

BIG SUR BYWAY ORGANIZATION (BSBO) MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES for Wednesday, November 19, 2025
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – November 19, 2025, 10am

Call to Order: Martha Diehl called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Roll Call

Approval of remote participation for Sarah Harvey due to Highway 1 active closures, per AB 2449.

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

*Mark Grandcolas was absent during roll call and arrived at the meeting at 10:21am.

Staff Present: Katie Scariot, County of Monterey, Assistant Planner
Sarah Wikle, County of Monterey, Principal Planner

Guests Present: Rachel Goldberger, Program Manager, Community Association of Big Sur
Brandy Rider, Caltrans Deputy District Director, District 5
Ava Wright, CalTrans District 5 Climate Change Coordinator
Sarah Wikle, County of Monterey, Principal Planner
Marcus Foster, Keep Big Sur Wild
Breylen Ammen- California Coastal Commission
Colin Gallagher- Member of StopIt
Marissa Reader, See Monterey, Director of Operations
Laura S.
Bruce Merchant
Heather Chappellet Lanier
Marcus Foster

Katie asked to engage AB 2449 for Sarah Harvey to join remotely. Sarah confirmed her location, reason for being remote was current road conditions and that no one else was present.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- Ms. Diehl called for people not on the committee to speak on non-agenda items.

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- Member of the public noted Mark Grandcolas is habitually absent from meetings.
- Marcus Foster spoke to public comment regarding roadside camping noting CABs puts in a lot of effort with volunteers collecting information. Asked if there has been a \$1,000 fine instituted by the supervisors? Noted its harder and harder to find camping and would love to find a collaboration between Sherrif and State Parks.
- Marcus Foster also asked if there was a way to unify Bixby Bridge coordination (cones are currently from private residents) and upkeep as K-rails are not being taken care of, mesh netting has come undone.
 - Council was going to be on the panel of Dec 6th.
- Heather L. inquired about a gentleman frequently parking on the road. Thanked Point Lobos for efficient management of ticketing and asked for a concerted effort to help clean up garbage.
- Matt Harris explained that County Public Works should be a part of the meetings. He also asked County Public Works about the sandpile. At a BSMAAC meeting someone suggested the sandbags near the k rails be painted so they brought that idea up to the Chief of Public Works and there may be a collaboration coming soon between Big Sur Fire and County Public Works.
- Breylen Ammen supported the idea of cleanups in Big Sur and reminded everyone that Coastal Cleanup day occurs every September.
- Bruce Merchant Regard to parking problem at Bixby, could we us a license plate reader to monitor at Old Coast Road?
- Mark Dippel- State Parks has hired new Park Ranger. Her duties include camp checks from the closure all the way up to Point Lobos working with Caltrans to keep corridor safe.
- John Yerace- CHP Resident Police Officer- has issued \$1,000 fines. The gentleman noted previously was homeless from Santa Cruz. The department has limited hours to monitor, officers take photographs for another office to assist , hoping for more hours. Would like to see signage on highway closer to highway but aware of sign pollution. Manageable when staff is present but once an officer leaves one car parks on Old Coast and others follow. Need more unified enforcement of camping, has worked with Fish and Game and have spoken with people about the rules during daylight hours. Hard to tell if people are actually sleeping in their vehicles.

Mark Grandcolas arrived at 10:21am

Close public comment period at 10:23am.

Agenda, Additions, Deletions, and Corrections

- Ms. Diehl called for agenda additions, deletions, or corrections.
- Ms. Scariot confirmed none.

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2025 (Attachment 1)
- Ms. Diehl called for any discussion of the minutes.
- *A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented by Rick Aldinger, Mark Grandcolas seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Scheduled / Other Matters

A. Adopt Regularly Scheduled Meeting Calendar

- Martha asked for feedback if Big Sure Lodge or Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District station would be a better location to host this meeting? Hoping to garner as much attendance as possible depending on location.
- Mark- suggested altering between two locations.
- Fire station is looking to improve their internet stability.
- Approved dates: March 18, 2026 / June 17, 2026 / September 23, 2026 / November 4, 2026

B. Chloride Extraction at Rocky Creek Bridge (Caltrans)

- John Olejnik- Rocky Creek Bridge project is slated for electrochemical chloride extraction (ECE). Not an easy or new project as scaffolding constructed extracts the corrosive materials. Project will begin after the first of the year, contractor on board. Will be going down to one lane traffic control.
- Martha- is there a forward looking schedule?
 - John O.- developed a public website to keep people up to date. Work cannot be delayed because of budget availability, trying to keep to schedule to be successful so little wiggle room on date changes for the public to weigh in on. Website to track all projects in Big Sur: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5/district-5-current-projects>
- Heather- How many years does this process buy for the repaired bridge?
- John O.- Repairs usually lasts 10 to 20 years depending on conditions (impact from corrosion of salty air). There are people assessing future lifespans of bridges. Have program of bridge health and inspections and in the process of working on that schedule.
- Laura - is there going to be a series of single lane need public transportation to manage if multiple bridges will be repaired.
- Marcus Foster- is there a way to keep two lanes open once daytime work is done?

- John O.- Can't have 2 lanes open with equipment and staging.
- Martha thanked John for updates.
- C. Introduction to Coast Highway Management Plan Update (Caltrans)
 - Martha- introduced the topic
 - Brandy Rider - Deputy District Director in charge of the CHMP plan, with District 5 Caltrans for 26 years. Provided update regarding the plan 20 years in the making. In 2025 secured PROTECT Funding for the update, 2025 fall kickoff of planning efforts.
 - Broad overview of program
 - Corridor management plan (corridor aesthetics, landslide management & storm damage response, vegetation management.)
 - Opportunities for consistency between local and state planning efforts with alignment on current strategic goals
 - Update and collaborate on vision for the corridor, will engage with stakeholders and community, establish the community working group, initiate public outreach. Hopes the community feels engaged.
 - Climate resiliency- how will this plan address it. Did a 2020 vulnerability study, didn't go into landslides as much as hoped to and will be spending more time looking into economic impacts.
 - Community impacts- evacuation routes, emergency response times, limited access. Will put policies in place how Caltrans works together. Start developing emergency response guidelines.
 - Other planning efforts have been done on the coast hoping to merge and coordinate with county and state parks
 - Looking ahead- Refining the scope of work to Fall 25 / Winter 25. Will establish baseline data needs and develop a plan to collect and update support data in Winter/Spring 26. Will Establish advisory committee to guide the update to the CHMP starting with a charter, vision for goals Fall 25/Winter 26.
 - What's next- stakeholder survey, what's missing, worked/didn't work, and expectations of this update. Confirm membership to working group. Review previous CHMP- identify areas of update, gaps in data/policy, conflicts in policy. Working with byways in the next several months.
 - Brandy asked for feedback and guidance to have discussion.
 - Rick- asked for clarification of the makeup of working group vs advisory group. Same or two different groups? How members of those groups chosen and timing?
 - Brandy- Working group intended to be technical specialist from agencies and from communities. Have a list from working group,

steering committee will confirm this group is the right people. Steering committee is usually executive level. Need to define Advisory group further, to be determined.

- Martha- possibility for Caltrans to help support this group so we can be more involved or meet more frequently to discuss.
- Brandy- looking into Caltran's set aside dollars from protect use dollars for admin support to hold more meetings.
- Martha- CHMP and LCP, fundamental difference is are we going to build or were going to grow our way out of the problem . Not going to make more parking, widen highway, it's just not going to work.
- John O. - Reality of expansion is not there, how do we manage that. Going to be a very open process.
- Brandy- 3-4 year time frame to develop this plan. Caltrans looks at conventional highways normally while Highway 1 is very different.
- Marcus- Notes it's important to educate people with State Parks and Caltrans on the Land Use Plan. Main objective of land use plan and several policies are not being followed.
- Public- Breylen Ammen- stepping in for Eric Stevens. In regards to CHMP and LCP possible to integrate plans to make more clear from a design standpoint? Other parallel processes, community vetted public access improvement, could be good to incorporate into this process.
- Colin Gallagher-Member of StoptIt in opposition to ParkIt, used to work as planner commissioner for City of Marina and planner for City of Salinas and Monterey. Thinks everyone should be able to access coast and all the plans should remain the same instead of changing and restricting access to public access. Should honor public access.
- Rachel Goldberg- Looking forward to seeing the results of traffic studies. Manage and mitigate increased visitation doesn't mean widening highway. Monitoring safety and hot spots in this document.
- Martha- Can we collect baseline information for peak and non-peak load to better inform decisions? Also could find someone competent in video to record a quiet and peak day to understand and see the aesthetics and inform decisions moving forward.
- Brandy- traffic studies will be a part of the plan, will be coordinating with a lot of agencies. Public safety will be a big discussion topic, don't want to cut off people from the coast. Long term working with transit organizations for access.
- Martha- Asked for update on the process at next meeting in March. CHMP is not a regulatory document but a handbook for how Caltrans

can address the changes. Thanked John and Brandy for their presentation.

- Sarah- Echoed sentiments on equitable inclusion for public access, make sure during planning stages someone/organizations voices the importance of equitable access.
- Dan- hoping to see data that goes into highlight equitable access
- John O.- Reality is Highway 1 cannot be expanded, so it becomes a matter of managing the demand. Going to be a very open process.

D. Discussion of focused meeting on transit

- Martha- let's move on with the next agenda topic, where do we start.
- Brandy- Looking into hosting transit meetings with all partners quarterly, could co-host the invite with someone with the byways organization.
- Rick- if we can get shuttles set up correctly would be transformative for the valley, hundreds of hospitality workers could utilize, if setup correctly could make a big difference.
- Martha- MST might not have ability but maybe someone else does.
- Mark Grandcolas- how do they take on issues outside of shuttle idea like flying cars, gates allowing cars with odd/even license plates
- Sarah-Coordination of hospitality shift times with shuttle timing could help, working with business owners to set hours accordingly for their staff.
- Martha- Need to take all involved and put them in a room to collaborate. Leverage existing meetings to be more inclusive.
- State parks Updates- Mid October prescribed burn at Andrew Miller of 32 acres, it was a success. Another tactic for invasive species. Garapata restrooms in contract amendment, will provide an update when projects moves along.
- Martha- After the recent tragedy should have more radical signage on beach. Could State Parks look into how to make signs more effective in their danger warnings.
- John – Regents Slide update, progress is going really well, did have some mud after the last storm. A lot of motivation from the crew, will work through Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

Ms. Diehl adjourned the meeting at 12:10pm.

Next Regular Scheduled Meeting: March 18, 2026