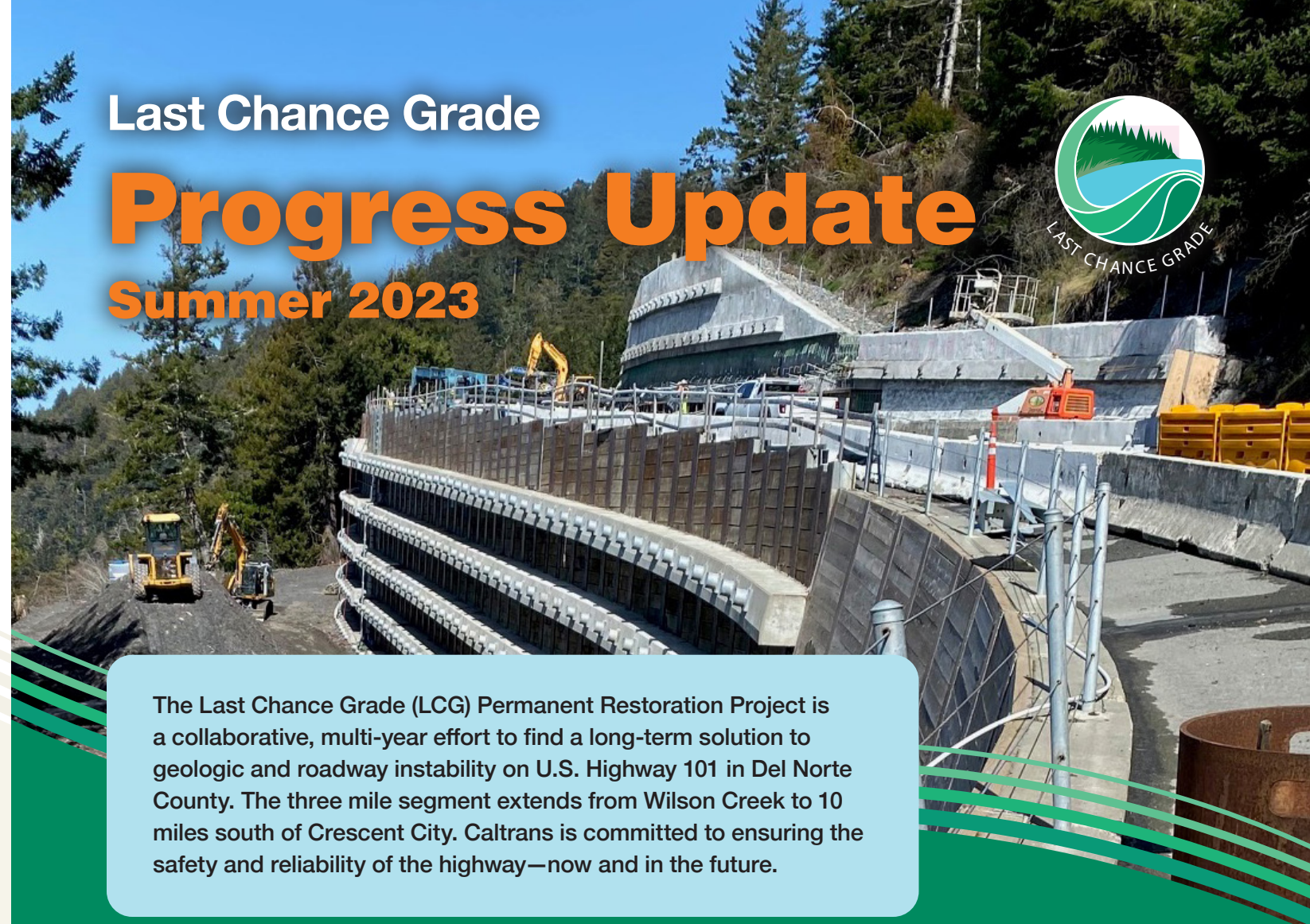


Last Chance Grade

Progress Update

Summer 2023



The Last Chance Grade (LCG) Permanent Restoration Project is a collaborative, multi-year effort to find a long-term solution to geologic and roadway instability on U.S. Highway 101 in Del Norte County. The three mile segment extends from Wilson Creek to 10 miles south of Crescent City. Caltrans is committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of the highway—now and in the future.

Stay Connected!

Caltrans is committed to a complete, thorough, and inclusive process. Please stay connected on the progress of the LCG Project. Sign up for notifications, get project updates, and learn about opportunities to share your input at:

www.LastChanceGrade.com

Project Contact:

Jaime Matteoli
Last Chance Grade Project Manager
lastchancegrade@dot.ca.gov
(707) 498-0961



Current Repairs

Despite this winter's record-setting rainfalls, the last year has brought no new slide damage to U.S. 101 at Last Chance Grade. Construction on retaining walls 5B and 7 is nearly complete. Barring unforeseen circumstance, this could return the roadway to two-way traffic very soon—for the first time in many years!

Current Planning

The first round of environmental technical studies has been completed. Caltrans is now analyzing that data to prepare for the release of the Last Chance Grade Draft Environmental Document at the end of 2023. (See inside for more information.)

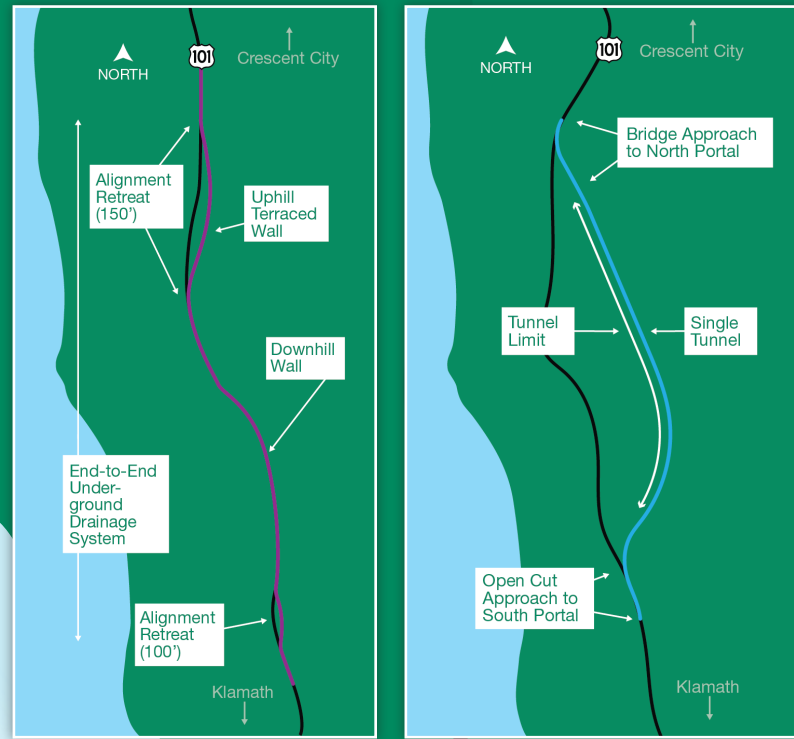
Collaborative discussions have helped Caltrans identify opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts to habitat. The Last Chance Grade partners group, the Huffman Stakeholder Group, biological and cultural working groups, the tribal community, and other regulatory agencies have been key in helping identify a long-term solution.

www.LastChanceGrade.com

Alternatives for Further Study

X **Alternative X** is close to the current alignment of Highway 101. It addresses the landslide hazard through holistically engineered end-to-end improvements far beyond the scope of current emergency repairs. It includes realignment at key locations, more robust retaining structures, and major drainage infrastructure.

F **Alternative F** features a tunnel that avoids the slowly moving landslide at Last Chance Grade and minimizes impacts by passing deep underground. A variety of measures will enhance safety, including evacuation routes and in-tunnel utilities.

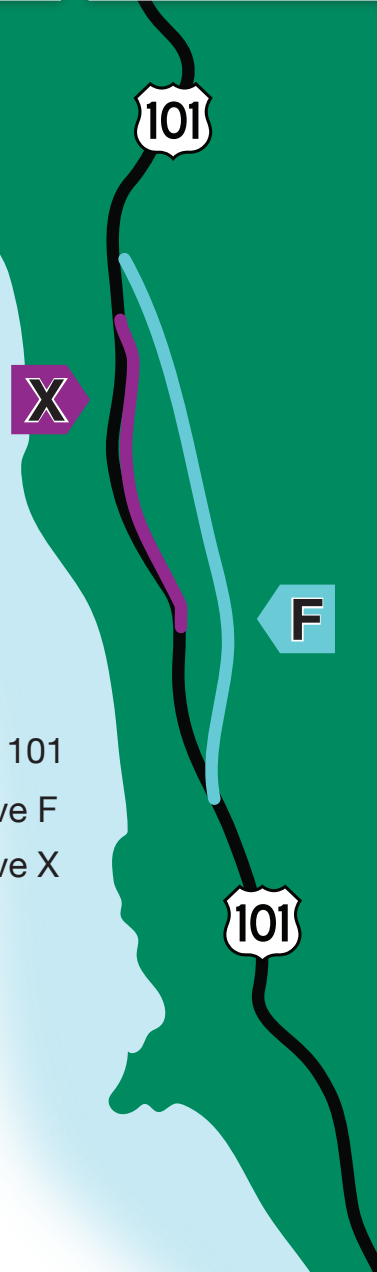


LAST CHANCE GRADE PROJECT

Project Alternatives

Routes

- Highway 101
- Alternative F
- Alternative X



Activity Continues Behind the Scenes

Caltrans continues to work, both in the office and out in the field, toward a long-term solution at Last Chance Grade. Significant activities include:

Project Description Completed

The Project Description describes the features, footprint, and more specific details of each alternative. It includes road features, design criteria, and structures that will have to be built as part of the alternative. Completion of the Project Description in August 2022 allowed Caltrans to move on to the next phase of the environmental process.

From the Project Description to the Draft Environmental Document

The Draft Environmental Document (DED) describes the potential environmental effects of a project and ways to minimize or avoid those negative effects. The DED for Last Chance Grade is currently being developed and is on track to be circulated at the end of 2023. A specified period for public review, including public hearings and meetings scheduled

in 2024, will provide ample opportunity for comments. Caltrans will carefully review and evaluate all comments and considerations before developing the Final Environmental Document (FED) in 2025.

Continued Study and Minimizing Impacts

As field studies have continued, Last Chance Grade agency and local partners, stakeholders, and working group members have been kept informed of progress. Caltrans has met and collaborated with key groups and partner agencies to better understand concerns and solicit creative ideas on avoiding or minimizing impacts of each alternative.

Please visit www.LastChanceGrade.com and follow Caltrans District 1 on social media for updates online.

Key Steps in the Environmental Process | The project is still on schedule as shown below.

