



Attachment 1  
**County of Santa Cruz**

**PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES**

979 17<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

March 22, 2005

Regional Transportation Commission  
Ellen Pirie, Chair  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

3/22/05  
RECEIVED

**RE: Identifying Funding Sources for Caltrans Route 1 Bridge Replacements**

The North Coast Beaches Advisory Committee has been approached by members of the public, as well as concerned Committee members, regarding a project announced over a year ago by the State Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to replace two bridges on Route 1 in Santa Cruz County, namely at Scott Creek and Waddell Creek. Two questions are relevant: 1) What is the timetable and 2) Environmental concerns of the bridge abutments placement in the streambeds.

Telephone conversations with Steven Digrazia, San Luis Obispo Caltrans project manager for these projects revealed the following:

These projects are at the proposal stage. They will not be programmed until they have an approved budget. When there is a budget a Preliminary Project Study will be made. This will include engineering, environmental and cost aspects. The good news is that this project is not on a permanent hold; he expects the discussions to begin with the various State Agencies this summer. However, that means it will still be years before the construction takes place. The next step will be a Preliminary Project Study, after budgeting is assigned. The Preliminary Project Study Report will address engineering and environmental aspects. He said the initial survey of the bridges does not indicate any imminent structural problems.

He expects the expenditure of time and money for Environmental work to exceed the Engineering by a factor of 2; time for all approvals will probably take 5 years. He considers engineering to be very straight forward, whereas the Environmental aspects are much more sensitive.

The agencies that will have input will include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, California Coastal Commission and California Department of Fish and Game, among others. He expects discussion with these agencies to begin by summer of 2005.

6-5

**Identifying Funding Sources for Caltrans Route 1 Bridge Replacements**

March 22, 2005

Page Two

In regard to costs, the two bridges to be replaced "in kind" with similar structures to those existing would be about \$10 million for both. Any high-level alternative, which would place the abutments outside the streambed as favored by environmentalists, would increase that amount several-fold. Funding by multiple agencies is a possibility to increase the funding available. Caltrans would not be the lead agency in searching for these funds, but rather would respond to local "offers" of funding to enable the project to move forward. Caltrans would expect viable funding to be brought in by an external agency or organization, in order to give serious consideration to partnering. It is mainly a County effort to find such funding. Mr. Digrazia suggested we approach the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission to identify available fund sources.

This is the purpose of writing this letter. Caltrans would be receptive to a letter from the TRC identifying any known funding sources that are available and appropriate for these projects.

Please consider this request to identify such funding as you think is appropriate and send a response to our Committee at the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services office at the address above.

Sincerely,



Harold A. Short, Chair  
North Coast Beaches Advisory Committee  
(831)761-3612