

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
PHONE (805) 549-3431
FAX (805) 549-3062
TTY 711
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05>

ATTACHMENT-1



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

September 19, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Dondero: *George*

REVIEW PERIOD FOR SCR-1 HOV DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

At the meeting of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) on June 7, 2007, Commissioner Neal Coonerty asked if the standard 60-day public review period could be extended to 90 days for the SCR-1 HOV environmental document. Other commissioners voiced concern in extending the review period to this length.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and Public Resource Code state that the public review period for a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be no less than 30 days following the date of the notice, or 45 days where the draft EIRs are submitted to the State Clearinghouse. The review period shall not be longer than 60 days, except in unusual situations. It has been our experience that a 45-day review period is a practice most agencies, environmental groups, and individuals are aware of, and appreciate.

Our practice is to provide a 45-day review period of draft EIRs, beginning when the lead agency provides the public with complete copies of the draft document. When a project is considered controversial, we may schedule two public hearings to allow greater opportunities for public comment. State law allows agencies to limit public comments on a draft EIR to written comments. Caltrans will be going beyond this requirement; the final EIR will respond to comments documented on hearing transcripts made by a court reporter, as well as written comments, including those made on comment cards available at the hearing.

It is my intention to provide a 45-day review period for the SCR-1 HOV draft EIR. I would like to assure you that it is our intention to move forward with a quality environmental document to achieve the best possible project. If you would like to discuss this issue further, I can be reached by calling (805) 549-3127.

Sincerely,

Richard Krumholz
RICHARD KRUMHOLZ
District Director

c: Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works