

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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August 24, 2007

George Dondero, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, California 95060-3911

Dear Mr. Dondero:

George

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED DURING THE AUGUST 2, 2007, SCCRTC BOARD MEETING

This is in response to issues raised to the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) during the August 2, 2007, SCCRTC Board Meeting.

Issue: Commissioner Marcella Tavantzis inquired if Caltrans had plans to landscape the area along Highway 1 where the new median barrier had been constructed. A status on planting was requested.

Response: Following the construction of the median barrier from Freedom Boulevard to Rio Del Mar last summer, the Department planted seeds for native wildflowers of various colors and low-growing native grasses in the soil of both inside shoulders. Although the plants were drought resistant, due to the low levels of rainfall, they never took off and flourished.

Caltrans intends to replant the Aptos median prior to the upcoming rainy season in addition to evaluating the entire highway corridor for erosion potential. Slopes identified as an erosion risk will be prioritized and treated accordingly. Treatment may include compost blanket, fiber rolls, and jute mesh, in conjunction with native grass and wildflower seeding.

Sincerely,

Richard Krumholz

RICHARD KRUMHOLZ
District Director

c: Santa Cruz County

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