

July 15, 2015

Talitha Hodgson
Department of Transportation, District 1,
P. O. Box 3700
Eureka, CA 95502-3700

RE: Last Chance Grade

Dear Ms. Hodgson:


It has come to our attention that Caltrans is exploring options related to the portion of Highway 101 known as Last Chance Grade in Del Norte County. On behalf of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) I am writing in support of efforts to secure that this stretch of highway remains open.

The jurisdictions along the Highway 101 corridor in Northern California have a long history of understanding the significance of maintaining the highway from the Bay Area to the Oregon border as a critical piece of infrastructure for the movement of people and goods – and in particular to the economic vitality of the North Coast.

The SCTA is supportive of District 1 funding improvements to Highway 101 that will reduce the risk associated with a collapse of the roadway at Last Chance Grade. All too often we are reacting to an emergency situation when it would be more fiscally prudent to address a problem before it happens. This appears to be the case with Last Chance Grade. Hopefully, a realignment project on an alternative route can be carried out in a timely manner such that economic impacts to the North Coast would be minimized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Sarah Glade Gurney
Chair, SCTA/RCPA

CC: Tamera Leighton, Executive Director, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
Honorable Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

