

April 27, 2018

California Department of Transportation,
District 4, District Director
111 Grand Avenue, PO Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Dear District Director:

The Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council (BLAC)¹, an advisory board to the Marin County Open Space District Board of Directors, respectfully requests Caltrans address chronic road safety issues along California State Route 1 (Highway 1) at Bolinas Lagoon between Wilkins Ranch (mile marker 17.21) and Audubon Canyon Ranch (mile marker 16.45). Highway 1 is the primary road for the communities, schools, and businesses of Stinson Beach, Bolinas, Dogtown, and surrounding West Marin neighborhoods. The road is heavily trafficked by increasing numbers of visiting travelers, and serves as the main thoroughfare for police and emergency vehicles serving these communities.

Periodic flooding of sections of Highway 1 along Bolinas Lagoon, including near the intersections of Olema-Bolinas Road and Fairfax-Bolinas Road, have caused traffic congestion, road closures, driver safety concerns, and high maintenance costs. In recent years the area of Highway 1 near Audubon Canyon Ranch (mile marker 16.59) has experienced chronic flooding with water flowing across both lanes, which causes traffic slow-downs and driver safety issues, and transports vehicle oil and toxins directly into the federally protected Bolinas Lagoon. Flooding at these and other portions of Highway 1 are exacerbated during and after storms and high tide events, which will increase in the future with sea level rise. The BLAC strongly encourages Caltrans to prioritize long-term solutions for road maintenance along Highway 1 to reduce flooding, prevent contamination of Bolinas Lagoon, and improve driver safety.

The BLAC also requests Caltrans work with Marin County to address these issues, specifically through the North End Wetland Enhancement and Sea Level Rise Project (North End Project). The project aims to restore and reconnect habitat, improve road safety, and allow the lagoon to adapt to future climate impacts. The BLAC urges Caltrans collaborate with, and support, all phases of this project that incorporate redesign and construction of portions of Highway 1.

As an advisory council, the BLAC advises the County of Marin and the Marin County Open Space District on the restoration and management of Bolinas Lagoon, while representing the needs and concerns of the citizens of West Marin. The Marin County Open Space District has made the North End Project a priority, and the BLAC urges Caltrans to join in this effort to help protect Bolinas Lagoon.

Sincerely,

Ralph Camiccia, Chair
Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council

cc: Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Council
Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
Samantha Haimovitch, Superintendent, Marin County Parks

¹ BLAC members include representatives from College of Marin, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, the communities of Bolinas and Stinson Beach, the Bolinas Rod and Boat Club, the Seadrift Homeowners Association, Audubon Canyon Ranch, and Point Blue Conservation Science, with one additional member at-large.

Photos looking north on flooded Highway 1 near Audubon Canyon Ranch (~ mile marker 16.59) during a one day storm on Friday April 6, 2018.

