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October 1, 2013

Tamera Leighton, Executive Director
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
1301 B Northcrest Drive, #16
Crescent City, CA 95531

Re: Highway 101, Last Chance Grade

Dear Ms. Leighton,

This letter is the result of action taken by the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the Crescent City Harbor District requesting and encouraging the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission to confer with all agencies and entities necessary to accomplish the relocation of the Last Chance Grade section of Highway 101 outside of the active slide areas.

Another catastrophic slope failure in the slide areas is only a matter of time, and will have a dire economic impact on Del Norte County, including the Crescent City Harbor. The Crescent City Harbor is an active commercial fishing harbor, providing many types of fresh seafood for consumption outside of Del Norte County. The Dungeness Crab fishery each winter in Crescent City Harbor is the largest in northern California. Dungeness Crab and other seafood products are transported out of Del Norte County by truck for delivery to consumers in other parts of California. To lose the primary route south (Highway 101) for transportation of the fresh seafood would devastate the commercial fishing industry, which is a large economic force in Del Norte County.

CalTrans has spent millions of dollars trying to maintain this active slide section of Highway 101, without being able to completely stop the earth movement and render the roadway safe and stable. A viable alternative route outside of the slide areas should be determined and construction begun before the inevitable catastrophic failure occurs with its associated devastating economic impacts to Del Norte County and Crescent City Harbor's commercial fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Phillips, President
Board of Harbor Commissioners