment A of the staff report.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends denial of the permit because the project, as proposed, is inconsistent with the Visual Resources policies of the County's Local Coastal Program. While the WDS modules will be relatively innocuous, the proposed VMS signs at Locations 5 and 6 will be very visible to people travelling on Highway 1, even when not activated. Both VMS signs will be illuminated, when in use. This directly conflicts with policies in the Community Design Manual which is incorporated by reference into the policies of the Visual Resources chapter.

There are no existing streetlights or traffic signs at either of the proposed VMS locations, which provide opens space views that the LCP seeks to protect. The proposed installation of lighted signs within these landscapes does not comply with the policies of the Visual Resources chapter.

Along Highway One and other scenic roads, there are instances where essential roadway safety features, including signs, barriers, and lights, must be installed within open space view corridors to ensure public safety. In such instances, it is necessary to

ensure that these features are sited and designed to minimize their visual impacts to the greatest extent. With regard to the proposed project, the applicant has not provided compelling evidence that the VMS are needed for public safety, nor taken the steps needed to minimize their impacts, for example by locating them in areas that would have less of an impact on views. Therefore, staff recommends denial of the requested CDP and encourages the applicant to resubmit an application that eliminates the VMS component of the project.

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Consideration of a Coastal Development Permit, pursuant to Section 6328.4 of the County Zoning Regulations, to install a Wireless Traffic Operation System at various locations in the unincorporated MidCoast area of San Mateo County. This decision on this application is appealable to the California Coastal Commission.

County File Number: PLN 2022-00009 (Caltrans)

PROPOSAL

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a Wireless Traffic Operation System at various locations in the unincorporated MidCoast area. The proposed scope of work includes installing Wireless Detection Systems (WDS) in existing cabinets or on existing structures, ground mounting Variable Message Signs (VMS) onto wood poles, adding Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), and adding Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts (MVP) to assist with equipment maintenance. Variable Message Signs and MVP would be installed in unpaved areas and the WDS modules would be installed predominantly in paved and developed areas. The existing Changeable Message Signs (CMS) at the Tom Lantos Tunnels will also be enabled to display travel times when appropriate.

Wireless Detection Systems are small wireless devices used for traffic monitoring. They use sensors to detect the presence of vehicles. The sensors are placed in small boxes and should not be very visible to the public. The installation of WDS modules involves work on new or existing poles and connecting to power using existing or new utility cabinets.

Variable Message Signs are electronic traffic signs that are used to provide motorists with real time safety and guidance information about traffic, congestion, and

emergencies. The VMS will provide emergency and incident-related information to the traveling public on Highway 1, and inform the Caltrans of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. The VMS signs will be located where motorists can safely reroute and turn around to avoid roadway closures, emergencies, and other incidents. The new VMS will be turned on only when communicating necessary information and will remain off most of the time.

The VMS proposed for this project will be approximately 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. The VMS panels will be installed on two wooden poles. The VMS foundations will require two holes; each hole will be 12 inches in diameter and 6 feet in depth. Based upon the photo simulations submitted with the application, the bottom edge of the VMS panels will be approximately 6 feet off the ground. New controller cabinets and service cabinets will be installed near the signs. Controller cabinets are 67 inches high by 24 inches wide by 30 inches deep. Service cabinets are 48 inches high by 12 inches wide by 7.25 inches deep. This overall project involves additional locations within the City of Half Moon Bay and the City of Pacifica. The following locations are within the County's jurisdiction and subject to the Planning Commission's Local Coastal Plan permitting authority:

Location 4. Highway 1 at Capistrano Road - The proposed work at Location 4 would occur at postmile 32.86 at the northeast corner of Capistrano Road. Proposed system elements would include installing Wireless Detection Systems (WDS) modules to an existing traffic signal pole and connecting to the power grid using an existing utility cabinet.

Location 5. Highway 1 Approaching Coral Reef Avenue - Work at this location would occur at postmile 33.55, along the southbound shoulder approaching Coral Reef Avenue. Existing conditions include a gravel shoulder and regularly mowed ruderal upland vegetation. A drainage ditch that drains into Denniston Creek occurs approximately 35 feet from the roadway and is outside of the proposed work area. Work at Location 5 would include a Variable Message Sign (VMS) installed on two wooden poles, a Maintenance Vehicle Pullout (MVP), and 100 feet of guardrail (MGS). Power for the VMS would be provided from an adjacent PG&E pole. A controller cabinet and service cabinet will be installed adjacent to the sign.

Location 6. Highway 1 North of Coral Reef Avenue - Work at this location will occur at postmile 33.33, along the northbound Highway 1 shoulder north of Coral Reef Avenue. Existing conditions at this site include a gravel shoulder and mowed ruderal vegetation. Denniston Creek passes under Highway 1 approximately 70 feet north of the proposed work area. Proposed project elements would include a VMS, MVP and 100 feet of Midwest Guardrail System. Power for the VMS would be sourced from a

nearby existing power pole. A controller cabinet and service cabinet will be installed adjacent to the sign.

Location 7: Highway 1 South of the Tom Lantos Tunnels - Work at this location will occur at postmile 38.48, at the parking area at the south entrance of the Tom Lantos tunnels. Proposed project elements at this location include installing WDS modules on an existing highway lighting pole and connecting to power using an existing utility cabinet.

Location 8. Highway 1 at the South Portal of the Tom Lantos Tunnels - Work at this location will occur at postmile 39.36, at the existing Changeable Message Sign (CMS) in the northbound lanes, which are situated just before the entrance to the Tom Lantos tunnels. New software will be downloaded and installed to enable the existing CMS at this location. The existing CMS can then be used to display emergency and incident-management information.

In addition to the five locations discussed above, County staff is aware that Caltrans has a similar project to add additional VMS signs at locations within the County's jurisdiction on Highway 92 and Highway 1. This project is in the advance planning stage and staff anticipates that Caltrans will be submitting a CDP application for this second phase later this year.

RECOMMENDATION

Deny the Coastal Development Permit, County File Number PLN 2022-00009, by adopting the required findings and conditions of approval contained in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

Report Prepared By: Michael Schaller, Senior Planner

Applicant: Caltrans (Zachary Gifford)

Owner: State of California (State Highway Right of Way)

Location: various locations on Highway 1 between El Granada and the Tom Lantos Tunnels. See Attachment B.

APN: Pubic Right of Way

Existing Zoning: Location 4 – Neighborhood Commercial (C-1); Locations 5 and 6 – Light Industrial (M-1); Location 7 and 8 - Planned Agricultural District (PAD)

General Plan Designation: Location 4 – Neighborhood Commercial; Location 5 – Airport; Locations 6 and 7 – Open Space; Location 8 - Agriculture - Rural

Existing Land Use: State Highway and adjacent agricultural and open space areas.

Flood Zone: All five locations are within Zone X (Areas of Minimal Flood Hazard), FEMA Community Panel numbers are various, Effective Date: October 16, 2012.

Environmental Evaluation: Caltrans is the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. As such, they published an Initial Study/Negative Declaration on March 22, 2021 with a comment period of March 22, 2021 – April 20, 2021. On May 10, 2021, Caltrans, acting as lead agency, approved the environmental document and filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.

Setting: From the applicant's Biological Impact Form Supplement:

Location 4 is a mix of developed and open land, with development, including Highway 1, being the dominant land cover. The project footprint is dominated by ice plant and this is likely the only species impacted by work at this location. Other species observed within the study area include ornamental, native, and non-native grasses. No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location.

Location 5 is a mix of roadway, and ruderal and undeveloped lands adjacent to Highway 1 and the Half Moon Bay airport. The undeveloped lands in the study area at this location are subject to regular mowing and are characterized by native and non-native grasses, with identifiable plants consisting of Common yarrow, Sweet scabious, Tidy tips, Slender wild oat, Coyote brush, and Common vetch. No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Dennison loam (nearly level) and Gullied land (alluvial soil material).

Location 6 is a mix of roadway, ruderal and undeveloped lands adjacent to Highway 1, and residential development. The undeveloped lands adjacent to Highway 1 at this location are subject to regular mowing and are characterized by native and non-native grasses, with identifiable plants consisting of Wall barley and Slender wild oat. No rare or special status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Dennison clay loam (nearly level), Dennison loam (sloping), and Elkhorn sandy loam (moderately steep, severely eroded).

Location 7 consists of roadway (Highway1 and adjacent roads and parking lot) and coastal bluff. The majority of the study area is inaccessible due to its topography, but surveyable areas contain mostly ice plant, with a small number of other species such as Summer mustard, Lupine, Stinking chamomile, and Beach wormwood. No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Rock outcrop (orthents complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes) and Scarper-Miramar complex (30 to 75 percent slopes).

Location 8. A study area was not designated for Location 8 due to work consisting of controller programming, with no ground disturbing activities, and baseline levels of disturbance from highway traffic which greatly exceed that of the work proposed.

DISCUSSION

A. KEY ISSUES

1. Conformance with the County General Plan

The County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) is a subset of the County General Plan, and the two documents are internally consistent. The following analysis of the project's consistency with the LCP, which is more specific than the General Plan with regard to issues raised by this project, also addresses, by extension, the project's consistency with the County's General Plan.

2. Conformance with the Local Coastal Program

A Coastal Development Permit is required pursuant to San Mateo County Local Coastal Program Policy 2.1, which mandates compliance with the California Coastal Act for any government agency wishing to undertake development in the Coastal Zone.

Summarized below are the following sections of the LCP that are relevant to this project:

a. Sensitive Habitats Component

Policy 7.11 – (*Establishment of Buffer Zones) (for Riparian Corridors)*. This policy establishes a buffer zone of 50 ft. as measured from the

limit of riparian vegetation for all perennial streams. Denniston Creek passes near the proposed VMS sign at Location 6. Based upon the aerial data contained in the County's GIS, the proposed sign location is approximately 140 feet from the edge of the nearest riparian vegetation, and thus complies with this policy. No sensitive habitat or vegetation has been identified by the applicant's biologists at this location, which is regularly mowed by Caltrans during the normal course of roadway maintenance.

At Location 5, where the second VMS sign is proposed, no rare or special status plant species were identified. The lands at this location are subject to regular mowing and are characterized by native and non-native grasses. No sensitive habitat has been identified at this location.

The other project locations do not involve natural habitat, as the proposed sensors and control boxes will be co-located on existing light poles.

b. Visual Resources Component

Policy 8.5 – (*Location of Development)*. This policy requires that development be located on a portion of a parcel where it is least visible from State and County Scenic Roads, is least likely to significantly impact views from public viewpoints; and, consistent with all other LCP requirements, best preserves the visual and open space qualities of the parcel overall. The two proposed VMS signs are, by design, highly visible from Highway 1, a designated County scenic highway. Both signs will be five foot tall by twelve feet wide and, based upon the photo simulations submitted with the application, will sit approximately six feet off the ground. The total height of each sign should be approximately eleven feet. Each sign, again based upon the photo simulations, will sit approximately 6-8 feet off of the main travel way for Highway 1. The location of these two signs is predicated upon the proximity of Capistrano Road, which provides one of the few opportunities for stalled traffic on Highway 1 to safely turn around or (if traveling northbound) find an alternate route through Princeton and Airport Street.

The applicant has endeavored to place the signs and associated control boxes near existing electrical utilities. This has resulted in greater visual clutter at these two locations than under the present conditions and results in a reduction in the open space qualities and views at these two locations.

Policy 8.11 – (*Definition of Urban)*. Both VMS locations are on the urban side of the urban rural boundary and are subject to the policies contained in the "Structural and Community Features--Urban Areas and Rural Service Centers" section of Chapter 8.

Policy 8.12 – (*General Regulations)*. This policy requires the application of the Design Review (DR) Zoning District to urban areas of the Coastal Zone, specifically for all non-residential development, the design standards contained in Section 6565.17 of the Zoning Regulations and the design criteria set forth in the Community Design Manual are applicable.

Section 6565.17(G) of the Zoning Regulations requires the protection of views through the controlling of height and location of structures. Both signs will block open space views for motorists traveling in either direction in addition to impacting the views from the adjacent residential neighborhood along Sonora Avenue.

Section 6565.17(N) of the Zoning Regulations requires that the number, location, size, design, lighting, materials, and use of colors in signs are compatible with the architectural style of the structure they identify and harmonize with their surroundings.

Community Design Manual - Brightly illuminated, colored, rotating, reflective, blinking, flashing, or moving signs, pennants or streamers should not be permitted.

Both VMS signs will be illuminated, when in use. There are no existing streetlights at either location, so the proposed project would be introducing a source of light into a relatively open viewscape that LCP Policy 8.12 designates for protection. The addition of these objects into the visual landscape at these locations will further reduce the sense of open space that currently exists at these locations which are outside of the developed El Granada - Princeton urbanized area.

Locations further south, closer to the signalized intersection at Capistrano Road, would present less of a visual impact when viewed in the context of the surrounding developed urban area.

Policy 8.13 – (*Special Design Guidelines for Coastal Communities) (Montara-Moss Beach-El Granada-Miramar)*. This policy is composed of several elements, including:

(2) *Employ the use of natural materials and colors that blend with the vegetative cover of the site*. The application materials do not state what color the cabinets of the VMS will be, but the photo simulations imply they will be black, which would not readily blend with the adjacent vegetation. A dark brown color would be more compatible with the surrounding landscape.

(4) *Design structures that are in scale with the character of their setting and blend rather than dominate or distract from the overall view of the urbanscape*. At their proposed locations, the two VMS signs will be viewed against a relatively open background as each location is at the outer edge of the El Granada/Princeton urbanscape. They will, by design (particularly when activated), distract viewers from the generally open views at these two locations.

Along Highway One and other scenic roads, there are instances where essential roadway safety features, including signs, barriers, and lights, must be installed within open space view corridors to ensure public safety. In such instances, it is necessary to ensure that these features are sited and designed to minimize their visual impacts to the greatest extent possible. With regard to the proposed project, the applicant has not provided compelling evidence that the VMS are needed for public safety, nor taken the steps needed to minimize their impacts, for example by locating them in areas that would have less of an impact on open space views. Therefore, staff recommends denial of the requested CDP and encourages the applicant to resubmit an application that eliminates the VMS component of the project.

3. <u>Compliance with San Mateo County Zoning Regulations</u>

The Coastal Act of 1976 requires that the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) include zoning ordinances, zoning district maps and any other actions

necessary to implement the requirements of the Coastal Act in San Mateo County. To that end, all projects, including government projects, must show compliance with not only the LCP, but with the applicable zoning regulations of the district in which the project is located.

As stated previously, the various project sites are within several different zoning districts. Location 4 is within the Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) zoning district. Project components at this location comprise installing Wireless Detection System modules to an existing traffic signal pole. The modules are small enough that they are unlikely to be noticed by passing motorists or pedestrians. While not expressly listed as an allowed use in this zoning district, the modules will not conflict with any existing or future commercial uses in the area.

Locations 5 and 6 are within the Light Industrial (M-1) zoning district. The major project components at these two locations are the Variable Message Signs. As with the Wireless Detection System modules, the Variable Message Signs are not specifically listed as a permitted use in this zoning district. However, both VMS signs are within the public right-of-way and will not conflict with existing Industrial uses in the area.

Locations 7 and 8 are within the Planned Agricultural District (PAD) zoning district. The primary project component at these two locations is the activation of existing Changeable Message Signs at each end of the tunnel and the installation of a WDS module on an existing light post at the south end of the tunnel. As with Location 4, there will be no disturbance of agricultural or biotic resources at either location and no activities that conflict with the PAD zoning standards.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Caltrans is the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act. In March 2021, they circulated an Initial Study and Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for public comment. On May 10, 2021, Caltrans, acting as lead agency, approved the environmental document and filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. The Planning Commission is a responsible agency under CEQA. Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines describes the role of the responsible agency, and provides that the responsible agency must consider the lead agency's negative declaration before approving the project, and when approving

the project, confirm that the decision-making body reviewed and considered the negative declaration.

In response to the Environmental Document, the County as well as other agencies and organizations submitted comments to Caltrans expressing concerns about the visual impacts of the VMS component of the project. The County's comment letter is included as Attachment E.

The Caltrans approved IS/ND is included as Attachment C of this staff report.

C. REVIEWING AGENCIES

California Coastal Commission
Mid-Coast Community Council

ATTACHMENTS

A. Recommended Findings and Conditions of Approval
B. Location Map
C. Initial Study/Negative Declaration – State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project (prepared by Caltrans)
D. Biological Impact Form Supplement – San Mateo 1 Bluetooth TOS project (prepared by Caltrans)
E. San Mateo County comments on the Initial Study/ Negative Declaration prepared by Caltrans for the project

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Attachment A

County of San Mateo
Planning and Building Department

RECOMMENDED FINDINGS

Project File Number: PLN 2022-00009 Hearing Date: May 25, 2022

Prepared By: Michael Schaller, Senior Planner For Adoption By: Planning Commission

RECOMMENDED FINDINGS

Regarding the Environmental Review, Find:

1. That the Commission, acting as a responsible agency, has reviewed and considered the Negative Declaration, prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as Lead Agency.

Regarding the Coastal Development Permit, Find:

2. That the project, as described in the application and accompanying materials required by Zoning Regulations Section 6328.7 and as conditioned in accordance with Section 6328.14, **does not conform** with the policies and standards of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program with regards to the protection of visual resources. As discussed in Section A(2) of this Staff Report, the proposed VMS signs at Locations 5 and 6 will have a negative visual impact upon the scenic resources at these locations.

3. That the project **does not conform** to the specific findings required by policies of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program as discussed in Section A(2) of this Staff Report and Finding 2 above.

4. That where the project is located between the nearest public road and the sea, or the shoreline of Pescadero Marsh, the project is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976 (commencing with Section 30200 of the Public Resources Code). The various

project sites are located on the eastern side of Highway 1 and are not subject to the public access requirements of the Coastal Act.

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County of San Mateo - Planning and Building Department

ATTACHMENT B

San Mateo County Planning Commission Meeting

Owner/Applicant: Caltrans

Attachment: B

File Numbers: PLN2022-00009

County of San Mateo - Planning and Building Department

ATTACHMENT C

State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project

San Mateo County, California
District 04- SM-1 (Postmile 26.43/R47.20)
EA 04-2K880/ Project ID 417000040

Initial Study with Negative Declaration

Prepared by the
State of California, Department of Transportation

May 2021

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General Information about this Document

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study with Negative Declaration for the proposed project located in San Mateo County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This document explains why the project is being proposed, what alternatives have been considered for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, and the proposed avoidance and minimization measures. The draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration was publicly circulated for 30 days between March 22, 2021, and April 20, 2021. Comments received during this period are included in Appendix E. Elsewhere throughout this document, a vertical line in the margin indicates a change made since the draft document was circulated. Minor editorial changes and clarifications are not indicated. This document may be downloaded at the following website: https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs.

Alternate formats:

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, or digital audio. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to the California Department of Transportation, District 4, Attn: Zachary Gifford, Environmental Senior, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660; (510) 506-1264 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice) or 711

An Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant electronic copy of this document is available to download at: the Caltrans environmental document website (https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs).

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04 SM-1- PM 26.43/47.20
EA No. 04 2K880
Project No. 417000040

State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project
(Post Miles 04 SM-1- 26.43 to 47.20)

Initial Study with Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

Responsible Agencies:

California Transportation Commission
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
California Coastal Commission
City of Half Moon Bay Local Coastal Program
City of Pacifica Local Coastal Program
San Mateo County Local Coastal Program

05/10/2021

Date

Lindsay Vivian
Office Chief, Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation
CEQA Lead Agency

The following persons may be contacted for more information about this document:

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SCH: 2020080229

Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to construct the State Route (SR) 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements project. The project would provide emergency and incident-management related information to the traveling public on SR 1 and inform Caltrans' Traffic Management Center in Oakland, California, of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. This project would include installation of the following: wireless detection systems on existing or new structures; ground mounted variable message signs onto wooden poles; Midwest guardrail system, and maintenance vehicle pullouts at two locations. The project limits run along SR 1 from Miramontes Point Road Intersection in Half Moon Bay to Clarinada Avenue Undercrossing in Daly City (postmile 26.43 to postmile 47.20).

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study (IS) for this project, and has determined that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed project would have no effect on agriculture and forest resources, air quality, cultural resources, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, or tribal cultural resources. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, land use and planning, noise, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

With standard Caltrans conservation measures and project-specific avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project would have less-than-significant effects on aesthetics and biological resources, including the California red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake. The proposed project will not impact wetlands or waters of the U.S., riparian habitat, protected and migratory birds, or essential fish habitat.

Melanie Brent 05/10/2021

Melanie Brent
Deputy District Director
Environmental Planning and Engineering
California Department of Transportation

Date

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Chapter 1 Proposed Project

1.1 Introduction

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install six wireless detection systems (WDS), five ground mounted variable message signs (VMS), Midwest guardrail systems (MGS), and two maintenance vehicle pullouts (MVP) on State Route (SR) 1 in San Mateo County. The project would also update software at an existing changeable message sign (CMS) at the entrance to the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide. The proposed project would occur in San Mateo County on SR 1 from the Miramontes Point Road Intersection at postmile 26.43 to the Clarinada Avenue Undercrossing at postmile 47.20.

Note: To identify specific work locations, Caltrans uses its postmile system. A postmile is the way that a specific location on a state or federal route is specified within the linear reference system. The postmile value measures the distance, in miles, from the start of the route, or from the point at which the route enters the county. Thus, postmile values reset to zero each time the route crosses a county border. Sometimes, postmiles include a prefix or suffix code, or qualifiers, to distinguish two postmile specifications, representing two distinct geographic locations that differ in their postmile listing only in whether a single qualifier is present. Information about Caltrans postmiles and a mapping tool can be viewed at https://postmile.dot.ca.gov/PMQT/PostmileQueryTool.html.

1.1.1 CEQA Lead Agency Status

The SR 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project (proposed project or project) is subject to state environmental review requirements. Project documentation has been prepared in compliance with the CEQA. Caltrans is the lead agency under CEQA and sponsor for the proposed project and has prepared this Initial Study with Negative Declaration for the proposed project.

1.1.2 Background

Caltrans prepared a CEQA Initial Study with a proposed Negative Declaration and circulated it for public review on August 14, 2020. A virtual public meeting was held on September 10, 2020, and the public review period was scheduled to end on September 13 but was extended to October 30, 2020. Comments were reviewed, and subsequent additional outreach efforts with local stakeholders was conducted. As a result of the comments received and consultation with the broader local community, the project's design was reviewed and revised with respect to the use and locations of the signs system. This included changing the proposed use of the signs for displaying general travel time information to a focus on providing information related to emergencies—such as floods, mudslides, wildfire, and resulting evacuations—power safety power shutoffs, accidents, road

closures or construction, or other events that could result in substantial delays where drivers would benefit from receiving timely information.

The proposed signs would be activated during emergencies or incidents only and would be off most of the time. The signs would only be programed to be lighted when needed to convey emergency and incident-related information to motorists. In addition, some of the VMS locations were reviewed and relocated in response to public review and input. In response to concerns expressed over the visual impacts associated with the signs, Caltrans reviewed and identified new locations for the proposed signs at locations 5, 6, and 9.

Placement of signs at the revised locations would still serve the purpose of the project and would result in reduced visual impacts from the VMS. Location 2—adjacent to a car dealership in Half Moon Bay—was also considered for relocation, but after a detailed review, Caltrans determined that there were no other locations that served the project's purpose. The location would place the VMS before the SR 1 and 92 intersection, making it possible for motorists to safely turn around in the case of an emergency. Location 2 could not be shifted further south due to a lack of options for making legal U-turns south of the Highway 92 and Highway 1 intersection. Additionally, once south of the Half Moon Bay city limits, State Route 1 becomes an officially designated State Scenic Highway (from there south to Santa Cruz).. Furthermore, Caltrans considered the possibility of reducing the size of the VMS panels. Caltrans determined that the size could not be reduced because a reduction in size of the panel would not be large enough to effectively deliver useful messaging on emergencies and incidents to the traveling public. VMS proposed for the project would be approximately 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

Because the proposed project was revised to focus on emergency and incident-related messaging and some sign locations were modified, Caltrans decided to recirculate this document. This Initial Study with Negative Declaration has been updated based on these changes, and additional information has been provided on the appearance of the signs, including visual simulations of the signs and proposed changes. Despite previous considerations for Location 2, the Half Moon Bay City Council (who retains permitting authority through the Half Moon Bay Local Coastal Program) has indicated they will not support Location 2 as-is. Due to input received from the Half Moon Bay City Council and the community during the 2020 and 2021 public review periods, Caltrans has decided to drop Location 2 from further consideration as part of the project at this time. The remaining project locations and features have not changed from the recirculated draft environmental document.

The comments that were received during the review periods in 2020 and 2021 were considered in making changes to the project, and a summary of coordination with external stakeholders is provided in Chapter 3.

1.1.3 Project Location

The project is located along a 20.9-mile stretch of SR 1, starting at Miramontes Point Road Intersection and extending to the Clarinada Avenue Undercrossing (postmile 26.43 to 47.20) (Figure 1-1). SR 1 is a major north-south state highway that runs along the Pacific Ocean coastline for 656 miles. Along the San Mateo County coastline, from the beginning of the county line to the City of Pacifica, SR 1 is known as the “Cabrillo Highway” and operates as a conventional highway throughout most of the project limits. The route provides primary access to several coastal communities as well as access to beaches, parks, and other attractions along the coast, and it is a popular route for tourists.

Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map*

*Note: Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration as part of this project

The portion of SR 1 within the project limits varies from a two- to four-lane highway with no high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

Despite having no sidewalks or continuous dedicated bike lanes, this portion of SR 1 is part of the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route from Mexico to Canada and is also part of the California Coastal Trail (CCT).

1.1.4 Local Planning

This project is in the Coastal Zone and would be governed by Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) in San Mateo County, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay. All development in the Coastal Zone requires either a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) or an exemption from CDP requirements. For a permit to be issued, the development must comply with the policies of the LCP and those ordinances.

1.1.5 Existing Facility

The segment of SR 1 within the project limits is primarily a semi-rural highway from postmile 26.43 to posmile 47.20. Frequent landslides and erosion along the coast have caused portions of SR 1 to either be closed for long periods or re-routed entirely. Devil's Slide is a stretch of roadway between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica that has been prone to major landslides that can result in road closures. Entering San Mateo County from the south, SR 1 follows the west coast of the San Francisco Peninsula, passing by marine mammal colonies at Año Nuevo State Park and the historic Pigeon Point Lighthouse, before reaching Half Moon Bay. Between Half Moon Bay and Pacifica, the highway bypasses the Devil's Slide area via the Tom Lantos Tunnels, which were opened to traffic in 2013.

There is little existing traffic monitoring along SR 1; however, the main intersections along this section of the highway within the project limits are signalized. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on SR 1 from postmile 26.0 to postmile 47.27, where the proposed project is located, varies between 14,000 and 70,000 vehicles per day (Caltrans 2015).

SR 1 provides access to coastal communities, beaches, state parks and national recreation areas.

Bicycle, transit and park and ride facilities are not included as part of this project.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to provide the traveling public using SR 1 with real-time travel information related to emergency events, such as notifications regarding evacuations, fires, earthquakes, and tsunamis; plus information related to public safety power shutoffs, accidents, tunnel closures, and Amber Alerts.

The project would also inform Caltrans' Traffic Management Center (TMC) in Oakland, California, of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. Emergency and incident-related information provided will help inform the public traveling on SR 1 of upstream roadway conditions, so that people can make informed decisions regarding their travel. As a result, this project will improve traffic operations, public safety system performance, and minimize the duration and impacts of non-recurring congestion due to incidents and roadway and tunnel closures.

This project is needed because there are currently no traffic management systems along this route that can provide real time information on roadway conditions and emergency situations to Caltrans, the traveling public, and first responders. This limits Caltrans' ability to inform the traveling public of roadway conditions quickly and effectively during emergency incidents. SR 1 through the project limits also lacks traffic monitoring systems that can be used to collect data on traffic flow and volumes. These data can be used to inform future planning decisions and projects in San Mateo County. Overall, Caltrans anticipates that this project will improve traffic congestion along the corridor by helping manage traffic flow during emergency events and helping identify future transportation needs and deficiencies.

1.3 Project Description

1.3.1 Proposed Traffic Event Information System

The proposed scope of work includes installing six WDS, five ground-mounted VMS, and MGS where necessary to protect equipment and motorists from collisions with infrastructure placed in the clear recovery zone, two MVPs to assist with equipment maintenance; and updating software on an existing CMS at the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide.

WDS are small wireless devices used for traffic monitoring. They use sensors to detect the presence of vehicles. WDS would be installed on existing traffic signal poles (Locations 1, 3, 4, and 9-1), an existing lighting pole (Location 7), or a new pole (Location 10). These are small boxes and would not be very visible to the public. The installation of WDS modules involves work on new or existing poles and connecting to power using existing or new utility cabinets.

VMS are electronic traffic signs that are used to provide motorists with real time traffic safety and guidance information about traffic, congestion, and emergencies. The VMS would provide emergency and incident-related information to the traveling public on SR 1, and inform the Caltrans' TMC in Oakland, California, of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. Key locations for VMS have been determined

by Caltrans. This project would install VMS at locations where motorists could safely reroute and turn around to avoid roadway closures, emergencies, and other incidents. The new VMS would be turned on only when communicating necessary information and would remain off most of the time.

The VMS proposed for the project would be approximately 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. The VMS panels would be installed on two wooden poles. The VMS foundations would require two holes; each hole would be 12 inches in diameter and 6 feet in depth. New controller cabinets and service cabinets would be installed near the signs at VMS Locations 2, 5, 6, and 9-2 for power. Only controller cabinets would be installed at Location 10. Controller cabinets would be 67 inches high by 24 inches wide by 30 inches deep. Service cabinets would be 48 inches high by 12 inches wide by 7.25 inches deep.

The controller cabinets and service cabinets would be placed on new concrete pads. These foundations would require excavation. Controller cabinet foundations would be 20 inches by 32 inches. Service cabinet foundations would be 16 inches by 24 inches. Controller and service cabinets would be placed adjacent to each other. Additionally, new pull boxes would be installed in the ground. Pull boxes are concrete boxes that are used to assist with wire pulling. Pull boxes would lay flat on the ground and be 20 inches by 11 inches in size. The number of pull boxes would be finalized during the design phase of the project, but it is estimated that at least two pull boxes would be needed per VMS location.

The proposed project would include software upgrades of an existing CMS at the Tom Lantos Tunnels. The software in the CMS at the Tom Lantos Tunnels (Location 8) would be updated to enable the sign to display emergency and incident-related information. CMS are electronic traffic signs used to provide motorists with real time information about traffic, congestion, and emergencies. The project does not propose installation of any new CMS.

MVPs would be installed at two locations (Locations 5 and 6). MVPs provide additional space for maintenance crews to safely access and maintain highway-related infrastructure. MVPs reduce worker exposure to moving vehiclesMVPs would be installed within Caltrans' right-of-way (ROW). Final dimensions of the MVPs will be determined during the project's design phase. Backfill for MVPs would consist of hot mix asphalt type A and aggregate base.

MGS would be installed at four locations (Locations 2, 5, 6, and 10), most of which have pre-existing MVPs. The MGS would be installed to protect the traveling public from colliding with fixed objects in the ROW and the VMS and associated infrastructure. MGS would be installed in drilled holes that are

6 inches in diameter and 6 feet deep. MGS is installed to reduce the possibility and severity of possible run-off-road collisions, and for worker safety.

1.3.2 Construction Details by Specific Location

Ten separate locations with specific traffic information system elements are proposed along the SR 1 corridor in the project area. Table 1-1 summarizes the elements involved at each project location and the totals of those elements for the entire project.

Specific details and figures for each location are presented below, including visual simulations. Visual simulations illustrate how the proposed project components would appear in the proposed locations.

Table 1-1 List of Locations and Construction Elements

Location Number	Postmile	Direction	WDS	VMS	MVP	MGS (in feet)
1	26.43	SB	1	0	0	0
*2	27.95	NB	0	*1	0	*100
3	29.04	NB	1	0	0	0
4	32.86	NB	1	0	0	0
5	33.55	SB	0	1	1	100
6	33.35	NB	0	1	1	100
7	38.48	SB	1	0	0	0
8	39.36	SB	0	0	0	0
9-1	42.58	NB	1	0	0	0
9-2	42.27	NB	0	1	0	0
10	47.20	SB	1	1	0	100
***Total**	**-**	**-**	**6**	***5**	**2**	***400**

Notes:
* Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration as part of this project
MGS = Midwest guardrail systems
MVP = maintenance vehicle pullout
NB = northbound
SB = southbound
VMS = variable message sign
WDS = wireless detection system

1.3.3 Location 1. SR 1 at Miramontes Point Road

Location 1 would occur at postmile 26.43 at the southwestern corner of SR 1 and Miramontes Road, 2.6 miles south of the SR 1 and SR 92 intersection (see Figure 1-2). The proposed work at this location includes installing WDS modules on an existing traffic signal pole (see Figure 1-3).

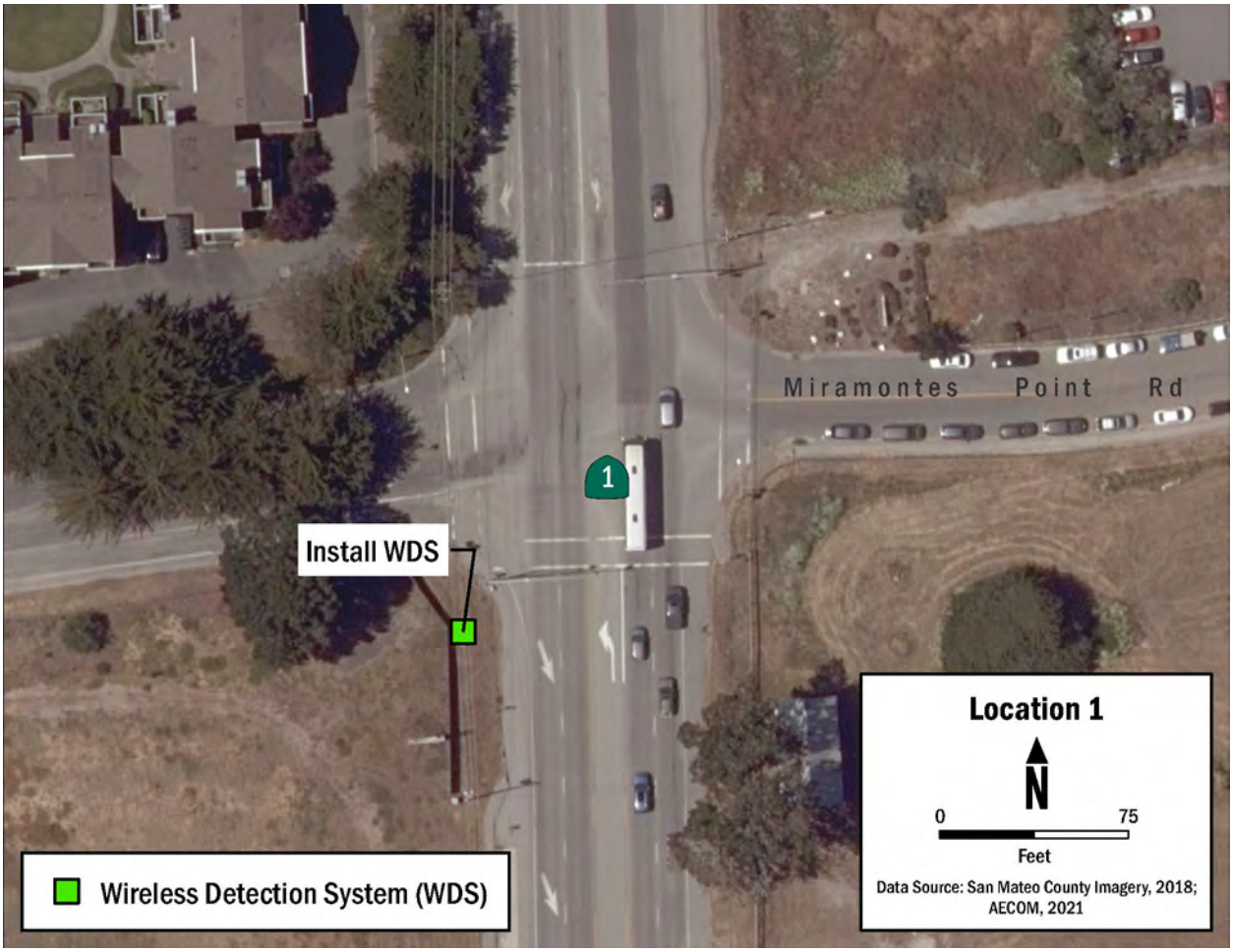

Figure 1-2 Location 1 Map Figure

Figure 1-3 Street View Facing South on SR 1 at Location 1

1.3.4 Location 2. SR 1 approaching Seymour Street

Location 2 is at postmile 27.95 near Seymour Street. This location was considered, but it has been dropped from further consideration as part of this project. The proposed work at this location would have included installing a VMS 12 feet from the edge of shoulder and an MGS between the road shoulder and new VMS. A controller cabinet and service cabinet would have been installed near the sign. Power for the VMS to the existing Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) pole would likely have been supplied by excavating under the road across Seymour Street. Figures 1-4 through 1-7 summarize the location, proposed system elements and provide visual simulations at this location.

Figure 1-4 Location 2 Map Figure

Figure 1-5 Existing Conditions at Location 2

Figure 1-6 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown without message displayed) and MGS at Location 2

Figure 1-7 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown with message displayed) and MGS at Location 2

1.3.5 Location 3. SR 1 at Intersection with SR 92

The proposed work at Location 3 would occur at postmile 29.04, at the intersection of SR 1 and SR 92 in the city of Half Moon Bay. Existing conditions at this site include a paved shoulder with mowed ruderal vegetation. Proposed traffic system elements here would include installing WDS modules on an existing traffic signal pole at the northeast corner and connecting to existing power. Figures 1-8 and 1-9 describe the proposed location for the WDS.

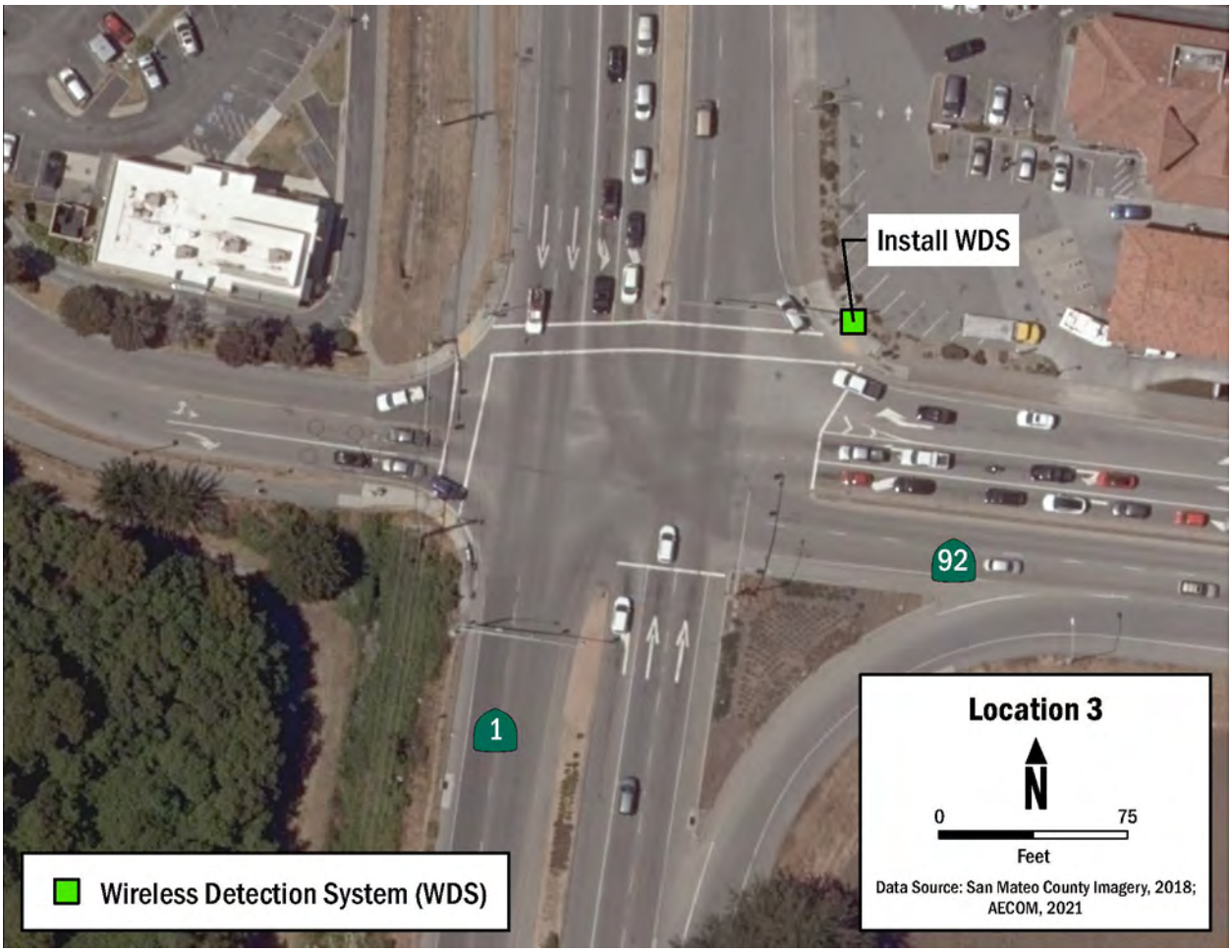

Figure 1-8 Location 3 Map Figure

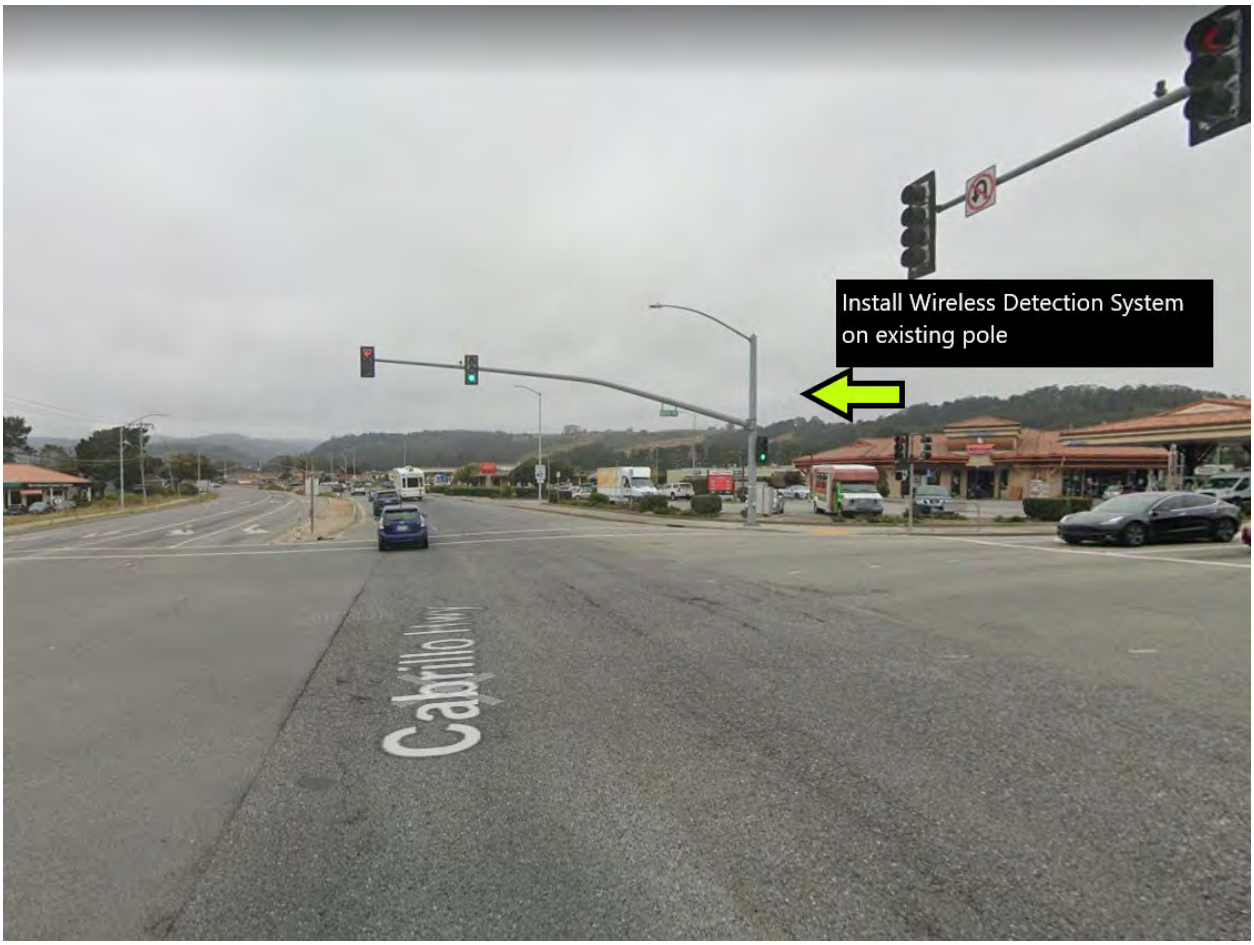

Figure 1-9 Street View Facing North on SR 1 at Location 3

1.3.1 Location 4. SR 1 at Capistrano Road

The proposed work at Location 4 would occur at postmile 32.86 at the northeast corner of Capistrano Road (see Figure 1-10). Proposed traffic event system elements would include installing WDS modules to an existing traffic signal pole and connecting to the power using an existing utility cabinet (see Figure 1-11).

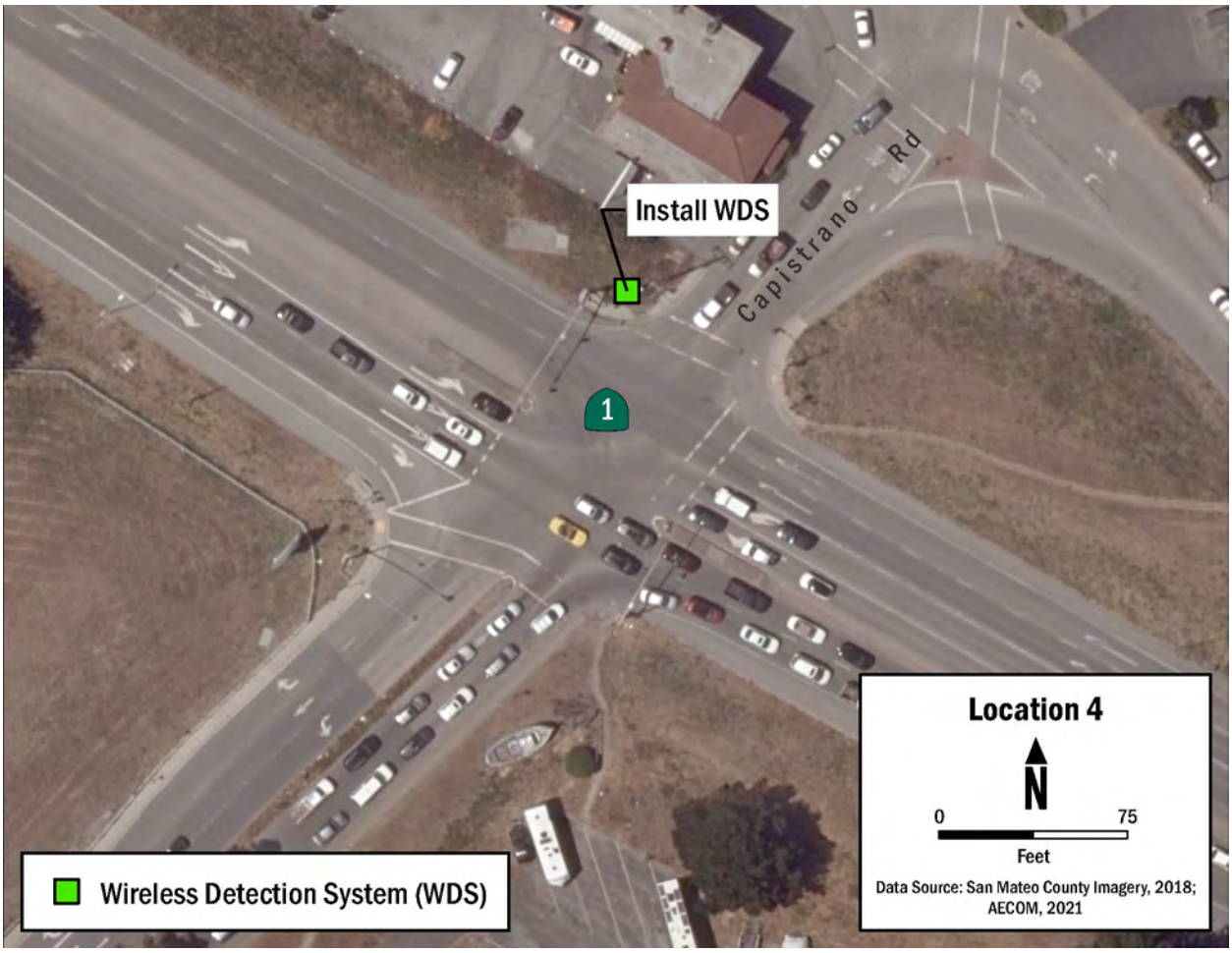

Figure 1-10 Location 4 Map Figure

Figure 1-11 Street View Facing North on SR 1 at Location 4

1.3.2 Location 5. SR 1 Approaching Coral Reef Avenue

Work at this location would occur at postmile 33.55, along the southbound shoulder approaching Coral Reef Avenue (see Figure 1-12 and Figure 1-13). Existing conditions include a gravel shoulder and regularly mowed ruderal upland vegetation. A drainage ditch that drains into Denniston Creek occurs approximately 35 feet from the roadway and is outside of the proposed work area. Work at Location 5 would include a VMS installed on two wooden poles, a MVP, and 100 feet of MGS. Power for VMS would be provided by an adjacent PG&E pole (see Figure 1-14 and Figure 1-15). A controller cabinet and a service cabinet near the sign would be installed.

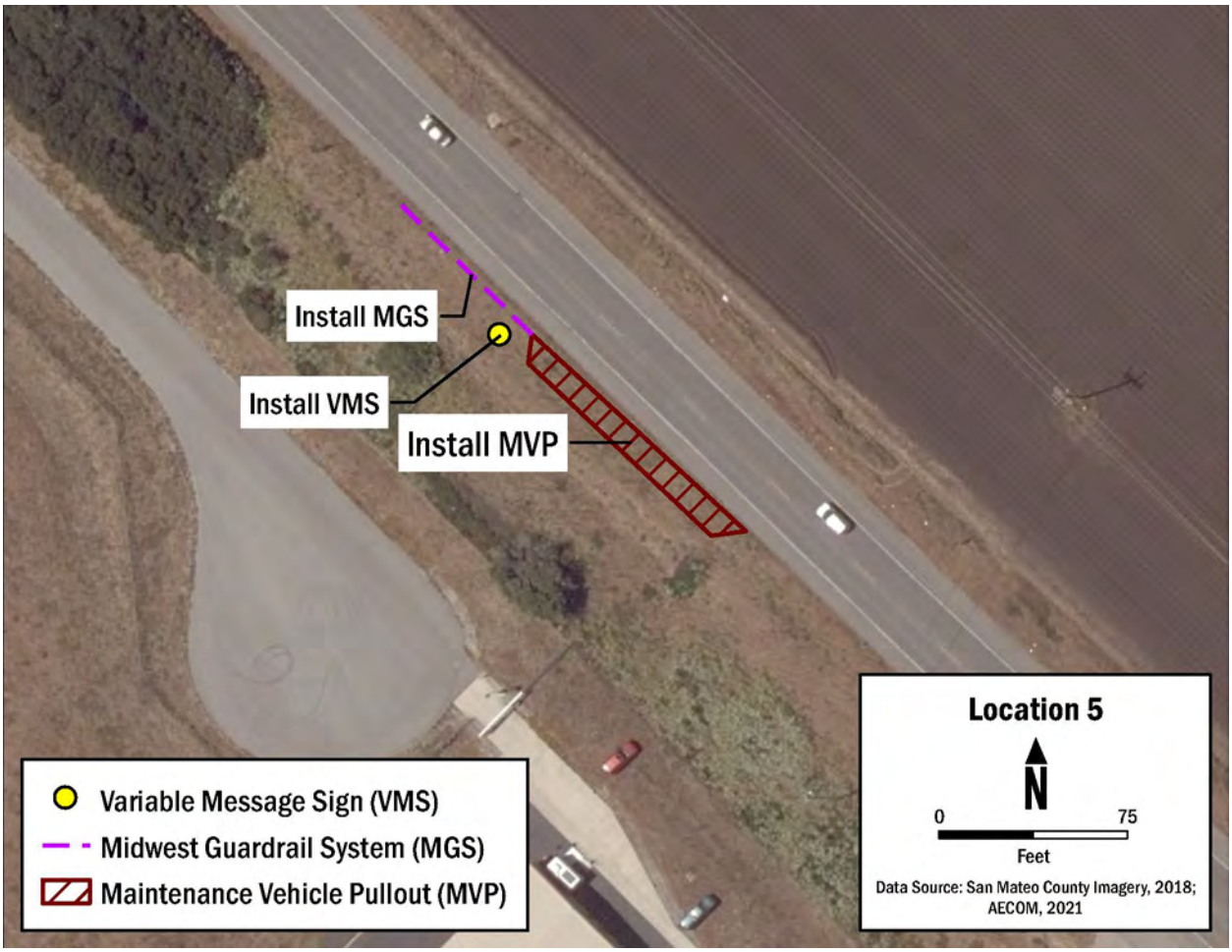

Figure 1-12 Location 5 Map Figure

Figure 1-13 Existing Conditions at Location 5

Figure 1-14 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown without message displayed) and MGS at Location 5

Figure 1-15 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown with message displayed) and MGS at Location 5

1.3.3 Location 6. SR 1 North of Coral Reef Avenue

Work for Location 6 would occur at postmile 33.35, along the northbound SR 1 shoulder north of Coral Reef Avenue (see Figure 1-16 and Figure 1-17). Existing conditions at this site include a gravel shoulder and mowed ruderal vegetation. Denniston Creek passes under SR 1, approximately 70 feet from where proposed work would occur. Proposed traffic event information elements would include a VMS, MVP and 100 feet of MGS. Power for VMS would be sourced from a nearby existing power pole (Figure 1-18 and Figure 1-19). A controller cabinet and service cabinet near the sign would be installed.

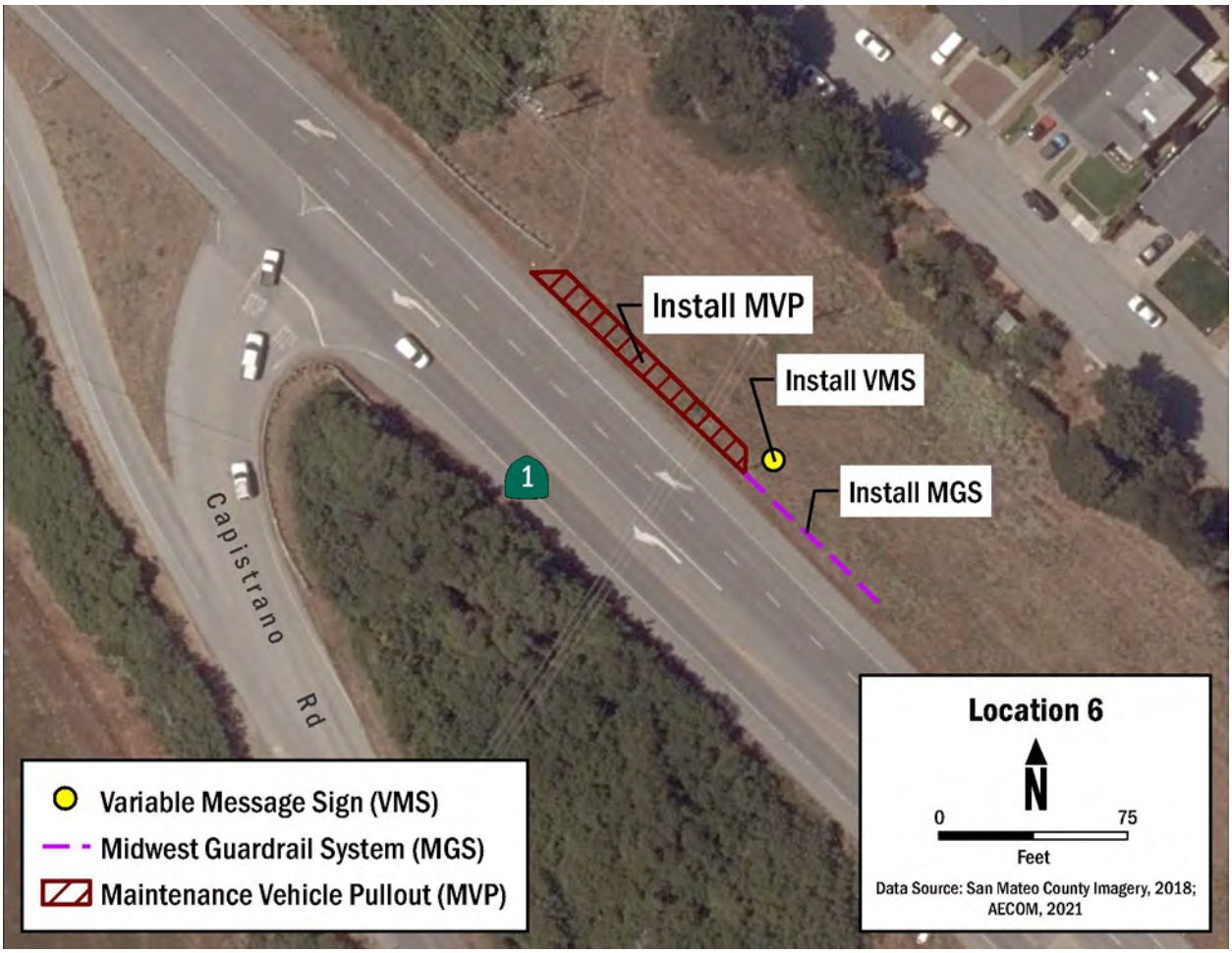

Figure 1-16 Location 6 Map Figure

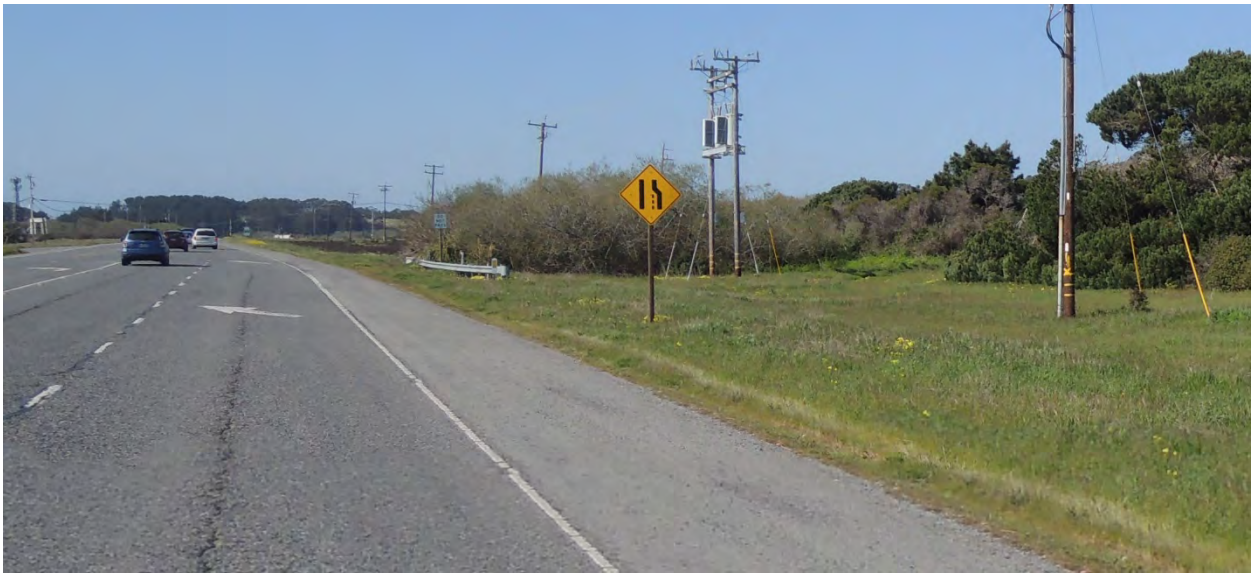

Figure 1-17 Existing Conditions at Location 6

Figure 1-18 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown without message displayed), MVP and MGS at Location 6

Figure 1-19 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown with message displayed), MVP and MGS at Location 6

1.3.4 Location 7: SR 1 South of Tom Lantos Tunnels

The proposed work at Location 7 would occur at postmile 38.48 south of the Tom Lantos tunnels (Figure 1-20 and Figure 1-21). This location includes installing WDS modules on an existing highway lighting pole and connecting to power using an existing utility cabinet.

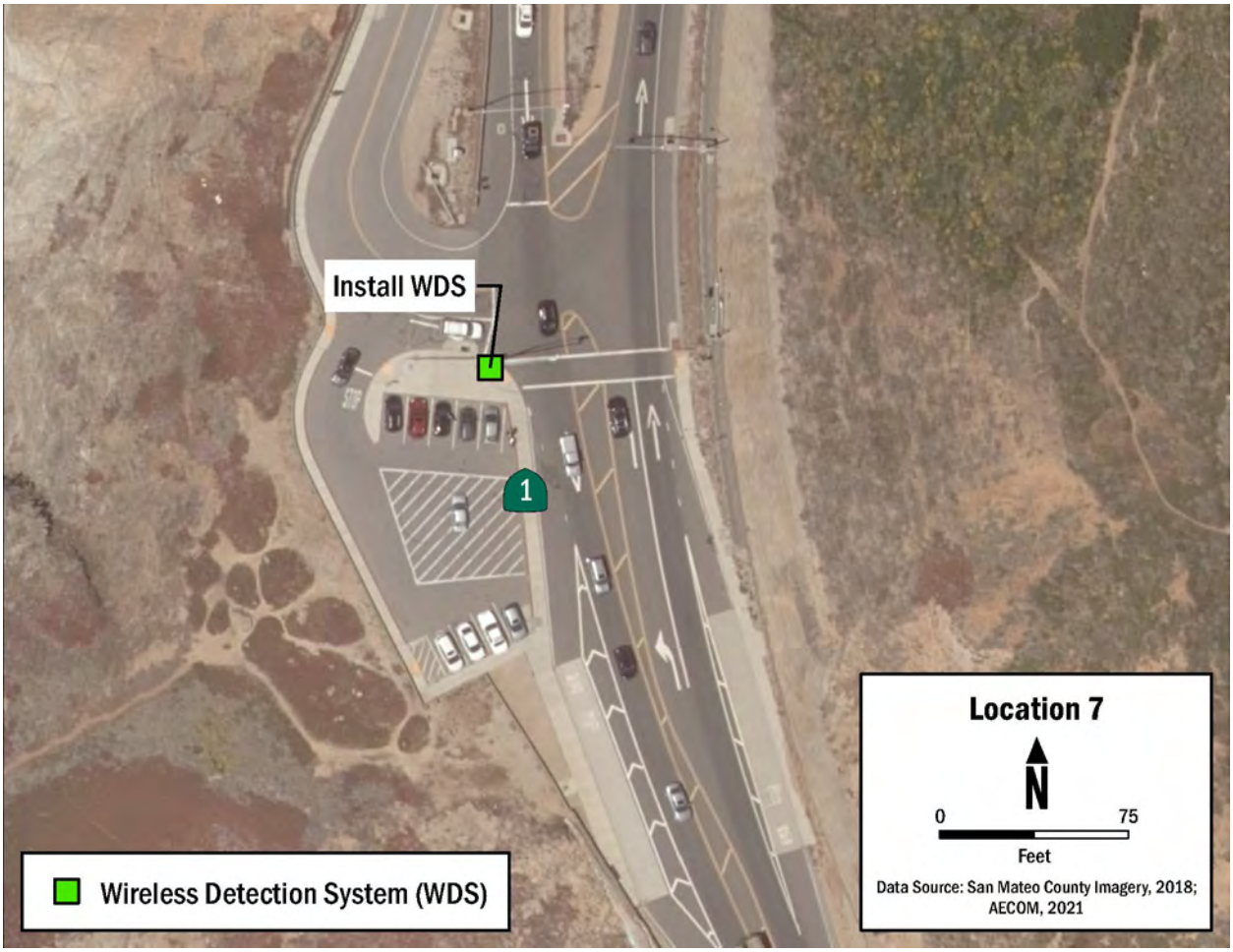

Figure 1-20 Location 7 Map Figure

Figure 1-21 Street View of SR 1 Facing South near Tom Lantos Tunnels at Location 7

1.3.5 Location 8. SR 1 at North End of Tom Lantos Tunnels

Proposed work would occur at postmile 39.36, at the existing CMS in the northbound lanes, which are situated just before the entrance to the Tom Lantos tunnels at Location 8 (see Figure 1-22). New software would be downloaded and installed to enable the existing CMS at this location. The existing CMS could then be used to display emergency and incident-management information.

Figure 1-22 Location 8 Map Figure

1.3.6 Location 9-1, SR 1 Approaching Reina del Mar Avenue

Work at Location 9-1 would occur within the Pacifica city limits at postmile 42.58, at the northeastern corner of the SR 1 intersection with Reina Del Mar Avenue (see Figure 1-23 and Figure 1-24). Installation of traffic information system elements would include installing WDS modules on an existing traffic signal pole and connecting to existing power.

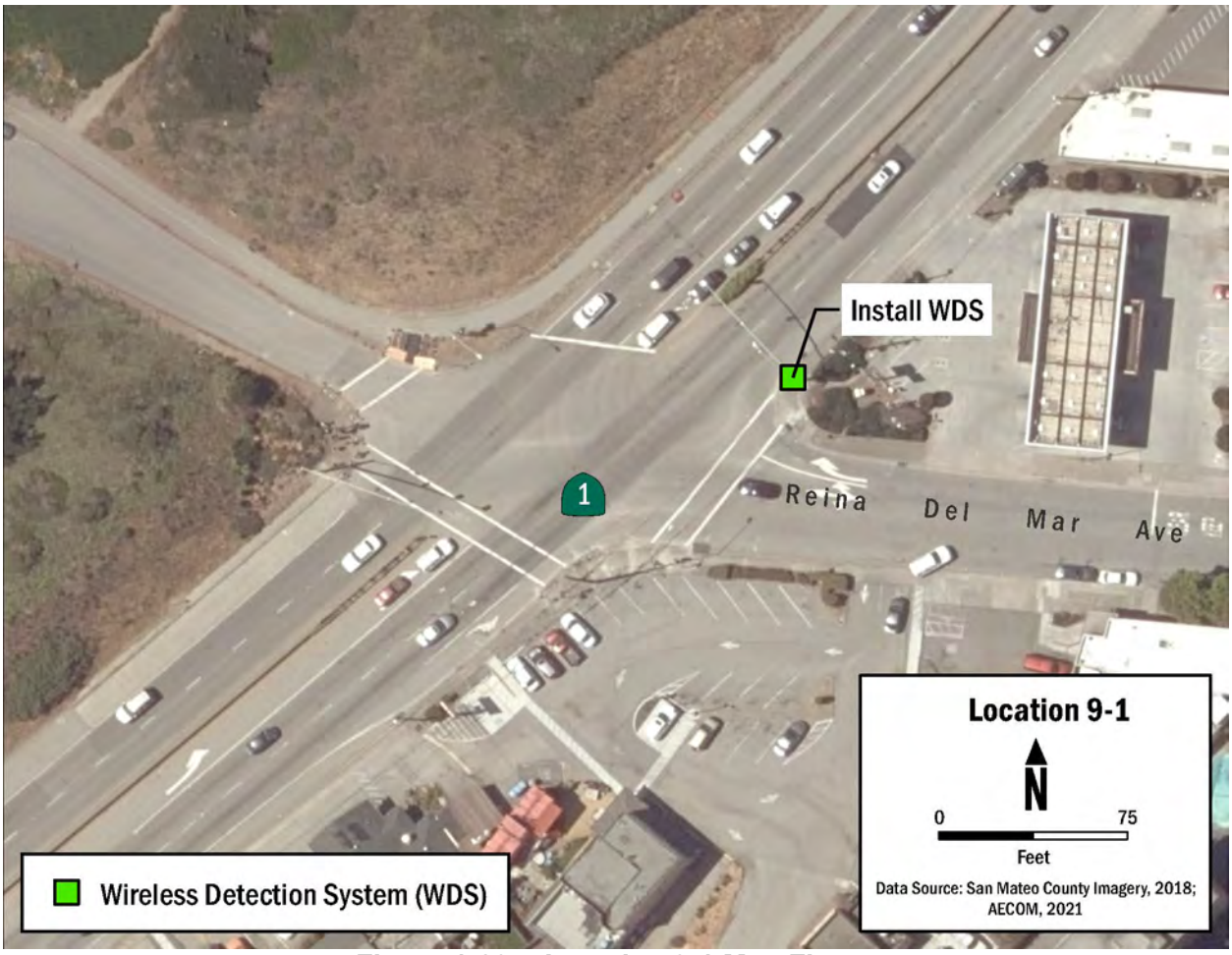

Figure 1-23 Location 9-1 Map Figure

Figure 1-24 Street View Facing North on SR 1 at Location 9-1

1.3.7 Location 9-2. SR 1 Approaching Reina Del Mar Avenue

Work at this location would occur at postmile 42.27, approaching Reina Del Mar Avenue along the northbound shoulder of SR 1 (see Figure 1-25 and Figure 1-26). Installation of traffic event information system elements would include a VMS on wooden poles, and a new controller cabinet and service cabinet near the sign (see Figure 1-27 and Figure 1-28). Power for VMS would be provided via the existing power utility cabinet.

Figure 1-25 Location 9-2 Map Figure

Figure 1-26 Location 9-2 Existing Conditions

Figure 1-27 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown without message displayed) at Location 9-2

Figure 1-28 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown with message displayed) at Location 9-2

1.3.8 Location 10. SR 1 at Clarinada Avenue

Work at Location 10 would occur at postmile 47.20, between the exit and entrance ramps for Clarinada Avenue (see Figure 1-29 and Figure 1-30). Installation of traffic event information system elements would include a VMS on wooden poles, approximately 100 feet of MGS, a WDS module on a new pole, and a new controller cabinet and service cabinet (Figure 1-31 and Figure 1-32). Elements requiring power would be connected via existing utility cabinets at this location.

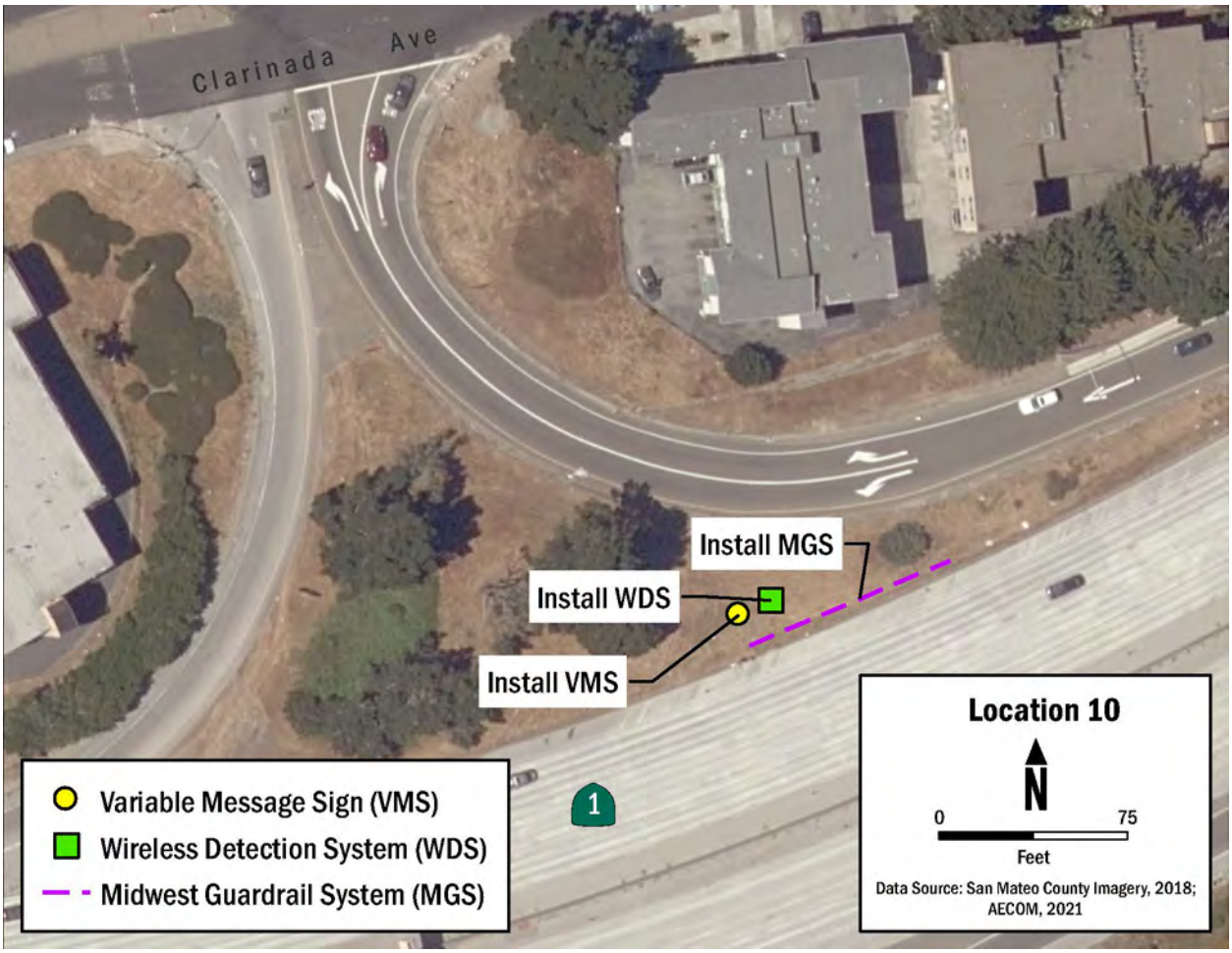

Figure 1-29 Location 10 Map Figure

Figure 1-30 Existing Conditions at Location 10

Figure 1-31 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown without message displayed) and MGS at Location 10

Figure 1-32 Visual Simulation of VMS (shown with message displayed) and MGS at Location 10

1.3.9 Excavation

A total of 100 cubic yards of soil would be excavated for installation of the two MVPs and for installation of the new VMS, MGS, poles, and cabinet foundations. Any excess soil would be removed according to Caltrans standards for the proper handling and disposal of any excess soil. If necessary, a disposal site would be determined based on soil contamination levels.

There would be trenching along the shoulders to install conduits for power and communications at all locations that include VMS and new poles. Typical excavation depths for trenching would be 12 inches under pavement and 30 inches under the soil.

1.3.10 Structures

Five VMS will be ground mounted on wooden poles. A total of 400 linear feet of MGS would be installed to protect the VMS. Locations 2, 5, and 6 would each have about 100 feet of MGS installed. Location 10 would have 100 feet of MGS installed.

1.3.11 Construction Equipment

Equipment that would be used includes backhoes, utility trucks, semi-trucks, small drill rigs, and a paving machine.

1.3.12 Utilities

This project would not involve utility relocations. No existing utilities have been identified that conflict with the work proposed by this project. Connecting to electrical power connections during construction may result in short-term, temporary interruptions of service.

1.3.13 Drainage

There are no new drainage features for this project nor would the project impact existing drainage features.

1.3.14 Construction Schedule

Construction is anticipated to take 60 working days to complete. Work would occur during the summer months and during daytime hours between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

1.3.15 Access Routes

No access routes will be required for this project. All locations can be fully accessed from existing state ROW. There would be occasional lane closures, which would require traffic control.

1.3.16 Project Funding

This project is funded by the State Highway Operation and Protection Program for fiscal year 2021/2022. The project is funded by the Transportation Management Program (201.315) for a total project cost of $2,408,000.

1.4 Alternatives

1.4.1 No Build Alternative

The No Build Alternative would not install WDS, VMS, MGS, and MVPs, and would not include updating software on an existing CMS at the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide. This segment of SR 1 in San Mateo County would continue to have no traffic management systems along this route that could provide real time information on roadway conditions and emergency situations to Caltrans, the traveling public, and emergency first responders.

1.4.2 Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would include installation of WDS on existing or new structures, ground mounting VMS onto wooden poles, adding MGS, and MVPs at

strategically selected locations along SR 1 from Miramontes Point Road Intersection in Half Moon Bay to Clarinada Avenue Undercrossing in Daly City. See Section 1.3 for further description of the Build Alternative.

1.4.3 Final Decision-making Process

After the public circulation period, all comments were considered, the Project Development Team (PDT) selected a preferred alternative, and Caltrans made a final determination of the project's effect on the environment.

The Build Alternative has been identified as the preferred alternative, as discussed below in Section 1.4.4. Under CEQA, Caltrans has determined that the project would have no significant adverse impacts and has prepared a Negative Declaration (ND).

1.4.4 Identification of a Preferred Alternative

The project analyzed in this Initial Study, the Build Alternative, has been identified as the preferred alternative. Selection of the preferred alternative will meet the project's purpose and need to provide the traveling public using SR 1 with real-time travel information related to emergency events. The preferred alternative is expected to improve traffic operations, public safety system performance, and minimize the duration and impacts of non-recurring congestion due to incidents and roadway and tunnel closures. In conclusion, the Build Alternative would satisfy the purpose and need for the project described in Sections 1.2. The No Build Alternative would not address the project's purpose and need.

1.4.5 Alternatives Previously Considered but Eliminated from Discussion Prior to the Draft Initial Study

The No-Build alternative is the only other alternative considered . The No-Build alternative would not address the existing need for safety-oriented traffic information to the traveling public on SR 1. Under the No-Build alternative there would continue to be no traffic management systems along this route and Caltrans would not have the ability to inform the traveling public of roadway conditions quickly and effectively in the event of an incident or emergency situation. The No-Build alternative does not satisfy the purpose and need of this project.

1.5 Project Features

Project features are design elements and/or standard measures that are incorporated into a project and are intended to reduce environmental effects

resulting from proposed project activities. The proposed project contains several standardized project components which are employed on most, if not all, of Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impact resulting from the proposed project. These components are referenced as project features in this chapter as they pertain to different environmental resources. Project features are separated out from avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs), which directly relate to the impacts resulting from the proposed project. AMMs and other measures are discussed separately within each environmental section.

A summary of project features is presented in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2 Project Feature Summary

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Aesthetics/ Visual	PF-AES-01	During construction operations, unsightly material and equipment in staging areas shall be placed where it is less visible and/or covered where possible.
Air Quality	PF-AIR-01	Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 7-1.02A and 7-1.02C, Emissions Reduction, require contractors to comply with all laws applicable to the project and to certify they are aware of and will comply with all ARB emission reduction regulations.
Air Quality	PF-AIR-02	Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes.
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-01	Worker Environmental Awareness Training: Construction personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by the Department Biologist prior to taking part in site construction activities. The program will include an explanation on how to identify and avoid take of special-status species. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the species; how they might be encountered in the project area; their status and protection; and any relevant Conservation Measures and Terms and Conditions in project permits.

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-02	Environmentally Sensitive Area Fencing: Before the start of construction, ESAs (defined as areas containing sensitive habitats adjacent to or within construction work areas for which physical disturbance is not allowed) will be clearly delineated using high-visibility fencing as directed by the approved biologist. Construction work areas will include the active construction site and all areas providing support for the project, including areas used for parking, equipment and material storage and staging, and access roads. The high-visibility fencing will remain in place throughout the duration of construction activities, will be inspected regularly, and fully maintained throughout construction. The final project plans will show all locations where the fencing will be installed and will provide installation specifications. The bid solicitation package special provisions will clearly describe acceptable fencing material and prohibited construction-related activities, including vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, access roads and other surface-disturbing activities within ESAs.
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-03	Soil Storage: Where necessary and appropriate, native topsoil will be removed and stored for reuse or offsite disposal in a designated location as specified by the project biologist in coordination with the Resident Engineer until project completion.
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-04	Vegetation Removal: Vegetation removal will be limited to the designated work areas needed for access and workspace. Where possible, vegetation will be trimmed instead of removed. Vegetation in temporary work areas will be cut above soil level to promote re-vegetative growth of established plants following construction to the maximum extent feasible. Vegetation will be mowed to a height greater than 4 inches.

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-05	Replant, Reseed, and Restore Disturbed Areas: Caltrans will restore temporarily disturbed areas to preconstruction conditions and topographical contours, to the maximum extent practicable. Where soil compaction is unintended, compacted soils will be loosened after heavy construction activities are complete. Exposed slopes and bare ground will be reseeded with native grasses and shrubs to the maximum extent feasible to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-06	Migratory Bird Treaty Act: To protect migratory birds and their nests, all initial major vegetation clearing, but not grubbing, will be conducted between October 1 and January 31, outside the typical bird nesting season, when possible. Upon completion of vegetation clearing, Caltrans will install storm water and erosion control BMPs as needed. A qualified biologist with appropriate construction and species experience will conduct nest and bird surveys and other wildlife surveys before and during tree cutting. If construction activities occur between February 1 and September 30, preconstruction surveys for nesting birds will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 72 hours prior to the start of construction activities. If work is to occur within 300 feet of active raptor nests or 50 feet of active passerine nests, a non-disturbance buffer will be established at a distance sufficient to minimize disturbance based on the nest location, topography, cover, the species' sensitivity to disturbance, and the intensity/type of potential disturbance. Buffer size should be determined in cooperation with CDFW and USFWS. All clearing and grubbing of woody vegetation will be performed by hand or using light construction equipment, such as backhoes and excavators.

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-07	Invasive Species Management: To reduce the spread of invasive non-native plant species and minimize the potential decrease of palatable vegetation for wildlife species, Caltrans will comply with Executive Order 13112. The purpose of this order is to prevent the introduction of invasive species and provide for their control to minimize economic, ecological, and human health impacts. In the event that high- or medium-priority noxious weeds, as defined by the California Department of Food and Agriculture or the California Invasive Plant Council, are disturbed or removed during construction-related activities, the contractor will contain the plant material associated with these noxious weeds and will dispose of it in a manner that will not promote the spread of the species. The contractor will be responsible for obtaining all permits, licenses, and environmental clearances for properly disposing materials. Areas subject to noxious weed removal or disturbance will be replanted with fast-growing native grasses or a native erosion control seed mixture. If seeding is not possible, the area will be covered to the extent practicable with heavy black plastic solarization material until completion of construction. All earthmoving equipment, as well as seeding equipment to be used during project construction will be thoroughly cleaned before arriving on the project site.
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-08	Water Quality/Erosion Control BMPs: To avoid and minimize potential impacts on water quality in aquatic species habitats, erosion control BMPs will be developed and implemented to minimize any wind or water-related erosion, in compliance with the requirements of the RWQCB. Protective measures will include, at a minimum: a. No discharge of pollutants from vehicle and equipment cleaning will be allowed into any storm drains or watercourses.

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
		b. Equipment will be inspected daily for leaks. If any leaks are found, a drip pan will be placed under the leak and the leak will be repaired immediately by the contractor. c. Vehicle and equipment fueling, and maintenance operations will occur at least 50 feet away from watercourses, except at established commercial gas stations or established vehicle maintenance facilities. d. Concrete wastes will be collected in washouts, and water from curing operations will be collected and disposed of properly. Neither will be allowed into watercourses. e. Spill containment kits will be kept on-site during construction operations and/or staging or fueling of equipment. f. Dust control measures will include use of water trucks and dust palliatives to control dust in excavation-and-fill areas, covering temporary access road entrances and exits with rock (rocking), and covering temporary stockpiles when weather conditions require. g. Coir rolls or straw wattles that do not contain plastic or synthetic monofilament netting will be installed along or at the base of slopes during construction, to capture sediment. h. Graded areas will be protected from erosion using a combination of silt fences and fiber rolls along toes of slopes or along edges of designated staging areas, and erosion control netting (e.g., jute or coir) will be used as appropriate on sloped areas. No plastic or synthetic netting erosion control materials will be used. Acceptable materials will include natural fibers, such as jute, coconut, twine or other similar natural fibers.

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Biological Resources	PF-BIO-9	Agency Access: If requested, before, during, or upon completion of groundbreaking and construction activities, Caltrans will allow access by regulatory agency personnel (e.g., USFWS, CDFW, RWQCB, CCC, and USACE) into the project footprint to inspect the project and its activities.
Cultural Resources	PF-CULT-01	If remains are discovered during excavation, all work within 60 feet of the discovery will halt and Caltrans' OCRS will be called. Caltrans OCRS staff will assess the remains and, if determined to be human, will contact the County Coroner in accordance with PRC Sections 5097.98, 5097.99, and 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Coroner will contact the NAHC, who will assign a Most Likely Descendant. Caltrans will consult with the Most Likely Descendent on treatment and reburial of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.
Cultural Resources	PF-CULT-02	If archaeological materials are discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area will be diverted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the nature and substance of the find.
Energy	PF-ENRG-01	Caltrans standard specifications and BMPs will be implemented during construction to reduce any inefficient or unnecessary energy resource usages, such as by limiting the idling of vehicles.
Hazardous Materials	PF-HAZ-01	Caltrans standards will be followed for the proper handling and disposal of any unanticipated hazardous waste discovered during construction.
Hazardous Materials	PF-HAZ-02:	The project will implement BMPs according to Caltrans specifications special provision 12-11.09 "Minimal Disturbance of Regulated Material Containing ADL."

Resource Area	Project Feature Reference	Project Feature
Hydrology/ Water Quality	PF-HYDRO-01	Standard BMPs. The potential for adverse effects to water quality will be avoided. Caltrans erosion control BMPs will be used to minimize any wind- or water-related erosion.

Notes:
ADL = aerially deposited lead
ARB = California Air Resources Board
BMP = best management practice
Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
CCC = California Coastal Commission
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
ESA = environmentally sensitive area
NAHC = Native American Heritage Commission
OCRS = Office of Cultural Resource Studies
PRC = Public Resources Code
RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board
USACE = United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.6 Permits and Approvals

Table 1-3 summarizes the permits anticipated for the proposed project by the respective agencies as well as permit status. Approval of project funding is required by the California Transportation Commission board for each phase of the project.

Table 1-3 Required Permits

Issuing Agency	Permit, Authorization or Agreement	Impacted Resource
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Letter of Concurrence	California red-legged, San Francisco garter snake
San Mateo County	Coastal Development Permit	Project lies within jurisdiction and placement of signs would have no substantial visual impact
City of Half Moon Bay	Coastal Development Permit	Project lies within jurisdiction and placement of signs would have no substantial visual impact
City of Pacifica	Coastal Development Permit	Project lies within jurisdiction and placement of signs would have no substantial visual impact

Chapter 2 California Enviornmental Quality Act Evaluation

The proposed project by Caltrans is subject to CEQA and project documentation has been prepared in compliance with CEQA. Caltrans is the lead agency under CEQA. This chapter evaluates potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, as described in Chapter 1 as they relate to the CEQA checklist to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15091).

2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The checklist is presented as a table at the beginning of each resource section. The first column lists pertinent questions applicable to the resource, and the other four columns includes the degree of impact for each of those questions. In many cases, technical studies performed in connection with the project indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A “no impact” answer in the last column reflects this determination. The words “significant” and “significance” used throughout the checklist are related to CEQA impacts. The questions in this form are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance. Significance determinations (e.g., no impact, less than significant, potentially significant impact) are responded to for each of the CEQA checklist questions; a “yes” or “no” response is given for each significance determination column in each question row. A “yes” response indicates that this is the significance determination that applies for that question. A “no” response indicates that the significance determination in that column does not apply to that question.

Both project features and AMMs will be part of this project. Project features, which can include both design elements of the project, and standardized measures that are applied to all or most Caltrans projects such as best management practices (BMPs) and measures included in Caltrans’ Standard Plans and Specifications or as Standard Special Provisions, are considered to be an integral part of the project and have been considered prior to any significance determinations documented below; see Section 1.4 for a detailed discussion of these features. All proposed measures are provided in Appendix C. No mitigation measures are being proposed, only AMMs are proposed.

Potentially affected environmental factors are indicated in Table 2-1. All environmental factors that could be potentially affected are marked with a yes. All of the environmental factors that would not be affected by the project are marked with a no.

Table 2-1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Environmental Factor	Potential to Affect
Aesthetics	Yes
Biological Resources	Yes
Geology/Soils	Yes
Hydrology/Water Quality	Yes
Noise	Yes
Recreation	No
Utilities/Service Systems	Yes
Aesthetics	Yes
Agriculture and Forestry	No
Cultural Resources	No
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Yes
Land Use/Planning	No
Population/Housing	No
Transportation/Traffic	Yes
Wildfire	Yes
Air Quality	No
Energy	No
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Yes
Mineral Resources	No
Public Services	No
Tribal Cultural Resources	No
Mandatory Findings of Significance	Yes

2.1.1 Aesthetics

CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	No	No	No	Yes
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	No	No	No	Yes

A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) was initially prepared by Caltrans in April 2020. In response to concerns from the public regarding visual impacts at Locations 5, 6, and 9, alternate locations were identified, and the VIA was revised in March 2021 (Caltrans 2020d). The findings of the VIA are analyzed as they apply to CEQA in this section.

a) No Impact – at all project locations

A scenic vista is a viewpoint of natural scenery, historic, and/or architectural features possessing visual qualities of value to the community. A vista typically

refers to expansive views, usually from an elevated and open area. Certain stretches of SR 1 have scenic vistas. SR 1 within the project limits is eligible for designation as a scenic highway, and its scenic qualities have been considered during project development to avoid substantial adverse effects on scenic vistas. Views from SR 1 in the southern half of the project corridor are predominantly of agriculture and open space divided by urban and residential developments. The hills to the east provide a continuous scenic backdrop. From the town of Montara to the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide, the highway runs along scenic coastal bluffs, with views of the ocean to the west and recreational open space to the east. North of the tunnels are views or a mixture of urban and rural lands. At the northernmost extent of the project corridor, the highway widens to eight lanes in Daly City. This portion of SR 1 contains urban views, softened by highway landscaping and, for northbound highway travelers, a view of San Bruno Mountain.

Project Locations 1, 2, 3, 4, 9-1, and 10 are in more developed areas and do not contain scenic vistas. At Location 5, the proposed VMS would create a minor obstruction to distant views of coastal hills. The views of coastal hills at Location 6 are less prominent and would be unaffected by the project. Locations 7 and 8 contain scenic views of the ocean from SR 1. However, the project features being installed at these locations would not affect scenic views. At Location 7, Caltrans has proposed a WDS that would be mounted to an existing traffic light pole. The WDS is a small box (similar in size to a shoe box) and would not be readily noticeable. At Location 8, no new visible elements are proposed. New software would be installed to an existing CMS. Scenic views of background hills and foreground vegetation are seen at Location 9-2. These views would not be affected by the project. For these reasons, the project would have no substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, and there would be no impact.

b) No Impact – at all project locations

The project would not damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway. AMMs described in Appendix C would be implemented to minimize project-related visual impacts to the project corridor. The implementation of the project would not require the removal or destruction of visual scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings. Therefore, there would be no impact to scenic resources.

c) No Impact for Locations 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9-1. Less than Significant Impact for Locations 2, 5, 6, 9-2, and 10.

The existing corridor has a moderate to high visual quality. The visual character of the project limits is generally defined by a rural and coastal setting, divided by suburban/urban development. The southern half of the project corridor has a predominantly rural character, punctuated by urban development in the communities of Half Moon Bay and Granada. The highway travels through coastal prairies and plains with a mix of agriculture and open space, but also some urban residential and commercial developments. The hills to the east provide a continuous scenic backdrop.

The Pacific Ocean is not continuously visible along SR 1 in the project limits; however, its proximity is apparent in westward views toward the horizon. From the town of Montara to the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide, the highway runs along scenic coastal bluffs, with views of the ocean to the west and recreational open space to the east. North of the tunnels, the project corridor has a more urban character, with more frequent development punctuated by rural segments. At the northernmost extent of the project corridor, the highway widens to eight lanes in Daly City, where adjacent dense urban development is softened by highway landscaping and, for northbound highway travelers, a view of San Bruno Mountain.

Visual impacts are determined by assessing both the changes to the visual resources (e.g., visual character and quality) in the project area and the predicted viewer response. Visual character focuses on how the project would fit in with the overall character of the community. Visual quality describes how scenic the existing corridor is, rated from low to moderate to high. To minimize their degree of visual impact, VMS have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur and will be programmed to remain off until needed to convey critical emergency or hazard information. WDS are proposed for existing poles and would have no visual impacts.

Location 1

Location 1 is adjacent to an existing intersection. It is a semi-urbanized area that includes existing light poles, utility lines, traffic lights, and signage. It is also near existing parking lots and/or commercial buildings. Caltrans proposes a WDS at this location. The WDS would be mounted on an existing light pole. The WDS would be small and not be readily visible to the public, appearing to be an attachment to the pole. It would blend in with similar existing infrastructure. Therefore, there would be no substantial change to the visual character and

quality at this location. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Location 2

Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration as part of this project. Areas immediately adjacent to the previously considered project location are predominantly rural. Commercial and residential development is generally set back from the highway and partially screened by vegetation. The Ford car dealership to the east of the previously considered project location is a feature that stands out in the rural landscape. There are partial views of the coastal hills in the background, resulting in a moderate visual quality. Caltrans originally proposed a VMS, utility cabinets, and 100 feet of MGS, which would have been installed adjacent to the dealership. The VMS would have been more visible when lighted. However, the VMS would have been turned off most of the time and would only be lighted to convey emergency and incident-related information to the traveling public. The wooden poles to which the VMS panel would have attached to would have blended in with the surrounding area.

The VMS, utility cabinets, and MGS previously considered would have been in character with existing signage, utility lines, and other built features in this location. Both highway travelers and highway neighbors would have been anticipated to have a moderate to low response to the proposed changes, as the sign would be placed in an area that already has many structures. The new elements would have been noticeable; however, they would have been framed within a view that has elements typical for developed commercial areas. Any resulting visual impact would have been expected to be from a moderate to low response. Therefore, the VMS would not have affected scenic views and would not have been expected to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. For these reasons, impacts would have been less than significant.

Location 3

Visual effects would be the same as those described in Location 1. At this location, existing utility cabinets will be used for the work, and the WDS would be mounted to an existing traffic light pole. There would be no substantial change to visual character and quality at this location. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

Location 4

At Location 4, the surrounding area is urbanized containing different commercial uses (e.g., a hotel, restaurants, shops, etc.) to the west and commercial and residential uses to the east. Existing utility cabinets would be used for the work at this location. The WDS would be mounted on an existing traffic signal pole. There would be no substantial change to visual character and quality at this location. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality at this location. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Location 5

Location 5 has a rural appearance with mainly agricultural uses. There are existing overhead utility lines to the east and west that follow the alignment of SR 1. Half Moon Bay airfield is to the west, separated by a chain-link fence next to a drainage ditch that drains to nearby Denniston Creek. Hangars at the northern edge of the airfield are visible from SR 1. Southbound highway travelers have just passed the airfield's paved runways, storage sheds and cell towers, which are just coming into view for northbound travelers. These features stand out in the rural environment. Partial views of coastal hills are visible in the distance. This location has moderate visual quality.

Caltrans proposes a VMS, MVP, utility cabinets, and 100 feet of MGS along the southbound side of SR 1. The VMS and MGS creates a new visual intrusion at this location. The MVP is in the ground plane and not a prominent visual feature. The VMS is a noticeable visual change in the foreground and creates a minor obstruction to distant views of the coastal hills in the background. The VMS would be more noticeable when in a lighted state. However, the VMS would be turned off most of the time and would only be lighted to convey emergency and incident-related information to motorists traveling on SR 1. Furthermore, the wooden poles would blend in with the surroundings. This would reduce the visual intrusion of the VMS. The utility cabinets and guardrail are common built features along the coastal highway and constitute a minor visual change. Both highway travelers and highway neighbors are anticipated to have a moderate response to the proposed changes. AMMs described in Appendix C would be incorporated and would further reduce visual impacts. The project would have less-than-significant impacts to the visual character and quality. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

Location 6

Location 6 is located close to Location 5, but on the northbound side of SR 1. Location 6 has a rural appearance and is adjacent to agriculture and open space. The existing area contains overhead utility lines, a traffic sign and guardrail to the

east. The view of the coastal hills in the background is relatively less prominent than much of the project corridor. Existing guardrail marks the Denniston Creek crossing, and the riparian vegetation along the creek's banks is visible in the mid-ground of the view. Vegetation to the right of the proposed sign location screens adjacent development, and hangars for the Half Moon Bay airport are a minor visual feature to the left. Overall visual quality is moderate.

Caltrans proposes a VMS, MVP, utility cabinets, and 100 feet of MGS at Location 6. These project elements would somewhat blend in with existing adjacent infrastructure such as adjacent utility lines, traffic sign, and guardrails. The VMS is a noticeable visual change in the foreground, partially obstructing the view of riparian vegetation behind it. The VMS would be more noticeable when in a lighted state. However, the VMS would be turned off most of the time and would only be lighted to convey emergency and incident-related information to motorists traveling on SR 1. This would reduce the visual intrusion of the VMS. Furthermore, the wooden posts on which the VMS panels would be mounted would blend in with the surroundings. Both highway travelers and highway neighbors are anticipated to have a moderate response to the proposed changes due to the location near existing infrastructure. The utility cabinets and guardrail are common built features along the coastal highway and constitute a minor visual change. With the presence of existing visual intrusions, the project will have a moderate to moderate-low change to visual quality at this location. AMMs described in Appendix C would be incorporated and would further reduce visual impacts. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, the project would have less-than-significant impacts to the visual character and quality.

Location 7

SR 1 at Location 7 provides views of the ocean to the west. Caltrans proposes to install a WDS to an existing traffic light pole. Existing utilities would be used for the work. The WDS would be small and not be readily visible. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, there would be no impact to visual character and quality at this location.

Location 8

SR 1 at Location 8 provides views of the ocean to the west. At Location 8, no new equipment is proposed. Caltrans would install new software to an existing CMS. Existing utility cabinets would be used for the work. There would be no impact to visual character or quality at this location. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

Location 9-1

Location 9-1 is located adjacent to an existing intersection. It is a semi-urbanized area that includes existing light poles, utility lines, traffic lights, and signage. It is also near existing parking lots and/or commercial buildings. Caltrans proposes a WDS at this location. The WDS would be mounted on an existing light pole. The WDS would be small and not be very visible to the public. It would blend in with similar existing infrastructure. Therefore, there would be no impact to visual character and quality at this location. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

Location 9-2

There are existing overhead utility lines and a traffic sign at this location. Development at Rockaway Beach is out of view for motorists traveling in the northbound direction. Development at the intersection with Reina Del Mar is just coming into view in the distance. The median barrier separating directions of travel on the highway adds an engineered feature to the rural highway. The surrounding hills provide a scenic backdrop and the foreground vegetation softens the development. Overall visual quality is moderate.

Caltrans proposes a VMS and utility cabinets at this location. The VMS and utility cabinets would add to the visual intrusions of the existing utility lines and traffic sign. The view of the coastal hills is unaffected and still visible in the background beyond the foreground vegetation and built features. Even with the new VMS and utility cabinets, the natural landscape dominates the view. The VMS would be more noticeable when in a lighted state. However, the VMS would be turned off most of the time and would only be lighted to convey emergency and incident-related information to motorists traveling on SR 1. This would reduce the visual intrusion of the VMS. Furthermore, the wooden poles on which the VMS panels would be mounted would blend in more with the surroundings. Change to visual quality is expected to be moderate-low to moderate. Both highway travelers and highway neighbors are anticipated to have a moderate response to the proposed changes due to the location near existing development. The incorporation of AMMs described in Appendix C would further reduce visual impacts. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. The project would have less-than-significant impacts.

Location 10

Location 10 has more urban character than the other segments of the project corridor, with a concrete median barrier separating four lanes of traffic in each direction. There is an existing large freeway sign on the southbound side of SR 1 but visible from the northbound side. Roadside trees help to screen dense

adjacent development and soften the engineered character of the roadway. Overall visual quality is moderate to low.

Caltrans propose WDS on a new pole, VMS, a utility cabinet, and 100 feet of MGS. The VMS would be more noticeable when in a lighted state. However, the VMS would be turned off most of the time and would only be lighted during emergency events only. This would reduce the visual intrusion of the signs. Furthermore, the wooden posts on which the VMS panels would be mounted would blend in more with the surroundings. The VMS, utility cabinet, and MGS would stand out from the trees directly to the east; however, because this area is mainly urbanized, the overall visual resource change is low. The VMS, utility cabinets, WDS, and MGS are common features of a controlled access highway. Both highway travelers and highway neighbors are anticipated to have a moderate to low response to the proposed changes. Resulting visual impact is expected to be moderate-low. There would be no conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. Therefore, impacts to the visual character and quality would be less than significant.

d) No Impact – at all project locations.

Caltrans proposes VMS at Locations 2, 5, 6, 9-2, and 10, and has dropped location 2 from further consideration as part of this project. Although the VMS would create a new source of light, it would not be substantial. Furthermore, the VMS would be off most of the time. VMS would be programmed to be lighted only when needed to convey critical emergency, incident, or hazard messaging to the traveling public.

At Location 2, existing sources of light and glare would have been from the adjacent commercial car lot to the east and vehicles traveling on SR 1. At Locations 5, 6, and 10, major sources of light and glare would be from vehicles traveling along SR 1. At Location 9-2, sources of light and glare would be from vehicles traveling on SR 1.

The VMS when lighted would be bright enough to be seen by motorists on SR 1, but would not create substantial light and glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. There would also be some glare from the reflectors at the end of the proposed MGS at Locations 2, 5, 6, and 10. This glare would not be substantial. There would be no light or glare impacts from the project at the other locations. Because impacts of light and glare would not be substantial, the project would have no impacts.

2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	No	No	Yes

a), b), c), d), and e) No Impact – all project locations

Although some of the project locations occur in areas with productive soils (NRCS no date), all project locations are within Caltrans' ROW. The project footprint does not contain any land under a Williamson Act contract (San Mateo County no date; California Department of Conservation 2017) and none of the project locations are zoned as forest land, timberland, or timberland production (San Mateo County 2020; City of Half Moon Bay 2015; City of Pacifica 2017). Therefore, the project would not convert or result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. There would be no loss or conversion of forest land to non-forest land. Thus, the project would have no impact on agriculture and forest land, or conflict with existing zoning laws for farmland and timberland.

2.1.3 Air Quality

CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	No	No	No	Yes

a) No Impact – all project locations

The project sites are located in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and within the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB). The proposed project would not interfere with any of the control measures described in BAAQMD's 2017 Clean Air Plan (BAAQMD 2017). As described in the project description, the project would involve installing six WDS, five VMS, MGS, MVP areas, and updating software of an existing CMS. The VMS and MGS proposed at location 2 has been dropped from further consideration. The project is not a capacity-increasing

project and is not included in the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), *Plan Bay Area 2040* (ABAG and MTC 2017). Nevertheless, the project would not interfere with the implementation of the goals set forth in the RTP. During operation of the project, air emissions would not be changed from existing levels. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

b) No Impact – all project locations

During construction of the project, there would be temporary air emissions from the use of construction equipment and vehicles, which would be powered by gas and diesel. Dust particles from trenching operations to install conduits for power would also contribute to air emissions. San Mateo County is in nonattainment for the 8-Hour Ozone (2015) and particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$) (2006) standards in 2021 (U.S. EPA 2021). However, project construction would be of limited duration, and a substantial amount of pollutants would not be generated that would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants. Project operation is not expected to contribute to air emissions, because the project is not a capacity-increasing project and would not add new traffic to the area. There may be some air emissions associated with ongoing maintenance operations from the use of trucks and equipment. These maintenance operations would occur periodically but are not expected to contribute significantly to criteria pollutants.

The project would adhere to federal and state ozone standards. It would not increase criteria pollutants or mobile source air toxics (MSAT) over existing conditions or exceed the BAAQMD's recommended thresholds for construction emissions. The project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$. Therefore, the project would not cause or contribute to any state or federal air quality violations for criteria air pollutants.

c) No Impact – all project locations

Sensitive receptors include children, elderly, people with asthma, and other members of the population who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. Schools, childcare facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and residential communities are where sensitive receptors typically occur. Project Locations 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are all within 0.25 mile from residential communities and/or childcare and school facilities. However, as discussed above in item b, most air emissions from the project would be during construction activities. Construction would be temporary and of short duration. The proposed project would generate a less-than-significant amount of pollutants during construction.

The project would not increase emissions of criteria pollutants or MSATs over existing conditions or exceed BAAQMD's recommended thresholds for construction emissions. Therefore, the project would not expose sensitive receptors that could occur near the project area to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) No Impact – all project locations

The project would not introduce odors that are not already associated with existing traffic.

2.1.4 Biological Resources

CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NOAA Fisheries?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	No	No	No	Yes

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No	No	No	Yes

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	No	No	No	Yes

a) Less than Significant Impact

Caltrans completed a natural environment study (NES) to identify natural resources including special-status plants, animals and their habitats that have potential to occur within the project area and to assess potential impacts from the proposed project on biological resources. The Biological Study Area (BSA) in the NES encompasses all areas within 200 feet of the project footprint at each location, to account for potential direct and indirect effects of construction activities and human presence. This includes, but is not limited to, impacts due to construction-related noise, vibration, ground disturbance, hydrologic disturbance, vegetation removal, and compaction. A complete summary of all special-status plant and animal species inventoried is provided in Appendix D.

Special-Status Plant Species

The NES evaluated 62 plant species for their potential to occur within the project footprint (Appendix D). Assessment of special-status plants entailed review of online databases, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species list, the California Native Plant Society inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants Database, and the California Natural Diversity Database. This review was followed by floristic surveys at locations with potential for special-status plant to occur. Rare plant surveys were conducted in the BSA in 2019 and 2020. In 2021, Locations 5, 6, and 9 were relocated from where they were proposed when the NES was completed, and new surveys were conducted by a Caltrans biologist at those locations. Surveys were floristic in nature; biologists identified all plant species encountered during the surveys to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity. The goal of the protocol-level surveys was to locate, map, and census any special-status plant populations in

the BSA. No special-status plant species were observed in the BSA during the rare plant surveys.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Section 1: California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)

The California red-legged frog (CRLF) (*Rana draytonii*) is the largest native frog in the western United States and ranges from 1.75 to 5.25 inches in length. CRLF can move overland considerable distances, with known instances of up to 2 miles. Based on this information, it is reasonable to assume that upland habitat within 2 miles from a known or potential breeding pond is potential CRLF dispersal and aestivation habitat (aestivation refers to a state of animal dormancy, similar to hibernation, that occurs in the summer). Multiple CRLF occurrences are documented within 2 miles of nearly all locations, except for Location 10 where there are no CRLF occurrences within 2 miles. Work at all locations would be short-lived in nature and would occur during daytime when frogs are unlikely to initiate movements.

CRLF is listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act as a threatened species. CRLF is considered by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to be a Species of Special Concern (SSC). There are 22 documented occurrences of the CRLF within 2 miles of the project locations according to the CNDDB (CDFW 2018). One occurrence is known to be extirpated (no longer existing at that location) and one is presumed extirpated, but the remaining 20 occurrences are all presumed extant (still in existence).

Construction activities with potential to impact adult or juvenile CRLF include the use of heavy equipment, use of hand tools, vegetation removal, fencing installation, soil removal and distribution, construction-related noise, vibration, and dust. Other minor direct effects may result from fencing installation and vegetation removal. These stressors may create temporary dispersal barriers or cause minor temporary changes in behavior. Construction activities are unlikely to affect eggs and larvae as CRLF breeding habitat does not occur within the areas where construction activities would occur, and all construction activities would be timed to occur outside of the CRLF breeding season and when the species is most active.

Vibration and soil movement resulting from construction activities have the potential to collapse burrows in which CRLF may be aestivating. Burrows in upland CRLF habitat have low potential to be present within the project areas where construction would occur. The existing unpaved ground surface within the project footprint is likely compacted to at least 95 percent per industry standards and would absorb construction-related vibrations. Studies have concluded that

vibrational energy decreases rapidly over distance from the source of disturbance (Attewell and Farmer, 1973, as cited in USFWS 2007; Caltrans 2004). However, the use of equipment still has a low potential to collapse burrows that could result in impacts to CRLF.

Noise from construction has the potential to startle or alarm individuals and cause changes in behavior, or even displacement of individuals. Studies suggest that anthropogenic noise has the potential to either increase or decrease calling rates of CRLF (Sun and Narens 2005).

The project would not create any new permanent barriers to frog dispersal. MGS and post-mounted VMS are not expected to impact frog movements. MVP locations would convert vegetated land. MVP width would be limited to approximately 15 feet and be unused by vehicles most of the time.

CRLF dispersal habitat impacts from site disturbance are anticipated at three project locations. Potential temporary impacts to approximately 0.126 acre would have been anticipated during construction at Location 2 due to staging and excavation activities. Potential permanent impacts to approximately 0.284 acre of CRLF dispersal habitat are anticipated from construction of MVPs at Locations 5 and 6. A further discussion of work proposed at these three locations follows.

Location 2. Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration by the project at this time. Work at Location 2 would have consisted of installing MGS and a VMS on the northbound shoulder of SR 1. Relatively undeveloped lands occur to the southwest and southeast of Location 2, providing a potential route, aside from SR 1, free of major barriers for frogs to disperse though the BSA. A roadside ditch on the northbound shoulder of SR 1 may further increase connectivity between other open areas and the BSA. The ditch and associated culverts may provide shelter as well as aquatic habitat during portions of the year. The project footprint is, however, subject to regular mowing and its value to frogs is likely restricted to frogs dispersing through the area.

Location 5. Work at this location would occur on the western side (southbound) of SR 1 and would consist of MVP construction and installation of MGS and VMS. Existing conditions west of SR 1 include ruderal vegetation that is regularly mowed by others; a drainage ditch approximately 35 feet from the roadway and outside of the proposed work area that drains into Denniston Creek; and the southern portion of the Half Moon Bay Airport (also referred to as the Andreini Sr. airfield). On the opposite side of the road, to the north and east, lies active agricultural lands, Denniston Creek (approximately 480 feet from the roadway), and residential development, with open lands beyond. The project footprint is characterized by packed soil and gravel, and colonized by ruderal vegetation,

mostly consisting of grasses and weeds. The footprint and open land on the opposite side of SR 1 is subject to regular mowing, reducing its value as potential shelter. In addition, the project footprint lacks burrows typical of aestivation habitat and does not contain any aquatic features. Frogs may use the project footprint while dispersing, though the disturbance of vehicle traffic on SR 1 and adjacent agricultural operations may deter frog individuals from using the project footprint. The proposed project would observe a dry season work window, and frogs are not expected to disperse through active construction areas during work.

Location 6. The area to the east of this location consists of agricultural and undeveloped land. To the west is a small airport with varying amounts of open land. Work at this location consists of constructing an MVP and installing a VMS and MGS. Most of the footprint lies within the highway prism, which typically consists of packed soils and gravel. A portion of the footprint where trenching for power would occur does consist of undeveloped land. The project footprint is subject to regular mowing, removing potential cover for the frog. The footprint does not contain aquatic features, but the footprint may be used by frogs dispersing through the area. Although SR 1 may constitute a barrier to frog movement into the BSA from the west, the lands to the east are open agricultural fields or undeveloped, and frogs may potentially disperse into the BSA.

Section 2: San Francisco Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)

The San Francisco garter snake (SFGS) is a colorful slender snake that can reach 3 feet or greater in length. SFGS is found in scattered wetland areas on the San Francisco Peninsula, including the area within the proposed project's BSA. SFGS is primarily active during daylight hours, difficult to locate, and quick to rush to water when disturbed. Adult SFGS primarily feed on CRLF but may also feed on juvenile bullfrogs. Juvenile SFGS depend heavily on Pacific tree frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) as prey. SFGS prefers densely vegetated freshwater ponds near open hillsides. Habitat near brackish waters is avoided as it does not support its primary prey (i.e., CRLF). SFGS is less active in coastal areas during winter months, as it estivates (enters a dormant state) with periodic emergences to bask. SFGS may move several hundred yards from wetlands to estivate in upland rodent burrows. Peak activity is observed between March and July when adults emerge from their winter refuge and concentrate around aquatic habitats to mate and forage. The existing threats to this species include the loss of habitat from agricultural, commercial and urban development, and illegal collection (USFWS 2007).

SFGS is listed under both FESA and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) as an endangered species. CRLF is listed under CESA. Additionally, SFGS is protected under California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) as a "fully

protected" species (CFGC Section 5050). This protection does not allow SFGS individuals to be taken or possessed at any time. CFGC Section 5050 does not authorize the issuance of a permit or license to take a fully protected reptile or amphibian, and no permit or license previously issued shall have any force or effect for that purpose.

Although habitat for the SFGS occurs in the BSA, no habitat for SFGS was observed where work is proposed within the project footprint along the shoulders of SR 1. These portions of the project footprint are made up primarily of paved surfaces, graveled shoulders, and regularly mowed areas that do not provide the physical or biological elements required to support SFGS in any of its life stages. Encountering SFGS individuals in the BSA during construction would not be expected at most locations and would be raised to an unlikely possibility at Locations 5 and 6.

Project-related indirect effects that could impact SFGS habitat include increased erosion and sedimentation from soil disturbance and stormwater runoff during or after construction, contamination from chemical spills, introduction of non-native invasive plant species, or changes in hydrology to SFGS habitat in the BSA. Any of these detrimental effects could occur either during construction or post-construction.

Other Protected and Migratory Bird Species

Protected and migratory bird species have potential to occur in the BSA. No raptors were observed nesting in the BSA. Native bird species could potentially nest in the riparian forest/woodlands that occur adjacent to the BSA. The use of construction equipment to remove vegetation within the project footprint has the potential to impact nesting birds, including migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and native birds protected under CFGC Section 3503, including causing nest abandonment and/or loss of eggs or young.

Significance Determination

Special-Status Plants

Because no special-status plant species have been observed in the BSA, no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated.

California Red-Legged Frog

By implementing the specific AMMs in Appendix C, including seasonal work windows, worker environmental training, biological monitoring, and species relocation, along with the project features listed in Section 1.4, Caltrans

anticipates potential direct and indirect effects on CRLF would be negligible and less than significant.

San Francisco Garter Snake

Implementation of the general AMMs in Section 1.4 would serve to avoid and minimize potential project-related impacts to SFGS habitat, including provisions of worker environmental awareness training, onsite presence of a biological monitor, and minimization of vegetation removal. In addition, implementation of standard BMPs would avoid or reduce the potential for project-related run-off or accidental spills to affect SFGS aquatic habitat. Because SFGS is a fully protected species under CFGC, AMMs in Appendix C are proposed to completely avoid take or possession of this species during construction. With implementation of complete avoidance of this species, the project would have no impact on individual SFGS and impacts on SFGS habitat are expected to be negligible and less than significant

Special-Status Birds

With implementation of measures described in Section 1.4, no impacts to protected bird species are anticipated.

b) No Impact

Riparian habitat is protected under Sections 1600-1616 of the CFGC. CDFW regulates activities that will interfere with the natural flow of, or substantially alter, the channel, bed, or bank of a lake, river, or stream, including riparian habitat linked to the health of the waterway. A site assessment identified no riparian features within the project footprint at all locations. No impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community were identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS.

c) No Impact

A site assessment identified aquatic features in the BSA near Locations 4, 5, and 6. Aquatic features at these locations are classified as riverine wetland by the National Wetland Inventory, are assumed to be jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and State, and may also be considered streams or wetlands under the California Coastal Act (CCA) (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 3000-30900). However, the project design has sited project elements a substantial distance away from aquatic features, and no aquatic features exist in the work areas of the project footprints. Standard measures described in Section 1.7 would be implemented as part of the proposed project. No impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S.,

waters of the State, or coastal wetlands or streams are anticipated from the proposed project.

d) No Impact

The proposed project would have no impact on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish; would not substantially interfere with the movement of any wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors; and would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Therefore, the proposed project is anticipated to have no impact on wildlife movement, corridors, or nurseries.

e) No Impact

The proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources; therefore, there would be no impact.

f) No Impact

There is no Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan in the proposed project area. Therefore, there would be no impact.

2.1.5 Cultural Resources

CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	No	No	No	Yes

a), b), and c) No Impact – at all project locations

This section is summarized from the Caltrans District 4 Office of Cultural Resource Studies (OCRS) Completion of Section 106 Compliance Memorandum that was previously prepared for this project on March 8, 2019, and then updated on March 16, 2021, due to the changes to Locations 5, 6, and 9-2.

The project was reviewed by Caltrans' archaeologist and architectural historian to determine its potential to affect archeological and historical resources, respectively. OCRS staff reviewed cultural resources office files, maps, and online aerial photographs; and conducted field reviews, including soil testing. No historical properties were documented in the work areas.

At locations where WDS would be installed, no ground-disturbing activities would be required (e.g., no digging or trenching) because the WDS would be mounted on existing infrastructure. Work at Location 8 involves updating software of an existing CMS and would not require ground-disturbing activities. Some work areas would require digging up to a depth of 6 feet. However, based on field

surveys and research conducted, Caltrans does not anticipate impacts to archaeological resources to occur as a result of this project.

For these reasons, Caltrans has determined that the project would have no impact on archeological and historic resources. Furthermore, standard measures described in Table 1-2, Project Feature Summary, would be implemented. Therefore, there would be no impact to archaeological and historical resources or human remains.

2.1.6 Energy

CEQA Significance Determinations for Energy

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	No	No	No	Yes

a) No Impact – at all project locations

During construction activities, energy in the form of gas and diesel would be consumed by construction equipment and vehicles including backhoes, utility trucks, semi-trucks, small drill rigs, and a paving machine. Trucks would be delivering equipment and supplies to and from the project sites. Caltrans would implement BMPs to reduce any inefficient or unnecessary energy resource usages. BMPs include limiting the idling of vehicles and equipment onsite, and properly maintaining vehicles and equipment, so that they run efficiently and are not leaking gas or diesel. Energy consumption during project construction would be temporary and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

Following construction, electricity would be used to power the VMS, WDS and CMS. Energy in the form of gas and diesel would be used during ongoing maintenance activities, which would occur periodically. The amount of energy required for project operation is not expected to be substantial and would be similar to current energy uses and requirements for operating and maintaining existing light poles and other existing electronic equipment along SR 1. As such, the project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. Therefore, there would be no impact to energy resources.

b) No Impact – at all project locations

The project involves implementing six WDS, five VMS, MGS, and two MVP, and updating software of an existing CMS. It would not conflict with state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

2.1.7 Geology and Soils

CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	No	No	No	Yes
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	No	No	No	Yes
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	No	No	No	Yes
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	No	No	No	Yes
iv) Landslides?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site	No	No	No	Yes

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	No	No	No	Yes
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	No	No	No	Yes

a) No Impact – all project locations

No active or potentially active faults cross the project limits; therefore, the risk of surface fault rupture does not exist. Caltrans' design and construction guidelines incorporate engineering standards that address seismic risks, including ground failure related to liquefaction, landslides and lateral spreading. Project elements would be designed and constructed to meet seismic design requirements for ground shaking and ground motions, as determined for the project vicinity and site conditions. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate the potential for seismic shaking; the intensity of the earthquake ground motion at the site would depend on the characteristics of the generating fault, distance to the earthquake epicenter, magnitude, and duration of the earthquake, and specific site geologic conditions.

b) Less than Significant – at all project locations

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) would be prepared before project construction, which would require implementation of BMPs to minimize erosion and topsoil loss. Potential erosion and transportation of soil particles would be managed through standard construction BMPs, such as installation of silt fences, which would substantially reduce potential sediment transport from the construction site.

c) No Impact – all project locations

Discussion of earthquake-induced landslides and other seismic related ground failure was discussed previously under Impact (a). The project would not disturb native ground or native subsurface. Therefore, the project would not be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. Caltrans also requires additional geotechnical subsurface and design investigations to be performed during the final project design and engineering phase.

d) No Impact – all project locations

All of the project locations are within Caltrans' ROW on nonnative soils, and the majority of the project locations are in an urban and built environment. The project would not include construction of habitable structures, and therefore is not expected to create substantial risks to life or property. Additionally, Caltrans' design and construction guidelines incorporate engineering standards that address expansive soils.

e) No Impact

The project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

f) No Impact – all project locations

Although ground-disturbing activities would occur as a result of this project, the project is not expected to result in the disturbance or overlap with paleontological resources. All construction would take place on previously disturbed soil and would not impact native soil or rock. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

2.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	No	No	No	Yes

a) Less than Significant Impact – at all project locations

The project would result in construction-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4). GHG emissions would be emitted by use of construction equipment (e.g., backhoe, small drill rigs, paving machine) and construction vehicles (e.g., utility truck, semi-truck). The emissions would be produced at different rates depending on the activities involved at various phases of construction.

Construction-related GHG emissions were calculated using the Road Construction Emissions Model, version 8.1.0, provided by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. It was estimated that for a construction duration of 6 months, the total amount of CO_2 produced for the construction of the project would be 166.00 tons. Total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions (CO_2, CH_4, and nitrous oxide [N_2O]) would be 151.51 metric tons.

Operation of the proposed project would not increase highway or roadway capacity, and therefore would not cause a substantial change in operational GHG emissions. Project features would use electrical power and would not contribute to GHG emissions. There may be some GHG emissions associated with ongoing maintenance operations from the use of vehicles and gas or diesel equipment.

Nonetheless, maintenance operations would occur periodically and are not expected to contribute significantly to GHG emissions.

b) No impact – at all project locations

All construction contracts include Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 7-1.02A and 7 1.02C, Emissions Reduction, which require contractors to comply with all laws applicable to the project and to certify they are aware of and would comply with all ARB emission reduction regulations; and Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, which requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Certain common regulations, such as equipment idling restrictions, that reduce construction vehicle emissions also help reduce GHG emissions. Thus, the project would not conflict with plans, policies or regulations aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant	No	No	No	Yes

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	No	No	Yes	No
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No	No	No	Yes
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	No	No	Yes	No

a) and b) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

Project construction and maintenance activities are expected to involve the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, paints, and lubricants). In addition, construction of MVPs at project Locations 5 and 6 would require excavation of roadside soils that could contain regulated levels of ADL from past vehicle emissions. Testing and characterization of the soils to be

excavated would be necessary during the project design phase to determine the required waste management practices for the excavated, surplus lead-contaminated soils. Using the site investigation results, the necessary special provisions would be prepared by the Caltrans Hazardous Waste Branch to specify the waste material disposal requirements for the construction contractor.

However, adherence to federal and state regulations during project construction and maintenance would reduce the risk of exposure to hazardous materials and accidental hazardous materials releases. California regulates hazardous materials, waste, and substances under the authority of the California Health and Safety Code and is also authorized by the federal government to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in the state. California law also addresses specific handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning of hazardous waste. Compliance with existing regulations is mandatory; therefore, construction of the project is not expected to create a hazard to construction workers, the public, or the environment through the routine transport, use, disposal, or accidental release of hazardous materials.

c) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

There are schools within 0.25 mile of the project locations; however, compliance with existing regulations would limit the risk of emitting or handling hazardous materials near the schools.

d) No Impact – all project locations

There are no known hazardous material or hazardous waste sites pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Cortese List) near the project locations.

e) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

Project Locations 4, 5, and 6 would be located within 2 miles of Half Moon Bay Airport. However, due to the relatively short duration of construction and adherence to federal and state regulations during project construction, construction and operation of the project improvements are not expected to result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

f) No Impact – all project locations

The project would be subject to the San Mateo County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The EOP provides guidelines for emergency response planning, preparation, training, and execution throughout the county. The relatively limited amount of proposed improvements and associated construction would result in

only minor increases in short-term, construction-related traffic on SR 1 and local roadways. Additionally, Caltrans would prepare a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to maintain the flow of traffic during construction and ensure accessibility through the project locations for vehicles with essential services such as fire and police protection.

g) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

Project Locations 7 and 8 would be located in a State Responsibility Area, adjacent to high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2021). Section 2.20, Wildfire, describes wildfire risks of the project.

2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	No	No	Yes	No
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	No	No	Yes	No
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	No	No	Yes	No

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	No	No	Yes	No
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	No	No	Yes	No
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	No	No	Yes	No

a) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

Temporary impacts to water quality may result from soil disturbance related to construction activities, including potential changes to localized pH and turbidity of receiving water courses. Construction of MVPs and MGSs would have the highest potential to affect local water quality due to having the most disturbance of existing soil. Although temporary impacts from soil disturbance and the operation of construction equipment have the potential to negatively impact water quality, incorporation of project features described in Section 1.4, AMMs proposed in Appendix C, and BMPs as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)-approved WPCP would avoid or reduce impacts to surface and groundwater quality.

b) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

The addition of impervious surfaces has the potential to reduce the availability of unpaved area where runoff can infiltrate into native soils and recharge aquifers. However, the amount of new impervious surface area is approximately 0.10 acre.

Therefore, the additional impervious area is minimal in comparison with the total area of the local aquifers and groundwater basins and the project is not anticipated to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.

c) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

The project would not alter the course of a stream or river nor remove access to existing drainages within the project limits. The project includes the addition of MVPs and MGSs which would result in minor increases in the amount of impervious surface within the project limits. However, impervious surface added to the project area would not result in substantially increased runoff as the amount added is small when compared to the amount of undeveloped areas remaining and the surrounding urban landscape as a whole.

Incorporation of project features described in Section 1.4, AMMs proposed in Appendix C, and additional BMPs as required in the RWQCB-accepted WPCP would avoid or minimize the project's potential to result in substantial erosion or siltation, increase runoff volumes in a way that would result in flooding, exceed drainage system capacity or provide substantial polluted runoff, or impede or redirect flood flows.

d) No Impact – all project locations

The majority of SR 1 within the project limits overlap Zone X for minimal flood hazard. The project would not include any features that would increase the risk of flooding. Additionally, as discussed above in Section 2.8, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, the project is not expected to have any impacts to the floodplains.

e) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

The project would be required to adhere to the Clean Water Act, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, the Caltrans Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit, and the other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

2.1.11 Land Use and Planning

CEQA Significance Determinations for Land Use and Planning

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	No	No	Yes	No

a) No Impact – at all project locations

The project features would be constructed within Caltrans' existing ROW and would not physically divide an established community.

b) Less than Significant Impact – at all project locations

As discussed above, the project features would be constructed within Caltrans' ROW. Project features would not change existing land uses in the project area and would not conflict with existing or future land use designations. In addition, the project would be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible to meet local plan requirements.

Several land use and planning policies and ordinances govern development along SR 1 within the project limits, primarily the CCA (PRC Division 20 California Coastal Act [30000-30900]) and three LCPs. This project would be required to undergo review of the three LCPs and the California Coastal Commission (CCC) during the project's design phase. Caltrans will coordinate with the CCC, County of San Mateo, City of Pacifica, and City of Half Moon Bay to ensure that the design of the project remains compatible with the local surroundings. Caltrans would continue to coordinate with the cities and counties that have LCPs to refine the project design to be compatible with their respective policies for visual requirements. The following paragraphs identify how this project would be largely consistent with land use policies and regulations.

SR 1 within the project limits is used as a primary access road to San Mateo County coastal areas, providing access to public parks, beaches, visitor-serving facilities, and coastal residential developments. Land uses at the proposed sign locations—except for Location 10—include commercial, planned unit development, light industrial, and single-family residential development. The project limits span a nearly 21-mile stretch of SR 1; it includes state beaches, such Gray Whale Cove State Beach and Surfer's Beach, and agricultural lands. No changes in land use are anticipated for the project area or the San Mateo Coast near the project.

This section of SR 1 is part of the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route, and sections of the CCT run adjacent to SR 1 within the project limits. Impacts to segments of the CCT are further discussed under the "Coastal Zone Management Act" subheading below.

The highway would remain open during construction, with construction and staging occurring on the roadway shoulders or other access areas off the mainline. Existing pull-out areas would be used for construction parking, staging, and stockpiling of materials. During the construction and operation phase of the project, there would be no effect on public access, tourism and visitor-serving facilities, or agricultural lands.

Consistency with State, Regional, and Local Plans and Programs

State Scenic Highway Program

SR 1 from the southern limits of the City of Half Moon Bay to Daly City is eligible for state scenic highway designation. This means that the California State Legislature marked the state route as eligible due to its outstanding scenic qualities, and local governments with land use authority have adopted a "scenic corridor protection program" that has been approved by Caltrans. The scenic corridor protection program limits adjacent development and other land uses.

It is not anticipated that the project's temporary and permanent visual resource impacts would affect the eligibility of the highway for the State Scenic Highway Program, and the impact to this program would be less than significant.

Coastal Zone Management Act

The project lies within the California Coastal Zone—except for Location 10 in Daly City—and resources in this zone are protected by the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 United States Code [USC] 1451-1464, as amended). States with an approved coastal management plan are able to review

federal permits and activities to determine whether they are consistent with the state's management plan.

California has developed a coastal zone management plan and, with the passing of the CCA, has enacted its own law to protect the coastal zone. The policies established by the CCA include the protection and expansion of public access and recreation; the protection of agricultural lands; the protection of scenic beauty; and the protection of property and life from coastal hazards. The CCC is responsible for implementation and oversight under the CCA.

The CCA delegates power to local governments to enact their LCPs; in this case, the San Mateo County LCP (SMCLCP) (San Mateo County 2013). The state-certified LCP includes all LCP policies, with amendments approved through August 8, 2012. The SMCLCP requires that planning projects within the Coastal Zone be designed to comply with these requirements. The SMCLCP covers the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County that fall within the coastal zone. The signs at Locations 5 and 6 would be subject to the provisions of the SMCLCP and fall within that planning region.

The project also lies within the Half Moon Bay Local Coastal Land Use Plan (Location 2 [this location has been dropped from further consideration by the project]) and Plan Pacifica 2040 (Locations 9-1 and 9-2). Caltrans considers the proposed WDS to be consistent with all provisions of the CCA because they will be attached to existing infrastructure and not be perceived by the public.

The project is within the permitting jurisdiction of San Mateo County, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, and the CCC and would require individual permits from all three local entities and the CCC, or a consolidated CDP with agency approval.

The policies of the CCA give the highest priority to the preservation and protection of prime agricultural land and timber lands. The next highest priorities are public recreation and visitor-serving facilities. The project would not conflict with agricultural land uses or timber land uses in the project area. The proposed sign locations do not overlap with land zoned for either use, and there are no timber lands in the project area. Additionally, the signs would not conflict and do not overlap with land designated as open space. This project would not adversely impact the CCT or its use in the long term. The proposed signs would not conflict with the uses of the trail.

Key provisions of the CCA are provided below, along with an evaluation of permitting activities of the project (see Table 2-2). The text below also describes how the project aligns with the SMCLCP for Locations 5 and 6 and how the sign at Location 2 would have been and Location 9-2 is consistent with the Half Moon Bay LCP and the Pacifica LCP, respectively.

Table 2-2 Key Provisions of the California Coastal Act

Policy Number	Subject of Policy	Coastal Zone Assessment
Section 30210	Maximum public access and recreational opportunities shall be provided.	This project would not affect access to or recreational opportunities involving the coast. The signs would not interfere with the public's access to the beach.
Section 30211	Development shall not interfere with public access to the sea.	Development would not interfere with the public's access to the coast.
Section 30212	New development projects shall provide for public access to the shoreline and along the coast.	Access to the coast already exists near the project, and this project would not affect this access.
Section 30252	Public Access	The public's access to coastal resources would be preserved as described above. Public access and use of the CCT and recreational areas would not be adversely affected by the project.
Section 30231	Biological activity; water quality	With the proposed project features and avoidance and minimization measures, this project would not have any impact on biological activity. The project would not affect water quality either directly or indirectly.
Section 30233	Diking, filing, dredging of wetlands	Caltrans would conduct the project entirely from the highway shoulders and adjacent disturbed areas. No wetlands would be impacted.
Section 30235	Construction altering natural shoreline	There would be no alterations to the natural shoreline as part of this project because the work areas do not overlap or occur near the shoreline.
Section 30240	Environmentally sensitive habitat areas	There would be no impact to environmentally sensitive habitat areas because the project would be confined to paved and highly compacted surfaces. No work would be conducted in wetlands or riparian areas.
Section 30241-30242	Agricultural land	No Prime Farmland or lands under a Williamson Act contract are present within the project footprint.
Section 30244	Archaeological/Paleontological resources	There would be no impact to any archaeological or paleontological resources as part of the project.
Section 30251	Scenic and visual qualities	During construction, activities would have a temporary negative impact on scenic and visual qualities in the project area. The signs would also have a permanent impact on visual qualities in the project area. However, the signs have been sited away from areas that would obstruct open views of the coast, scenic vistas, or agricultural areas. The highway's status as an eligible state scenic highway would not be affected by the project. There would be a less-than-significant impact from temporary visual impacts during construction.

Policy Number	Subject of Policy	Coastal Zone Assessment
Section 30254	Public works facilities	This project would not change the character of SR 1, which would remain a scenic two-lane highway.
Section 30604	Coastal Development Permits shall include a finding that the development is in conformity with public access and public recreation policies; housing opportunities for low and moderate income persons	Caltrans would be in conformity with public access and public recreation policies. Creating housing opportunities for low and moderate income persons is outside of the scope of this project.
Section 30609.5	State lands between the first public road and the sea; sale or transfer	No state lands would be sold to a private entity as part of the project.

Notes:
Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
CCT = California Coastal Trail
SR = State Route

Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration by the project at this time. The parcel adjacent to Location 2 consists of planned unit development in Half Moon Bay. The sign at Location 2 would have been within Caltrans' ROW and would not have conflicted with the ability for the parcel to be developed in the future. The sign would have been compatible with preserving coastal views and coastal access. The sign would not have interrupted any scenic views, or views of ridgelines or prominent landforms. SR 1 through the Half Moon Bay city limits is a four-lane highway, and the sign would have been placed near a local car dealership. Overall, the project would remain consistent with the policies of the Half Moon Bay LCP.

Locations 5 and 6 are within SMCLCP jurisdiction. The signs would be constructed in Caltrans' ROW. Zoning adjacent to Location 5 is light industrial and is in the airport compatibility zone. Adjacent land use to Location 6 includes single-family residential development. The proposed signage would not preclude the use and development of adjacent parcels.

Other policies relevant to Locations 5 and 6 include those related to public works—specifically, highway capacity would not be increased, as specified in Section 2.44b of the SMCLCP. SR 1 would remain a scenic two-lane road after construction. At both Locations 5 and 6, the signs would be in a rural area of SR 1 and would not have impacts to housing. Because the proposed signs are sited next to or in close proximity to existing infrastructure, like overhead utility lines, Caltrans does not believe the signs degrade the rural character and feel of the area. Additionally, the project does not include the construction of any oil or gas wells, onshore oil facilities, pipelines or transmission lines, or alternative energy facilities. The project may result in temporary service interruptions to draw

power to the new poles. Caltrans would coordinate with affected property owners in the event of short service disruptions. The project would be constructed within Caltrans' ROW and would not impact agricultural land or land zoned for timber harvest. The project would not affect aquaculture facilities or construct any new aquaculture facilities.

There are sensitive habitats in the BSA, including at Locations 5 and 6, which are near Denniston Creek. Project activities would be confined to paved or highly compacted surfaces, and upland areas and would not be placed in wetlands, riparian corridors, or environmentally sensitive habitat areas. Locations 5 and 6 comprise potential dispersal habitat for the CRLF and SFGS, though the direct work areas likely provide minimal habitat value to both species.

At Locations 5 and 6, activities during construction would have a temporary negative impact on visual resources in the project area. The signs would also have a permanent impact on visual qualities in the project area. However, the signs have been sited away from areas that would obstruct open views of the coast, scenic vistas, or agricultural areas. The highway's status as an eligible state scenic highway would not be affected by the project. Additionally, the signs would remain off except during emergency events only and would not degrade dark night sky views and aesthetics.

During circulation of the first draft environmental document for this project, comments from the public included various concerns regarding placement of the signs in areas that interrupt views of the coast and prominent landforms. The area adjacent to the proposed sign at Location 9 is zoned for commercial development. The proposed sign at Location 9 was also sited in an area that would not disrupt any coastal views or viewpoints in Pacifica. The sign would be in an area that is beneath and approaching other utility lines and would slightly block the view of a patch of evergreen trees. The sign would not block views of coastal hills to the north (Sweeney Ridge). The proposed sign would not conflict with LCP policies of preserving agricultural lands, recreational use, coastal access, or coastal views. SR 1 leading up to and away from Location 9 is a four-lane highway and would not conflict with LCP policies to maintain SR 1 as a two-lane highway.

San Mateo County General Plan 2013

The proposed project would be consistent with the *San Mateo County General Plan* (San Mateo County 2013). This project aligns with the following policies, goals, and objectives by providing a safe, reliable highway for motorized vehicles and multi-modal users, while maintaining or enhancing the visual quality of the highway:

- Goal and Objective 12.6: Plan for a transportation system that provides for the safe, efficient, and convenient movement of people and goods in and through San Mateo County.
- Goal and Objective 12.11: Balance and attempt to minimize adverse environmental impacts resulting from transportation system improvements in the County.

There would be no impact from the project due to inconsistencies with the San Mateo County General Plan. The project would contribute to enhancing the safe movement of people throughout the project corridor.

The project would not cause a substantial adverse effect on coastal resources and is anticipated to have no significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect. The impact would be less than significant.

2.1.12 Mineral Resources

CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	No	No	No	Yes

a) and b) No Impact – all project locations

Project construction would occur within disturbed soils; therefore, no impacts to known mineral resources are expected to occur from project construction. In addition, according to the U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Resources On-Line Spatial Data, the project locations are not in close proximity to or on a known mineral resource (USGS 2021).

2.1.13 Noise

CEQA Significance Determinations for Noise

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	No	No	No	Yes
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No	No	No	Yes

a) Less than Significant – at all project locations

Construction noise would be short-term and intermittent. Noise would be generated from diesel-powered construction equipment during excavation activities for implementing power conduits, VMS, and MGS, and paving for the MVP. Noise from utility and semi-trucks coming to and from the site would also be generated. The Caltrans 2018 Standard Specifications 14-8.02 requires that the Maximum Sound Level not exceed 86 A-weighted decibels at 50 feet from the job site from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Construction noise would not exceed thresholds or Caltrans' standards. Thus, construction noise would be within

acceptable levels for construction activities. Project operation is not expected to change noise levels from existing levels. Therefore, the project would not generate noise in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies and the impact would be less than significant.

b) No Impact – at all project locations

Groundborne vibration and groundborne noise levels would slightly increase during construction of the project. Vibration would be intermittent, depending on what construction activities are occurring. Small drill rigs would be used, which would increase vibration. This vibration would be minimal, temporary, and short in duration. Therefore, there would be no impact related to vibration.

c) No Impact – at all project locations

Location 2 is approximately 0.5 mile from Eddie Andreini Sr. Airfield in Half Moon Bay. However, the project would not expose motorists on SR 1, or populations residing or working in the area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

2.1.14 Population and Housing

CEQA Significance Determinations for Population and Housing

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No	No	No	Yes

a) No Impact – all project locations

The project would not involve the construction of new residential buildings, businesses, or expand transportation services/facilities that could induce population growth.

b) No Impact – all project locations

The project would not require residential or business relocations, and therefore, would not displace substantial numbers of people or housing, and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

2.1.15 Public Services

CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	No	No	No	Yes
Police protection?	No	No	No	Yes
Schools?	No	No	No	Yes
Parks?	No	No	No	Yes
Other public facilities?	No	No	No	Yes

a) No Impact – all project locations

The proposed project would have no effect on the provision or need for public services. Project construction has the potential to increase traffic delays on SR 1 that could affect response times of emergency response vehicles. However, Caltrans would prepare a TMP to ensure that traffic flows are maintained during construction and to ensure accessibility throughout the corridor for emergency service providers. Because the project is not growth-inducing, project operation would have no effect on existing demands for schools, parks, and public facilities in the surrounding area. Therefore, the project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically

altered governmental facilities or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. Thus, there would be no impact to public services.

2.1.16 Recreation

CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No	No	No	Yes

a) and b) No Impact – all project locations

The project would involve installing six WDS, five VMS, MGS, two MVP and update software of an existing CMS, however the VMS and MGS at Location 2 have been dropped from further consideration at this time. It would not induce growth in the surrounding area that would result in increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that deterioration would occur or be accelerated. The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

2.1.17 Transportation and Traffic

CEQA Significance Determinations for Transportation/Traffic

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	No	No	Yes	No

a) No Impact – all project locations

The project would not change the existing circulation pattern as it does not involve changing the number or operation of lanes within the project limits on SR 1. During construction, a TMP would be implemented to minimize impacts to the traveling public. Therefore, the project would be consistent with applicable programs, plans, ordinances, and policies regarding the circulation system.

b) No Impact – all project locations

The project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). The project may result in a slight increase in vehicle

miles traveled (VMT) during construction from crews traveling to and from the project locations. However, the project would not result in an increase in VMT during operation as there would be no change to the number of travel lanes on SR 1 within the project limits.

c) No Impact – all project locations

The project would include improvements along the same alignment as the existing facility and would not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature.

d) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

Project construction has the potential to increase traffic delays on SR 1 that could affect response times of emergency response vehicles. In addition, temporary lane closures may be required to construct the project. However, Caltrans would prepare a TMP to maintain the flow of traffic during construction and ensure accessibility through the project locations for vehicles with essential services such as fire and police protection. The project is not expected to result in significantly decreased response times or inadequate emergency access.

2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

CEQA Significance Determinations for Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	No	No	No	Yes
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	No	No	No	Yes

a) and b) No Impact – all project locations

There are no resources listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k). There are no resources determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision(C) of PRC section 5024.1. Native American outreach occurred throughout the consultation process and as part of resource identification efforts for the proposed project; however, no resources have been identified. There would be no impact.

2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local	No	No	No	Yes

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	No	No	No	Yes

a) Less than Significant Impact – all project locations

There would be no utility relocations required for construction and operation of the project. Although most project features would connect to existing electrical connections, controller cabinet and service cabinets would be installed near the signs for the locations that do not have existing cabinets to use. Connecting to electrical power connections during construction may result in short-term, temporary interruptions of service. Final verification of utilities would be performed during the project's detailed design phase, and Caltrans would coordinate with the affected utility owner to minimize potential interruptions of service. Physical impacts related to installation of new infrastructure to connect to electrical connections are addressed in relevant sections throughout this Initial Study with Negative Declaration in connection with discussions of the impacts of the overall project.

b) No Impact

The project does not include new development or uses that would require water supplies.

c) No Impact

The project would not generate new wastewater flows or affect public utilities for wastewater treatment.

d) and e) No Impact

The project would not result in the production of solid waste other than during construction. The project would not generate or require solid waste disposal in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure. Construction waste that could not be recycled would be disposed at a certified facility based on the waste type and would not affect landfill capacity. The project at all locations would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

2.1.20 Wildfire

CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope	No	No	Yes	No

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
instability, or drainage changes?				

a) No Impact – all project locations

Project Locations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9-1, 9-2, and 10 would not be located within a State Responsibility Area or within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, project Locations 7, and 8 would be located in a State Responsibility Area, adjacent to moderate and high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2021). The project would be subject to San Mateo County's EOP. The EOP provides guidelines for emergency response planning, preparation, training, and execution throughout the county. The relatively limited amount of proposed improvements and associated construction would result in only minor increases in short-term, construction-related traffic on SR 1 and local roadways. Additionally, Caltrans would prepare a TMP to maintain the flow of traffic during construction and ensure accessibility through the project locations for vehicles with essential services such as fire and police protection.

b) Less than Significant Impact

As discussed above, project Locations 7, and 8 would be located in a State Responsibility Area, adjacent to high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2021). Project Locations 7 and 8 would include work on existing poles adjacent to SR 1 in developed areas. The project location areas do not contain steep slopes or high vegetation, and construction of the project would not alter the existing site topography that would increase susceptibility to wildfire hazards. Additionally, the majority of the work would occur in Caltrans' ROW, and measures for minimizing fire risks would be incorporated during construction.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Construction of the project features would occur within and along SR 1 and Caltrans' ROW. The project would include installation of MVPs to assist with equipment maintenance. Most project features would connect to existing cabinets for power. Construction and operation of new cabinets would follow state and federal fire regulations. Therefore, the project would not substantially exacerbate fire risk.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Frequent landslides and erosion are known to occur along SR 1. However, implementation of erosion control measures would avoid or minimize the project's potential to result in downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. These measures are incorporated into the project design as a matter of Caltrans practice and are not mitigation. In addition, construction and operation of the project would not alter the existing site topography or create slopes that would increase susceptibility to wildfire hazards, including downslope or downstream flooding, or landslides.

2.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	No	No	Yes	No

Would the project:	Significant and Unavoidable Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	No	No	Yes	No

a), b), c) Less than Significant Impact

As noted in the previous CEQA checklist items above, the project would have a less-than-significant impact or no impact on the environment, including on habitat and threatened and endangered species and cultural resources. This project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species or cause a drop in their population below self-sustaining levels.

Caltrans considered a future multi-asset project (EA0Q130K), another Caltrans project, as part of its cumulative analysis. The purpose of the multi-asset project would be to repave sections of SR 1 north of Half Moon Bay and to upgrade existing traffic infrastructure. Upgrades and installation of new communication devices, such as Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, VMS and Traffic Monitoring Stations (TMS) are also being considered as part of this project. The multi-asset project limits would run from Wavecrest Road to 0.1 mile south of Marine Boulevard or postmile 27.5 to 34.8, in San Mateo County. The multi-asset project would overlap a portion of this project's limits.

Based on the analysis provided in the CEQA checklist items above, the project would not have impacts that would be cumulatively considerable. The short-term and temporary nature of construction impacts and negligible long-term effects would result in less-than-significant or no impacts for all resource areas evaluated. Therefore, the project, in combination with known past, present, or future projects, would not contribute in a cumulative manner to effects on the environment. This project would not have any environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

2.1.22 Wildfire

Regulatory Setting

Senate Bill 1241 required the Office of Planning and Research, the Natural Resources Agency, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop amendments to the "CEQA Checklist" for the inclusion of questions related to fire hazard impacts for projects located on lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones. The 2018 updates to the CEQA Guidelines expanded this to include projects "near" these very high fire hazard severity zones.

Affected Environment

Project Locations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9-1, 9-2, and 10 would not be located within a State Responsibility Area or within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, project Locations 7, and 8 would be located in a State Responsibility Area, adjacent to moderate and high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2021).

Environmental Consequences

All proposed work would occur in Caltrans' ROW, and measures for minimizing fire risks would be incorporated during construction. Additionally, implementation of erosion control measures would avoid or minimize the project's potential to result in downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. These measures are incorporated into the project design as a matter of Caltrans practice and are not mitigation. All project construction would follow state and federal fire regulations. The project is not anticipated to exacerbate the effects of climate change in terms of wildfire. A complete discussion on potential wildfire impacts at both project locations is provided in Section 2.1.20.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

No additional avoidance, minimization, or mitigation is required.

2.1.23 Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. An ever-increasing body of scientific research attributes these climatological changes to GHG emissions, particularly those generated from the production and use of fossil fuels.

While climate change has been a concern for several decades, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization in 1988 led to increased efforts devoted to GHG emissions reduction and climate change research and policy. These efforts are primarily concerned with the emissions of GHGs generated by human activity, including CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, tetrafluoromethane, hexafluoroethane, sulfur hexafluoride, and various hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). CO_2 is the most abundant GHG; although it is a naturally occurring component of the Earth's atmosphere, fossil-fuel combustion is the main source of additional, human-generated CO_2.

Two terms are typically used when discussing how to address the impacts of climate change: *greenhouse gas mitigation* and *adaptation*. GHG mitigation covers the activities and policies aimed at reducing GHG emissions to limit or "mitigate" the impacts of climate change. Adaptation, on the other hand, is concerned with planning for and responding to impacts resulting from climate change (such as adjusting transportation design standards to withstand more intense storms and higher sea levels). This analysis will include a discussion of both.

Regulatory Setting

This section outlines federal and state efforts to comprehensively reduce GHG emissions from transportation sources.

Federal

To date, no national standards have been established for nationwide mobile-source GHG reduction targets, nor have any regulations or legislation been enacted specifically to address climate change and GHG emissions reduction at the project level.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC Part 4332) requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making a decision on the action or project.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the threats that extreme weather, sea-level change, and other changes in environmental conditions pose to valuable transportation infrastructure and those who depend on it. FHWA therefore supports a sustainability approach that assesses vulnerability to climate risks and incorporates resilience into planning, asset management, project development and design, and operations and maintenance practices (FHWA 2019). This approach encourages planning for sustainable highways by addressing climate risks while balancing environmental, economic, and social values—"the triple bottom line of sustainability" (FHWA n.d.). Program and project elements that foster sustainability and resilience also support economic vitality and global efficiency, increase safety and mobility, enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve the quality of life.

Various efforts have been promulgated at the federal level to improve fuel economy and energy efficiency to address climate change and its associated effects. The most important of these was the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 USC Section 6201) and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards. This act establishes fuel economy standards for on-road motor vehicles sold in the United States. Compliance with federal fuel economy standards is determined through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy program based on each manufacturer's average fuel economy for the portion of its vehicles produced for sale in the United States.

Energy Policy Act of 2005, 109th Congress H.R.6 (2005–2006): This act sets forth an energy research and development program covering: (1) energy efficiency; (2) renewable energy; (3) oil and gas; (4) coal; (5) the establishment of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs within the Department of Energy; (6) nuclear matters and security; (7) vehicles and motor fuels, including ethanol; (8) hydrogen; (9) electricity; (10) energy tax incentives; (11) hydropower and geothermal energy; and (12) climate change technology.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is responsible for setting GHG emission standards for new cars and light-duty vehicles to significantly increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the United States. Fuel efficiency standards directly influence GHG emissions.

State

California has been innovative and proactive in addressing GHG emissions and climate change by passing multiple Senate and Assembly bills and executive orders (EOs) including, but not limited to the following:

EO S-3-05 (June 1, 2005): The goal of this EO is to reduce California's GHG emissions to: (1) year 2000 levels by 2010, (2) year 1990 levels by 2020, and (3) 80 percent below year 1990 levels by 2050. This goal was further reinforced with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 in 2006 and Senate Bill (SB) 32 in 2016.

AB 32, Chapter 488, 2006, Núñez and Pavley, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: AB 32 codified the 2020 GHG emissions reduction goals outlined in EO S-3-05, while further mandating that ARB create a scoping plan and implement rules to achieve "real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases." The Legislature also intended that the statewide GHG emissions limit continue in existence and be used to maintain and continue reductions in emissions of GHGs beyond 2020 (Health and Safety Code Section 38551(b)). The law requires ARB to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG reductions.

EO S-01-07 (January 18, 2007): This order sets forth the low carbon fuel standard for California. Under this EO, the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels is to be reduced by at least 10 percent by the year 2020. ARB re-adopted the low carbon fuel standard regulation in September 2015, and the changes went into effect on January 1, 2016. The program establishes a strong framework to promote the low-carbon fuel adoption necessary to achieve the Governor's 2030 and 2050 GHG reduction goals.

SB 375, Chapter 728, 2008, Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection: This bill requires ARB to set regional emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for each region must then develop a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" (SCS) that integrates transportation, land-use, and housing policies to plan how it will achieve the emissions target for its region.

SB 391, Chapter 585, 2009, California Transportation Plan: This bill requires the State's long-range transportation plan to identify strategies to address California's climate change goals under AB 32.

EO B-16-12 (March 2012) orders State entities under the direction of the Governor, including ARB, the California Energy Commission, and the Public Utilities Commission, to support the rapid commercialization of zero-emission vehicles. It directs these entities to achieve various benchmarks related to zero-emission vehicles.

EO B-30-15 (April 2015) establishes an interim statewide GHG emission reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 to ensure California

meets its target of reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. It further orders all state agencies with jurisdiction over sources of GHG emissions to implement measures, pursuant to statutory authority, to achieve reductions of GHG emissions to meet the 2030 and 2050 GHG emissions reductions targets. It also directs ARB to update the Climate Change Scoping Plan to express the 2030 target in terms of million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MMTCO_2e$). Finally, it requires the Natural Resources Agency to update the state's climate adaptation strategy, Safeguarding California, every 3 years, and to ensure that its provisions are fully implemented.

SB 32, Chapter 249, 2016, codifies the GHG reduction targets established in EO B-30-15 to achieve a mid-range goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

SB 1386, Chapter 545, 2016, declared "it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands … is an important strategy in meeting the state's GHG reduction goals, and would require all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands."

AB 134, Chapter 254, 2017, allocates GHG Reduction Funds and other sources to various clean vehicle programs, demonstration/pilot projects, clean vehicle rebates and projects, and other emissions-reduction programs statewide.

SB 743, Chapter 386 (September 2013): This bill changes the metric of consideration for transportation impacts pursuant to CEQA from a focus on automobile delay to alternative methods focused on VMT, to promote the state's goals of reducing GHG emissions and traffic-related air pollution and promoting multimodal transportation while balancing the needs of congestion management and safety.

SB 150, Chapter 150, 2017, Regional Transportation Plans: This bill requires ARB to prepare a report that assesses progress made by each MPO in meeting their established regional GHG emission reduction targets.

EO B-55-18 (September 2018) sets a new statewide goal to achieve and maintain carbon neutrality no later than 2045. This goal is in addition to existing statewide targets of reducing GHG emissions.

EO N-19-19 (September 2019) advances California's climate goals in part by directing the California State Transportation Agency to leverage annual transportation spending to reverse the trend of increased fuel consumption and reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector. It orders a focus on

transportation investments near housing, managing congestion, and encouraging alternatives to driving. This EO also directs ARB to encourage automakers to produce more clean vehicles, formulate ways to help Californians purchase them, and propose strategies to increase demand for zero-emission vehicles.

Environmental Setting

The segment of SR 1 within the project limits is in the City of Half Moon Bay, the City of Pacifica, and unincorporated areas in San Mateo County. This segment of SR 1 is in a semi-rural environment, and adjacent to both undeveloped areas and developed areas with commercial and residential uses. SR 1 provides access to beaches, state parks and national recreation areas. The majority of GHG gases emissions in the project limits are from vehicle use. The traffic volumes of SR 1 from postmile 26.43 to 47.20 has an AADT between 14,000 and 70,000 vehicles per day according to the 2015 Traffic Volumes on California State Highways.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's 2017 clean air plan addresses GHGs in the project region. The U.S. EPA is responsible for documenting GHG emissions nationwide, and the ARB does so for the state, as required by H&SC Section 39607.4.

A GHG emissions inventory estimates the amount of GHGs discharged into the atmosphere by specific sources over a period of time, such as a calendar year. Tracking annual GHG emissions allows countries, states, and smaller jurisdictions to understand how emissions are changing and what actions may be needed to attain emission reduction goals. U.S. EPA is responsible for documenting GHG emissions nationwide, and the ARB does so for the state, as required by H&SC Section 39607.4.

National GHG Inventory

The U.S. EPA prepares a national GHG inventory every year every year and submits it to the United Nations in accordance with the Framework Convention on Climate Change (see Figure 2-1). The inventory provides a comprehensive accounting of all human-produced sources of GHGs in the United States, reporting emissions of CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, perfluorocarbons, SF6, and nitrogen trifluoride. It also accounts for emissions of CO_2 that are removed from the atmosphere by "sinks" such as forests, vegetation, and soils that uptake and store CO_2 (carbon sequestration). The 1990–2016 inventory found that of 6,511 $MMTCO_2e$ GHG emissions in 2016, 81% consist of CO_2, 10% are CH_4, and 6% are N_2O; the balance consists of fluorinated gases (EPA 2018a). In 2018, GHG emissions from the transportation sector accounted for 28 percent of US GHG emissions (U.S. EPA 2020).

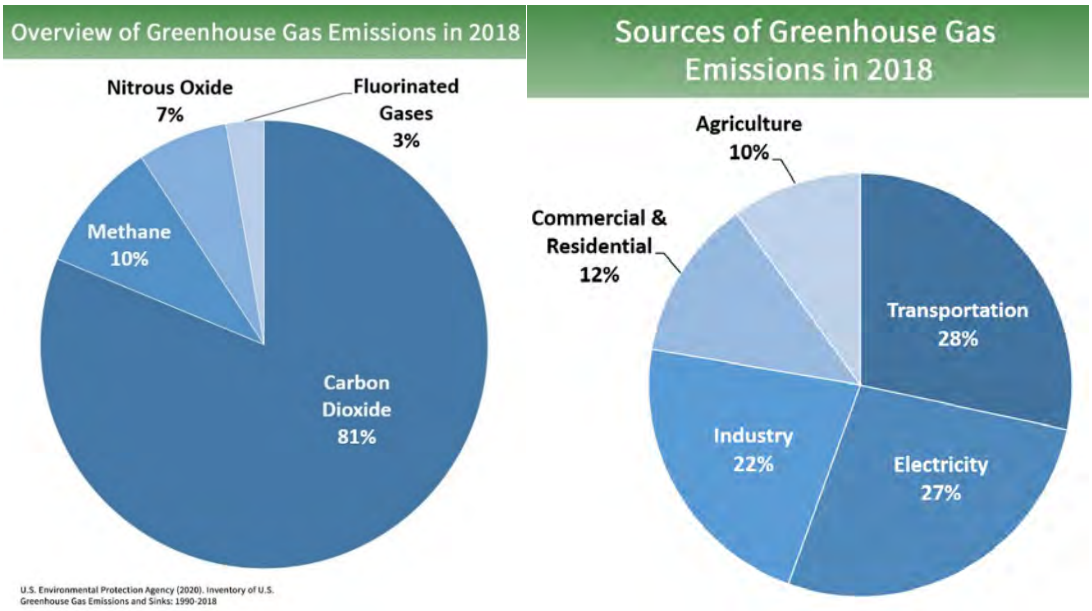

Figure 2-1 U.S. 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

State GHG Inventory

ARB collects GHG emissions data for transportation, electricity, commercial/ residential, industrial, agricultural, and waste management sectors each year (see Figure 2-2). It then summarizes and highlights major annual changes and trends to demonstrate the state's progress in meeting its GHG reduction goals. The 2019 edition of the GHG emissions inventory found total California emissions of 424.1 $MMTCO_2e$ for 2017, with the transportation sector responsible for 41 percent of total GHGs. It also found that overall statewide GHG emissions declined from 2000 to 2017 despite growth in population and state economic output (ARB 2019a) (see Figure 2-3).

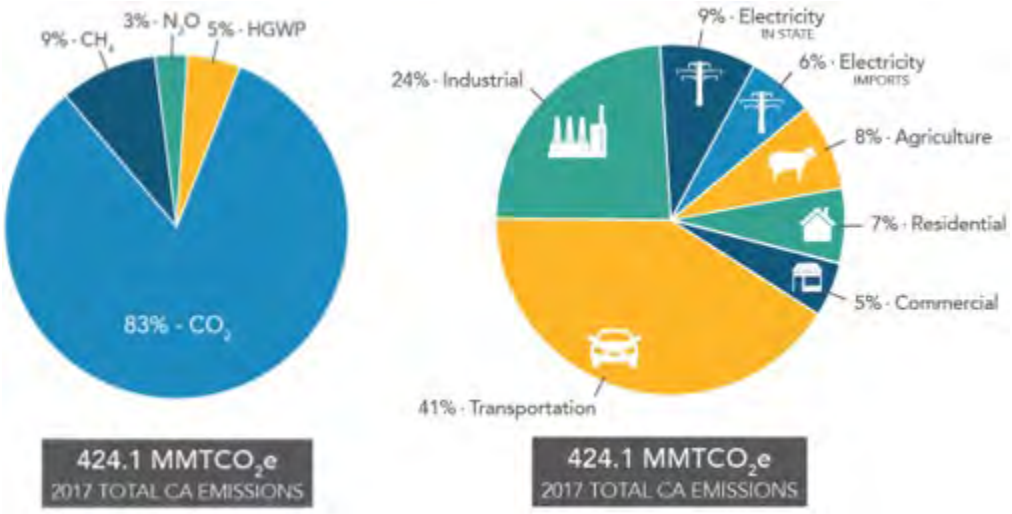

Figure 2-2 California 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

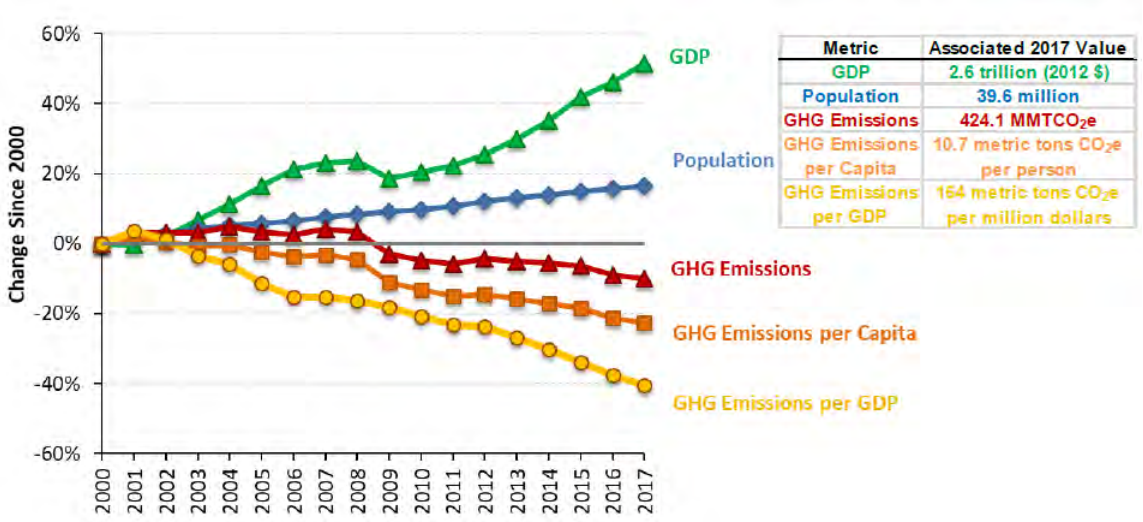

Figure 2-3 Change in California GDP, Population, and GHG Emissions since 2000 (*Source*: ARB 2019b)

AB 32 required ARB to develop a Scoping Plan that describes the approach California will take to achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and to update it every 5 years. ARB adopted the first scoping plan in 2008. The second updated plan, *California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan*, adopted on December 14, 2017, reflects the 2030 target established in EO B-30-15 and SB 32. The AB 32 Scoping Plan and the subsequent updates contain the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG emissions.

Regional Plans

ARB sets regional targets for California's 18 MPOs to use in their RTP/SCS to plan future projects that will cumulatively achieve GHG reduction goals. Targets are set at a percent reduction of passenger vehicle GHG emissions per person from 2005 levels. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is the MPO and regional transportation planning agency for the project region, for which ARB has established GHG reduction targets of 10 percent by 2020 and 19 percent by 2035. However, the proposed project is not included in the RTP/SCS project list.

Plan Bay Area goals align with those of the California Transportation Plan 2040, which include CO_2 emissions reduction to tackle future climate change and fixing an aging transportation system (ABAG and MTC 2017:26).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's 2017 clean air plan, *Spare the Air, Cool the Climate*, defines strategies for climate protection in the Bay Area that support goals laid out in *Plan Bay Area*. Goals include transforming the transportation sector to reduce motor vehicle travel, promote zero-emissions vehicles and renewable fuels, adopt fixed- and flexible-route transit services, and

support infrastructure and planning that enable a large share of trips by bicycling, walking, and transit.

San Mateo County adopted an energy efficiency climate action plan in 2013 with a GHG reduction target of 17 percent below 2005 emissions levels by 2020. The climate action plan aligns with GHG-reduction goals and policies of the San Mateo County General Plan that focus on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and efficient land use in the unincorporated county (San Mateo County 2013).

Project Analysis

GHG emissions from transportation projects can be divided into those produced during operation of the SHS and those produced during construction. The primary GHGs produced by the transportation sector are CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, and HFCs. CO_2 emissions are a product of the combustion of petroleum-based products, like gasoline, in internal combustion engines. Relatively small amounts of CH_4 and N_2O are emitted during fuel combustion. In addition, a small amount of HFC emissions are included in the transportation sector.

The CEQA Guidelines generally address GHG emissions as a cumulative impact due to the global nature of climate change (Pub. Resources Code, § 21083(b)(2)). As the California Supreme Court explained, “because of the global scale of climate change, any one project's contribution is unlikely to be significant by itself.” (Cleveland National Forest Foundation *v.* San Diego Assn. of Governments (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497, 512.). In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project’s incremental effect is “cumulatively considerable” (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064(h)(1) and 15130).

To make this determination, the incremental impacts of the project must be compared with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. Although climate change is ultimately a cumulative impact, not every individual project that emits GHGs must necessarily be found to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on the environment.

Construction Emissions

Construction GHG emissions would result from material processing, on-site construction equipment, and traffic delays due to construction. These emissions will be produced at different levels throughout the construction phase; their frequency and occurrence can be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications and by implementing better traffic management during construction phases.

In addition, with innovations such as longer pavement lives, improved traffic management plans, and changes in materials, the GHG emissions produced during construction can be offset to some degree by longer intervals between maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

As discussed in *Section 2.8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, GHG gasses would be generated during construction of the project. It was estimated that for a construction duration of 6 months, the total amount of CO_2 produced for the construction of the project would be 166.00 tons. Total CO_2e emissions (CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O) would be 151.51 metric tons.

All construction contracts include Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 7-1.02A and 7 1.02C, Emissions Reduction, which require contractors to comply with all laws applicable to the project and to certify they are aware of and will comply with all ARB emission reduction regulations; and Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, which requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Certain common regulations, such as equipment idling restrictions, that reduce construction vehicle emissions also help reduce GHG emissions.

Operational Emissions

The purpose of this project is to provide the traveling public on SR 1 with real time travel information related to evacuations and also inform Caltrans' TMC in Oakland, California of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. The proposed project is not a capacity increasing project. Because the project would not increase the number of travel lanes, no increase in VMT would occur as result of project implementation. Although some GHG emissions during the construction period would be unavoidable, no increase in operational GHG emissions is expected.

CEQA Conclusions

While the proposed project will result in GHG emissions during construction, it is anticipated that the project will not result in any increase in operational GHG emissions. The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of

greenhouse gases. With implementation of construction GHG-reduction measures, the impact would be less than significant.

Caltrans is firmly committed to implementing measures to help reduce GHG emissions. These measures are outlined in the following section.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies

Statewide Efforts

Major sectors of the California economy, including transportation, will need to reduce emissions to meet the 2030 and 2050 GHG emissions targets. Former Governor Edmund G. Brown promoted GHG reduction goals that involved (1) reducing today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent; (2) increasing from one-third to 50 percent our electricity derived from renewable sources; (3) doubling the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner; (4) reducing the release of methane, black carbon, and other short-lived climate pollutants; (5) managing farms and rangelands, forests, and wetlands so they can store carbon; and (6) periodically updating the state's climate adaptation strategy, *Safeguarding California* (see Figure 2-4).

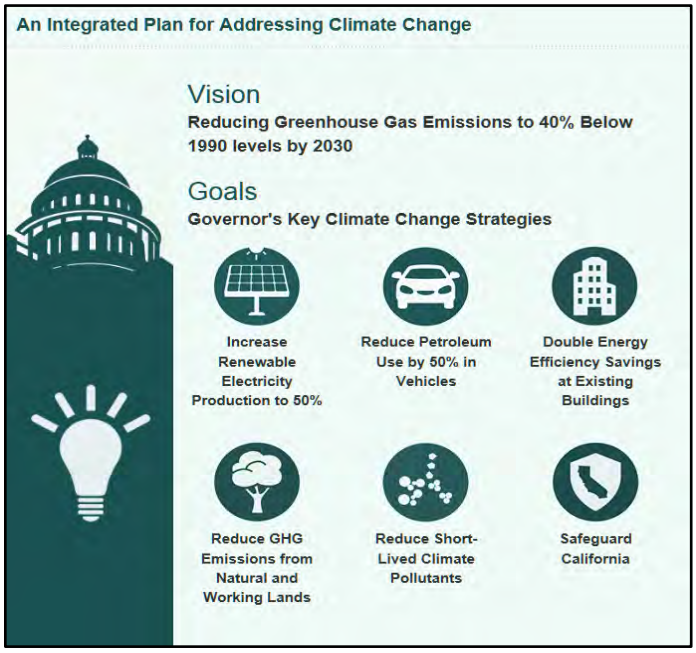

Figure 2-4 California Climate Strategy

The transportation sector is integral to the people and economy of California. To achieve GHG emission reduction goals, it is vital that the state build on past successes in reducing criteria and toxic air pollutants from transportation and goods movement. GHG emission reductions will come from cleaner vehicle technologies, lower-carbon fuels, and reduction of VMT. A key state goal for

reducing GHG emissions is to reduce today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent by 2030 (State of California 2019).

In addition, SB 1386 (Wolk 2016) established as state policy the protection and management of natural and working lands and requires state agencies to consider that policy in their own decision making. Trees and vegetation on forests, rangelands, farms, and wetlands remove CO_2 from the atmosphere through biological processes and sequester the carbon in above- and below-ground matter.

Caltrans Activities

Caltrans continues to be involved on the Governor's Climate Action Team as the ARB works to implement EOs S-3-05 and S-01-07 and help achieve the targets set forth in AB 32. EO B-30-15, issued in April 2015, and SB 32 (2016), set an interim target to cut GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The following major initiatives are underway at Caltrans to help meet these targets.

Caltrans Transportation Plan (CTP 2040)

The California Transportation Plan (CTP) is a statewide, long-range transportation plan to meet our future mobility needs and reduce GHG emissions. In 2016, Caltrans completed the California Transportation Plan 2040, which establishes a new model for developing ground transportation systems, consistent with CO2 reduction goals. It serves as an umbrella document for all the other statewide transportation planning documents. Over the next 25 years, California will be working to improve transit and reduce long-run repair and maintenance costs of roadways and developing a comprehensive assessment of climate-related transportation demand management and new technologies rather than continuing to expand capacity on existing roadways.

SB 391 (Liu 2009) requires the CTP to meet California's climate change goals under AB 32. Accordingly, the CTP 2040 identifies the statewide transportation system needed to achieve maximum feasible GHG emission reductions while meeting the state's transportation needs. While MPOs have primary responsibility for identifying land use patterns to help reduce GHG emissions, CTP 2040 identifies additional strategies in Pricing, Transportation Alternatives, Mode Shift, and Operational Efficiency.

Caltrans Strategic Management Plan

The Strategic Management Plan, released in 2015, creates a performance-based framework to preserve the environment and reduce GHG emissions, among

other goals. Specific performance targets in the plan that will help to reduce GHG emissions include:

- Increasing percentage of non-auto mode share
- Reducing VMT
- Reducing Caltrans' internal operational (buildings, facilities, and fuel) GHG emissions

Funding and Technical Assistance Programs

In addition to developing plans and performance targets to reduce GHG emissions, Caltrans also administers several sustainable transportation planning grants. These grants encourage local and regional multimodal transportation, housing, and land use planning that furthers the region's RTP/SCS; contribute to the State's GHG reduction targets and advance transportation-related GHG emission reduction project types/strategies; and support other climate adaptation goals (e.g., *Safeguarding California*).

Caltrans Policy Directives and Other Initiatives

Caltrans Director's Policy 30 (DP-30) Climate Change (June 22, 2012) is intended to establish a Department policy that will ensure coordinated efforts to incorporate climate change into Departmental decisions and activities. *Caltrans Activities to Address Climate Change* (April 2013) provides a comprehensive overview of Caltrans' statewide activities to reduce GHG emissions resulting from agency operations.

Project-Level GHG Reduction Strategies

The following measures will be implemented in the project to reduce GHG emissions and potential climate change impacts from the project.

1. Caltrans Standard Specifications such as Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, require contractors to comply with all federal, state, and local air pollution control rules, regulations, and ordinances. Requirements such as idling restrictions and keeping engines properly tuned reduce emissions, including GHG emissions.
2. A TMP will be prepared during the design phase of the project to minimize traffic disruptions from project construction. Minimizing traffic delays during construction will help reduce GHG emissions from idling vehicles.

3. BMPs for air quality will be incorporated during construction activities such as limiting the idling of vehicles and equipment onsite and maintaining vehicles and equipment.

Adaptation

Reducing GHG emissions is only one part of an approach to addressing climate change. Caltrans must plan for the effects of climate change on the state's transportation infrastructure and strengthen or protect the facilities from damage. Climate change is expected to produce increased variability in precipitation, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, variability in storm surges and their intensity, and in the frequency and intensity of wildfires. Flooding and erosion can damage or wash out roads; longer periods of intense heat can buckle pavement and railroad tracks; storm surges combined with a rising sea level can inundate highways. Wildfire can directly burn facilities and indirectly cause damage when rain falls on denuded slopes that landslide after a fire. Effects will vary by location and may, in the most extreme cases, require that a facility be relocated or redesigned. Accordingly, Caltrans must consider these types of climate stressors in how highways are planned, designed, built, operated, and maintained.

Federal Efforts

Under NEPA assignment, Caltrans is obligated to comply with all applicable federal environmental laws and FHWA NEPA regulations, policies, and guidance.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program delivers a report to Congress and the president every 4 years, in accordance with the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 USC Ch. 56A § 2921 et seq). The *Fourth National Climate Assessment*, published in 2018, presents the foundational science and the "human welfare, societal, and environmental elements of climate change and variability for 10 regions and 18 national topics, with particular attention paid to observed and projected risks, impacts, consideration of risk reduction, and implications under different mitigation pathways." Chapter 12, "Transportation," presents a key discussion of vulnerability assessments. It notes that "asset owners and operators have increasingly conducted more focused studies of particular assets that consider multiple climate hazards and scenarios in the context of asset-specific information, such as design lifetime" (USGCRP 2018).

The United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) Policy Statement on Climate Adaptation in June 2011 committed the federal Department of Transportation to "integrate consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation into the planning, operations, policies, and programs of U.S. DOT to ensure that taxpayer resources are invested wisely, and that transportation infrastructure, services and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions" (U.S. DOT 2011).

FHWA order 5520 (*Transportation System Preparedness and Resilience to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events,* December 15, 2014) established FHWA policy to strive to identify the risks of climate change and extreme weather events to current and planned transportation systems. FHWA has developed guidance and tools for transportation planning that foster resilience to climate effects and sustainability at the federal, state, and local levels (FHWA 2019).

State Efforts

Climate change adaptation for transportation infrastructure involves long-term planning and risk management to address vulnerabilities in the transportation system. *California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment* (State of California 2018) is the state's effort to "translate the state of climate science into useful information for action" in a variety of sectors at both statewide and local scales. It adopts the following key terms used widely in climate change analysis and policy documents:

- *Adaptation* to climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

- *Adaptive capacity* is the "combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources available to an individual, community, society, or organization that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities."

- *Exposure* is the presence of people, infrastructure, natural systems, and economic, cultural, and social resources in areas that are subject to harm.

- *Resilience* is the "capacity of any entity—an individual, a community, an organization, or a natural system—to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience". Adaptation actions contribute to increasing resilience, which is a desired outcome or state of being.

- *Sensitivity* is the level to which a species, natural system, or community, government, etc., would be affected by changing climate conditions.

- *Vulnerability* is the "susceptibility to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt." Vulnerability can increase because of physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factor(s). These factors include, but are not limited to ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality. Vulnerability is often

defined as the combination of sensitivity and adaptive capacity as affected by the level of exposure to changing climate.

Several key state policies have guided climate change adaptation efforts to date. Recent state publications produced in response to these policies draw on these definitions.

EO S-13-08, issued by then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in November 2008, focused on sea-level rise and resulted in the *California Climate Adaptation Strategy* (2009), updated in 2014 as *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk* (Safeguarding California Plan). The Safeguarding California Plan offers policy principles and recommendations and continues to be revised and augmented with sector-specific adaptation strategies, ongoing actions, and next steps for agencies.

EO S-13-08 also led to the publication of a series of sea-level rise assessment reports and associated guidance and policies. These reports formed the foundation of an interim *State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document* in 2010, with instructions for how state agencies could incorporate "sea-level rise projections into planning and decision making for projects in California" in a consistent way across agencies. The guidance was revised and augmented in 2013. *Rising Seas in California – An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science* was published in 2017 and its updated projections of sea-level rise and new understanding of processes and potential impacts in California were incorporated into the *State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance Update* in 2018.

EO B-30-15, signed in April 2015, requires state agencies to factor climate change into all planning and investment decisions. This EO recognizes that effects of climate change other than sea-level rise also threaten California's infrastructure. At the direction of EO B-30-15, the Office of Planning and Research published *Planning and Investing for a Resilient California: A Guidebook for State Agencies* in 2017, to encourage a uniform and systematic approach. Representatives of Caltrans participated in the multi-agency, multidisciplinary technical advisory group that developed this guidance on how to integrate climate change into planning and investment.

AB 2800 (Quirk 2016) created the multidisciplinary Climate-Safe Infrastructure Working Group, which in 2018 released its report, *Paying it Forward: The Path Toward Climate-Safe Infrastructure in California*. The report provides guidance to agencies on how to address the challenges of assessing risk in the face of inherent uncertainties still posed by the best available science on climate change. It also examines how state agencies can use infrastructure planning, design, and implementation processes to address the observed and anticipated climate change impacts.

Caltrans Adaptation Efforts

Caltrans Vulnerability Assessments

Caltrans is conducting climate change vulnerability assessments to identify segments of the State Highway System vulnerable to climate change effects including precipitation, temperature, wildfire, storm surge, and sea-level rise. The approach to the vulnerability assessments was tailored to the practices of a transportation agency, and involves the following concepts and actions:

- *Exposure* – Identify Caltrans assets exposed to damage or reduced service life from expected future conditions.
- *Consequence* – Determine what might occur to system assets in terms of loss of use or costs of repair.
- *Prioritization* – Develop a method for making capital programming decisions to address identified risks, including considerations of system use and/or timing of expected exposure.

The climate change data in the assessments were developed in coordination with climate change scientists and experts at federal, state, and regional organizations at the forefront of climate science. The findings of the vulnerability assessments will guide analysis of at-risk assets and development of adaptation plans to reduce the likelihood of damage to the State Highway System, allowing Caltrans to both reduce the costs of storm damage and to provide and maintain transportation that meets the needs of all Californians.

Project Adaptation Analysis

Sea-Level Rise Analysis

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) provides the most current accepted estimates for sea level rise in California. Projected sea level rise based on the OPC *State of California Sea Level Rise Guidance 2018 Update* (OPC 2018) at the nearest tide gauge (San Francisco) assuming a high emissions scenario to end of century (i.e., the year 2100) with a 1 in 20 (5 percent) probability indicates that sea level rise would rise to meet or exceed 4.4 feet above current conditions. To analyze how this level of impact would have impact on the project area, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Sea Level Rise viewer (https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html) and Point Blue's Our Coast Our Future viewer (https://data.pointblue.org/apps/ocof/cms/index.php?page=flood-map) were used to review the SR 1 corridor in the project area. Both tools were examined using the nearest sea level rise scenario to the OPC projection identified above that was available in each viewer

(5 feet of modeled sea level rise using the NOAA viewer and 4.9 feet using the Point Blue viewer). After reviewing the entire SR 1 corridor using both tools, Caltrans determined that the proposed project is not in an area subject to sea-level rise at the conservatively estimated highest potential sea level increase to end of century. Accordingly, direct impacts to transportation facilities proposed by the project due to projected sea-level rise are not expected.

Floodplains

Reference was made to Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) numbers, 06081C0260E dated 10/16/12, 06081C0266F, 06081C0138F, 06081C0109F, 06081C0036F all dated 8/2/17. Based on these FIRMs, there are no locations where proposed project work is within a base floodplain. However, Location 9-1 at postmile 42.58 under FIRM 06081C0126F dated 8/2/17, is in the 0.2 percent Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X. This work at Location 9 does not change the existing grade and is not in the base flood plain as well. Therefore, the proposed work is not expected to have any impacts to these floodplains.

Wildfire

Project Locations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9-1, 9-2, and 10 would not be located within a State Responsibility Area or within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, project Locations 7, and 8 would be located in a State Responsibility Area, adjacent to moderate and high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2021). All project construction would follow state and federal fire regulations. The project is not anticipated to exacerbate the effects of climate change in terms of wildfire. A complete discussion on potential wildfire impacts at both project locations is provided in Section 2.1.20.

Chapter 3 Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process. It helps planners determine the necessary scope of environmental documentation and the level of analysis required, and to identify potential impacts and avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Consultation and public participation for this project will be accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' preliminary efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

3.1 Consultation and Coordination with Public Agencies

3.1.1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation Summary

The proposed project received a letter of concurrence (LOC) from the USFWS on December 7, 2021. A LOC indicates that a project is unlikely to result in the take (as defined under FESA as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct) of listed species. Specific measures for the proposed project required by the USFWS in its LOC are consistent with the AMMs in Appendix C, and Caltrans standard measures found in the project features described in Section 1.4 of this IS.

Caltrans made the following determinations for species under USFWS jurisdiction:

- *May affect, not likely to adversely affect* the CRLF;
- *May affect, not likely to adversely affect* the SFGS.

No effects to any other listed, candidate, or proposed species are anticipated. Caltrans biologists have worked closely with project engineers to limit the size and scope of the proposed project. In addition, AMMs, including but not limited to, training for construction personnel, seasonal avoidance, environmentally sensitive area fencing, entrapment avoidance, preconstruction surveys, and biological monitoring, will be implemented to reduce impacts to listed, candidate, and proposed species and their habitats.

By implementing these measures, Caltrans anticipates minimal adverse direct impacts to the CRLF and SFGS.

The proposed project would permanently impact 0.284 acre of potential CRLF dispersal habitat as a result of MVP construction. This loss of habitat is not anticipated to result in the take as defined under FESA of individual CRLF.

Location 2 has been dropped from further consideration by the project. The proposed project would have temporarily impacted 0.126 acre of potential CRLF dispersal habitat if construction of project features at Location 2 occurred. This would have resulted in a temporary reduction in the area of dispersal habitat. All temporary impacts to listed species' habitat will be minimized by restoring disturbed areas on-site to pre-project or ecologically enhanced conditions. These impacts are considered temporary because the impacted area would be replanted or reseeded with vegetation upon project completion.

3.1.2 California Department of Fish and Wildlife Consultation Summary

CESA stipulates that incidental take of a state listed species be fully mitigated with financial assurance; if required, appropriate measures for state-listed species would be designed in coordination with CDFW. As defined by CESA and CFGC, “take” means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill (CFGC Section 86). This is slightly different from the federal definition of “take” defined in Section 3(18) of the FESA: “The term ‘take’ means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” Take under CESA and CFGC does not include harm or harassment. This difference is important in understanding why the SFGS may have potential for take under FESA regulations, which includes less impactful actions (harm and harassment) in its take definition, but does not have potential for take under CESA.

Additionally, in the 1960s, prior to passage of CESA, California classified certain animals that were rare or faced possible extinction as “fully protected” in the CFGC. Fully protected species may not be taken (as defined by CESA and CFGC) or possessed at any time, and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for necessary scientific research, relocation for the protection of livestock, or if they are new species whose conservation and management is provided for in a Natural Community Conservation Plan. Lists were created for fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals (CFGC Sections 3511, 4700, and 5050). The SFGS is protected under CFGC as a “fully protected” species (CFGC Section 5050). Some suitable habitat for SFGS occurs in the project’s study area, and individuals have a low potential to occur in the project area. Caltrans will implement measures to completely avoid take, as defined in CESA and the CFGC, during all project activities.

CDFW also administratively designates some species as SSCs (“Species of Special Concern”). CDFW defines SSC as a species, subspecies, or distinct

population of an animal native to California that is considered rare for various reasons. These species may be federally listed as threatened or endangered but not designated as such under CESA. SSC are generally given consideration under CEQA.

Caltrans has considered all species protected under CESA and CFGC, and those that are considered SSC (Appendix D), and determined that only CRLF and SFGS have potential to occur in the project area. No take of state listed species, fully protected species, or SSC is anticipated.

3.1.3 Coastal Zone Coordination

The proposed project is within the jurisdiction of three LCPs (City of Half-Moon Bay, City of Pacifica, and San Mateo County) and CCC.

On June 13, 2019, CCC provided initial comments to Caltrans on the preliminary project description.

On February 11, 2020, Caltrans staff reached out to City of Pacifica staff to discuss proposed work at Location 9.

On May 1, 2020, Caltrans staff spoke with all three LCPs. As a result of the discussion with the City of Half Moon Bay staff, the location of one of the proposed signs was moved to avoid any potential impacts to nearby coastal wetland habitats.

On August 14, 2020, all three LCPs and Coastal Commission staff were provided a copy of the previous Draft Environmental Document for review and comment.

During the public review period from August 14, 2020, to October 30, 2020, representatives from City of Pacifica, City of Half Moon Bay, and San Mateo County all provided comments on the previously circulated Draft Environmental Document. These comments included notes about public access, visual impacts, agricultural resources, other planned works nearby, and requirements to obtain a CDP in respective LCP jurisdictions. Comments about the previously circulated document's consistency in approach were also noted. Caltrans has incorporated this feedback into this revised IS. As a result of feedback from the San Mateo County coastal community, Caltrans revised the project to focus on safety-oriented traffic management, rather than the day-to-day traffic management that was previously presented.

On October 4, 2020, Caltrans presented a summary of the project as previously proposed to the Midcoast Community Council.

On October 6, 2020, Caltrans presented a summary of the project as previously proposed to the Half Moon Bay City Council.

On October 14, 2020, Caltrans presented a summary of the project as previously proposed to the Midcoast Community Council Meeting.

On February 22, 2021, the City of Half Moon Bay transmitted a letter to Caltrans requesting that the VMS proposed in Half Moon Bay be relocated south of Miramontes Point Road to more effectively reduce congestion; voicing concerns about the aesthetics and nighttime light impacts of the proposed VMS signs and their appropriateness in the coastal setting; and requesting that the project include a VMS on SR 92. A VMS was not included on SR 92 as part of this project because it is outside the project limits and scope. However, a VMS could be included on SR 92 in a future Caltrans project. Caltrans has considered these comments in this IS and believes that the project changes reflected in this IS address much of the comments received. Caltrans will continue to work with the City of Half Moon Bay to refine the project as the design develops.

On April 21, 2021, the Caltrans Project Development Team (PDT) members met with Half Moon Bay city staff to discuss other possible locations for a sign in Half Moon Bay. Alternative locations, including a VMS, could be considered in this area in the future as part of other planned projects along the corridor or through subsequent environmental documentation under CEQA as part of this project, all of which would require public input at that time. On April 23, 2021, CCC provided comments to Caltrans on the recirculated Initial Study with Negative Declaration.

Caltrans will continue to coordinate with all three LCPs and Coastal Commission staff as the project moves forward.

3.2 Circulation, Review, and Comment on the Draft Environmental Document

Public input on the project was solicited during the review period for this recirculated Initial Study with Negative Declaration, which lasted 30 days (March 22, 2021 to April 20, 2021). Interested stakeholders were notified by several methods, including postings on the Caltrans website and notifications to interested agencies and individuals. A Notice of Completion was filed with the State Clearinghouse on March 22, 2021, which initiated the public review period. During the review period, Caltrans held a virtual public meeting on April 8, 2021, to share information about the project and collect informal comments on the recirculated IS from interested parties. Meeting information, including links to the online meeting and call-in numbers, was made available at https://deavpm.wixsite.com/sr-1tos.

State and local agencies, organizations, and members of the public submitted comments. A total of 19 comment letters were submitted. Each comment letter or email that was received was reviewed, and substantive comments were identified. Appendix E presents the comments that were received and the response to those comments.

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Appendix A. Title 6 Policy Statement

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Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

August 2020

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

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To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, at 1823 14th Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811; (916) 324-8379 (TTY 711); or at <Title.VI@dot.ca.gov>.

Original signed by
Toks Omishakin
Director

"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"

Appendix B. List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AB	Assembly Bill
ABAG	Association of Bay Area Governments
ADL	aerially deposited lead
AMM	Avoidance and Minimization Measure
ARB	California Air Resources Board
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMP	best management practice
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCA	California Coastal Act
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCT	California Coastal Trail
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDP	Coastal Development Permit
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CH_4	methane
CMS	changeable message sign
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
CRLF	California red-legged frog
EO	Executive Order
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ESA	environmentally sensitive area
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
GHG	greenhouse gas
HFC	hydrofluorocarbon
LCP	Local Coastal Program
LOC	letter of concurrence
MGS	Midwest guardrail systems
$MMTCO_2e$	million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSAT	mobile source air toxics
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MVP	maintenance vehicle pullout
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NB	northbound
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NES	natural environment study
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OCRS	Office of Cultural Resource Studies
OPC	Ocean Protection Council
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PRC	Public Resources Code
ROW	right-of-way
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SB	southbound
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SFGS	San Francisco garter snake
SMCLCP	San Mateo County Local Coastal Program
SR	State Route
SSC	Species of Special Concern
TMC	Traffic Management Center
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
U.S. DOT	United States Department of Transportation
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	United States Global Change Research Program
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VIA	Visual Impact Assessment
VMS	variable message sign
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WDS	wireless detection system
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Program

Appendix C. Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Caltrans has incorporated avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) into the proposed project to avoid and minimize the impacts of this project on environmental resources.

To ensure that all of the environmental measures identified in this document are executed at the appropriate times, the following program (as articulated in the proposed Environmental Commitments Record [ECR] that follows) would be implemented. During project design, avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project's final plans, specifications, and cost estimates, as appropriate. All permits will be obtained prior to implementation of the project. During construction, environmental and construction/engineering staff will ensure that the commitments contained in this ECR are fulfilled. As the following ECR is a draft, some fields have not been completed, and will be filled out as each of the measures is implemented. Note: Some measures may apply to more than one resource area. Duplicative or redundant measures have not been included in this ECR.

Table C-1: Environmental Commitments

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-1**	Vegetation removal will be limited to the work areas that require clearing and grubbing.	Caltrans	Construction
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-2**	Trees and vegetation outside of clearing and grubbing limits shall be protected from the contractor's operations, equipment, and materials storage.	Caltrans	Construction
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-3:**	All temporarily disturbed ground surfaces shall be restored and treated with and treated with erosion control including native, locally appropriate seed.	Caltrans	Construction
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-4**	The addition of paved surfaces, such as MVPs, shall be limited to meet minimum safe work access	Caltrans	Design

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		requirements where they are proposed.		
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-5**	The VMS sign panel size shall be the smallest necessary to convey critical emergency or hazard information.	Caltrans	Design
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-6**	Sign materials used will suit the rural coastal highway vernacular and blend with the landscape.	Caltrans	Design
Aesthetics/ Visual	**AES-7**	Construction activities shall limit all construction lighting to within the area of work and avoid light trespass in residential areas through directional lighting, shielding, and other measures**.**	Caltrans	Construction
Biological	**BIO-01**	Protocol for Biological Monitor and Species Observation: The names and qualifications of proposed biological monitor(s) will be submitted to the USFWS for approval prior to the start of construction. The approved biological monitor(s) will conduct worker environmental awareness training and keep a copy of the USFWS Letter of Concurrence in their possession when on-site. Through communication with the Resident Engineer, the approved biological monitor(s) will be on-site during all work at Locations 5 and 6. The approved biological monitor(s) will have the authority to stop work that may result in the unauthorized take of federally listed species. If the approved biological monitor exercises this authority, the Service will be notified by telephone and e-mail	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		message within one (1) working day. The Resident Engineer will have the authority to halt work if a listed species is observed in the BSA. The Resident Engineer will keep construction activities suspended in any construction area where the biologist has determined that a potential take of the species could occur. Work will resume after observed listed individuals leave the site voluntarily, the biologist determines that no wildlife is being harassed or harmed by construction activities, and upon USFWS and/or CDFW approval.		
Biological	**BIO-02**	Pre-Construction Surveys: Pre-construction surveys for CRLF and San Francisco garter snake will be conducted by a USFWS approved biological monitor no more than 20 calendar days prior to any initial ground disturbance and immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities (including vegetation removal and temporary high visibility fencing installation) within the project footprint. These efforts will consist of walking surveys of the project limits and, if possible, accessible adjacent areas within at least 50 feet of the project limits. The approved biological monitor will investigate potential cover sites when it is feasible and safe to do so. This includes	Caltrans	Before Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		thorough investigation of mammal burrows, rocky outcrops, appropriately sized soil cracks, tree cavities, and debris. Native vertebrates found in the cover sites within the project limits will be documented and relocated to an adequate cover site in the vicinity. Safety permitting, the approved biological monitor will also investigate areas of disturbed soil for signs of CRLF and San Francisco garter snake within 30 minutes following initial disturbance of the given area. The need for further pre-construction surveys would be determined by the biological monitor based on site conditions and construction timelines.		
Biological	**BIO-03**	Staging: Staging and parking areas will be located in designated areas outside ESAs, as specified by the project biologist in coordination with the Resident Engineer.	Caltrans	Design and Construction
Biological	**BIO-04**	Construction Site BMPs: The following site restrictions will be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts on special-status species and their habitats: a. Routes and boundaries of roadwork will be clearly marked before the start of construction or grading. b. All food and food-related trash items will be enclosed in sealed trash containers and will be properly disposed off-site.	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		c. No pets belonging to project personnel will be allowed anywhere in the Action Area during construction. d. A Spill Response Plan will be prepared. Hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, oils, solvents) will be stored in sealable containers in a designated location that is at least 50 feet from any hydrologic features. e. All equipment will be properly maintained and free of leaks. Servicing of vehicles and construction equipment, including fueling, cleaning, and maintenance, will occur at least 50 feet from any hydrologic features unless it is an existing gas station.		
Biological	**BIO-05**	Dry Season Work Window: Construction actions will be scheduled to avoid and minimize habitat impacts to CRLF and San Francisco garter snake. To reduce impacts to special-status species and habitat, construction activities off paved or graveled roadside surfaces will be conducted during the dry season, between June 15 and October 15.	Caltrans	Construction
Biological	**BIO-06**	Inclement Weather Restriction: No work will occur during or within 24 hours following a rain event exceeding 0.2-inch as measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service for Half Moon Bay	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		Airport, CA (KHAF) base station available at https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mesowest/timeseries.php?sid=KHAF&num=72&banner=gmap&raw=0&w=325. USFWS/CDFW approval to continue work during or within 24 hours of a rain event will be considered on a case-by-case basis.		
Biological	**BIO-07**	Proper Use of Erosion Control Devices: Erosion control materials that use plastic or synthetic monofilament netting will not be used within the action area to avoid entanglement of CRLF and San Francisco garter snake.	Caltrans	Construction
Biological	**BIO-08**	Avoidance of Entrapment: To prevent inadvertent entrapment of the CRLF and San Francisco garter snake during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 1-foot deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks at an angle no greater than 30 degrees. Before such holes or trenches are filled they must be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. All replacement pipes, hoses, culverts, or similar structures less than 12 inches in diameter will be	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		closed, capped, or covered upon entry to the project site. All similar structures greater than 12 inches must be inspected before they are subsequently moved, capped and/or buried.		
Biological	**BIO-09**	Handling of Listed Species: If a listed species is discovered, the Resident Engineer and agency-approved biological monitor will be immediately informed. • If a CRLF gains access to a construction zone, work will be halted immediately within 50 feet until the animal leaves the site or is captured and relocated by the agency-approved biological monitor. • The captured CRLFs will be released within appropriate habitat outside of the construction area but near the capture location. The release location will be determined by the agency-approved biological monitor. • If a San Francisco garter snake gains access to a construction zone, work will be halted immediately within 50 feet until the animal leaves the site. • The USFWS will be notified within one (1) working day if a CRLF or San Francisco garter snake is discovered within the construction site.	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		• The agency-approved biological monitor will take precautions to prevent introduction of amphibian diseases in accordance with currently accepted USFWS guidance. • Equipment and clothing will be disinfected before biologists enter the BSA to handle amphibians.		
Biological	**BIO-10**	Worker Environmental Awareness Training: Construction personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by the agency-approved biological monitor or project biologist prior to taking part in site construction, including vegetation clearing. The program will focus on the conservation measures that are relevant to an employee's personal responsibility and will include an explanation on how to avoid take of the CRLF and SFGS. At a minimum, the training will include a description of species; how they might be encountered within the project area; their status and protection; and the relevant Conservation Measures and Terms and Conditions of the USFWS Letter of Concurrence. A fact sheet conveying this information will be prepared and distributed to all construction and project	Caltrans	Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		personnel. Distributed materials will include cards with distinctive photographs of the CRLF and SFGS, compliance reminders, and relevant contact information. Documentation of the training, including sign-in sheets, will be kept on file and made available to the project's environmental regulatory agencies upon request.		
Hazardous Materials	**HAZ-1**	The construction of MVPs will require excavation of roadside soils that could contain regulated levels of aerially deposited lead from past vehicle emissions. Testing and characterization of the soils to be excavated will be completed by Caltrans prior to construction to determine the required waste management practices for any excavated, surplus lead contaminated soils. Using the site investigation results, the necessary contract special provisions will be prepared by Caltrans' Hazardous Waste Branch to specify the waste material disposal requirements for the construction contractor.	Caltrans	Design
Water Quality	**HYDRO-1:**	Prior to commencement of construction activities, a WPCP will be prepared by the Contractor and approved by Caltrans. The WPCP addresses potential temporary impacts via implementation of appropriate BMPs, such as those mentioned	Caltrans' Contractor	Before Construction

Resource	AMM Reference	Proposed Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Responsible Party	Timing
		above, to the maximum extent practicable.		

Notes:
BMP = best management practice
BSA = Biological Study Area
Caltrans = California Department of Transportation
CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CRLF = California red-legged frog
ESA = environmentally sensitive area
MVP = maintenance vehicle pullout
SFGS = San Francisco garter snake
USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMS = variable message sign
WPCP = Water Pollution Control Program

Appendix D. Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species

Table D-1 List of Special-Status Plant Species and their Potential to Occur in the BSA

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Alkali milk-vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *tener*)	- / - / 1B.2	Alkali playa | Valley and foothill grassland | Vernal pool | Wetland. Low ground, alkali flats, and flooded lands; in annual grassland or in playas or vernal pools.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Anderson's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos andersonii*)	- / - / 1B.2	Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | North coast coniferous forest. Open sites, redwood forest. 95 to 765 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Gravelly alluvium. 1 to 735 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*)	- / - / 1B.2	Cismontane woodland | Coastal bluff scrub | Valley and foothill grassland. 3 to 795 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Blasdale's bent grass (*Agrostis blasdalei*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal dunes | Coastal prairie | Sandy or gravelly soil close to rocks; often in nutrient-poor soil with sparse vegetation. 5 to 365 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Blue coast gilia (*Gilia capitata ssp. chamissonis*)	- / - / 1B.1	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub. 3 to 200 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
California seablite (*Suaeda californica*)	FE / - / 1B.1	Freshwater marsh | Marsh and swamp | Wetland. Margins of coastal salt marshes. 0 to 5 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*)	- / - / 2B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Drying alkaline flats. 20 to 855 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Choris' popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub, coastal prairie. Mesic sites. 5 to 705 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Coast yellow leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon croceus*)	- / CC / 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie. 10 to 150 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Coastal marsh milk-vetch *(Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *pycnostachyus*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes | Coastal scrub | Marsh and swamp | Wetland. Mesic sites in dunes or along streams or coastal salt marshes. 0 to 155 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Coastal triquetrella (*Triquetrella californica*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Grows within 30 m from the coast in coastal scrub, grasslands and in open gravels on roadsides, hillsides, rocky slopes, and fields. On gravel or thin soil over outcrops. 10 to 100 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Compact cobwebby thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *compactum*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral | Coastal dunes | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub. On dunes and on clay in chaparral; also in grassland. 5 to 245 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Congested-headed hayfield tarplant (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*)	- / - / 1B.2	Valley and foothill grassland. Grassy valleys and hills, often in fallow fields; sometimes along roadsides. 5 to 520 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Crystal Springs fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Meadow and seep | Ultramafic | Valley and foothill grassland | Wetland. Serpentine seeps and grassland. 45 to 185 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Crystal Springs lessingia (*Lessingia arachnoidea*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Grassy slopes on serpentine; sometimes on roadsides. 90 to 200 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Dark-eyed gilia (*Gilia millefoliata*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes. 1 to 60 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Davidson's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral | Oak woodland | Sandy soils	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes. 1 to 60 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Dudley's lousewort (*Pedicularis dudleyi*)	- / CR / 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, North Coast coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Deep shady woods of older coast redwood forests; also in maritime chaparral. 60 to 330 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present in the BSA.
Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal prairie, cismontane woodland. Often on serpentine; various soils reported though usually on clay, in grassland. 3 to 385 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Franciscan manzanita (*Arctostaphylos franciscana*)	FE / - / 1B.1	Chaparral | Ultramafic. Serpentine outcrops in chaparral. 30 to 215 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Franciscan onion (*Allium peninsulare* var. *franciscanum*)	- / - / 1B.2	Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic | Valley and foothill grassland. Clay soils; often on serpentine; sometimes on volcanics. Dry hillsides. 5 to 320 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Franciscan thistle (*Cirsium andrewsii*)	- / - / 1B.2	Broadleaved upland forest | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Ultramafic. Sometimes serpentine seeps. 0 to 295 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Hall's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus hallii*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Some populations on serpentine. 10 to 735 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps and wetlands. Freshwater marshes, seeps, and small streams in open or forested areas along the coast. 5 to 125 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. Occurrence records exist in near the BSA at Location 7. Species was not observed within BSA during surveys and work will be restricted to paved surfaces at this location.
Hillsborough chocolate lily (*Fritillaria biflora* var. *ineziana*)	- / - / 1B.1	Cismontane woodland | Ultramafic | Valley and foothill grassland. Probably only on serpentine; most recent site is in serpentine grassland. 90 to 170 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Indian Valley bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus aboriginum*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Rocky, granitic, often in burned areas	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Island rock lichen (*Hypogymnia schizidiata*)	- / - / 1B.3	Chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest. On bark and wood of hardwoods and conifers. 260 to 540 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea*)	- / - / 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, coastal dunes, chaparral. Old dunes, coastal sandhills; openings. Sandy or gravelly soils. 5 to 430 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Kings Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos regismontana*)	- / - / 1B.2	Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | North coast coniferous forest. Granitic or sandstone outcrops. 240 to 705 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Marin checker lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata* var. *tristulis*)	- / - / 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Ultramafic. Occurrences reported from canyons and riparian areas as well as rock outcrops; often on serpentine. 5 to 305 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Marin western flax *(Hesperolinon congestum*)	FT / ST / 1B.1	Chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands. In serpentine barrens and in serpentine grassland and chaparral. 60 to 400 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*)	- / - / 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. 3 to 610 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Minute pocket moss (*Fissidens pauperculus*)	- / - / 1B.2	North coast coniferous forest | Redwood. Moss growing on damp soil along the coast. In dry streambeds and on stream banks. 10 to 1024 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Montara manzanita *(Arctostaphylos montaraensis*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral | Coastal scrub. Slopes and ridges. 270 to 460 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Northern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *nigrescens*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Sandy soils. 10 to 245 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Oregon polemonium (*Polemonium carneum*)	- / - / 2B.2	Coastal prairie, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest. 0 to 1830 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Ornduff's meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii* ssp. *ornduffii*)	- / - / 1B.1	Meadows and seeps, agricultural fields. 5 to 15 m.	Present	Low potential to occur. Species not observed during surveys but agricultural fields exist adjacent to project footprints.
Pacific manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pacifica*)	- / SE / 1B.1	Chaparral | Coastal scrub. 320 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Pappose tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *parryi*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral | Coastal prairie | Marsh and swamp | Meadow and seep | Valley and foothill grassland. Vernally mesic, often alkaline sites. 1 to 500 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Perennial goldfields (*Lasthenia californica* ssp. *macrantha*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. 5 to 185 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Point Reyes horkelia (*Horkelia marinensis*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub. Sandy flats and dunes near coast; in grassland or scrub plant communities. 2 to 775 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Presidio manzanita (*Arctostaphylos montana* ssp. *ravenii*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Chaparral | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub | Ultramafic. Open, rocky serpentine slopes. 20 to 215 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint. Project locations are outside of known range and plant was not observed during surveys.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Robust spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*)	FE / - / 1B.1	Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal dunes. Sandy terraces and bluffs or in loose sand. 5 to 245 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. One recorded occurrence within 2 miles of Location 10, but observation is 100+ years old and consists of a 'best guess' of location. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint and species not observed during surveys.
Rose leptosiphon *(Leptosiphon rosaceus*)	- / - / 1B.1	Coastal bluff scrub. 10 to 140 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat present in the footprint.
Round-headed Chinese-houses (*Collinsia corymbosa*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal dunes. 0 to 30 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Bruno Mountain manzanita (*Arctostaphylos imbricata*)	- / SE / 1B.1	Chaparral | Coastal scrub. Mostly known from a few sandstone outcrops in chaparral. 275 to 305 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Francisco Bay spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata* var. *cuspidata*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub | Coastal dunes | Coastal prairie | Coastal scrub. Closely related to *C. pungens*. Sandy soil on terraces and slopes. 2 to 550 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Francisco campion (*Silene verecunda ssp. verecunda*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal prairie. Often on mudstone or shale; one site on serpentine. 30 to 645 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
San Francisco collinsia (*Collinsia multicolor*)	- / - / 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest | Coastal scrub | Ultramafic.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Francisco lessingia (*Lessingia germanorum*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Coastal scrub. On remnant dunes. Open sandy soils relatively free of competing plants. 3 to 155 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No recorded observations within 2 miles of project locations. Project locations are outside of known range and species was not observed during surveys.
San Francisco owl's-clover (*Triphysaria floribunda*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. On serpentine and non-serpentine substrate (such as at Pt. Reyes). 1 to 150 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Mateo thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha duttonii*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Chaparral, Ultramafic, and Valley and foothill grassland. Chaparral, Uncommon serpentinite vertisol clays; in relatively open areas. 50 to 185 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
San Mateo woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Cismontane woodland | Coastal scrub | Lower montane coniferous forest | Ultramafic. Often on roadcuts; found on and off of serpentine. 30 to 610 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No recorded observations within 2 miles of project locations and species was not observed during surveys.
Scouler's catchfly (*Silene scouleri ssp. scouleri*)	- / - / 2B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland. 5 to 315 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Short-leaved evax (*Hesperevax sparsiflora* var. *brevifolia*)	- / - / 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie. Sandy bluffs and flats. 0 to 640 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Two-fork clover (*Trifolium amoenum*)	FE / - / 1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub. Sometimes on serpentine soil, open sunny sites, swales. Most recently cited on roadside and eroding cliff face. 5 to 310 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. One recorded occurrence within 2 miles of Location 10, but observation is 100+ years old, isolated by urban development, and occurrence record consists of a 'best guess' of location. Species not observed during surveys.
Water star-grass (*Heteranthera dubia*)	- / - / 2B.2	Marshes and swamps. Alkaline, still or slow-moving water. Requires a pH of 7 or higher, usually in slightly eutrophic waters. 15 to 1510 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
Western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*)	- / - / 1B.2	Broadleaved upland forest | Chaparral | Cismontane woodland | Closed-cone coniferous forest | North coast coniferous forest | Riparian forest | Riparian woodland. On brushy slopes, mesic sites; mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities. 20 to 640 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.
White-rayed pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*)	FE / SE / 1B.1	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Open, dry rocky slopes and grassy areas, often on soils derived from serpentine bedrock. 35 to 610 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Common Name (*Scientific Name*)	Fed / State/ Rare Plant Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Woodland woolythreads (*Monolopia gracilens*)	- / - / 1B.2	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, broad-leafed upland forest, North Coast coniferous forest. Grassy sites, in openings; sandy to rocky soils. Often seen on serpentine after burns, but may have only weak affinity to serpentine. 120 to 975 m.	Absent	No potential to occur. No suitable habitat is present within the footprint.

Notes:

[a] Scientific nomenclature based on the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB; CDFW 2018); common names from CNDDB and other sources.

[b] Acronym definitions are as follows:

BSA = Biological Study Area

United States Fish and Wildlife Service Designations:

FE Endangered: any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
FT Threatened: any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Designations:

SE Endangered: any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
ST Threatened: any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rankings:

1A Plant presumed extinct in California
1B Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere.

CNPS threat categories:

.1 Seriously endangered in California.
.2 Moderately threatened in California.

[c] Blooming period and habitat information from CNPS (2018).

Sources:

CDFW. 2018 *California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rarefind 5*: Habitat Conservation Division. Sacramento, California. Available online at: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data

CNPS. 2018. *The California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* (Online edition, version 7.7). http://www.rareplants.cnps.org

USFWS. 2018. *The Information, Planning, and Consultation System*. Available online at: https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/

Table D-2. List of Special-Status Wildlife Species and their Potential to Occur in the BSA

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal/State Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)	-/SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils and open, uncultivated ground	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*)	-/SSC	Roosts in buildings, caves, and occasionally in holes in trees. Prefers rugged, rocky canyons. Small nursery colonies are formed in rocky crevices in high cliffs.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*)	FE/SE and FPS	Found only in the saline emergent wetlands of San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. Salicornia is the primary habitat. Does not burrow, but builds loosely organized nests. Requires higher areas for flood escape.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)	FT/SE and FPS	Nearshore marine environments from about Año Nuevo, San Mateo County to Point Sal, Santa Barbara County. Needs canopies of giant kelp and bull kelp for rafting and feeding. Prefers rocky substrates with abundant invertebrates.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris obsoletus*)	FE/SE and FPS	Nests and forages in tidal marshes and will occur in upland transitional habitats during high tides or flooding events when marshes are inundated.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal/State Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
California Least Tern (*Sterunlla antillarum brownii*)	FE/SE and FPS	Migratory in California; seacoasts, beaches, bays, estuaries, lagoons, lakes, and rivers.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)	FT/SE	Marine subtidal and pelagic habits from Oregon to Point Sal, Santa Barbara. Uses stands of mature Douglas fir and redwoods up to 40 miles inland for nesting.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)	-/SSC	Frequents coastlines, open grasslands, savannahs, woodlands, lakes, wetlands, edges, and early successional stages. Ranges from annual grasslands to ponderosa pine and montane hardwood-conifer habitats.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Saltmarsh Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*)	-/SSC	Woody swamps, brackish marshes, and freshwater marshes along the coast or San Francisco Bay region	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria* (=*Diomedea*) *albatrus*)	FE/-	Nests on sloping grassy terraces on two rugged, isolated, windswept islands in Japan. After breeding, short-tailed albatrosses move to feeding areas in the North Pacific.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*)	FT/-	Found on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal/State Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
East Pacific green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)	FT/-	Marine species that needs adequate supply of seagrasses and algae. The species primarily uses three types of habitat: beaches for nesting open ocean convergence zones, and coastal areas for "benthic" feeding.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)	FE/SE and FPS	Freshwater marshes, ponds, and slow-moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme northern Santa Cruz County. Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Upland areas near water are also very important.	Present	**Yes:** Locations 9-2 and 6 contain potentially suitable habitat.
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)	FT/-	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Present	**Yes:** The Alpine Road location contains potentially suitable habitat.
Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*)	FT/SE	Euryhaline, nektonic and anadromous. Found in open waters of estuaries, mostly in middle or bottom of water column. Prefer salinities of 15-30 parts per thousand (ppt) but can be found in completely freshwater to almost pure seawater.	Absent	**No:** The proposed project will not occur in suitable aquatic habitat.
Steelhead, Central California Coast DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)	FT/-	From Russian River, south to Soquel Creek and to, but not including, Pajaro River.	Absent	**No:** The proposed project will not occur in suitable aquatic habitat.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal/State Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)	FE/-	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River, Humboldt County. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Absent	**No:** The proposed project will not occur in suitable aquatic habitat.
Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*)	FT/-	Coastal dunes, and valley and foothill grassland. Restricted to native grasslands on outcrops of serpentine soil in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. *Plantago erecta* is the primary host plant, and *Orthocarpus densiflorus* and *O. purpurscens* are the secondary host plants.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Callippe silverspot butterfly (*Speyeria callippe callippe*)	FE/-	Open hillsides where wild pansy (*Viola pedunculata*) grows. Larvae feed on Johnny jump-up plants, whereas adults feed on native mints and non-native thistles.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Mission blue butterfly (*Plebejus icarioides missionensis*)	FE/-	Hills and ridgetops, as well as slopes with southern exposure with caterpillar food plants, *Lupinus spp.*	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.
Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly (*Speyeria zerene myrtleae*)	FE/-	Coastal terrace prairie, coastal bluff scrub, and associated non-native grassland habitats where the larval foodplant, *Viola sp.*, occurs.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal/State Status	Habitat	Habitat Presence	Potential to Occur
San Bruno elfin butterfly (*Callophrys mossii bayensis*)	FE/-	Coastal, mountainous areas with grassy ground cover, mainly in the vicinity of San Bruno Mountain, San Mateo County. Colonies are located on steep, north-facing slopes within the fog belt. Larval host plant is *Sedum spathulifolium*.	Absent	**No:** The footprint does not contain suitable habitat.

Notes:
BSA Biological Study Area
FESA Federal Endangered Species Act:
FE Federally Endangered: any species listed under FESA in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
FT Federally Threatened: any species listed under FESA likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
CDFW California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA California Endangered Species Act
SE State Endangered: any species listed under CESA as in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
ST State Threatened: any species listed under CESA likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
FPS Fully Protected Species: Species protected under California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) as a "fully protected" species (CFGC Section 5050). This State protection does not allow SFGS individuals to be taken or possessed at any time.
SSC State Species of Special Concern: is a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal (fish, amphibian reptile or bird) native to California that currently satisfies one or more of the following (not necessarily mutually exclusive) criteria:

- is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, is extirpated in its primary season or breeding role;
- is listed as Federally-, but not State-, threatened or endangered; meets the State definition of threatened or endangered but has not formally been listed;
- is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status;
- has naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from any factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.

Appendix E. Comment Letters and Responses

Comment Letter 1: Leslie Bulbuk, Office of Assemblymember Marc Berman

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Hello Nina,

1.1 I received the original notice for the public meeting, and noticed that you hadn't moved the Half Moon Bay sign from the location that the City Council said wouldn't be optimal, which was frustrating. I immediately sent my concerns to Chris Chance, my Caltrans liaison, and haven't heard anything. I'm hoping he reached out to you, but I have no idea if he did.

Is Caltrans considering moving the HMB sign to an area palatable to the City Council? Or do you just intend to move forward?

Thanks...trying to get a handle on this prior to getting contacted by the City.

Leslie

–

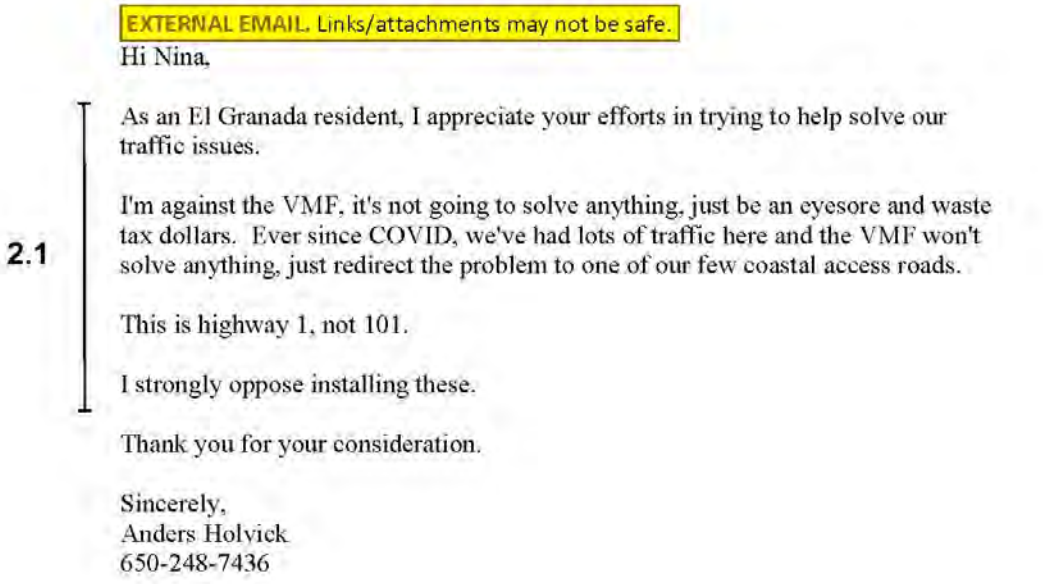
Leslie Bulbuk
Senior Field Representative
Office of Asm. Marc Berman
721 Colorado Avenue

Response to Comment Letter 1: Leslie Bulbuk, Office of Assemblymember Marc Berman

1.1

Your comment is in reference to the proposed VMS at Location 2, in the City of Half Moon Bay. This location, adjacent to the Ford dealership in Half Moon Bay, was considered for relocation and was considered in evaluation of the proposed project sites. However, due to input received from the Half Moon Bay City Council and community during the 2020 and 2021 public review periods, Caltrans has decided to drop Location 2 from further consideration as part of this project at this time. Caltrans could consider a sign in the vicinity of Location 2 as part of other transportation projects that would undergo separate environmental review. The remaining project locations and features have not changed. See Section 1.1.2, Background.

Comment Letter 2: Anders Holvick-Thomas



EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Hi Nina,

2.1

As an El Granada resident, I appreciate your efforts in trying to help solve our traffic issues.

I'm against the VMF, it's not going to solve anything, just be an eyesore and waste tax dollars. Ever since COVID, we've had lots of traffic here and the VMF won't solve anything, just redirect the problem to one of our few coastal access roads.

This is highway 1, not 101.

I strongly oppose installing these.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Anders Holvick
650-248-7436

Response to Comment Letter 2: Anders Holvick-Thomas

2.1

Your comment is general opposition to the proposed project. Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the project. To clarify, the proposed VMS would not prescribe detours or redirect traffic down residential or surface streets. The project would provide motorists with emergency and incident-related information, so motorists have the opportunity to reroute at safe locations (intersections with traffic lights) and not exacerbate traffic conditions at emergency locations. By doing so, this benefits locals who live along SR 1 and general motorists, by improving traffic congestion along the corridor and reducing the duration and impact of non-recurring congestion. VMS locations have been strategically identified where they would best serve the project's purpose (see Purpose and Need, Section 1.2) and minimize visual impacts See Section 2.1.1, Aesthetics).

Comment Letter 3: Brad Steinwede

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Nina

3.1 Placing signage as proposed along Hwy 1 at 10 different locations will do nothing to improve traffic flow, and will only serve to further raise frustration for those already ensnared in stop start traffic.

3.2 Signage should be placed at the intersection of the 280 and 92 to alert those traveling toward Hwy 1 of the already existing traffic conditions, giving them the option to turn back before they enter a traffic snarl that will take an hour or longer to travel in both directions. And perhaps at the other end where the 280 branches into the 1.

Yours Respectfully,

Brad Steinwede
Maramar
Half Moon Bay

Response to Comment Letter 3: Brad Steinwede

3.1

Your comment is related to the project not being able to improve traffic flow. The proposed project will give Caltrans the ability to inform the traveling public of roadway conditions quickly and effectively (see Purpose and Need, Section 1.2). Unlike current temporary message signs that can display a singular message, Caltrans will be able to operate the proposed VMS from the Traffic Management Center in Oakland. The project is expected to improve conditions along SR 1 by providing motorists with emergency and incident-related information upstream of an incident, so motorists have the opportunity to reroute at safe locations (intersections with traffic lights) and not exacerbate traffic conditions at emergency locations.

Caltrans anticipates that this project will improve traffic congestion along the corridor by reducing the duration and impact of non-recurring congestion.

3.2

Your comment is related to the placement of signage at the interchange of SR 92 and Interstate 280. Caltrans has identified key locations for VMS on SR 1 in the preliminary design developed to date. The placement of VMS at the intersection of SR 92 and Interstate 280 is not included as part of this project because it is

outside of the project limits and scope. The project limits are from the Miramontes Point Road Intersection to the Clarinada Avenue Undercrossing. However, a VMS at the interchange of SR 92 and Interstate 280 may be included and could be considered as part of a future Caltrans project.

Comment Letter 4: Deborah Lardie

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

4.1 Hi Don- I understand but this is overkill- too many, too big signs. There needs to be a balance in environmental impact for the sake of safety. Can it be scaled back on highway one - especially for something that is intended for emergencies? It seems the ones on 280 are used for "click it or ticket" type messages that are not emergency in nature and add little to our quality of life. Technology should work for us and not be an intrusion. Highway one is not a freeway and should not be treated as such. We will soon look like Hong Kong bombarded with electronics even in natural environments where we go to connect with nature.

Best Regards,
Deborah

4.2 Hello- We are opposed to the proposed large multiple electronic signs on the coastal highway 1. They are unnecessary and inappropriate for this scenic area. They will clutter the scenic highways with electronic distractions and submit drivers to visual blight.

Please do NOT move forward with this project.

Best Regards,
Deborah

Response to Comment Letter 4: Deborah Lardie

4.1

Your comment is related to the number of proposed VMS signs and scale of the project. Five signs are planned within an approximately 20-mile stretch along SR 1 in San Mateo County. Caltrans has carefully considered placement of signs to satisfy the purpose of the project which is to provide safety-oriented traffic information in the event of an emergency (e.g., fire, earthquake, evacuation, essential community communication). This project is needed because there are currently no traffic management systems along this route that can provide real time information on roadway conditions and emergency situations to the traveling public, including first responders.

4.2

Your comment is related to visual impacts and general opposition of the project. Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the project. Caltrans has determined the project will have less than significant visual impacts. To minimize the degree of visual impact, VMS have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur. The signs will remain off most of the time and be activated during emergencies only. Signs are proposed to be located adjacent to other built features and not be installed along Officially Designated State Scenic Highways. WDS are proposed for existing poles and would have no

visual impacts. Caltrans revised the proposed locations of three VMS at locations 5, 6, and 9. The revised locations would still serve the purpose of the project and would result in reduced visual impacts from the VMS. Of the five signs, two are proposed near each end of the project. The other three signs are spaced within the approximately 20-mile length of the project.

VMS proposed for the project would be 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. Caltrans looked into reducing the size of the VMS panels but determined that the size could not be reduced, because a reduction in size of the panel would not be large enough to convey emergency-related messages. VMS must provide space for 3 rows of text, each of which must be 12 inches in height so drivers can read the text. The 5-foot-tall panels allow for adequate space between each row while the 12-foot-width provides enough length for the messaging. Furthermore, the project will be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible to meet Local Coastal Plan requirements. Methods to minimize the signs' visual presence would continue to be explored in the project's design phase. The visual impact analysis at each project location is discussed in more detail in Section 2.1.1.

Comment Letter 5: Jon Borsodi

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

5.1 Please as a resident and registered voter take into consideration my opinion. The natural beauty of the area would be affected with an unnecessary and unjustified sign placed at this location.

Sent from my iPhone

Response to Comment Letter 5: Jon Borsodi

5.1

Your comment is related to visual impacts and general opposition of the project. Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the project. Please see Response 4.1 that addresses visual impacts.

Comment Letter 6: Jill Grant, Midcoast Community Council

Don,

6.1 My view is these signs have no value to midcoastsiders.

They say the intention to to direct motorists during an emergency or to alleviate heavy traffic but where would these motorists go? There are only two routes out. I remember the tsunami evacuation and the slow drive over 92. Others took the crawl over Devil's Slide. Having a large blinking sign will not open up other

6.2 Anyone with a cell phone (which is how they plan to collect data) can use an online app (Waze, Google Maps, Apple Maps, or built-in navigation systems) to receive emergency notifications, instructions and alternate routes.

6.3 **My view is we do not need more unnecessary sources of light pollution on the coast. This is a rural community. We should do everything we can to preserve our dark skies.**

6.4 As midcoaster Scott Boyd wrote in an email to MCC, "They had no details on the personal data they're planning to harvest from cars and passengers, nor any reference to a privacy officer or policy. In this day and age, loosely offered promises of anonymous data collection rarely turns out well, especially when it involves all the passengers with cell phones passing Caltrans' data collection devices every day (10,000 or more cars per day, right?)."

Sincere regards,

Jill Grant
Midcoast Community Council Member
P.O. Box 1569
El Granada, CA 94018
415*940*3392

Fight for things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Response to Comment Letter 6: Jill Grant, Midcoast Community Council

6.1

Your comment is related to the project not being able to improve traffic flow. Please see Response 3.1 related to traffic.

6.2

Your comment is related to relying on cellphone applications to inform motorists of roadway conditions. Caltrans cannot verify the accuracy of nor rely on private companies such as Google or WAZE to draw real time travel data to manage highway corridors under Caltrans' management.

These cellphone applications are third party applications and may not be available to all travelers. Furthermore, the use of cellphones and applications while driving is unsafe because they may contribute to motorists looking away from the road to view cellphone screens.

Caltrans requires real time travel information to assess traffic flow and congestion levels along all highway corridors. Continuous monitoring enables Caltrans to act quickly in emergencies for incident management purposes, and in this case, would allow Caltrans to communicate with coastal communities that are somewhat more remote than others in the San Francisco Bay Area.

6.3

Your comment is related to the proposed VMS causing light pollution (from the proposed signs). As discussed in Section 1.1.2, Background, changes have been made to the project to focus on safety-oriented traffic management rather than day-to-day traffic management. VMS will be off most of the time and turned on only during emergency events to inform the traveling public of important notifications, such as information related to evacuations in the event of fire, earthquake, and tsunami, plus information related to public safety power shutoffs, accidents, tunnel and road construction or closures, and Amber Alerts. Therefore, VMS will not be on 24 hours a day. The visual impact analysis related to light and glare is discussed in more detail in Section 2.1.1.

6.4

Your comment is related to data collected by the WDS proposed in this project. As mentioned in Responses 6.2 and 7.1, the WDS would collect generalized real time traffic parameters along SR 1 so that Caltrans has an understanding of performance and operational issues of the corridor and its major signalized intersection. Traffic data collected through WDS may be obtained through a

number of readily available commercial and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved detector sensor technologies, such as radar, Bluetooth, thermal imaging, acoustics, WiFi, or dedicated short-range communications (DSRC).

In all detection technology alternatives, the data that is temporarily captured through the sensor would not include personally identifiable information (PII) and cannot be used to match with individuals or vehicle owners. The primary purpose of a WDS is to collect traffic parameters, such as volume, occupancy, and travel speeds to support general traffic studies, real-time traffic management strategies, proactive safety applications, and corridor performance monitoring. Examples of possible real-time traffic management strategies include automated incident detection (AID) and adaptive traffic signal operations. An example of corridor performance monitoring is the Caltrans Mobility Performance Reports (MPR). (See website: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/mpr/quarterly).

There are approximately 40,000 traffic detectors of varying technologies including types of WDS installed on the California's state highways, all of which provide valuable insights to Caltrans, cities, and the public. None of the traffic detectors installed by Caltrans throughout the state collect or store PII and this project complies with that practice. The vendor and type of WDS that will be installed on the proposed project, will be determined during the design phase to ensure the most reliable, effective, and modern technology is implemented.

Comment Letter 7: Gregg Dieguez, Midcoast Community Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

First, and please pass these comments on to Leslie, whose email I forget, and others on your team. Your group has certainly listened and tried to be responsive to community input on the MidCoast.

7.1 However, I must convey that there is a groundswell of opposition to the Hwy 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project, as modest as it may be. Let me skip all the reasons, because you'll hear them from others (again), and note that I am just one (1) Council Member speaking on his own, and do NOT represent group consensus.

To be of tangible value the the MidCoast, any traffic work on Hwy 1 would have to do either of 2 things: 1. REDUCE the visitor traffic burden, which is both extremely annoying and a threat to health and safety in the event of an evacuation need. For some reason, while this seems an adjunct benefit of this project, it is not perceived as such ("Waze can do it just as well").

1

2. IMPROVE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS. Now this is something I believe you are headed towards, but note that any such warning system must work:
a. without PG&E power, which is sometimes manually shut down by them due to wind wildfire risk, and sometimes just fails on its own - as in the Lantos Tunnel episode a couple of years ago. and..
b. without CELL RECEPTION, which is also spotty here and got worse during the smoky wildfires which I'm guessing affected microwave transmission (and those cell towers could also lose power with a fire on/near Montara mountain).

Now, if your project provided a robust infrastructure which can overcome both those obstacles, I believe it would be a winner. For example, if this project were part of a larger emergency infrastructure upgrade MidCoast, which kept the tunnel open under ALL conditions, that would appeal. Whether the communications infrastructure would be broadband, or fiber optic, or some whizzbang new 5G capability is beyond my pay grade at present (it might have to be buried). That communications infrastructure could also enhance CalFire and resident communications. Merely having solar and battery backup on roadside devices which still rely on cell transmission is not safety enough. If that communications backbone is part of your project, then you need to announce that clearly; if it is not, see below.

7.2

I bring this up because the County is in preparation for submitting for FEMA money as part of its LHMP, and the first plans are due May 21st. And CalTrans - as best as I can tell - has responsibility/liability for several OTHER things that could be funded by those FEMA mitigation grants: Eucalyptus on Caltrans lands on Hwy 1 north of the tunnel, again in Frenchmen's Creek, on Hwy 92 east of HMB, and again in a right of way (ROW) extending from Pacifica to Moss Beach. Those trees are not only fire-starters, they threaten evacuation routes. There are several things of potential benefit to CalTrans which could be funded. I am involved in getting those plans and funding moving.

SO, big picture, there could be a place for your project, as part of an integrated, robust emergency warning and evacuation assurance solution, if the project more clearly meshed with other perceived needs. And NOW is a good time to fund a robust vision of such a system.

Let me know if I can help further this vision. Or improve your marketing message.

For more fascinating reading on the wildfire issue MidCoast, I suggest:
https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/fighting-the-wrong-fire/ and
https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/the-fire-next-time/

Regards,
--
Gregg A. Dieguez
Midcoast Community Council Member
Founder: MIT Club of Northern Calif. Energy & Environment Program
Recent Articles
P.O. Box 370404
Montara, CA 94037
650-544-0714

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Response to Comment Letter 7: Gregg Dieguez, Midcoast Community Council

7.1

You have noted that any project on SR-1 should provide reduction in visitor traffic burden. The proposed project would involve installing VMS to communicate incident and emergency travel conditions to motorists and installing WDS to measure travel times so that the Caltrans Transportation Management Center in Oakland has information on recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. In addition, the proposed VMS along SR-1 and the existing CMS at the Tunnels are intended to benefit drivers who visit the coast and emergency responders. While messaging will be primarily for incident management and emergencies, it will be useful for all drivers. The proposed system would not attract or result in more visitors to the coastal area, especially as it would not be active except when needed for traffic incidents or emergency travel conditions. Caltrans anticipates that this project will improve traffic congestion along the corridor by reducing the duration and impact of non-recurring congestion for all drivers.

7.2

Your comment is related to the proposed project being part of a larger emergency community network. Caltrans and San Mateo County OES have been working together to better integrate incident management operations between the two agencies. Initial efforts have centered around the San Mateo Smart Corridor and the Peninsula cities. One of the key initial activities is to establish a connection to the County EOC building and the Caltrans fiber optic system that will allow for future sharing of information, including SMC alerts and emergency vehicle preemption to supplement current practices. In addition, Caltrans recently installed a 2.0 mega-watt, low-emission generator system at the Tom Lantos Tunnels on SR 1 as a backup during power outages. The permanent power system will provide uninterrupted service in times of emergency.

Comment Letter 8: Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay City Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Ms. Hofmarcher,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Caltrans sign proposal.

I am a Half Moon Bay City Councilmember. Our Council has heard a presentation from Caltrans on the sign proposal and has twice considered its merits. In light of your desire to "work with local government", I reiterate the unanimous sentiment of the Council: we do not think the proposal is appropriate for our City. The main objections are

8.1

1. The proposed signs do not fit in with the rural nature of the highway. They are more appropriate for an urban setting.

8.2

2. Location 2 inside the City limits is a scenic area that should not be spoiled with a lighted sign.

8.3

3. The purpose of the signs (now to be used only for emergency communications) is obsolete. There are now many other better ways to communicate this information to motorists.

8.4

Caltrans would need a Coastal Development Permit from the City to proceed. In light of the above, I urge you to adapt the No-Proposal alternative.

Sincerely,

Harvey Rarback
650-619-1399

Response to Comment Letter 8: Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay City Council

8.1

Your comment is related to visual impacts, including the project not fitting in with the rural nature of the highway, and general opposition of the project. Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the project. As discussed in Section 2.1.1, Aesthetics, VMS have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur, and will be programmed to remain off until needed to convey critical emergency or hazard information to minimize their degree of visual impact. Project features would also be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible. The proposed project would

not be implemented in highly scenic areas along the coastline. Please also see Response 4.1 related to visual impacts.

8.2

Your comment is in reference to the proposed VMS at Location 2, in the City of Half Moon Bay, within a scenic area. This location, adjacent to the Ford dealership in Half Moon Bay, was considered for relocation and was considered in evaluation of the proposed project sites. However, due to input received from the Half Moon Bay City Council and community during the 2020 and 2021 public review periods, Caltrans has decided to drop Location 2 from further consideration as part of this project at this time. The remaining project locations and features have not changed. See Section 1.1.2, Background.

8.3

Your comment is related to other applications available to communicate information to motorists. It is assumed that you are referring to cellphones applications to inform motorists of roadway conditions. Please see Response 6.2.

8.4

Your comment is related to the need for a Coastal Development Permit and adopting the No Build Alternative. Caltrans would be required to obtain Coastal Development Permits from San Mateo County; the City of Half Moon Bay; and the City of Pacifica for this project. The project would be required to be consistent with their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs). Caltrans believes the updated project would comply with the policies of these LCPs. Table 1-3 in Section 1.5 provides a list of permits and approvals that would be required.

Comment Letter 9: Jill Grant, Midcoast Community Council

MESSAGE

9.1 Dark skies are a valuable resource on the Midcoast. We do not need more unnecessary light pollution along Highway 1. These signs will not alleviate traffic problems. Everyone driving has a cell phone with a cell

9.2 phone app such as Waze or Google Maps that gives them estimated time of arrival. Your signs will not help

9.4 in evacuation because there are only two routes out of the MidCoast and having a blinking sign will not speed up traffic. Your current temporary signage along Surfers beach are good example of a wasteful

9.3 product. These signs are on 24/7 with the message "use nearest Ped Crossing" one of the signs is placed at the entrance to the RV Park and the other is placed near the scape rap and parking area on the east side of Highway 1. Neither signs have made a difference and where people cross Highway 1. In fact at night people cross where the signs are because they see the blinking light and in their minds only read "use.. Crossing" so

9.4 that's where they cross. Please remove these useless temporary signs along the Highway 1. They're gaudy and ruin the coastal experience in this view corridor. Please give up trying to place permanent signage along

9.5 the MidCoast. Coastsiders do not want them. Instead use the funding to eradicate the Eucalyptus Grove on the Northside of the Tom Lantos tunnel and along Highway 1. This is money well spent as this is one of our 2 evacuation routes during fire. It would be unfortunate to have this route blocked because the eucalyptus were on fire. Thank you for doing the right thing!

Response to Comment Letter 9: Jill Grant, Midcoast Community Council

9.1

Your comment is related to lighting impacts on SR 1. Please see Response 6.3 related to lighting impacts.

9.2

Your comment is related to using cellphones applications to inform motorists of roadway conditions. Please see Response 6.2.

9.3

Your comment is related to the existing temporary signage on SR 1 near Surfers Beach. Removal of these signs is not within the scope of this project. This project focuses on emergency messaging (see Purpose and Need, Section 1.2). Caltrans is willing to work closely with the community and the local agencies to investigate, study and address any issues with this temporary signage.

9.4

Your comment is related to the project not being able to improve traffic flow and visual impacts along the corridor, and opposition to the project. Please see Response 3.1 related to traffic and Response 4.1 related to visual impacts.

9.5

Your comment is related to removing the Eucalyptus Grove on the north side of the Tom Lantos Tunnels and along Highway 1. Removal of eucalyptus is not

within the scope or purpose of this project. This project focuses on emergency messaging (see Purpose and Need, Section 1.2). However, Caltrans is willing to work closely with the community and the local agencies to investigate, study and address these safety issues along the corridor.

Comment Letter 10: Remi Tan

MESSAGE

10.1 Regarding the Hwy 1 project, this appears to be a traffic monitoring and roadside alert project. There is nothing to speed up flow of traffic- only the announcement boards may divert traffic away from a closure or incident... The traffic problems in Pacifica, El Grenada, and Half Moon Bay, are caused by the traffic lights. Would recommend deleting all the traffic lights between Reina Del Mar Ave. in Pacifica and Miramontes Pt. Rd. in Half Moon Bay and replacing them with traffic circles, as the stoppage caused by red lights is the culprit of the traffic backup, which are especially bad on beach days on weekends and holidays, as well as during commute and school hours. There should be funds unused from the cancellation of the highway widening project in Pacifica to help pay for the new traffic circles. Other ideas to smooth traffic flow that have no/minimal cost are: -eliminating roadside beach parking on east side of highway. This will prevent pedestrian automobile conflicts and slowdowns caused by pedestrians jaywalking across the highway to get to and from the beach. -eliminating left turns from west side beach parking lots not located at intersections. This will prevent slowdowns from cars crossing into the southbound lane.

Response to Comment Letter 10: Remi Tan

10.1

Your comment is related to the project not being able to improve traffic flow and makes recommendations for improving traffic along SR 1. Please see Response 3.1 related to traffic.

This project (as described in Section 1.3) is limited to providing information to the traveling public on SR 1 during emergency events and informing Caltrans' Traffic Management Center in Oakland, California, of recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. Other features, such as replacing traffic lights with traffic circles, are not within the scope of this project.

However, Caltrans is willing to work closely with the community and the local agencies to investigate, study and address safety issues along the corridor, develop solutions and identify appropriate funding programs that could fund projects that address community needs.

Comment Letter 11: Dan Haggerty, Midcoast Community Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Ms. Hofmarcher,

11.1 I am very much against this proposal.

1. These signs in no way are appropriate for our scenic and rural character of the area.

11.2 2. They will likely be vandalized as this seems to be more common in our area now, making the visual blight even worse.

11.3 3. There are many other ways to get emergency info out that do not require eyes to turn away from the road.

11.4 Please adapt the No-Proposal alternative.

Thank you,

Dan Haggerty
Midcoast Community Council Member
El Granada

Response to Comment Letter 11: Dan Haggerty, Midcoast Community Council

11.1

Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the project. Your comment is related to visual impacts. Please see Response 4.1 related to visual impacts.

11.2

Caltrans acknowledges that damage to state facilities, including vandalism and graffiti, is an ongoing issue. The state does repair or replace signs as needed. Vandalism and graffiti on Caltrans property and facilities can be reported at the Caltrans Customer Service Request Portal (https://csr.dot.ca.gov/). The online portal logs, schedules and tracks maintenance service requests. These requests are used to inform the workload of the nearest Caltrans Maintenance crew.

11.3

Your comment is related to other applications available to communicate information to motorists. It is assumed that you are referring radio traffic reports and cellphone applications to inform motorist of roadway conditions. Please see Response 6.2.

11.4

Caltrans has taken note of your comment related to choosing a No Build Alternative. Please note that Location 2, adjacent to the Ford dealership in Half

Moon Bay, was considered for relocation and was considered in evaluation of the proposed project sites. However, due to input received from the Half Moon Bay City Council and the community during the 2020 and 2021 public review periods, Caltrans has decided to drop Location 2 from further consideration as part of this project at this time.

Comment Letter 12: José Oseguera, California Transportation Commission

Hello Nina,

12.1 We received your Notice of Intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvement Project. At this time, the California Transportation Commission has no comment. Please notify the Commission as soon as the environmental process is complete.

Be well and best regards,

José L. Oseguera
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 653-2094 | Fax: (916) 653-2134

Response to Comment Letter 12: José Oseguera, California Transportation Commission

12.1

Thank you for your comment. To clarify, this environmental document is an Initial Study with Negative Declaration. No mitigation is proposed, only avoidance and minimization measures. Caltrans will notify the California Transportation Commission once the environmental process is complete.

Comment Letter 13: Kimberly Williams

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Dear Ms. Hofmarcher,

13.1 I am writing to oppose Caltrans' proposed project to install large electronic signs along hwy.1 along the coast from Half Moon Bay to Pacifica. I have attended all of the Caltrans meetings on this project and haven't heard anyone from the public fully support this proposed project at any of these meetings. The San Mateo coastside is a beautiful, natural and rural agricultural area and these kinds of signs will diminish the landscape, mar the view, and create more insensitivity of motorists along the roadway.

At the last meeting on this matter, Caltrans staff were clear that what the community wants doesn't matter to them and that Caltrans intends to go ahead with this project regardless of public opposition. There are fewer and fewer natural, rural landscapes these days to enjoy, and these signs are another encroachment that will impact quality of life, beauty of the place and rural character. Sometimes just because you can doesn't mean you should. There is no way these won't be a "visual intrusion". If you look at Location #2, the sign mars the view of the hills behind it. The locations near Moss Beach and the HMB airport will interfere with bird watching and bird habitat. Lighted signs will impact the ability to watch short-eared owls in that area as well as other species that hunt in the evening. There are several species of owls and rapters here, and if you haven't ever seen these, perhaps you might consider expanding your experience to recognize that beauty lies in the landscape and living things around you and not in lifeless, high-tech signs, asphalt and concrete.

13.2

13.3 I ask Caltrans to listen to the public and stop this proposed project. It belongs in an urban environment. This project will impact the coastside in a negative way.

Thank you for considering my comments. I forgot the deadline and didnt' have time to include more.

Sincerely,
-Kimberly Williams
Coastside resident

Response to Comment Letter 13: Kimberly Williams

13.1

Caltrans has taken note of your comment and is considering all public comments received on the proposed project.

During the public comment period for the previous draft Initial Study with proposed Negative Declaration in the Fall of 2020, Caltrans received input from the local community. Caltrans held a public meeting on September 10, 2020, and Caltrans staff made separate presentations to the City of Half Moon Bay City Council on October 6, 2020 and the Midcoast Community Council on October 14, 2020.

The community expressed concerns about the project, including the aesthetics and nighttime light impacts of the proposed VMS signs and their appropriateness in the coastal setting. As a result of public input, Caltrans reconsidered all sign locations and moved three of the proposed VMS sign locations (Locations 5, 6,

and 9) that were thought to be most in conflict with scenic views, with the goal of further minimizing the potential impacts of this project on visual resources. In addition, Caltrans revised the project to focus on safety-oriented traffic management, rather than the day-to-day traffic management that was previously presented. By doing so, the proposed VMS would be programmed to only be lighted during emergency events and would be off most of the time. Furthermore, Caltrans will considered all comments received on this project and the Initial Study with proposed Negative Declaration.

As discussed in Section 2.1.1, Aesthetics, VMS have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur and will be activated during emergency events only. Project features would also be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible. Methods to minimize the signs visual presence would continue to be explored during the project's design phase. The proposed project would not be implemented in highly scenic areas along the coastline. Please also see Response 4.1 for response related to visual impacts.

Please refer to the Section 1.1.2, Background.

13.2

Your comment is related to the proposed project impacting bird watching and bird habitat. The project will be implemented within Caltrans ROW; as a public safety concerns these areas should not be used for bird watching at any time. Furthermore, as discussed in Section 2.1.4, with implementation of avoidance and minimization measures proposed in Section 1.4, no impacts to protected bird species are anticipated. Additionally, construction activities will not interfere with public access to beaches, shoreline trails, and public recreation areas, that may include areas for bird watching.

13.3

Caltrans has taken note of your opposition to the proposed project. Your comment is related to the project having negative impacts on the coastside. It is assumed that you are referring to visual impacts. Please see to Response 8.1.

Comment Letter 14: Krystlyn Giedt, Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Hi Nina,

14.1 Thank you for accepting this comment in regards to the HWY 1 signage project.

14.2 The project as it is currently proposed does not seem fitting for the San Mateo Coastside. First and foremost, the project seems to be driven by a pot of money needing to be spent and not for the actual betterment of our community or its motorists. Although it's been stated by the CalTrans project team

14.3 that motorists would find the alerts useful, it has yet to be successfully conveyed how it's true in the number of presentations I have attended on this project. A CalTrans project team member continually points to a similar project on Hwy 50 as an example, yet continually fails to acknowledge or distinguish that we are a much different community than the area we are being compared to. It comes across as trying to fit a square peg in a round hole.

14.1 cont. Project team members continue to ignore our community dynamic or try to familiarize themselves with our area. The project team lead even had the audacity to tell us, the actual community, we just "were not accepting that this is for our own good". Her comments left myself and other community members feeling as though we were being treated like children who needed to eat our vegetibles. Quite frankly, the continued superficial presentations coupled with the disregard for meaningful conversation with our community members has been and continues to be reprehensible and outright disrespectful.

14.4 It was also dishearting in the most recent public presentation that the CalTrans team members seemed majoritivly unfamiliar with our County's public alert system, SMC Alert. With this sign project being positioned as an emergency alert system itself, it would have been fitting for the project team to have done comprehensive research and assess all of the current alert systems in use to see how they properly fit together. This showed an immense lack of preparedness from the project

1

14.4 cont. team and a continued lack of understanding of our area. Unfamiliarity of our area from the team has been brought up by the community at every meeting to date, yet the CalTrans project team continues to push forward with what seems to be bare minimum attempts to familiarize themselves.

14.1 cont. Overall, as the public meetings have commenced, the CalTrans project team has come across as uncaring of our wants and opinions, annoyed with our citizens asking questions, and determined to spend this money "in the only way they are allowed to".

14.5 I've made mention at the public meetings that the current CalTrans signage in our area is in continual disrepair. As a tourist destination, this reflects poorly on our town as travelers assume we are the ones poorly maintaining the signs. It would be a much better use of funds to fix what is already broken than to add new projects that do not move our community forward.

KRYSTLYN GIEDT
President
& Chief Executive Optimist
(CEO)

Half
Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce & Visitors' Bureau
ceo@hmbcoastsidechamber.com
:
(650) 479-6551
Want
to meet? Me too!
Click
here to book a meeting!

Response to Comment Letter 14: Krystlyn Giedt, Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce

14.1

Caltrans has taken note of your comment and will continue to consider all comments received on this project and the recirculated Initial Study with Negative Declaration. Caltrans will look to incorporate your feedback for development of future public meetings and improving coordination with Half Moon Bay on other future projects. Please see Response 13.1 for more detail.

14.2

Caltrans has noted your comment related to the project being driven by utilizing dedicated funding, rather than focusing on community needs. Caltrans believes that this project would benefit the local community and those visiting the area by providing motorists with important emergency and incident related information, allowing motorists to make decisions about their travel routes. Caltrans has made all efforts to adjust the project based on community input on the previous draft Initial Study. Please see Response 13.1 for more detail.

14.3

As part of this project, alerts related to incidents and emergencies would be posted on the proposed VMS to assist motorists with their travel choices. The project on State Route 1 originated as a travel time project, based on the experience with posting travel times on Highway 50, but conveying travel times on these signs on State Route 1 has been dropped.

14.4

Your comment is related to Caltrans' familiarity with SMC Alert, San Mateo County' s application used to send emergency alerts, notifications and updates, and the response provided during the public meeting held on April 8, 2021. Caltrans understands SMC Alert is managed by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, and alerts provided can include those from local police, fire, and emergency personnel within the County.

Caltrans and San Mateo County OES have been working together to better integrate incident management operations between the two agencies. Initial efforts have centered around the San Mateo Smart Corridor and cities along the peninsula. One of the key initial activities is to establish a connection to the County EOC building and the Caltrans fiber optic system that will allow for future sharing of information including SMC alerts and emergency vehicle preemption to supplement our current practices.

14.5

Caltrans acknowledges that damage to state facilities, including vandalism and graffiti, is an ongoing issue. Vandalism and graffiti on Caltrans property and facilities can be reported at the Caltrans Customer Service Request Portal (https://csr.dot.ca.gov/). The online portal logs, schedules and tracks maintenance service requests. Work by the nearest Caltrans Maintenance crew is prioritized based on these requests.

Comment Letter 15: Tina Wehrmeister, City of Pacifica

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Hi Nina – Pacifica has the following comments:

15.1

1. Pacifica is processing a preliminary development application for the area immediately adjacent to the new 9-2 sign location. We suggest opening a line of communication with this applicant. More info can be found here.

15.2

2. A two-sided sign at location 9-2 would be advantageous for motorists traveling in both directions on SR-1. It is important to notice southbound travelers about road conditions in or past the Tom Lantos tunnel before they miss their chance to turn around. Additionally, as experienced during COVID-19 related beach closures, early informational signage for southbound motorists regarding beach closures or other issues is a valuable public service that can help reduce congestion along SR-1 in the southern portion of the City of Pacifica and portions between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay.

15.3

3. Please be advised that the City of Pacifica has not made a final determination regarding Coastal Development Permit requirements and further communication between agencies is needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the environmental document.

Tina Wehrmeister
Planning Director/Asst. City Manager
City of Pacifica
650.339.3978

1

Response to Comment Letter 15: Tina Wehrmeister, City of Pacifica

15.1

Your comment is related to the City of Pacifica processing a preliminary development application for the area immediately adjacent to the new 9-2 sign location. Caltrans is willing to work closely with the City of Pacifica to help investigate, study and address any potential conflicts with Location 9-2 and the development application for the area adjacent to this location.

15.2

Your comment is related to providing a two-sided sign at Location 9-2. As part of this project, a VMS is proposed along the southbound lane of SR 1, between the exit and entrance ramps for Clarinada Avenue in Daly City (Location 10). An additional southbound sign in the City of Pacifica was considered and determined to be redundant with the existing CMS on located at the northern entrance to the Tom Lantos Tunnels when driving south on SR 1.

15.3

Before implementation of the project, Caltrans will consult with the City of Pacifica regarding requirements under a Coastal Development Permit. Table 1-3 in Section 1.5 provides a list of permits and approvals that will be required for this project. The application for a Coastal Development Permit cannot be submitted until the design phase of this project and after the Initial Study with Negative Declaration is approved. Additional opportunities for public input would occur during the local agencies' review of the applications.

Comment Letter 16: Chanda Singh, County of San Mateo

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Dear Ms. Hofmarcher,

16.1 San Mateo County appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project Recirculated Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration, March 2021 (EA 04-2K880). The County appreciates Caltrans' efforts to increase safety and address community and County concerns with the proposed project, including relocation of several proposed sites and use of smaller variable messaging signs. The following staff comments are based on our review of the Recirculated Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND), our previously submitted comments on the July 2020 IS/ND (attached), the County's Certified Local Coastal Program (LCP), and draft proposals in Connect the Coastside, the San Mateo County Midcoast Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan.

1. Permitting

Per the County's September 2020 letter, San Mateo County's LCP characterizes the proposed improvements as public works and requires that all public works projects within the County's coastal zone obtain a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). Similar to the initial IS/ND, the recirculated IS/ND Sec. 1.1.4 Planning (p.4) and Sec. 1.5 Permits and Approvals (p.41) acknowledges that project is in the coastal zone and would be governed by the County, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay's LCPs and requires a CDP or exemption from CDP requirements, and that it must comply with policies of the LCP.

16.2 2. Public Works

As previously identified in the County's September 2020 letter, the recirculated IS/ND Transportation and Traffic section does not reference the LCP policies below nor the potential impacts to the Parallel Trail. As part of the permit process, it will be necessary for Caltrans to demonstrate that the proposed project will not preclude the implementation of the Parallel Trail in the Caltrans right of way, specifically at site 6 in relation to the maintenance vehicle pullout and ground-mounted variable message sign.

San Mateo County's LCP Policy 2.50, states:

16.2 cont.

- "Require, at a minimum, and consistent with AB 1396, that CalTrans protect and make available adequate right-of-way to allow the future development of bicycle and pedestrian trails in accordance with the policies of the Recreation and Visitor-Servicing Facilities and Shoreline Access Components and the San Mateo County Comprehensive Bike Route Plan (CCAG) and the California Coastal Trail (CCT) Plan"
- "Through coordination with CalTrans, promote the development of a continuous Midcoast pedestrian/bicycle/multi-purpose path (or a system of single mode paths) parallel to Highway 1 as part of the overall CCT system."
- "Ensure that no roadway repair or maintenance project blocks or damages any existing or formally planned public trail segment or, if such an impact is not avoidable, that an equal or better trail connection is provided in conjunction with that repair and maintenance project either directly by CalTrans or through CalTrans' funding to a third party."

3. Agriculture

Although none of the sites within the County's jurisdiction are identified by the California Department of Conservation as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, the County's LCP identifies Prime Agricultural Lands as meeting specific Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Capability Classification (LCC) and Storie Index criteria.

16.3

Several of the proposed project sites (like 5 and 6) may fall within the LCP defined Prime Agricultural Lands (LCC Class 2). Section 2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources (p.53) states the project would have no impact on agriculture and forest land, or conflict with existing zoning laws for farmland or timberland. Acknowledgement of LCP Policies 5.1, 5.2, and 5.5 and the projects impacts on conversion of Prime Agricultural Lands should be assessed in the IS/ND to facilitate future CDP analysis and permitting.

4. Visual Resources

16.4

The County acknowledges the modifications in the recirculated IS/ND and appreciates Caltrans efforts in reducing visual impacts in the Midcoast.

5. Safety

16.5

Connect the Coastside includes a goal to improve safety for all modes of travel in the Midcoast through infrastructure and programmatic improvements, such as bicycle lanes along and sidewalk at certain locations along Highway 1. The County encourages continued coordination with Caltrans project EA 0Q130K which will restore the roadway along Highway 1, including adding bicycle lanes where feasible, such that this project does not conflict with bicycle lanes at locations with midwest guardrail systems or maintenance vehicle pullout. Per the County's September 2020 letter, the County continues to encourage Caltrans to consider providing a guardrail along the northbound side of Highway 1 from 14th Street to 16th Street, which has a high number of people walking along SR 1. The County also appreciates continued partnership with Caltrans in analyzing data that will be provided by the proposed project to inform future projects along SR 1.

Thank you,

Chanda Singh

Chanda Singh
Senior Transportation Planner

County of San Mateo
Planning and Building Department
csingh@smcgov.org
M: 408-781-1898
www.smcgov.org

Response to Comment Letter 16: Chanda Singh, County of San Mateo

16.1

To clarify, the Initial Study with Negative Declaration does not propose the use of smaller VMS signs then was previously discussed. Caltrans considered the possibility of reducing the size of the VMS panels. However, it was determined that the size could not be reduced because a reduction in size of the panel would not be large enough to effectively deliver useful messaging on emergencies and incidents to the traveling public. VMS proposed for the project would be 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

Before implementation of the project, Caltrans will obtain required permits and approvals from state and local agencies. Table 1-3 in Section 1.5 provides a list of required permits and approvals that will be obtained, which include obtaining a Coastal Development Permit from San Mateo County.

16.2

Your comment is related to the recirculated Initial Study with Negative Declaration's Transportation and Traffic section not referencing the LCP policies or impacts to the Parallel Trail. Table 2-2 in Section 2.1.11, Land Use and Planning, provides key provisions of the California Coastal Act, along with an evaluation of permitting the activities of the project. Additionally, this section describes how the project aligns with the San Mateo County LCP for Locations 5 and 6 and how the sign at Location 2 would have been and at location 9-2 is consistent with the respective Half Moon Bay LCP and the Pacifica LCP.

In addition, Caltrans understands that as part of the permitting process, it will be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed project, more specifically Location 6, does not interfere with or preclude the implementation of the Parallel Trail in Caltrans' right of way.

16.3

Your comment is related to impacts to prime agricultural lands. All the proposed VMS signs would be installed in Caltrans' ROW. None of the proposed VMS would be on lands that are designated for agriculture and no farmlands would be lost or converted to non-agricultural use by the project (See Section 2.1.2, Agriculture and Forestry Resources). In addition, Section 1.2.11, Land Use and Planning, describes how the project aligns with the San Mateo County LCP for Locations 5 and 6 and how the sign at Location 2 would have been and Location 9-2 is consistent with the Half Moon Bay LCP and the Pacifica LCP respectively. Caltrans would be required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit and demonstrate that the proposed project complies with the policies of each LCP and its ordinances.

16.4

Thank you for your comment. Caltrans has taken note of your comment.

16.5

Your comment is related to coordination with other Caltrans projects and implementing a 350-foot-long segment of guard rail from 14th Street to 16th Street to minimize safety issues for pedestrians as part of this project. The installation of guardrails for pedestrian safety is not within the scope of this project. This project focuses on emergency messaging. The proposed project is described in Section 1.3 of this document.

Caltrans is willing to work closely with the community and the local agencies to investigate, study and address safety issues along the corridor, develop solutions and identify appropriate funding programs that could fund projects that address community needs.

Comment Letter 17: Tom Clifford

17.1

The big red thing in my mail box

Strange and amateurish item. Read on if you'll accept constructive advice.
1 Way too wordy for the public. A good way to get it pitched *.
2 The two big paragraphs are confusing... one discusses a "virtual public meeting"; the other discusses a "virtual open house".
Yes I know that you know what you're talking about. Your job is to tell us what you think we should know.
3 A comment says "...information how to log-in will be provided ...". Really ..... how? when?
4 Maps must have a North-pointing arrow. Yours doesn't.
5 It would be useful to expand the description and value of the items in the project.

We're left with what the heck are they talking about?".
Do know an individual spends maybe 5-10 seconds per new piece of paper, before deciding whether to ignore and pitch it, or to read on and learn.
What's in it for me? It's all marketing. really

*If you want, I could edit the whole thing to a proper size/content.
Send it to me in Word, and I'll send in back mo betta. ... I do things like this for a living.

Cheers

Tom

Response to Comment Letter 17: Tom Clifford

17.1

Your comment is related to the proposed project notice sent via the U.S. Postal Service to notify nearby residents and businesses of the availability of the recirculated Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration, and a virtual public meeting held on April 8, 2021. Caltrans has reviewed your recommendations for future public notices.

Comment Letter 18: Peter Allen, California Coastal Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
45 FREMONT STREET, SUITE 2000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219
VOICE (415) 904-5260
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April 23, 2021

Zach Gifford
Branch Chief, Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation – District 4
111 Grand Avenue, MS:8B
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project
(San Mateo County, PM 26.4-47.2) (04-2K880)

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Commission staff would like to take this opportunity to provide some updated comments on this project, which has been modified and further reviewed under a recirculated CEQA Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration. We provided earlier coordination comments in a letter of June 13, 2019, attached here because it provides background on the project, as well as information on relevant Coastal Act and San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP) policies and our ongoing concerns about the project.

The project proposes to install traffic operation monitoring systems on Highway One from just south of Half Moon Bay (PM 26.4) to Daly City (PM 47.3). These improvements include wireless detection systems to collect traffic data and five "Variable Messaging Signs," (VMS) electronic signs that display traffic warnings to drivers. This project is within areas governed by multiple Local Coastal Programs (LCP), including the certified San Mateo County LCP, the certified Pacifica LCP, and the certified Half Moon Bay LCP. As mentioned before, portions of this this project are within the Commission's appeal jurisdiction.

18.1

Caltrans recently slightly modified the project in response to comments from the public and the local governments received in 2020. The most significant item of concern with this project is the proposed VMSs and their potential to conflict with LCP and Coastal Act policies protecting coastal views and the rural and scenic character of Highway 1; these are reviewed in more detail in the attached 2019 letter. It is worth noting again, however, that Highway 1 is fundamentally different from major highways such as Highway 101, and under the Coastal Act, the California Legislature clearly stated its intent that "State Highway Route 1 in rural areas of the coastal zone remain a scenic two-lane road."

The changes to the project sought to address these concerns by 1) slightly relocating signs to attempt to make them more context sensitive, and 2) proposing to leave the electronic signs off except in cases of emergencies or traffic-related incidents. We appreciate the modifications to the project and recognize that they improve the project. However, we do not believe that they substantially alleviate the conflicts with the Coastal Act and LCP policies. Although better sited,

18.2 and even if dark most of the time, the relatively large black electronic signs would be a

18.2 cont. noticeable mechanical presence in the landscape, incongruent with the rural and scenic character of Highway 1. We note that the visual simulations depict views looking at the front of the sign,

18.3 but the signs also potentially diminish views from the other direction looking at the back of the

18.2 cont. sign. Locations 5 and 6 appear particularly problematic. Location 7 is the installed larger electronic messaging sign at the entrance to the Tom Lantos Devils Slide Tunnel. We continue to

18.4 have concerns about this large sign as we do not have a record of its authorization and it seems inconsistent with the underlying direction in San Mateo County's Devils Slide Tunnel CDP to protect coastal views and the scenic character of Highway 1. For instance, Special Condition 17 of the CDP required that any signage (which only went to public access signage and did not approve any electronic traffic signs) "avoid impacts to scenic views and sensitive resources" and "be carefully designed to harmonize with the scenic qualities of scenic corridors." Other conditions also required that surface texturing and color treatments of the tunnel entrances emulate the surrounding rock coloration and forms to protect visual resources.

18.5 At the very least, this project needs a fuller description of the justification and an exploration of various alternatives. Modern technologies such as cell phones and, increasingly, on-board car map viewers, already are broadly used and provide rapid notification of traffic incidents to travelers. Temporary, movable electronic signs are another alternative that Caltrans frequently uses elsewhere in emergencies (e.g. fire or storm damage closures); they have the additional advantage of being able to be more flexibly placed along any highway location in the area where needed. A few signs might be pre-staged and stored at nearby Caltrans maintenance yards for simple rapid deployment. Mitigation for any visual impacts also needs to be proposed.

18.6 Finally, we are unaware of the Coastal Act authorization of any similar permanently placed electronic signs along Highway 1 in Northern California, excluding perhaps true urban areas such as San Francisco. We would have concerns about the precedent these signs could have for other stretches of Highway 1 in the state.

18.7 As stated above, this project does have locations within our appeals jurisdiction. Given the level of public interest in this project and coastal policy inconsistency, we note that it may be very difficult to obtain a permit from local jurisdictions and that there is the likelihood of an appeal to the Commission of any local coastal development permit approvals. Thus, in summary, we continue to have significant concerns about the project's consistency with the LCPs and the Coastal Act, unless substantially modified to remove most or all of the VMS locations.

Thank you for considering these comments on this project at this stage. Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions and we area available to discuss this project in the near future.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Peter Allen
3AE6626684D3470...

Peter Allen
Northern California Coastal Transportation Program Manager

CC: Nina Hofmarcher, Environmental Planner, Caltrans
CCC North Central Coast Staff

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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June 13, 2019

Marissa Brown, Environmental Planner
California Dept. of Transportation, District 4
111 Grand Ave
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: EA 04-2K880, SR1 PM 26.40 - 47.80 (Highway One Traffic Operational System, San Mateo County)

Dear Ms. Brown,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide initial comments on project EA 04-2K880 in San Mateo County during its preliminary Project Approval and Environmental Document phase. Coastal Commission staff appreciates the opportunity for early consultation in the environmental review process for projects in the Coastal Zone. The project proposes to install traffic operation monitoring systems on Highway One from just south of Half Moon Bay (PM 26.4) to Daly City (PM 47.3). These improvements include Bluetooth detection systems to collect traffic data and "Variable Messaging Signs" that display estimated traffic times to drivers.

Outside of one location (#10), this project is within the Coastal Zone. This project is within areas governed by multiple Local Coastal Programs (LCP), including the certified San Mateo County LCP, the certified Pacifica LCP, and the certified Half Moon Bay LCP. The Coastal Commission retains jurisdiction over any development proposed or undertaken on any tidelands, submerged lands, or on public trust lands, whether filled or unfilled, lying within the coastal zone. Here, however, based on the locations listed in the project description the repaving work does not appear to include any such locations. Therefore, the standard of review for Coastal Development Permit (CDP) authorization here are the policies of the San Mateo County, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay LCPs. However, multiple project locations do appear within the Coastal Commission's appeals jurisdiction and thus subject to potential appeals to the Commission.

This letter provides some preliminary comments based on a review of the preliminary project description. Further issues of consistency with the Coastal Act may become apparent as the project is developed or analyzed in more detail in the future. Given the early nature of this project and limited time for review, I do not cite all applicable specific LCP or Coastal Act policies but will merely highlight some potentially applicable coastal resource issues, which Caltrans should address in future planning documents or analyses.

Variable Messaging Signs

The primary coastal resource impacts of concern stem from the placement of the digital Variable Messaging Signs (VMS). There are currently six such proposed signs in the project, out of the ten project locations. Of these, the VMS sign at project location number 10 does not appear to be

in the Coastal Zone. All other VMS locations are in the Coastal Zone and in an LCP jurisdiction. Moreover, several VMS locations are in the Commission's appeals jurisdiction, including at the very least: Location 2: SM-1 PM 27.53 (HMB LCP); Location 8: SM-1 PM 39.36 (SMC LCP); and possibly Location 9: SM-1 PM 42.77 (Pacifica LCP). I note that Location 8 is described as an existing sign at the Tom Lantos tunnel that merely needs to be activated, but our understanding is that Commission staff has requested multiple times that this VMS be removed as inappropriate for the corridor and as unauthorized.

The primary Coastal Act concern with the VMS placements are the impacts to coastal views and coastal community character. Highway One in each of the LCP jurisdictions is a designated scenic corridor. In each LCP, different provisions reflect the Coastal Act mandates to protect coastal views and visual character of coastal reasons, as expressed in Coastal Act Section 30251, which states:

> *The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated . . . by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.*

For example, the Pacifica LCP states that: "Public roadways and facilities within the coastal neighborhoods shall be designed to be compatible with the scale, intensity and character of the neighborhood . . . ." (C-106), and the LCP states regarding Highway One specifically: "Safety and operational improvements and any future improvements shall ensure erosion control, protect views and improve the visual edge of the highway (C-112). Likewise, the Half Moon Bay LCP visual policies also reference Coastal Act policy 30251requirement that development be visually compatible with the character of the surrounding areas.

The San Mateo County LCP also includes multiple policies protecting coastal views and coastal community character relevant here. San Mateo County LCP policy 8.18 requires that: "development (1) blend with and be subordinate to the environment and the character of the area where located, and (2) be as unobtrusive as possible and not detract from the natural, open space or visual qualities of the area including, but not limited to, siting, design, layout, size, height, shape, materials, colors, access and landscaping." San Mateo County LCP policy 8.19(a) states that development shall: "Employ colors and materials in new development which blend, rather than contrast, with the surrounding physical conditions of the site." San Mateo County LCP policy 8.21 specifies in regard to informational signs that such signs be designed to "be simple, easy-to read, and harmonize with surrounding elements." Lastly, as relevant here, San Mateo County zoning code (and Local Implementation Plan section of the LCP) section 6325.1 (a) states that: "Public views within and from Scenic Corridors shall be protected and enhanced, and development shall not be allowed to significantly obscure, detract from, or negatively affect the quality of these views."

The installation of large signs providing information on traffic conditions with neon or LED lighting is not subordinate to the rural and/or scenic character of Highway One. The signs can cause significant changes to the character of an otherwise rural coastal highway passing through mostly small coastal communities or undeveloped coastal lands. By their nature, these signs cannot be designed to be unobtrusive or blended in with the surrounding elements. Although some specific locations may be in areas that have some semi-urban development, that does not mean the areas are compatible with large LCD/Neon blinking signs more compatible with dense urban areas or large interstate freeways.

Moreover, the installation of the VMS includes multiple other associated construction work or highway changes that can have impacts to coastal public access, coastal visual resources, coastal ecology or other coastal resources. For instance, the signs would require the installation of some 255 feet of new guardrail, require additional associated traffic boxes, wires, trenching and the construction or expansion of maintenance vehicle pullouts. There are also public access impacts caused by the construction activities that include potential lane and shoulder closures, for the estimated 100-day construction period.

Lastly, we question whether the informational signage is necessary, considering its negative impacts to coastal resources, given that the same information is now widely available on smart phones and increasingly, through embedded car navigation devices.

Given all that, we recommend that the project be revised to exclude the Vehicle Messaging Signs and develop other measures, if necessary, to improve driver awareness of traffic conditions in the corridor. Regardless, as Caltrans develops this project further, it is important that any future designs preserve visual resources and scenic views of the coastal environment from Highway One, consistent with the visual resources protection policies of the Coastal Act and the LCPs, as well as address other potential impacts to coastal resources including public access and coastal habitat. If Caltrans cannot revise this project to avoid those impacts, any approval by a local government under an LCP would potentially be subject to an appeal to the Commission and a review by the Commission.

Once again, we understand that this is an initial proposal and we appreciate the opportunity to provide early comments. We look forward to continued opportunities to work with Caltrans staff to provide ongoing feedback on the project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about Commission's staff comments, coastal act polices, or other issues.

Sincerely,

Peter Allen
Senior Transportation Program Analyst

cc: Tami Grove, Coastal Commission
Stephanie Rexing, Coastal Commission

Response to Comment Letter 18: Peter Allen, California Coastal Commission

18.1

In Section 2.1.11, Land Use and Planning, Table 2-2 provides key provisions of the California Coastal Act, along with an evaluation of permitting the activities of the project. Additionally, this section describes how the project aligns with the San Mateo County LCP, Half Moon Bay LCP, and the Pacifica LCP. Caltrans believes the updated project would comply with the policies of these LCPs. In Section 1.5, Table 1-3 provides a complete list of required permits and approvals that would be required.

18.2

Your comment is related to visual impacts of the proposed VMS signs. To clarify, Location 7 includes installing WDS modules on an existing highway lighting pole and connecting to power using an existing utility cabinet (see Section 1.1.4). Caltrans is not proposing VMS larger than 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. See Section 1.3, Project Description. New VMS is not proposed at this location. As discussed in Section 2.1.1, Aesthetics, VMS, including at Location 5 and Location 6, have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur. The VMS will only be activated or turned on to convey critical emergency-related information so as to minimize the visual impacts of the proposed signs. Project features would also be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible. Methods to minimize the signs' visual presence would continue to be explored during the project's design phase. The proposed project would not be implemented in highly scenic areas along the coastline. Please also see Response 4.1 for response related to visual impacts.

18.3

Your comment is related to visual impacts of the proposed VMS signs. Because it is not feasible to analyze all the views in which the proposed project would be seen, key views were selected that most clearly demonstrate the change in the project's visual resources. From this vantage point, the signs are more prominent in the traveler's view and the lighted messaging is visible. Views of the signs as seen in the direction of travel were determined to best demonstrate the project's effects to visual resources and represent the viewer groups that have the highest potential to be affected by the project considering exposure and sensitivity. The project will be designed to be as visually compatible with the character of the surrounding area as possible to meet Local Coastal Plan requirements when

Caltrans pursues separate Coastal Development Permits for this project (one from each LCP).

18.4

Your comment is related to the proposed project not being consistent with San Mateo County's Devils Slide Tunnel CDP. To clarify, Location 7 includes installing WDS modules on an existing highway lighting pole and connecting to power using an existing utility cabinet. See Section 1.1.4. Caltrans is not proposing VMS larger than 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall. Caltrans considered the possibility of reducing the size of the VMS panels. However, it was determined that the size could not be reduced because the signs must be able to display at least three rows of text, each of which is 12 inches in height.

As discussed in Section 2.1.1, Aesthetics, the proposed VMS have been located near more developed areas or where similar built features occur, and will be programmed to remain off until needed to convey critical information during emergency events. The proposed project would not be implemented in highly scenic areas along the coastline. The Initial Study with Negative Declaration found less than significant impacts related to visual impacts. Please also see Response 4.1 for response related to visual impacts.

Section 2.1.11, Land Use and Planning, describes how the project aligns with the San Mateo County LCP, Half Moon Bay LCP, and the Pacifica LCP. Caltrans believes the updated project would comply with the policies of these LCPs. In Section 1.5, Table 1-3 provides a complete list of required permits and approvals that would be required.

18.5

Your comment is related to why other alternatives were not explored in the Initial Study with Negative Declaration. Section 1.4 of this document, describes the preferred alternative, the Build Alternative, and the No Build Alternative. Caltrans requires real time travel information in order to assess traffic flow and congestion levels along all its corridors, and continuous monitoring enables Caltrans to act quickly in emergencies for incident management purposes, and in this case, would allow us to communicate with coastal communities. Caltrans cannot verify the accuracy of nor rely on private companies such as Google or WAZE to draw its real time travel data to manage the State Highway System. The use of cellphones and applications such as Google Maps and Waze while driving is considered unsafe, because it requires motorists to look away from the road to view cellphone screens.

Temporary and moveable electronic signs would not facilitate Caltrans' incident management abilities during emergencies as it would be too difficult to rapidly move temporary signage in the event of an emergency along the 20-mile stretch of State Route 1. Therefore, this alternative would not meet the project's purpose and need (see Section 1.2, Purpose and Need).

18.6

Your comment is related to authorization of similar permanently placed electronic signs along State Route 1 in Northern California. Similar signs have been authorized in this area, including the existing CMS signs at Devils Slide.

18.7

Caltrans acknowledges that an appeal to the California Coastal Commission for any local Coastal Development Permit is possible. Please see Response 18.1.

Comment Letter 19: Stephanie Foster

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

19.1 I know I'm a little late but do have a strong feelings about the trafic tie-ups on Highway 1.
Please do not put in any more trafic lights or and Round-Abouts. They really tie up trafic and make it worse.

19.2 Please DO put in two Pedestrian Tunnels in Moss Beach and one at Gray Whale Cove.
It would be nice to have one Pedestrian Tunnel at FrenchMans Creek in Half Moon Bay, and also one Pedestrian Tunnel near the bus stop in the Miramar.

Thanks for your time,
Stephanie Foster

Response to Comment Letter 19: Stephanie Foster

19.1

To clarify, the proposed project does not involve the installation of traffic lights or round abouts on State Route 1. The proposed project would involve installing VMS to communicate incident and emergency travel conditions to motorists and installing WDS to measure travel times so that the Caltrans Transportation Management Center in Oakland has information on recurrent and non-recurrent congestion on the corridor and the causes of that congestion. The proposed project is further described in Section 1.3 of this document.

19.2

Your comment is related to constructing pedestrian tunnels. The installation of pedestrian tunnels is not within the scope of this project. This project focuses on emergency messaging. The proposed project is described in Section 1.3.

Caltrans is willing to work closely with the community and local agencies to investigate, study and address safety issues along the corridor, develop solutions and identify appropriate funding programs that could fund projects that address community needs.

County of San Mateo - Planning and Building Department

ATTACHMENT D

Biological Impact Form Supplement

San Mateo 1 Bluetooth TOS Project

Caltrans District 04

San Mateo County, California

SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8

EA 04-2K880/ EFIS 0417000040

Prepared January 2021

Caltrans

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Gregory Pera, District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland CA 94612; (510) 286-5617 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, (800) 711-2929.

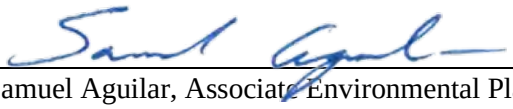
Biological Impact Form Supplement

San Mateo 1 Bluetooth TOS Project

San Mateo County, California
SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8
EA 04-2K8800/ EFIS 0417000040

January 2021

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation, District 04

Prepared By:  Date: 01/13/2022

Samuel Aguilar, Associate Environmental Planner (NS)
(510) 559-0184
Office of Biological Sciences and Permits
District 04, Oakland
California Department of Transportation

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Summary

This Biological Impact Form Supplement has been prepared to describe the potential effects of the proposed San Mateo 1 Bluetooth Traffic Operation System (project) on existing biological resources and natural communities in support of project environmental documentation. The purpose of the project is to improve the traffic management capabilities for Caltrans, cities, and first responders, and to provide information to the traveling public on State Route 1. Work will occur at the following locations:

Project Components and Locations

Location Number	Feature(s) to be Installed	Route	Postmile
1	WDS	1	26.3
2	VMS, MGS	1	26.28
3	WDS	1	29.04
4	WDS	1	32.86
5	MGS, MVP, VMS	1	33.22
6	MGS, MVP, VMS	1	33.33
7	WDS	1	38.48
8	Enable existing CMS	1	39.36
9	MGS, VMS, WDS	1	42.58/42.77
10	MGS, VMS, WDS	1	47.20

The project is needed because most of Route 1 in this area does not have traffic management systems, therefore Caltrans is limited in its ability to quickly and effectively manage Route 1 and inform the traveling public of roadway conditions and closures.

The proposed scope of work includes installing Wireless Detection Systems (WDS) in existing cabinets or on existing structures, ground mounting Variable Message Signs (VMS) onto wood poles, adding Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), and adding Maintenance Vehicle Pullouts (MVP) to assist with equipment maintenance. VMS and MVP would be installed in unpaved areas and the WDS modules predominantly in paved and developed areas. The existing Changeable Message Signs (CMS) at the Tom Lantos Tunnels will also be enabled to display travel times when appropriate.

All construction activities will take place within Caltrans right of way. TCEs and utility easements are not required. Permanent right of way acquisitions and permanent easements are not required. Construction is anticipated to take 100 days to complete.

Caltrans biologists have conducted a database and literature review as well as field surveys of the study area to identify and assess the presence of natural communities and habitats of concern and the potential for special-status species to be affected by project activities.

The proposed project has potential to impact two federally and/or state listed species: California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii)* and San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetraenia*). The proposed project will not impact wetlands or waters of the U.S., riparian habitat, or designated fish habitat.

Caltrans will implement standard best management practices as well as avoidance and minimization measures during construction to reduce potential impacts to natural resources, including impacts to plant and wildlife species.

Table of Contents

Project Location

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing the San Mateo 1 Bluetooth Traffic Operation System Project (project) located at ten sites between postmiles 26.0 to 47.8 along State Route (SR) 1 in San Mateo County. While this report contains only the five project locations relevant to this permit, location numbering will follow that for the greater project.

Location 4 – SR 1 at Capistrano Road, PM 32.86, Latitude 39.505396, Longitude -122.481205.

Location 5 – SR 1 at Coral Reef Avenue, PM 33.22, Latitude 37.508245, Longitude -122.486156.

Location 6 – SR1, centered at approximately 625 feet north of the Coral Reef Ave intersection, PM 33.33, Latitude 37.509251, Longitude -122.487107.

Location 7 – SR1 at the turnoff for Devil's Slide parking lot, PM 38.48, Latitude 37.570515, Longitude -122.516020.

Location 8 – West of southern entrance to Tom Lantos Tunnels, between the southbound tunnel and the roadway to the Devil's Slide Trail parking lot, PM 39.66, Latitude 37.571703, Longitude -122.515907. SR 1 median at northern entrance to Tom Lantos Tunnels, PM 39.36, Latitude 37.582570, Longitude -122.509727.

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: N/A for locations 4-7, APN 023741010 for location 8.

Principal Investigators

Samuel Aguilar
Associate Environmental Planner (Natural Sciences), Caltrans District 4
Mailing Address: 111 Grand Ave. (MS 8E), Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: 510-559-0184
Email: Samuel.Aguilar@dot.ca.gov

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Report Summary

Briefly state the results of the report, habitat type, rare, endangered or unique species present, anticipated impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.

No impacts are anticipated to sensitive habitats and rare or special-status plants. Work will occur on paved surfaces or on the unpaved highway shoulder, which is composed of primarily of grasses and ruderal vegetation. While some project activities occur near sensitive habitats, such as Denniston Creek, work will not occur within any sensitive habitat, and with the use of construction best management practices (e.g. erosion control) there will be no impacts to sensitive habitat.

Two special-status animal species, California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*, CRLF) and San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*, SFGS) have an extremely low probability of being affected by project activities, and any potential impacts would be insignificant* or discountable*. Caltrans has consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, service) for these species. The service has concurred that project activities *may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect* the two species, and has issued a Letter of Concurrence covering project activities.

No compensatory mitigation is proposed as there will be no permanent impacts to any sensitive habitat or species.

*Insignificant – effects that are so small they cannot be meaningfully measured.
*Discountable – effects that are extremely unlikely to occur.

1.1. Project and Property Description

The proposed project will occur at ten locations within San Mateo County, five of which are described below. All project locations are adjacent to SR 1. MGS, MVP, and VMS construction will occur on the unpaved shoulder of SR1. Installation of WDS modules will occur on a both paved and unpaved shoulders of SR 1. Maps of study areas are included in Appendix A.

Location 4 is a mix of developed and open land, with development, including SR 1, being the dominant land cover. The project footprint is dominated by ice plant (*Carpobrotus sp*.) and this is likely the only species impacted by work at this location. Other species observed within the study area include Pines (*Pinus sp*.), Calla lily (*Calla palustris*), Jade plant (*Crassula ovata*), African flag (*Chasmanthe floribunda*), Slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), Wall barley (*Hordeum Murinum*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), and other ornamental, native, and non-native

grasses. No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location are Dennison clay loam (nearly level), Dennison coarse sandy loam (nearly level), and Dennison loam (nearly level and gently sloping).

Location 5 is a mix of agricultural land, roadway, and ruderal and undeveloped lands adjacent to SR 1. The undeveloped lands in the study area at this location are subject to regular mowing and are characterized by native and non-native grasses, with identifiable plants consisting of Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Sweet scabious (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*), Tidy tips (*Layia Platyglossa*), Slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), Beach strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), Coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Willow (*Salix sp.*), Cypress (*Cupressus sp.*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*), and Common vetch (*Vicia sativa*). No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Dennison loam (nearly level) and Gullied land (alluvial soil material).

Location 6 is a mix agricultural land, roadway, ruderal and undeveloped lands adjacent to SR 1, and residential development. The undeveloped lands adjacent to SR 1 at this location are subject to regular mowing and are characterized by native and non-native grasses, with identifiable plants consisting of Willow (*Salix sp.*), Pampass grass (*Cortaderia Selloana*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Wall barley (*Hordeum Murinum*), Slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*), Cypress (*Cupressus sp.*), and Pine (*Pinus sp.*). No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Dennison clay loam (nearly level), Dennison loam (sloping), and Elkhorn sandy loam (moderately steep, severely eroded).

Location 7 consists of roadway (SR1 and adjacent roads and parking lot) and coastal bluff. The majority of the study area is inaccessible due to its topography, but surveyable areas contain mostly ice plant (*Carpobrotus sp.*), with a small amount of other species such as Summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Lupine (*Lupinus sp.*), Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), and Beach wormwood (*Artemisia pycnocephala*). No rare or special-status plant species were observed within the study area at this location. Soil types at this location consist of Rock outcrop (orthents complex, 30 to 75 percent slopes) and Scarper-Miramar complex (30 to 75 percent slopes).

A study area was not designated for location 8 due to work consisting of controller programming, with no ground disturbing activities, and baseline levels of disturbance from highway traffic which greatly exceed that of the work proposed.

1.2. Methodology

The following sources were consulted prior to, during, and after field studies to obtain information regarding the potential for protected species to occur within the vicinity of the project:

- Official species lists from the Sacramento Office of the USFWS generated using the Information, Planning and Conservation System.
- An official species list obtained from National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- The USFWS designated Critical Habitat Mapper.
- The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) RareFind 5 database.
- The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants database search.

In addition, the literature search included a review of the USFWS National Wetland Inventory, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Fish Passage Assessment Database, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Ground-based photographs, aerial imagery, and existing commercial and other regulatory agency resources (e.g. CDFW Wildlife Habitat Relationships System, and the Federal Register (FR) and recovery plans for selected species) were utilized to assess the potential for special-status species to occur.

Caltrans biologists conducted multiple site visits during 2019, 2020, and 2021 to assess existing conditions and biological resources. Biologists surveyed for rare plants, wildlife, and conducted wildlife habitat assessments.

Rare Plant Survey

Surveys for rare plants were conducted in 2019 and 2020. Surveys were floristic in nature; biologists identified all plant species encountered during the surveys to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity. The goal of the rare plant surveys was to locate, map, and census any special-status or rare (CNPS ranks 1.B and 2.B) plant populations. No federally listed, state listed, rare, or other special-status plant species were observed during the rare plant surveys.

Field Methodology and Impact Analysis

During field surveys, the biologists identified the location, composition, and extent of plant communities and wildlife habitats within the study areas. The potential for special-status and rare

plant and wildlife species to occur was evaluated using information obtained during site visits, in combination with background review, and other resources listed above.

ArcGIS (ESRI®, Redlands, CA) was used to determine the amount of habitat supporting listed species or that would be impacted by the project. Habitat impact numbers were calculated by digitizing the acreages of different habitat types within the study area and overlaying these with the project footprint and impact areas.

Limitations that May Influence Results

No protocol-level wildlife surveys for special-status species were conducted. Rare plant surveys were conducted at a reconnaissance level and protocol-level surveys were not performed.

1.3. Results

Project activities will be limited to paved surfaces or along the unpaved SR 1 shoulder, which consists primarily of grasses and ruderal vegetation. These unpaved surfaces do not provide habitat for any rare or special-status plants or wildlife. These areas are of very little to no value as habitat for any wildlife species due to regular mowing of these areas and high levels of noise and vibration caused by vehicular traffic. Location specific habitat detail is presented in section 1.1 (Project and Property Description). No wetland or water features are located within the project footprint. Sensitive areas are located within 100 feet of the project footprint at locations 5 and 6, and consist of Denniston Creek and riparian vegetation, as well as roadside ditches classified as riverine wetland (R4SBAx). No impacts are anticipated to these sensitive habitats are outside of the project footprint.

62 plant species and 16 wildlife species were evaluated for potential to occur at project sites. All plant species and 14 wildlife species were determined to have no potential to occur for one or more of the following reasons:

- No suitable habitat exists within and in the vicinity of project locations.
- Because project locations are outside the species' known ranges.
- Based on negative survey results.

1.4. List all direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project on the habitat.

Location 4 – No impacts to sensitive habitat are anticipated at this location. Work will consist of personnel installing detection equipment into an existing utility cabinet, with no ground disturbing activities.

Location 5 – No impacts to sensitive habitat are anticipated at this location. Work will be confined to the unpaved SR 1 shoulder which consists primarily of grasses and ruderal vegetation.

Location 6 – No impacts to sensitive habitat are anticipated at this location. Work will be confined to the unpaved SR 1 shoulder which consists primarily of grasses and ruderal vegetation.

Location 7 – No impacts to sensitive habitat are anticipated at this location. Work will consist of personnel installing detection equipment into an existing utility cabinet, with work confined within paved surfaces.

Location 8 – No impacts are anticipated at this location. Work will consist of personnel performing CMS controller programming and enablement, with no ground disturbing activities.

1.5. List and discuss all probable impacts to threatened, rare, endangered or unique species either listed or proposed by the Local Coastal Program, a Federal or State agency, or the California Native Plant Society, both on-site and within an area of one quarter-mile radius from the project location.

Location 4 – No probable impacts are anticipated at this location.

Location 5 – No probable impacts are anticipated at this location. Although no habitat for SFGS or CRLF occurs within the project footprint, an extremely unlikely possibility exists that a wandering SFGS or CRLF individual may travel near or within the project footprint. With implementation of construction best management practices and avoidance and minimization measures any potential effects to these species would be insignificant or discountable.

Location 6 – No probable impacts are anticipated at this location. Although no habitat for SFGS or CRLF occurs within the project footprint, an extremely unlikely possibility exists that a wandering SFGS or CRLF individual may travel near or within the project footprint. With implementation of construction best management practices and avoidance and minimization measures any potential effects to these species would be insignificant or discountable.

Location 7 – No probable impacts are anticipated at this location.

Location 8 – No probable impacts are anticipated at this location.

1.6. Tabulate by significant impact all feasible mitigation measures proposed to reduce the level of impact and explain how such measures will be successful

No significant impacts are anticipated.

Appendix A. Maps

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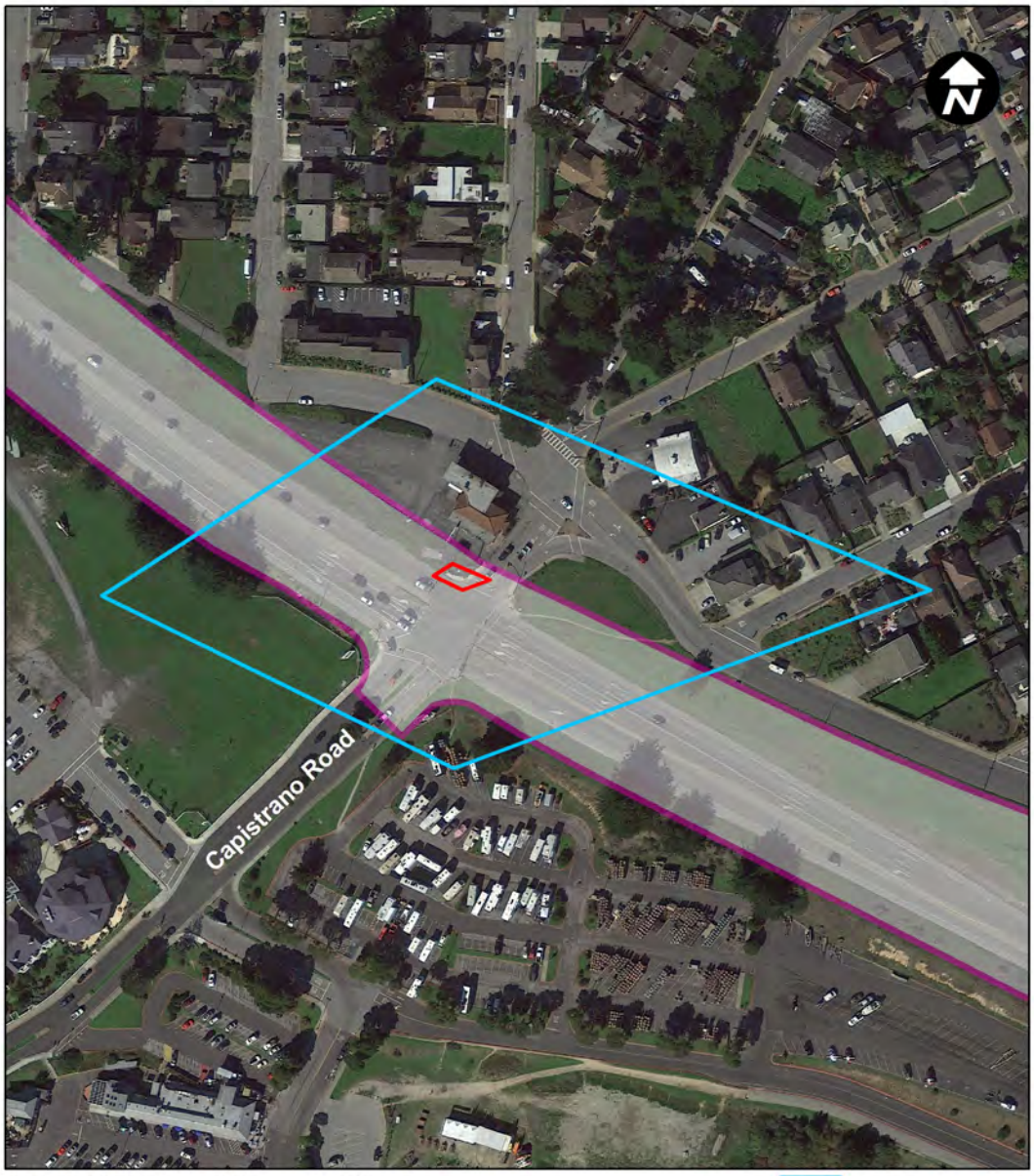
Project Location Map

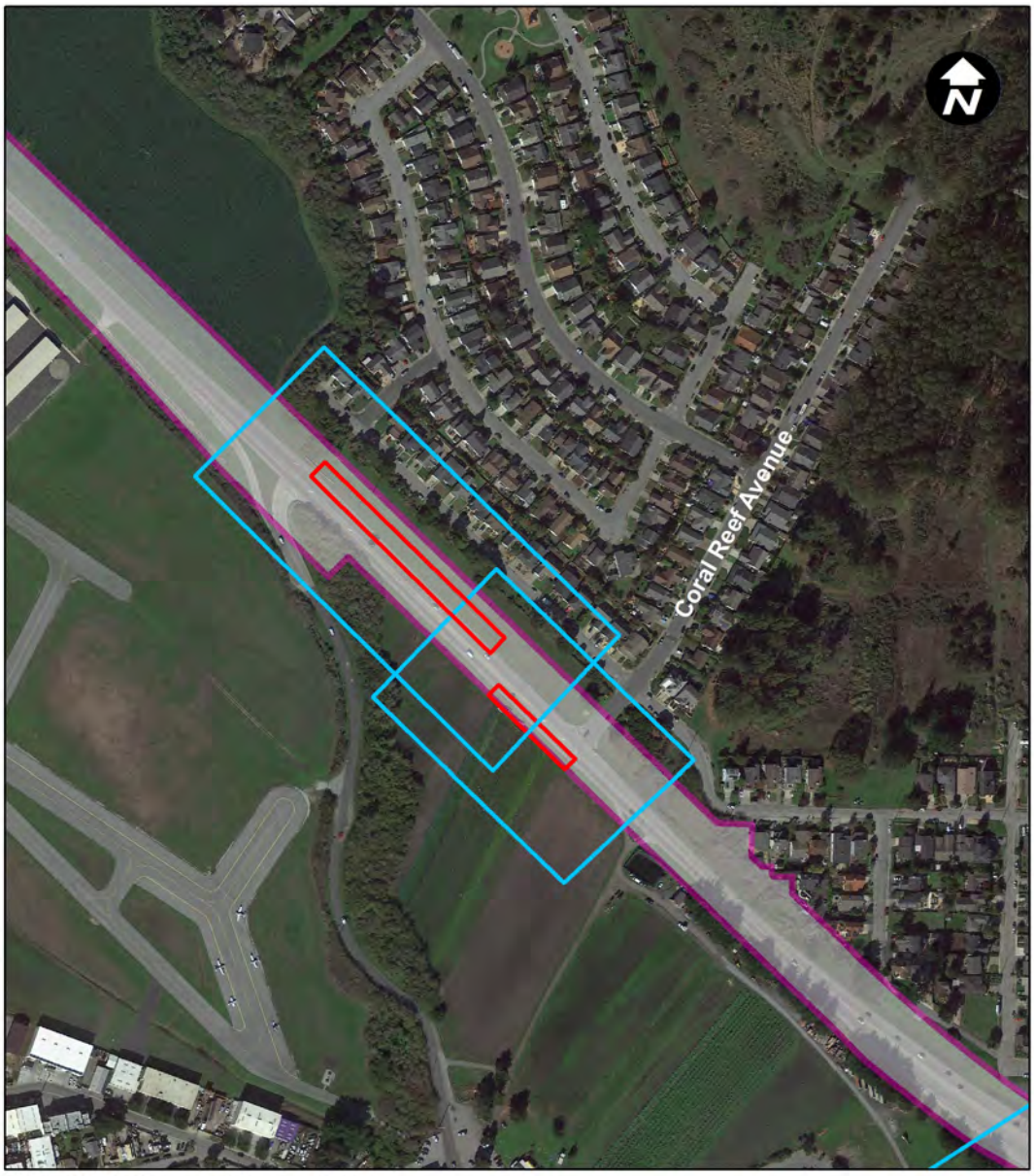
SM 1 Bluetooth TOS
SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8
2K880 / 0417000040



Project Sampling Map - Location 4

SM 1 Bluetooth TOS
SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8
2K880 / 0417000040

Physical sampling/surveys occured in areas within both the study area and state right of way. Unpaved areas within the study area but outside of the state right of way were surveyed using binoculars.



0 0.0250.05 0.1 0.15
Miles

Study Area
Project Footprint
State Right of Way

Project Sampling Map - Locations 5 and 6

SM 1 Bluetooth TOS
SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8
2K880 / 0417000040

Physical sampling/surveys occured in areas within both the study area and state right of way. Unpaved areas within the study area but outside of the state right of way were surveyed using binoculars.

Caltrans

Project Sampling Map - Location 7

SM 1 Bluetooth TOS
SM-1-PM-26.0-47.8
2K880 / 0417000040

Limited survey effort at this location due to topography.

Caltrans

No map provided for Location 8 due to limited nature (controller programming) of work.

County of San Mateo - Planning and Building Department

ATTACHMENT E

Comment Letter 16: Chanda Singh, County of San Mateo

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Dear Ms. Hofmarcher,

16.1 San Mateo County appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on State Route 1 Traffic Operational Systems Improvements Project Recirculated Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration, March 2021 (EA 04-2K880). The County appreciates Caltrans' efforts to increase safety and address community and County concerns with the proposed project, including relocation of several proposed sites and use of smaller variable messaging signs. The following staff comments are based on our review of the Recirculated Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND), our previously submitted comments on the July 2020 IS/ND (attached), the County's Certified Local Coastal Program (LCP), and draft proposals in Connect the Coastside, the San Mateo County Midcoast Comprehensive Transportation Management Plan.

1. Permitting

Per the County's September 2020 letter, San Mateo County's LCP characterizes the proposed improvements as public works and requires that all public works projects within the County's coastal zone obtain a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). Similar to the initial IS/ND, the recirculated IS/ND Sec. 1.1.4 Planning (p.4) and Sec. 1.5 Permits and Approvals (p.41) acknowledges that project is in the coastal zone and would be governed by the County, Pacifica, and Half Moon Bay's LCPs and requires a CDP or exemption from CDP requirements, and that it must comply with policies of the LCP.

16.2 2. Public Works

As previously identified in the County's September 2020 letter, the recirculated IS/ND Transportation and Traffic section does not reference the LCP policies below nor the potential impacts to the Parallel Trail. As part of the permit process, it will be necessary for Caltrans to demonstrate that the proposed project will not preclude the implementation of the Parallel Trail in the Caltrans right of way, specifically at site 6 in relation to the maintenance vehicle pullout and ground-mounted variable message sign.

San Mateo County's LCP Policy 2.50, states:

16.2 cont.

- "Require, at a minimum, and consistent with AB 1396, that CalTrans protect and make available adequate right-of-way to allow the future development of bicycle and pedestrian trails in accordance with the policies of the Recreation and Visitor-Servicing Facilities and Shoreline Access Components and the San Mateo County Comprehensive Bike Route Plan (CCAG) and the California Coastal Trail (CCT) Plan"
- "Through coordination with CalTrans, promote the development of a continuous Midcoast pedestrian/bicycle/multi-purpose path (or a system of single mode paths) parallel to Highway 1 as part of the overall CCT system."
- "Ensure that no roadway repair or maintenance project blocks or damages any existing or formally planned public trail segment or, if such an impact is not avoidable, that an equal or better trail connection is provided in conjunction with that repair and maintenance project either directly by CalTrans or through CalTrans' funding to a third party."

3. Agriculture

Although none of the sites within the County's jurisdiction are identified by the California Department of Conservation as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, the County's LCP identifies Prime Agricultural Lands as meeting specific Natural Resources Conservation Service Land Capability Classification (LCC) and Storie Index criteria.

16.3

Several of the proposed project sites (like 5 and 6) may fall within the LCP defined Prime Agricultural Lands (LCC Class 2). Section 2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources (p.53) states the project would have no impact on agriculture and forest land, or conflict with existing zoning laws for farmland or timberland. Acknowledgement of LCP Policies 5.1, 5.2, and 5.5 and the projects impacts on conversion of Prime Agricultural Lands should be assessed in the IS/ND to facilitate future CDP analysis and permitting.

4. Visual Resources

16.4

The County acknowledges the modifications in the recirculated IS/ND and appreciates Caltrans efforts in reducing visual impacts in the Midcoast.

5. Safety

16.5

Connect the Coastside includes a goal to improve safety for all modes of travel in the Midcoast through infrastructure and programmatic improvements, such as bicycle lanes along and sidewalk at certain locations along Highway 1. The County encourages continued coordination with Caltrans project EA 0Q130K which will restore the roadway along Highway 1, including adding bicycle lanes where feasible, such that this project does not conflict with bicycle lanes at locations with midwest guardrail systems or maintenance vehicle pullout. Per the County's September 2020 letter, the County continues to encourage Caltrans to consider providing a guardrail along the northbound side of Highway 1 from 14th Street to 16th Street, which has a high number of people walking along SR 1. The County also appreciates continued partnership with Caltrans in analyzing data that will be provided by the proposed project to inform future projects along SR 1.

Thank you,

Chanda Singh

Chanda Singh
Senior Transportation Planner

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Response to Comment Letter 16: Chanda Singh, County of San Mateo

16.1

To clarify, the Initial Study with Negative Declaration does not propose the use of smaller VMS signs then was previously discussed. Caltrans considered the possibility of reducing the size of the VMS panels. However, it was determined that the size could not be reduced because a reduction in size of the panel would not be large enough to effectively deliver useful messaging on emergencies and incidents to the traveling public. VMS proposed for the project would be 12 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

Before implementation of the project, Caltrans will obtain required permits and approvals from state and local agencies. Table 1-3 in Section 1.5 provides a list of required permits and approvals that will be obtained, which include obtaining a Coastal Development Permit from San Mateo County.

16.2

Your comment is related to the recirculated Initial Study with Negative Declaration's Transportation and Traffic section not referencing the LCP policies or impacts to the Parallel Trail. Table 2-2 in Section 2.1.11, Land Use and Planning, provides key provisions of the California Coastal Act, along with an evaluation of permitting the activities of the project. Additionally, this section describes how the project aligns with the San Mateo County LCP for Locations 5 and 6 and how the sign at Location 2 would have been and at location 9-2 is consistent with the respective Half Moon Bay LCP and the Pacifica LCP.

In addition, Caltrans understands that as part of the permitting process, it will be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed project, more specifically Location 6, does not interfere with or preclude the implementation of the Parallel Trail in Caltrans' right of way.