

# LAST CHANCE GRADE

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## Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a permanent solution to instability and potential roadway failure at Last Chance Grade. Caltrans is developing the Project Study Report which will consider alternatives that reduce maintenance costs, provide a reliable highway facility, and protect economic, environmental, and cultural resources.

## Need

Landslides and road failures at Last Chance Grade have been an ongoing issue for decades. A geologic study in 2000 conducted for Caltrans by the California Geological Survey mapped over 200 historical and active landslides (both deep-seated and shallow) within the corridor between Wilson Creek and Crescent City. Over the years, Caltrans has conducted a considerable number of construction projects and expended significant resources on maintenance activities in order to keep the highway open for traffic. Since 1980, landslide mitigation projects – including roadbed overlays, slipout and washout repairs, retaining walls, drainage improvements, and significant maintenance – have cost over \$40 million. There is a need for a long-term solution to this historic instability at Last Chance Grade.

## Description

This Project Study Report will propose a range of alternatives to address the segment of US Highway 101 at Last Chance Grade impacted by landslides and increasing instability. A Partnership was formed with the National Park Service, California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Yurok Tribe, Elk Valley Rancheria, and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation to study and develop feasible solutions that ensure environmental and cultural resources are considered in the development of a solution.

**Last Chance Grade**

