

CAL-ORE

Life Flight
LLC

A division of REACH Air Medical Holdings

December 9, 2013

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

Tamera:

This letter concerns Last Chance Grade and the immediate need to develop an alternative route due to many people's legitimate concerns of the road sliding into the ocean.

While I am not a geologist, as a pilot, I have been flying by this area for over 30 years. From the air, I have observed progressive slippage occurring, and in my opinion, it is firmly a matter of when, not if, the road collapses. From a helicopter, one can clearly observe the movement occurring well below the road, as evidenced by increasing slides, slanting trees, etc. After a large winter rain storm, you can also observe the flow of water eating away at the soil below.

Just to the South of Last Chance, there is a recent slide that has appeared where no roads or human activity are present. However, one can look at this as an example, just a mile away, where no mechanical activity caused a slide, just Mother Nature.

Besides the clear and inherent danger to those on the highway (with the hope that a repeat of the Stremberg's tragic demise does not occur to others), we have serious economic and health risks associated with not taking immediate action to develop an alternative.

Clearly, being completely cut-off to the south will cripple our already struggling economy. However, even more concerning is the inability to transport critical patients by ground to higher medical care; dialysis patients to needed treatments; oncology treatments; etc. Due to inclement weather and patient acuity, flying is not always an option.

Administrative Office

PO Box 1986
311 Cove Road
Brookings, Oregon 97415

800-761-5183
541-469-7911
541-469-4518 Fax

www.cal-ore.com

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As a token of my seriousness about the severity of this issue, I will donate my helicopter to transport the necessary decision makers to the site for an aerial review at any time. Just call me and I will make myself available.

Thanks for considering my input and I hope that we start working on a solution immediately to solve this issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Brattain

cc: Del Norte County Board of Supervisors
Crescent City Council

DCB/dpb