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EA 05-12910
Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

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RE: PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- Final design details and right of way clearance activities continue on the 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. The Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate (PS&E) – (Design Phase) of the project, and Right of Way Certification are on schedule for a construction start date of August 2005.
- STIP funding availability is still in question, and may impact the schedule of this project. The 2004 STIP will be approved by the CTC in September at which time we will know about funding availability. In August we will see a Draft. Contingency plans are being considered to keep the project on schedule if STIP funding is not available next year.
- The design team met with the City of Santa Cruz to discuss detour plans. Ramp closures, and closure of the Branciforte overcrossing will divert traffic onto city streets as motorists are diverted to other on- and off-ramps. The city is considering emergency services and pedestrian/bicycle access before approving the plan. At that meeting there was also discussion about improvements to highway drainage and the city storm drain system to improve drainage and flooding issues which currently exist, landscape maintenance on the city side of the soundwalls (which will be the responsibility of the city), and city requirements for water and sewer utilities that cross Highway 1 (which Caltrans will incorporate into the project specifications).

Luis Duazo,
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Caltrans