

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

February 26, 2013

The Honorable William W. Monning  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Monning:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your support in resolving the concerns expressed by bicyclists about the surface on Highway 1 north of Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) shares your determination on this issue.

While we undertake the efforts described below, please be assured that the highway remains safe for all modes of travel. Bicyclists should not be discouraged from riding this stretch of highway while this evaluation is underway, and organizers of cycling events should be encouraged to contact Caltrans about any specific concerns they may have for the success of upcoming rides.

I am pleased to report that Caltrans' work with the UC Davis Pavement Research Center is now underway and will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1 consists of researching known smoothing techniques for effectiveness (such as applying heavy rollers), conducting test bed trials and measuring roughness and bicycle ride quality of those smoothing techniques. It is anticipated that Phase 1 will be completed in May 2013.
- Phase 2 will explore cost effective preventative maintenance strategies that provide for a better bicycle ride quality. This will produce recommendations for the statewide pavement program. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in Fall 2013.

If the data analysis from Phase 1 demonstrates that there is a cost-effective strategy that improves bicycle ride quality and maintains highway integrity, Caltrans will develop an implementation plan for Highway 1.

Depending on the selected strategy, seasonal conditions will influence when follow-up actions could successfully be carried out. Implementing a strategy requiring significant construction activity would be subject to the constraints of seasonal temperatures and heavy tourist traffic between the Easter and Labor Day holidays. Fall would be the earliest timeframe to accomplish

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significant construction work, similar to when the existing chip seal was placed. A less-complex strategy such as heavy rolling would have fewer constraints and could occur sooner.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress and outcomes of our evaluation. Please also be assured that Caltrans is committed to making positive changes to our pavement management practices to improve the ride quality for all users, including bicyclists.

Sincerely,



FOR

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY  
Director

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**BILL MONNING**  
SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



February 20, 2013

Malcolm Dougherty, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 942873  
Sacramento, CA 94273-0001

Dear Director Dougherty:

Highway 1 from the northern edge of Cambria to the Monterey County line is world renowned for its breath taking views and recreational opportunities. I commend the Department of Transportation (CalTrans) for maintaining this difficult section of road and for its commitment to providing multi-modal transportation options. However, I am concerned about the chip seal problem on this section of highway and urge CalTrans to find an alternative solution.

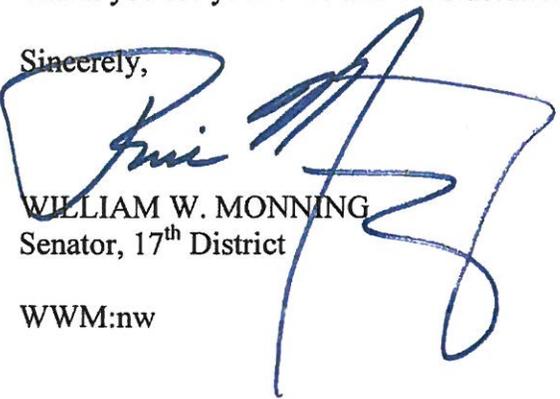
As you are aware, in the fall of 2012 CalTrans undertook a maintenance project to chip seal Highway 1, from shoulder to shoulder, from Cambria north to the Monterey County line. Unfortunately, the completed maintenance provides a very rugged surface for the bicycle shoulder. A number of bicyclists have contacted me to express their concerns that the chip seal exposes riders to extreme vibration, shaking bicycles to the point that the integrity of bike components are at risk. Additionally, cyclists have cited road safety poses a serious concern to charitable rides scheduled this summer.

Please know that I appreciate the commitment of CalTrans District 5 Director, Tim Gubbins, and CalTrans Deputy District Director, Aileen Loe, to address the chip seal issue, and appreciate CalTrans requesting that experts from the University of California, Davis Pavement Research Center study possible remedies.

I join with bicyclists, small business owners, and the local Council of Governments in urging CalTrans to identify and implement an expeditious solution to the Highway 1 bicycle shoulder that allows for cyclists to continue using this route safely.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
WILLIAM W. MONNING  
Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District

WWM:nw