

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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October 2, 2013

Richard Enea, Chair
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
1301 Northcrest Drive, Ste B PMB 16
Crescent City, CA 95531

Dear Mr. Enea:

In your September 9, 2013 letter, you express your continuing frustration regarding the one-way, traffic controlled segment at Last Chance Grade, where an emergency opening project is currently underway. I have been aware of the ongoing concerns regarding the stability of this segment of US Highway 101 in Del Norte County, and I recognize the validity of your concern.

As I am sure you are aware, emergency projects often require design details to be finalized during construction. District staff report that in December of last year the estimate provided to you was four months to complete the work, which this project has obviously exceeded. While the District Public Information Office reports ten different occasions where information was provided to your staff since April of this year, it is clear that our communication processes need improvement. This is especially true as there are the emergency opening project, two restoration projects and a multi-year engineered feasibility study, all being conducted in the Last Chance Grade area.

District 1 has provided me with sufficient information regarding the progress of this emergency opening project to satisfy me that the delays have been the result of evolving designs, difficult underground conditions, and weather impacts. The Department will continue to make the completion of this project a priority.

To improve communications, District 1 has established a single point of contact for projects and studies at Last Chance Grade, and Ms. Talitha Hodgson, Project Manager has been given this assignment. This should provide a more consistent means of communication with your Commission on these current and upcoming projects. Talitha can be reached at (707) 441-2097.

Thank you for bringing this concern to my attention. I value your support on transportation issues in general, and on keeping this vital transportation link to Del Norte County available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Dougherty".

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Director