

Last Chance Grade Project

Safe, Smart and Sustainable Solutions



The Last Chance Grade Project is a collaborative, multi-year effort to identify and implement **safe, smart and sustainable solutions** for a 3-mile segment of coastal Highway 101 through Del Norte County.

Over 5,000 people drive Last Chance Grade every day.

It is a vital connection for everyone who lives, works and travels in Del Norte County.

Project Goals:

- Ensure the safety and reliability of the highway—now and for the future.
- Find a technically feasible, cost-effective alternative.
- Respect our important environmental and cultural resources.
- Keep Del Norte moving!



CURRENT CONDITIONS

The Geology of Last Chance Grade

Last Chance Grade is in a unique geological setting—the land constantly shifts and settles. Road movement is normal in a seismically active area like this, and it requires ongoing monitoring, maintenance and repairs.



Caltrans works diligently to ensure that Last Chance Grade stays safe and reliable for everyone who travels on it. The road has never been fully closed for longer than one day.

Since 1997, Caltrans has spent over \$85 million repairing this 3-mile stretch. This level of investment simply isn't sustainable over the long term.



Legend

Routes

- Alternative A
- Option 1
- Option 2
- Alternative C
- Option 3
- Option 4
- Option 5
- Alternative F
- Tunnel
- Highway 101

THE LAST CHANCE GRADE PROJECT

Project Alternatives

Working with local, regional, state and federal agencies and community organizations, Caltrans has identified **a number of alternatives** to consider—from a partial realignment of the roadway to extensive construction with new tunnels and bridges.

The alternatives now being considered range from the no-build option (maintaining the status quo) to the most expensive option of a 1.3 mile tunnel that would cost over \$1 Billion. Other options would re-align the highway above or around the current location and would have various costs and impacts to this highly sensitive environment.

Identifying and analyzing each alternative takes time and requires coordination with agencies and organizations that have management and regulatory responsibilities for the lands and resources directly impacted by any route realignment.

Each alternative is described in detail on the project website: LastChanceGrade.com.

Last Chance Grade Partners

The Last Chance Grade Partners is a collaborative partnership with expertise in biological, archaeological, cultural, geological, and other areas critical to understanding the full nature of the sensitive areas that surround Last Chance Grade.

- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- Caltrans District 1
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- National Park Service
- Resighini Rancheria
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Yurok Tribe

Issues to Consider

As we evaluate each alternative, we must consider a number of factors:

Geology

Using technical measurements, **Caltrans engineers study the area to determine if it is feasible to build on**, and also to **assess the potential impact** of a new road on the surrounding environment.

Ecology

The Del Norte Coast is a unique ecosystem—**home to old-growth redwoods and threatened animal species**. Caltrans works closely with the National Park Service, California State Parks and others to ensure that any alternative respects the significant ecological resources of the region.

Culture

Designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site, the region has important cultural significance. Native American tribes consider many areas fundamental to their tradition and history. Caltrans has engaged local tribes as key stakeholders and partners throughout the process.

Economy

Caltrans conducts a detailed financial analysis of each alternative to **determine the costs and possible economic impacts**. These detailed estimates help identify potential funding sources so that a long-term fix for Last Chance Grade can get built.





Get Involved!

Caltrans encourages community members to learn about the project alternatives and get involved. This summer, we invite you to a **Community Open House** to provide you with updated information about Last Chance Grade.

Community Open House

July 19th, 2018

6:30–8:00 PM

**Del Norte County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Building**

421 Highway 101 North

Crescent City, California

Or Contact

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For more information, visit
LastChanceGrade.com