

BIG SUR BYWAY ORGANIZATION (BSBO) MEETINGMINUTES for Wednesday, June 18, 2025
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**MEETING MINUTES – June 18, 2025, 10am**Call to Order: Martha Diehl called the meeting to order at 10:07 amRoll Call

District/Region	Representative	Attendance
Highlands Resident	Mark Grandcolas	Absent
Mid Coast Resident	Dan Perlstein	Present
Big Sur Proper/Valley Resident	Steve Beck	Present
South Coast Resident	Sarah Harvey	Present via Zoom
Resident At Large	Martha Diehl, Chair	Present
Caltrans	Darren Hill, Chad Stoehr, John Olejnik, or Alternative	John Olejnik Present
U.S. Forest Service	Parker Erickson, Jason Field, or Alternative	Parker Erickson Present
CA State Parks	John Hiles, Mike Dippel, or Alternative	John Hiles Present
Big Sur Chamber	Rick Aldinger or Alternative	Rick Aldinger Present

Staff Present: Alyssa Rendon, See Monterey, Community Relations Director
 Melanie Beretti, County of Monterey, Chief of Planning
 Sarah Wikle, County of Monterey, Principal Planner
 Katie Scariot, County of Monterey, Assistant Planner

Guests Present: Kate Daniels, County of Monterey, 5th District Supervisor
 Kimbley Craig, County of Monterey,
 Rachel Goldberger, Community Association of Big Sur (CABS)
 Eric Stevens, California Coastal Commission
 Breylen Ammen, California Coastal Commission
 Kim Campbell, Caltrans
 Scott Smith, Caltrans
 Mike Dippel, CA State Parks
 Laura Schulkin
 Steve Beck
 Dan Perlstein
 Marcus Meichy
 John Handy
 Ivan Rodriguez

- Martha Diehl stated needing to authorize Sarah Harvey to join remotely.
- Martha Diehl requested that Ms. Harvey confirm her location, reason for being remote, and to confirm that no one under the age of 18 was present.
- Ms. Harvey responded that her current location was the South Coast, the reason for being remote was the current road conditions, and that no one else was present.
- Katie Scariot instructed Zoom participants how they can participate remotely

Agenda, Additions, Deletions, and Corrections

- Ms. Diehl made a correction to the Roll Call List.
- Ms. Diehl also noted public correspondence sent out via email regarding Item C.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- Ms. Diehl called for people not on the committee to speak on non-agenda items.
- Alyssa Rendon noted that See Monterey launched a Highway 1 communication plan; how to travel Highway 1 to visit Big Sur.
- Alyssa Rendon noted that See Monterey is currently understaffed; Mary Kelley Crnich is no longer with See Monterey and Alyssa will be taking minutes until the position is filled.
- District 5 Staff noted that they were joining remotely.

Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2025 (Attachment 1)

Motion made by Mark and seconded by Rick. Motion passes and minutes are accepted.

Scheduled / Other Matters

A. Election of Chair

- a. Dan Perlstein nominated Martha Diehl and Steve Beck seconded
- b. Motion passes for Martha Diehl to be reappointed a chair.

B. Old Business

- a. In-depth technical presentation on Regents Slide for the community (45 Minutes – Caltrans)

- i. Presentation by John Olejnik and Tim Campbell, Deputy Director of Construction from Caltrans
- ii. Provided introduction and background information
- iii. July 2024
 - 1. Trying to minimize excavation and clear as much debris as possible
 - 2. There are four spider hose that are excavating the site. The spider hose are tied to the dozers which are parked up slope because the slide is very unstable.
 - 3. At this time, things were going fairly well. However, the rocky material below the bench started to break away and this undercut the bench where the spiders were sitting and so some adjustments were needed
 - 4. They went back to the top and decided they need a wider bench. The center of the bench began to erode away to they removed the spiders and the dozers.
 - 5. They installed shear dowels, and they drilled 40 to 60 feet deep. Placed the steel rod in there and grout the rod, and that helps bring some strength to that slope and pin it together.
- iv. August 2024
 - 1. Started to see crack develop that went up and around across access road.
- v. September 2024
 - 1. Had to reassess handling of the slide.
 - 2. Slope inclinometer placed, can denote depth of slide. Three slop inclinometers were placed immediately and one broke off within twenty four hours.
 - 3. Then they put in shape arrays, and they were able to monitor the movement and the data was sent to their office. They were trying to flatten the slope as much as possible.
 - 4. They went back in with shear dowels, and put in 100 shear dowels and grouted them to provide stability.
 - 5. There are limits around the new excavation.
- vi. December 2024
 - 1. Made a new excavation plan
 - 2. Slope moved down
 - 3. The North Gully, 1/28 overnight slide gave Caltrans a lot of difficulty.
- vii. January 2025

1. Mark Grandcolas asked – How many areas are similar to this?
 - a. Caltrans – does not know entirely when slides will occur. The more you disturb there is a chance of creating another problem. Minimization of disturbance is preferred.
2. Question – When you went in with devices to track movement of the slides, how deep were they?
 - a. Caltrans – 60-70 feet deep.
3. On the screen you can see a bigger and flatter bench
4. Chair Diehl commented that the approach is interesting and if there has been any thought on a more minimalist approach.
 - a. There is a slide above the main slide that occurred.
 - b. Caltrans replied that every slide is different. Paul slide is constantly moving. The further you go the more material comes down. Caltrans is trying to figure out how to minimize and continue to make fast process.
 - c. Chair Diehl responded and said this is on going and there will be a need for long-term maintenance
 - i. Caltrans - Our strategy is the same and it is to minimize. Go up just clean out the slide that has occurred. Usually they're smaller and they're not as tall. There are different types of loose materials above that were assumed to be more stable..
 - d. Steve Beck – is it possible to go back and clear the material off?
 - i. Caltrans – No, the resource agencies have been very cooperative and there has been no issues to do what is necessary to take care of the slide. Caltrans is doing direct ocean disposal with this slide. We cant take from the bottom of the slide. There is still material such as boulders and rocks coming down.
 - e. Steve Beck – what is the distance from the top of the slide to the highway?
 - i. Caltrans – around 600 feet.
 - f. Rick Aldinger – Do you anticipate being able to continue side casting throughout the project to completion?
 - i. Caltrans – there is not a place that will hold it. This slide is not like Paul's Slide. All the material goes automatically into the ocean.

- g. Rick Aldinger – Since there is no other option outside of the materials directly going into the ocean. Is that why the Marina Sanctuary signed off on it?
 - i. Caltrans – there truly is no other option.
 - ii. Caltrans – We have not faced any obstacles with other resource agencies. We anticipate the materials going into the ocean throughout the project until completion.
- h. Mark Grandcolas – Is there any possible way you all could create a west access road?
 - i. Caltrans – no.
- i. Martha Diehl – Caltrans is doing whatever they have to do, right?
 - i. Caltrans – We want to be safe. We are trying to do the most reasonable and safe approach as best we can.
 - ii. Martha Diehl – we know issues will continue with this road in the future.
- j. Steve Beck – Are there any other locations in the world that are very similar to this?
 - i. Caltrans – The California coast is very unique and active.
- 5. Caltrans said equipment is on standby and it is used as needed
 - a. Drill rigs are much faster than spiders (Closest ones in Tennessee).
- 6. Technical difficulties occurred.
- 7. Back to presentation
 - a. Stayed back a safe distance
 - b. Continued to use an excavator and were in an on and off pattern to keep staff protected
 - c. Then got two remote control dozers
 - d. Question – would it be possible to install a temporary bridge?
 - i. Caltrans said no, a bridge would need to go over the ocean and there is nothing below that would support the bridge.
 - e. Dozers are controlled from a remote location from above the slide

- f. Question – Where does the money from for the slide?
 - i. Caltrans - state funds are allocated to support with cleanup, slides are also eligible for federal reimbursement.
- g. Additional movement occurred in May 2025. The shape arrays provided vital data information to Caltrans so they could identify what changes were occurring.
- h. Around the time of the stake holders meeting, a crack began to develop. They use a drone to view the slide.
- i. Caltrans installed shear dowels to help stabilize the slope.
- j. They brought in the John Henry drill. The John Henry can do more work than the spiders.
- k. They put in shear dowel entire cut slope. They put in five rows of dowels. Another rig was brought it. They began to remove the temporary bench that was put in.
 - i. Steve Beck – How are the dowels connected?
 - ii. Caltrans- they are drilled in and then grout is placed around them. Then cover it with mesh.
- l. In June of 2025, there was a small crack that formed.

8. Questions

- a. Rachel Goldberger asked a question about the access road
 - i. Caltrans responded
- b. Steve Beck – why don't you all use explosives?
 - i. Caltrans – That would leave an over steepened slope.
- c. Sarah Harvey – Can we get more detailed email updates? Can we also get a truncated version of this presentation?
 - i. Caltrans – Yes. We will keep this item at Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council meetings.
- d. Sarah Harvey - Speeding has been occurring in the area by contractor staff. Can we get contact information to resolve this problem?
 - i. Caltrans – yes we can provide you with the contact information.
- e. Can we get a time frame of how the construction process may occur?
- f. Supervisor Kate Daniels asked if they are employing the same strategy with past slides?

- i. Public safety is a component but a solution that requires maintenance and protective measures in place is vital
- ii. Indigenous peoples have referred to this site as “Moving Mountain”
 - 1. Dowel strategy that seems to be working but also needs a long term strategy to get the road open and there may be on going maintenance responsibilities

Mark Grandcolas left early.

- g. Sarah Harvey – Can I have contact information
 - i. Caltrans – we will reach out to you directly.
- h. John Handy – Can we open future slides as soon as they’re drivable prior to paving?
 - i. Caltrans – That may be possible. It is something that can be explored later.
- b. Follow-up on Mudd Creek Project process from BSMAAC (Martha)
 - i. Coastal Commission
 - 1. What is the status with the permit, and what are the next steps (offsite mitigation)
 - 2. What is the process for emergency permits to gather public input?
 - 3. Are there ways for us to have offsite mitigation for various emergency projects to help streamline the process?
 - ii. Coastal Commission
 - 1. Permit approved in March
 - 2. Mitigation/Conditions – complaints regarding community engagement at shell point (lack of engagement)
 - a. Condition language modified by coastal commission to allow for community input during design process for shell point
 - 3. Future planning conditions
 - a. Caltrans to work with California Coastal Commission and Community
 - i. Coordinate on how to improve public access
 - ii. Or in lieu fees from Caltrans to do public access

- iii. Separately, they are working to develop a feasibility analysis related mitigation so that there is less scrambling on projects for Caltrans to fund/improve
- b. BSMAAC – Future Engagement
 - i. Looking for appropriate body/engagement on Caltrans and other projects on what projects are going to go to LUAC for review.
- 4. Melanie Beretti
 - a. LUAC's have a refined scope of what projects are to be reviewed
 - i. If there is anticipated controversy
 - ii. Design review is required
 - iii. Other matters can be referred to the LUAC as needed.
 - 1. Setting parameters around Caltrans projects and which are appropriate to go to the LUAC
 - 2. Anticipate bringing informational item to the Planning Commission
 - 3. Draft on general process going to the Planning Commission in the next few weeks.
 - b. Martha Diehl commented that LUAC's change in scope would need to go before the Board of Supervisors
 - c. Melanie Beretti responded and asked if there is a need to change the bylaws
 - d. Caltrans responded that all individuals who can assist with the public engagement process in the room
 - e. Martha Diehl replied and asked to keep the item on the BSMAAC agendas
 - f. Dan Perlstein – where are the public access impacts? There will be mitigation to offset public access impacts.
- 5. California Coastal Commission - replied that there is not a list of receiver projects, the California Coastal Commission is working on a list of public access project sites. The reason that public access was impacted was because the project included public funds.

6. Sarah Harvey asked how can the public provide feedback on public access projects and how is the public access impacted by a slide where there was no impacts to public access.
 - a. California Coastal Commission – there is not a current list for receiver sites as of right now but we are trying to create one. Because this was a revetment, they contain land slide reforming materials. There were public access impacts due to that and we felt that more were necessary
 7. Kate Novoa – Reminded that there is a North Coast and South Coast LUAC. Both LUAC’s need to know and it should be on the South Coast.
 - a. Martha Diehl – thanked Kate.
 8. Steve Beck – made a comment.
- c. Bixby Bridge Emergency Task Force (Martha)
 - i. Board of Supervisors voted to keep no parking at Old Coast Road
- C. New Business
- a. Preliminary introduction of the Caltrans Coast Highway Management Plan Update and BSBO’s Role (Caltrans)
 - i. Caltrans – we are also including our Caltrans project updates in this update.
 - ii. We will have a separate meeting related to the Coast Highway Management Plan Update.
 - iii. Projects are continuing to develop. Will be working with Ventana in July to remove eucalyptus trees. An ongoing covert project and it will occur in Fall. Caltrans continued to provide updates on various projects. Garrapata Bridge rail replacement has been an ongoing struggle but they will be reducing speed and inserting delineators.
 - b. Sycamore Canyon Road and Highway 1 intersection safety concerns (United States Forest Service)
 - i. United States Forest Service – thanked residents for their public comments. Congestion occurred on the weekend of May 14. They offered their support to resolve the issue
 - ii. Martha Diehl requested the item be brought to a future meeting.
 - iii. Steve Beck identified that there are two concerns; congestion and how do you safely get off of highway one to sycamore canyon (and vice versa).
 - iv. Rick Aldinger commented.
 - v. United States Forest Service – staff is trying to help with the congestion issue.

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MINUTES for Wednesday, June 18, 2025

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

- vi. Rick Aldinger – There should be a level of urgency to resolve this issue.
- c. Caltrans project updates and report (Attachment 2) (Caltrans)

Member comments, Requests, and Referrals (written reports preferred)

D. Committee Review and Reports

Administration / Organization and Funding, Signs/Roadside Camping/Litter & human waste/Enforcement, Invasive Species, and Landslide Disposal Sites.

- Martha Diehl tabled this to be discussed at the next meeting on September 24, 2025

Adjournment

10. Adjournment – Ms. Diehl adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting: September 24, 2025