

# Area 1 Agency on Aging

Promoting Independence for a Lifetime

SERVING HUMBOLDT AND DEL NORTE COUNTIES

## PROGRAMS

- CAREGIVER SERVICES
- HEALTH INSURANCE COUNSELING & ADVOCACY PROGRAM (HICAP)
- LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
- SENIOR INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE (I&A)
- VOLUNTEER CENTER OF THE REDWOODS/RSVP



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAGGIE KRAFT, MSW

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DARLENE PENFOLD

*Chair*

GEORGE INGRAHAM, MD

*Vice Chair*

NYLE HENDERSON

*Secretary*

NAOMI JOHNSON

*Treasurer*

DIANNE BENNETT

DEAN CHARLTON

TOM COCHRAN

JOHN GAMBIN, MD

SHARON MELLETT

SID NOYES

VICTORIA ONSTINE

SHEILA ROCKER HEPPE

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

BONNIE MACGREGOR,

*Interim President*

ROGER GITLIN, *Vice President*

MARY ELLA ANDERSON

REX BOHN

AMANDA HANEY

CHRIS JONES

BARBARA PERRA

HOWARD RIEN

434 7TH STREET

EUREKA, CA 95501

(707) 442-3763 (PHONE)

(707) 442-3714 (FAX)

(800) 408-4636 (TOLL FREE)

## DEL NORTE OFFICE

1765 NORTHCREST DR.

CRESCENT CITY, CA 95531

(707) 464-7876 (PHONE)

(707) 464-5096 (FAX)

November 12, 2013

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

Dear Ms. Leighton,

The Area 1 Agency on Aging Advisory Council has been asked by representatives of senior citizens in Del Norte County to comment on Last Chance Grade concerns. It is our role to assess and help address the needs of the elder community in both Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

As you know, Highway 101 is vital to all Del Norte citizens for many reasons. What may be particular for the elders, however, is that this route is literally a life line to critical health care treatments only available in Eureka like kidney dialysis and cancer chemotherapies. All oxygen and medical supplies come for Eureka and further south along Highway 101.

Seniors are concerned that the Last Chance Grade is disintegrating to the point that temporary shoring up of the road is no longer an option. After examining the 2000 "Special Report 184: Landslides in the 101 Corridor Between Wilson Creek and Crescent City" we would have to agree.

It is not clear from the CalTrans press release what the time frame is for completing their engineering feasibility study but we believe moving forward with plans for by-passes or alternative routes must be part of this planning process. The prospect of heavy rains or a strong earthquake in the near future that would take out the two major slippage points is much more likely than that there is some new technology that will allow another fix that will hold the road.

The disruption and consequences of losing this vital life line are dire for elder people. The road is already a distance and endurance challenge. What alternate route would you expect them to drive in the event of road failure?

Ms. Leighton  
Page 2  
November 12, 2013

Please speak up for Del Norte citizens in requiring that CalTrans begin creating a by-pass or similar viable alternate routes now. We will gladly support them in whatever it takes to get the financial allocations and funding needed to make this come to be.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service,



Bonnie MacGregor  
Advisory Council President

- cc: U.S. Senator Noreen Evans
- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- Congressman Jared Huffman
- Assemblymember Wes Chesbro
- Del Norte Council Board of Supervisors, attn: CAO Jay Sarina
- Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
- Charlie Fielder, Area 1 Director of CalTrans