

Attachment C

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HOUSING, PLANNING, BUILDING, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1441 Schilling Place, South 2nd Floor
Salinas, California 93901-4527

(831) 755-5025
www.co.monterey.ca.us

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AN EMERGENCY PERMIT (COASTAL ZONE)

PROPERTY OWNERS: COUNTY OF MONTEREY

REPRESENTATIVE: County of Monterey Public Works Facilities & Parks

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Emergency Coastal Development Permit to allow installation of temporary k-rail barriers and temporary no parking signs along Coast Road in Big Sur, to remain during the time that one-way traffic control is in place near Rocky Creek.

PROJECT LOCATION: Coast Road extending from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of 1260 feet, in the unincorporated area of Monterey County

ISSUANCE DATE: July 25, 2024

HCD-PLANNING FILE #: PLN240212

RESOLUTION #: 24-026

NOTICE AND CAUSE OF EMERGENCY: Pursuant to Chapter 20.79 of the Monterey County Coastal Implementation Plan (Part 1), an Emergency Coastal Development Permit has been requested to allow temporary installation of concrete K-rail barriers and no parking signs along Coast Road during the time that one-way traffic control remains in place near Rocky Creek. The work consists of 1) installing concrete K-Rail barriers on the south side of Coast Road; and 2) placing no parking signs along both sides of Coast Road starting from the northern intersection of Coast Road and State Highway 1, extending east along Coast Road for 1,260 feet. The parking restrictions are necessary to address dangerous conditions for motorists, residence, and pedestrians that have been exacerbated by a one-way traffic control at Rocky Creek.

In recognition of the conditions on Coast Road at Highway 1, the Board of Supervisors adopted an urgency ordinance amending Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit parking at all times on both sides of Coast Road from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of 1,260 feet. The parking restrictions were deemed necessary as the congestion combined with the temporary queuing from the one-way traffic control at Rocky Creek present conditions that are hazardous to health and safety and should be addressed immediately.

- c) Monterey County HCD-Planning staff considered all the material associated with this application. Therefore, given that expeditious action is necessary to prevent a potentially serious health and safety emergency, the Monterey County Zoning Administrator authorized the work to proceed on July 25, 2024.

2. **FINDING:** The work authorized by the Emergency Permit is the minimum amount of work required to mitigate the emergency situation.

EVIDENCE:

- a) This Emergency Coastal Development Permit authorizes the installation of concrete K-Rail barriers and posting of no parking signs along Coast Road near its northern intersection with State Highway 1 during the time that one-way traffic control remains in place near Rocky Creek (temporary measures). County staff will revisit the Coast Road parking prohibition once the temporary traffic signal on Highway 1 is removed, at which point the signs and barriers will be removed or non-emergency permits and authorizations for ongoing parking restrictions would be required. The proposed construction, repair, and restoration activities are the minimum necessary to protect coastal resources while ensuring safe travel along Highway 1 and Coast Road. No other development is allowed under this Emergency Coastal Development Permit.
- b) Potential adverse environmental effects on surrounding visual, biological, and cultural resources were considered during the staff review of the emergency permit application and determined to result in minimal impacts. Potential conflicts with critical viewshed regulations and coastal access provisions have been addressed and no other conflicts were found to exist. No communications were received during the course of review of the project indicating any inconsistencies with the text, policies, and/or regulations of the applicable Monterey County Code (MCC).
- c) **Critical Viewshed:** The project is located within the critical viewshed in the Big Sur Land Use Plan. The Big Sur LUP visual resource policies are designed to protect the critical viewshed, which is defined as areas visible from State Highway 1. Development visible from these areas is not allowed except in limited circumstances. One of the limited circumstances includes road safety signs and devices. Within the State Highway 1 viewshed at the intersection of Coast Road and State Highway 1, existing pole and ground mounted equipment is already visible. The project involves installing temporary signage and concrete K-Rail barriers. The K-rails will be wrapped in jute netting or similar material for aesthetic purposes. The County has minimized the number of signs and barriers to the extent feasible for public safety and to minimize impacts to the natural scenic character of the area. The proposed signage is also consistent with State guideline requirements for highway signage, and all work will occur within the existing roadway. The subject signs would be placed approximately 200 feet apart (6 signs on each side of the road for a distance of 1,260 feet) and would be temporary in nature to make the parking restriction enforceable for law enforcement. As proposed and designed, the project minimizes development within the critical viewshed in accordance with the applicable goals and policies of the LUP, is consistent with applicable LUP visual resource policies, and would not result in adverse visual impacts.
- d) **Public Access:** Public access presently exists along State Highway 1. The proposed project will not physically alter the roadway but would temporarily restrict parking of motor vehicles along Coast Road on both sides from its northern centerline of State

placement of the signs and barriers will include use of natural materials consistent with the rural setting and character of Big Sur (rock and redwood frames) . The County has minimized the number of signs to the extent feasible for public safety and to minimize impacts to the natural scenic character of the area. The proposed signage is also consistent with State guideline requirements for highway signage, and all work will occur within the existing roadway. The subject signs would be placed approximately 200 feet apart and would be consistent with other highway signage in the area. As proposed and designed, the project minimizes development within the critical viewshed in accordance with the applicable goals and policies of the LUP, is consistent with applicable LUP visual resource policies, and would not result in adverse visual impacts.

The Big Sur LUP requires signs, guardrails, and restrooms to be of a design complementary to the rural setting and character of Big Sur, with preference for natural materials. Protective barriers constructed by Caltrans should utilize boulders or walls of rock construction. Public agency permanent highway signs should be framed with unpainted redwood. In this case, the signs and barriers are temporary and the barriers will be wrapped with jute netting or similar material to minimize visual impacts of the new temporary barriers. Jute netting will be tan in color.

- e) Public Access. The Big Sur LUP (Plan) recognizes that use of Highway 1 has grown beyond expectation and study has shown that the aesthetic qualities of Highway 1 are eroding. This is the result of both private and public development in the scenic viewshed, and visitor overuse within the highway right-of-way itself. Gradually, many informal, unsurfaced and unsightly pullouts have developed along the highway. The level of careless public use is resulting in a serious problem. The Plan calls for management of Highway 1 to maintain and enhance the highway's aesthetic beauty and to protect its primary function as a recreational route. In order to maintain the highway's benefit to the public as a scenic recreational travel experience, the County is directed by policy of the Big Sur LUP to pursue regulations for slow moving vehicles during peak travel hours. At peak summer periods, Highway 1 is approaching maximum carrying capacity and some recreational facilities are overused. Road capacity, safety and aesthetic improvements are allowed consistent with Sections 4.1.1, 4.1.2, and 4.1.3 of this Big Sur Land Use Plan. The very characteristics that make Highway 1 such an interesting driving experience also create traffic safety problems, particularly during congested periods. Slow-moving vehicles, numerous access points to the highway from private roads or recreational areas, roadside parking, and unpaved turnouts cause traffic to slow down, effectively reducing the traffic capacity of the highway and limiting access to Big Sur. Improvements consistent with the character of the two-lane scenic highway are desirable to increase its safety and traffic capacity. In this case, the improvements are temporary as the already recognized degradation of the recreational experience has been exacerbated by traffic queuing near Rocky Creek.

5. **FINDING:** This emergency activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).


EVIDENCE:

- a) Sections 15301(c) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines categorically exempts the project because the action will involve negligible changes to the existing County regulations that govern the existing County highways and streets, and the action is for the protection of the environment.
- b) The work authorized by this Emergency Coastal Development Permit allows temporary installation of concrete K-Rail barriers and posting of no parking signs along Coast Road near the intersection with Highway 1 during the time that one-way traffic control remains in place near Rocky Creek to limit parking opportunities along Coast Road for the protection of health and safety and to address aesthetic and recreational degradation due to overuse of the area.
- c) Finding Nos. 1, 2, and 3 above, and supporting evidence for this Emergency Coastal Development Permit.
- d) As proposed, the project does not create adverse environmental effects.

II. DECISION OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Based on the above findings and evidence, the Monterey County Zoning Administrator does hereby:

- 1) Find the project categorically exempt per Sections 15301(c) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines; and
- 2) Approve an Emergency Coastal Development Permit to allow installation of temporary k-rail barriers, wrapped in jute netting or similar material, and to install temporary no parking signs on both sides of Coast Road in Big Sur up to 1,260 feet from its northern centerline of Highway 1 east along Coast Road. These temporary measures will be in place only during the time that one-way traffic control is in place near Rocky Creek. (See attached Plan).



Mike Novo, AICP,
Zoning Administrator
July 25, 2024

Attachment:

cc: Front Counter Copy; Zoning Administrator; California Coastal Commission; Melanie Beretti, AICP, Chief of Planning; Craig Spencer, Director of Housing and Community Development, Anna Quenga, Principal Planner, Edgar Sanchez, Assistant Planner; HCD Engineering Services; Environmental Health Bureau; HCD-Environmental Services;; Randell Ishii, Public Works, Facilities, and Parks Director, Juan Mesa, Project Manager, Public Works, Facilities, and Parks Director; Chad Alinio, Senior Civil Engineer, Enrique



Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Board Order

168 West Alisal Street,
1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901
831.755.5066
www.co.monterey.ca.us

A motion was made by Supervisor Wendy Root Askew, seconded by Supervisor Mary L. Adams to:

Ordinance No.: 5418

Introduce, waive reading, and adopt an urgency ordinance amending Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit parking at all times on Coast Road on both sides from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of 1260 feet, in the unincorporated area of Monterey County (4/5 vote required).

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) action: find that the adoption of the urgency ordinance is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to sections 15301(c) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines because the action will involve negligible changes to the existing County regulations that govern the existing County highways and streets, and the action is for the protection of the environment.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 25th day of June 2024, by roll call vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Askew, and Adams

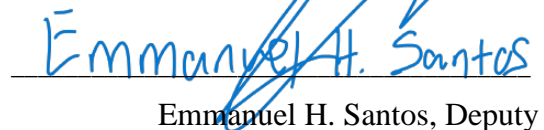
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting June 25, 2024.

Dated: June 27, 2024
File ID: ORD 24-019
Agenda Item No.: 95

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California




Emmanuel H. Santos, Deputy

EXHIBIT

Coast Road - Temporary Parking Prohibition



Legend

-  Sign (placed on existing posts as available)
-  Barrier



R26(CA)



R30E(CA)

K-Rail Concrete Barrier





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Armando Quintero, Director

Monterey District
2211 Garden Road
Monterey, CA 93940

July 31, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Shilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: Temporary Restricted Parking on Old Coast Road at Bixby Bridge

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

The intent of this letter is to express California State Parks support for temporary parking restrictions on Old Coast Road in proximity to Bixby Bridge. This measure will enhance public safety and protect the well-being of first responders, residents, businesses, employees, and visitors to Bixby Bridge and the Big Sur Coast on Highway 1.

The washout of Highway 1 between Rocky Creek Bridge and Bixby Bridge has exacerbated emergency response and public safety issues. This incident has severely impacted through-traffic to the Big Sur Coast for residents, visitors, and first responders. California State Parks Peace Officers are often first on scene for emergency response and public safety concerns all along the Big Sur Coast. The washout resulted in extended periods of intermittent road closures, stranding of visitors, campground closures, and severe hardship for residents and businesses. Critical repair work will require many months to complete. With the current one-lane road at the washout site and intermittent overnight closures, it is imperative that the area around the Bixby Bridge remains safe and functional, consistent with local and regional plans and policies.

Congestion issues at Bixby Bridge can delay emergency medical and public safety backup response from Monterey to areas south of Bixby Bridge for hours. There have already been instances where allied agencies are unable to respond and assist due to congestion causing hours-long delays in arrival time to Big Sur. This overburdens the severely understaffed first responders that reside in the Big Sur area, and are tasked with providing for public safety along the extensive coastline.

The Bixby Bridge has become an iconic destination. The high volume of visitors has caused severe traffic congestion on the narrow and winding Old Coast Road. Parked vehicles often block traffic and emergency services, creating dangerous situations. Temporarily restricting parking on Old Coast Road, clearly delineating highway parking, and improving signage will help alleviate congestion and improve safety. These actions will enable emergency service providers to operate more effectively and reduce the risk

of accidents and delays. Ensuring a clear and accessible road is vital, especially during this period of heightened concern. Public messaging will be essential for success.

This measure would assist with protecting our community and ensuring that visitors and residents can safely experience Big Sur while the challenges posed by the washout are addressed. Thank you for considering this urgent request to enhance public safety.

Sincerely,

Dan Shaw
Deputy District Superintendent
daniel.shaw@parks.ca.gov

Cc Brent Marshall (brent.marshall@parks.ca.gov)

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: D3E5FC40F52A4F77821ED8F53A6AE1CA

Status: Sent

Subject: Bixby LOS

Template Code:

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 2

Signatures: 0

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 2

Initials: 0

Daniel Shaw

AutoNav: Enabled

715 P Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Sacramento, CA 95814

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Daniel.Shaw@parks.ca.gov

IP Address: 205.155.68.236

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: Daniel Shaw

Location: DocuSign

7/30/2024 5:01:04 PM

Daniel.Shaw@parks.ca.gov

Security Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: StateLocal

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: California State Department of Parks and Recreation

Location: DocuSign

Signer EventsSignatureTimestamp

Daniel Shaw

Sent: 7/30/2024 5:03:40 PM

daniel.shaw@parks.ca.gov

District Superintendent I

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer EventsSignatureTimestamp

Editor Delivery EventsStatusTimestamp

Agent Delivery EventsStatusTimestamp

Intermediary Delivery EventsStatusTimestamp

Certified Delivery EventsStatusTimestamp

Carbon Copy EventsStatusTimestamp

Brent C Marshall

COPIED

Sent: 7/30/2024 5:03:40 PM

Brent.Marshall@parks.ca.gov

DS V

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via DocuSign

Mauricio Arias

COPIED

Sent: 7/30/2024 5:03:41 PM

mauricio.arias@asm.ca.gov

Viewed: 7/30/2024 5:04:29 PM

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via DocuSign

Witness EventsSignatureTimestamp

Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	7/30/2024 5:03:41 PM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0030
(916) 319-2030

DISTRICT OFFICES
857 SANTA ROSA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3001
99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 575G
MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832



COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

July 25, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Prohibiting Parking on Old Coast Road at the Bixby Bridge

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express my strong support for the temporary prohibition of parking on Old Coast Road. This measure is crucial for enhancing public safety and ensuring the well-being of residents, first responders, businesses, employees, and visitors to the Bixby Bridge on California State Highway 1 in Big Sur.

The recent washout of Highway 1 between Rocky Creek Bridge and Bixby Bridge has exacerbated these issues. This incident has stranded thousands of drivers and necessitated supplemental traffic measures, including twice-daily convoys for residents and essential workers. With the current one-lane road at the washout site, it is imperative that we take action to ensure that the area around the Bixby Bridge remains safe and functional. The increased congestion and restricted access resulting from the washout underscore the urgency of addressing parking issues on Old Coast Road.

The Bixby Bridge has become an iconic destination, but its popularity has led to significant public safety concerns. The area lacks cell phone reception, restroom facilities, dedicated parking, and access to recreational areas or beaches. The high volume of visitors has caused severe traffic congestion on the narrow and winding Old Coast Road. Parked vehicles often block traffic and emergency services, creating dangerous situations. There have been reports of individuals being unable to exit Coast Road onto Highway 1 for urgent medical attention due to cars obstructing the single-lane road.

Temporarily prohibiting parking on Old Coast Road will help alleviate congestion and improve safety. This action will enable emergency services to operate more

effectively and reduce the risk of accidents and delays. Ensuring a clear and accessible road is vital, especially during this period of heightened concern.

There is broad support from local stakeholders, state, and local agencies for this temporary parking prohibition. Parking will remain available on the west and east sides of Highway 1, maintaining access to the coastal area. This measure is essential for protecting our community and ensuring that visitors, residents, and local members can safely experience Big Sur while we address the challenges posed by the washout.

Thank you for considering this urgent request to enhance public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Addis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dawn" and last name "Addis" clearly distinguishable.

DAWN ADDIS
Assemblymember, 30th District

MONTEREY COUNTY



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MARY L. ADAMS, SUPERVISOR – FIFTH DISTRICT

1200 Aguajito Road, Suite #1, Monterey, CA 93940

E-mail: District5@countyofmonterey.gov

Phone: (831) 647-7755

July 30, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas , CA 9301

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express my strong support for the prohibition of parking on Old Coast Road. This measure is crucial for enhancing public safety and ensuring the well-being of all stakeholders, including residents, first responders, businesses, employees, and visitors when visiting the Bixby Bridge on California State Highway 1 in Big Sur.

The Bixby Bridge has become an iconic destination for Highway 1 road trippers and those who visit Big Sur. In the last ten years or so, the popularity has skyrocketed creating public safety issues in an area that does not have cell phone reception, restroom facilities, dedicated parking, or access to a recreation area or beach.

The traffic congestion related to visiting the Bixby Bridge has created an increasingly unsafe environment. The narrow and winding nature of Old Coast Road, combined with parked vehicles, severely restricts the movement of traffic and emergency services. This congestion poses a significant risk to public safety, particularly in emergencies where every second counts. Members of the public have voiced their firsthand experience in life threatening situations where they were unable to exit Coast Road on to Highway 1 to receive immediate medical attention due to the illegally parked cars blocking the single lane road.

Moreover, the lack of cell phone reception and nearby resources exacerbates the challenges in this area. In the event of an emergency, the inability to communicate promptly and effectively can lead to dire consequences. The absence of reliable cell phone service makes it difficult for individuals to call for help, and the limited resources available nearby further complicate any emergency response efforts.

At this time, the impact of visitation on this Bixby Bridge area is not safe for the community or even those who wish to visit the area. Visitors are confused by the lack of infrastructure and direction, making a poor decision to illegally park that is then followed by the countless other visitors. Data collection on length of visit to the Bixby Bridge collected by the Community Association of Big Sur indicates approximately an average of ten minutes to visit the Bridge before they return to their vehicles.

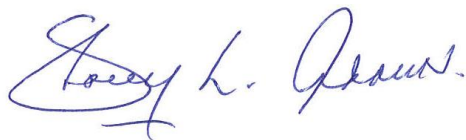
There is broad support from the local stakeholders and state and local agency representatives for prohibiting parking on Old Coast Road. Many have reported near-misses and dangerous situations resulting from pedestrians crossing Highway 1. Prohibiting parking will reduce the number of southbound vehicles stopping on Highway 1 to cross over the northbound traffic to enter Old Coast Road and will reduce the number of pedestrians crossing Highway 1 from Coast Road to the west side of Highway 1. It will enable first responders to perform their duties more effectively, reduce the risk of accidents and near misses, and provide a safer environment for all who wish to visit the Bixby Bridge.

I urge you to take immediate action to prohibit parking on Old Coast Road. Parking will remain available to visitors on the west and east side of Highway 1, allowing access in the coastal area.

Prioritizing public safety in this manner is essential for protecting our community and ensuring that visitors, residents, and local community members can all safely experience Big Sur.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary L. Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent part.

Mary L. Adams
Board of Supervisors
Fifth District

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

960 East Blanco Road
831-770-8000
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



July 26, 2024

File No.: 730.015901

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express my strong support for the temporary prohibition of parking on Old Coast Road. This measure is crucial for enhancing public safety and ensuring the well-being of residents, first responders, businesses, employees, and visitors to the Bixby Bridge on California State Highway 1 in Big Sur.

The recent washout of Highway 1 between Rocky Creek Bridge and Bixby Bridge has exacerbated these issues. This incident has stranded thousands of drivers and necessitated supplemental traffic measures, including twice-daily convoys for residents and essential workers. With the current one-lane road at the washout site, it is imperative that we take action to ensure that the area around the Bixby Bridge remains safe and functional. The increased congestion and restricted access resulting from the washout underscore the urgency of addressing parking issues on Old Coast Road.

The Bixby Bridge has become an iconic destination, but its popularity has led to significant public safety concerns. The area lacks cell phone reception, restroom facilities, dedicated parking, and access to recreational areas or beaches. The high volume of visitors has caused severe traffic congestion on the narrow and winding Old Coast Road. Parked vehicles often block traffic and emergency services, creating dangerous situations. There have been reports of individuals being unable to exit Coast Road onto Highway 1 for urgent medical attention due to cars obstructing the single-lane road.

Temporarily prohibiting parking on Old Coast Road will help alleviate congestion and improve safety. This action will enable emergency services to operate more effectively and reduce the risk of accidents and delays. Ensuring a clear and accessible road is vital, especially during this period of heightened concern.

There is broad support from local stakeholders, state, and local agencies for this temporary parking prohibition. Parking will remain available on the west and east sides of Highway 1, maintaining access to the coastal area. This measure is essential for protecting our community



and ensuring that visitors, residents, and local members can safely experience Big Sur while we address the challenges posed by the washout.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me at itroxell@chp.ca.gov or (831) 770-8000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Troxell', is positioned above a horizontal line.

I. TROXELL, Captain
Commander
California Highway Patrol
Monterey Area



Community Association of Big Sur
PO Box 59, Big Sur, CA 93920

Caring for the coast for over 50 years

Community Association of Big Sur is a 501 (c) 3 (EIN 77-0091132). Our shared mission is to protect and defend the rural and residential character, and to preserve the natural and aesthetic beauty of the Big Sur coast; to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the Big Sur Community; to encourage community service and otherwise act in the interests of the residents and property owners of the community. CABS is committed to a collaborative approach towards responsible land stewardship. CABS believes that an effective partnership between private and public property owners is essential for a sustainable and healthy community.

STAFF

Executive Director

Patte Kronlund

Program Managers

Rachel Goldberger

Rayner Marx

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ryne Leuzinger, Bd Chair

Kendra Morgenrath, Vice
Bd Chair

Lisa Kleissner, Treasurer
Jolinda Matthews,
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Collins

Katie Day

Mike Gilson

Butch Kronlund

Martin Palafox

Pam Peck

Blain VandenBerg

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Mike Caplin

Martha Diehl

John Handy

Richard "Dick" Ravich

July 27, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 9301

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I support the initiative to prohibit parking on Old Coast Road near Bixby Bridge in Big Sur due to safety concerns arising from increased visitor traffic at this iconic location.

I have spent considerable time at Bixby Bridge conducting research and cleanup efforts with the Community Association of Big Sur (CABS), and I have personally observed the various challenges that arise due to the current parking situation.

The risks posed by numerous vehicles and pedestrians sharing the same space underscore the necessity of enforcing parking restrictions, not only to prevent accidents but also to provide guidance and a more enjoyable experience for all visitors.

Illegal parking at the mouth of the Old Coast Road and Highway 1, and the traffic congestion this causes, regularly blocks access for residents and emergency vehicles. The lack of guidance and confusing guard rail placement has led to an unsafe crossing situation. Each highway crossing from the Old Coast Road on the east side to the west side viewing area presents a safety challenge. I have witnessed parents hoisting children over guard rails, visitors risking injury while crossing, and hundreds of unexpected traffic stops along the Highway because of pedestrian crossings.

The high volume of crossings, averaging 226 per **hour** on typical Sundays, poses significant safety risks. On Labor Day weekend, that number increased to 318 crossings per hour.

The recent tragic pedestrian fatality at Soberanes, another high-visitation area nearby, serves as a poignant reminder of the urgent need to address safety concerns in high-traffic areas like Bixby Bridge.

By closing Old Coast Road to parking, we can take a significant step towards enhancing public safety, reducing traffic congestion, and providing guidance for a more enjoyable and safe experience for travelers who frequent this beloved destination.

Thank you for your commitment to the well-being and safety of our community and the traveling public.

Rachel Goldberger
Program Manager – Community Association of Big Sur



Caring for the coast for over 50 years

Community Association of Big Sur is a 501 (c) 3 (EIN 77-0091132). Our shared mission is to protect and defend the rural and residential character, and to preserve the natural and aesthetic beauty of the Big Sur coast; to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the Big Sur Community; to encourage community service and otherwise act in the interests of the residents and property owners of the community. CABS is committed to a collaborative approach towards responsible land stewardship. CABS believes that an effective partnership between private and public property owners is essential for a sustainable and healthy community.

STAFF

Executive Director

Patte Kronlund

Program Managers

Rachel Goldberger

Rayner Marx

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ryne Leuzinger, Bd Chair

Kendra Morgenrath, Vice
Bd Chair

Lisa Kleissner, Treasurer

Jolinda Matthews,
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Collins

Katie Day

Mike Gilson

Butch Kronlund

Martin Palafox

Pam Peck

Blain VandenBerg

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Mike Caplin

Martha Diehl

John Handy

Richard "Dick" Ravich

July 29, 2024

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express my strong support for the immediate prohibition of parking on Old Coast Road at Bixby Bridge. This is a crucial public safety measure needed to ensure the well-being of all stakeholders, including residents, first responders, employees, and visitors traveling through this section of Highway 1 in Big Sur.

Traffic congestion related to visitation at Bixby Bridge has created an increasingly unsafe environment. The narrow and winding nature of Old Coast Road, combined with parked vehicles, severely restricts the movement of traffic and emergency services. This congestion poses a significant risk to public safety, particularly in emergencies where every second counts. I have heard from community members who have voiced their firsthand experience of life threatening situations where they were unable to exit Old Coast Road onto Highway 1 to receive medical attention due to illegally parked cars blocking the single lane road. In my conversations with local first responders such as Big Sur Fire Chief Matt Harris I have repeatedly heard concerns about the difficulty of getting fire trucks and ambulances through the Bixby Bridge area in the event of an emergency. Moreover, the lack of cell phone reception and the limited resources nearby exacerbate the challenges in this area.

For many years, Big Sur residents have voiced concerns about the unsafe conditions at Bixby Bridge related to traffic congestion that can impede access in an emergency as well as concerns regarding high volume pedestrian highway crossings. One particularly notable example of public input regarding the dangerous conditions there can be found in the Destination Stewardship Plan for Big Sur, the creation of which was led by the Community Association of Big Sur in cooperation with the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and in partnership with the Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau. In the Destination Stewardship Plan, Bixby Bridge is noted as a uniquely dangerous point on Highway 1. Synthesizing input from a wide range of stakeholders the Destination Stewardship Plan notes that "Bixby Bridge was emphasized repeatedly at Big Sur DSP stakeholder meetings, the status quo of chaotic



Community Association of Big Sur
PO Box 59, Big Sur, CA 93920

Page Two

and poorly managed visitor access to Bixby Bridge is neither desirable nor sustainable. This led to Big Sur stakeholders emphasizing the importance of finding a solution now to Bixby Bridge visitation problems” (pg. 82).

At this time, conditions at Bixby Bridge are not safe for community members or tourists. There is broad support from local stakeholders and state and local agency representatives for prohibiting parking on Old Coast Road. This prohibition will both reduce the traffic congestion that limits first responder access and will improve pedestrian safety by disincentivizing crossing Highway 1 from Old Coast Road on foot. A data collection project focused on Bixby Bridge that I participated in with other community members concluded that on weekends the average number of pedestrians crossing the highway numbers in the hundreds per hour often stepping unexpectedly into the highway amidst high-speed traffic. The tragic pedestrian fatality at the Soberanes Trailhead on July 13th has made clear that we must collectively take responsibility for pedestrian safety on the Highway 1 corridor. The most impactful way to do so is via an immediate prohibition of parking on Old Coast Road which will enable first responders to access this area in an emergency while also reducing the likelihood of pedestrians being struck by cars at this dangerous highway crossing. Addressing this clear and present danger will provide a safer and more enjoyable environment for all who wish to visit Big Sur.

Ryne Leuzinger
Chair of the Board of Directors
Community Association of Big Sur (CABS)



Caring for the coast for over 50 years

Community Association of Big Sur is a 501 (c) 3 (EIN 77-0091132). Our shared mission is to protect and defend the rural and residential character, and to preserve the natural and aesthetic beauty of the Big Sur coast; to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the Big Sur Community; to encourage community service and otherwise act in the interests of the residents and property owners of the community. CABS is committed to a collaborative approach towards responsible land stewardship. CABS believes that an effective partnership between private and public property owners is essential for a sustainable and healthy community.

STAFF

Executive Director

Patte Kronlund

Program Managers

Rachel Goldberger

Rayner Marx

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ryne Leuzinger, Bd Chair

Kendra Morgenrath, Vice
Bd Chair

Lisa Kleissner, Treasurer

Jolinda Matthews,
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Collins

Katie Day

Mike Gilson

Butch Kronlund

Martin Palafox

Pam Peck

Blain VandenBerg

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Mike Caplin

Martha Diehl

John Handy

Richard "Dick" Ravich

July 27, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear County of Monterey Zoning Administrator,

I am writing to express **my support for the immediate prohibition of parking on the Old Coast Road**. This measure is crucial for enhancing public safety and ensuring the well-being of all residents, first responders, businesses, employees, and visitors when traveling through, or visiting Bixby Bridge on Highway 1 in Big Sur.

The Bixby Bridge area has been a public safety concern for the last 10+ years along with other identified "hotspots" e.g., Soberanes, Pt. Lobos State Park, Garrapata Beach, Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, etc.

Bixby Bridge is on every traveler's "bucket list" of a photo opportunity but what the travelers do not know is that there is no cell reception, restroom facilities, or a dedicated parking area. When they arrive at Bixby Bridge they do not know where to safely park which adds to the congestion and safety issues in this area of Highway 1.

Residents have seen all sorts of "near misses" with pedestrians crossing the highway from the Old Coast Road and back, illegal parking on the highway, full stops on the highway where a passenger gets out and takes a photo, people falling trying to climb over the guardrail on the west side of the highway, people attempting to get in and out of the Old Coast Road in an unsafe manner, etc.

The Bixby Bridge area is further exacerbated with the Rocky Creek Slip Out, just north of Bixby Bridge, where a "one way Traffic Light" is in place and construction of a new viaduct will start soon. This further makes this stretch of highway very dangerous with travelers still keen to stop at Bixby Bridge for that 10-minute photo op.

With the recent pedestrian death at Soberanes, this further underscores this request to close Old Coast Road and the responsibility we all must have to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for taking immediate action to prohibit parking on the Old Coast Road and prioritizing public safety to protect our community and ensure visitors, residents, employees, and first responders can safely drive Highway 1.

Sincerely,
Patte Kronlund

California Department of Transportation

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5
50 HIGUERA STREET | SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
(805) 549-3101 | FAX (805) 549-3329 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



July 30, 2024

County of Monterey
Housing and Community Development Department
1441 Schilling Place
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Housing and Community Development Department:

In partnership with Assemblymember Dawn Addis, County Supervisor Mary Adams, and the California Highway Patrol we are writing in support of the County of Monterey's effort to approve an ordinance that temporarily restricts parking on Old Coast Road. Caltrans hopes this action, in conjunction with parking management strategies and enforcement efforts, is a step toward addressing the congestion from too many vehicles attempting to turn and park on Old Coast Road and then subsequently walk across Highway 1 in live traffic to view Bixby Bridge.

As an active and engaged partner with the Big Sur community, we see this short-term action in what is a long-term need to manage the demand resulting from visitor overuse. While we do not anticipate a need at this time, Caltrans will work closely with County of Monterey staff to expedite any permitting of work which occurs within the State highway right of way.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter of support, please contact Pete Hendrix, District 5 Traffic Division Chief, at (805) 748-1309 or [<peter.hendrix@dot.ca.gov>](mailto:peter.hendrix@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Eades'.

SCOTT EADES
District Director