

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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ATTACHMENT - 2

*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

March 2, 2005

Pat Dellin, Acting Executive Director  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911

Dear Ms. Dellin:

**SANTA CRUZ HIGHWAY 1 WIDENING/HOV LANE PROJECT**

This is in response to your request for the Department of Transportation's (Department) consent to proceed with the set of alternatives through the environmental review process (PA&ED). We are fully supportive of the process going forward and alternatives analysis being done in compliance with all applicable laws. Utilizing this process, alternatives can be eliminated if the appropriate information on why alternatives are being eliminated is provided in the environmental document. As this project requires a joint document under the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department will work in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration in all assessment of alternatives including any determination leading to the withdrawal of alternatives from further consideration.

The project's purpose is to improve safety, reduce congestion, and encourage commuters to car pool and use alternative transportation modes in order to increase the highway's capacity. Consistent with the work accomplished to this point, I agree that the following represents a reasonable range of (build) alternatives for proceeding into the PA&ED process:

- Ramp metering/auxiliary lanes (Transportation System Management)
- Widen to six lanes with HOV lanes with standard shoulder widths
- Widen to six lanes with HOV lanes with reduced shoulder widths
- Diamond interchange configurations with widening/HOV lanes
- Improved transit access at interchanges with widening/HOV lanes
- Undefined – a hybrid to be developed through the PA&ED process

We should also point out that other factors could eliminate, reinstate, or add to this range of viable alternatives as we continue the environmental process. Those factors include, but are not limited to:

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- Results of technical studies that are not yet complete
- Lack of approval for any design exceptions that may be required
- Comments on the draft environmental document
- Other factors that we did not anticipate

We appreciate your support and cooperation and look forward to working in partnership with you on the Highway 1 HOV/Widening Project and other future projects. Should you have questions regarding this project, please contact Luis Duazo, Project Manager, at (805) 542-4678.

Sincerely,



for R. GREGG ALBRIGHT  
District Director

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