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Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

ROUTE 1/17 MERGE LANES PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Recently, we encountered differing site conditions for the bridge foundation piles at the Branciforte and Carbonera Creek bridge structures. Cast-in-drilled-hole concrete pile casings are not reaching bedrock, and must be extended to handle bridge loads.

Last month there was urgency to complete the creek work as required by environmental permits. Additional rip-rap rock slope protection was placed on the creek banks in the vicinity of the Brookside Glen Townhomes to reduce erosion. This work resulted in additional cost to the project.

These two issues will deplete the remaining contingency money of this project. Because we requested Supplemental funds to Award this project for construction, there are no additional G12 funds. We are assessing future funding needs.

A neighborhood meeting was held November 8th at the Senior Citizens Opportunities Center in Santa Cruz. A formal slide presentation discussing soundwall construction, the pile driving operation, and bridge widening was given followed by questions and answers. It was well attended, and provided a good forum to explain the construction activities taking place, and get feedback from the community on their concerns.

Drainage system construction at Dellview has been delayed because of utilities unidentified in the plans. Gas and electric lines should be relocated within the next two weeks. Temporary drainage pipes have been installed to handle stormwater runoff.

Grading on Highway 17 continues as required for the merge lane from the interchange connector to Pasatiempo northbound. Clearing and grubbing on the embankment slope along N. Plymouth is complete. At this location a Mechanically Stabilized Embankment (MSE) will be constructed in place of the planned retaining wall. This will result in a \$250K savings, which will be used to landscape the slope in the follow-up landscape project.

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