

Agenda Date: June 9, 2026

Agenda No.: 9

# State Highway 1 at Bixby Bridge

Introduce, waive first reading, and set date and time to consider adoption of ordinance to prohibit parking at all times for a 12-month period

Board Referral No. 2026.08



# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Recommendations
- Questions/Comments

# Background

## ➤ Board Referral No 2026.08

- The purpose of this referral is to implement a 12-month moratorium on parking in the immediate vicinity of Bixby Bridge on Highway 1, in advance of the Memorial Day weekend start of the summer season. This action responds to longstanding and well-documented public safety hazards at this location.
- Data collected during Labor Day weekend in 2022 recorded up to 325 pedestrian highway crossings per hour on the north side of Bixby Bridge. On September 4 of that weekend, vehicle activity peaked at 70 complete stops in the roadway per hour. Additional counts from September and October showed Sunday afternoon averages of 108 pedestrian crossings per hour, 38 complete stops in the travel lane per hour, and 12 vehicles per hour parked over the fog line.

# Background

## ➤ Board Referral No 2026.08

- In spring 2026, traffic congestion at key Big Sur chokepoints – including Bixby Bridge, Point Lobos, and Soberanes – reached unprecedented levels during spring break. These conditions continue to heighten risks to visitor and resident safety, emergency access, and sensitive natural resources.
- In March, Supervisor Daniels met with Coastal Commission staff to explore potential management strategies for Bixby Bridge. While staff provided a follow-up letter on March 20, it did not identify actionable near term solutions or funding strategies to address the immediate hazards expected this summer. Some recommendations also appear to be in tension with elements of Big Sur’s Local Coastal Program, as outlined in the attached summary.

# Background

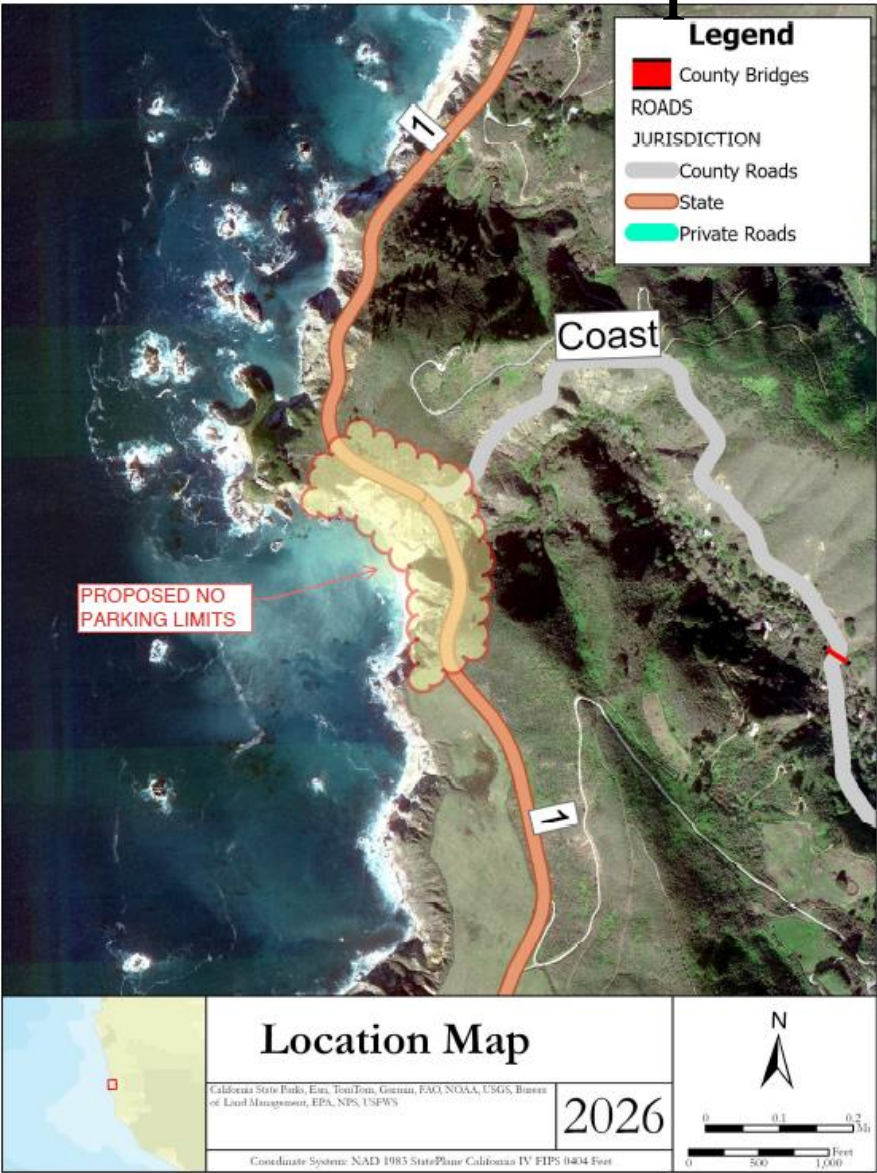
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- Considering ongoing safety concerns and the need for an immediate, practical response, this referral proposes adoption of a temporary No Parking ordinance on Highway 1 near Bixby Bridge, complementing the existing Old Coast Road No Parking restrictions. This measure would provide short-term protection for public safety while allowing for continued coordination with the Coastal Commission on longer-term management approaches.
- Supervisor Daniels remains open to modifying the County's course of action if meaningful and effective enforcement measures are implemented before summer.
- Proposes that County prohibit parking on State Route 1 on both its sides, north and south of Bixby Bridge;
  - Adopt ordinance
  - Place signage

# Background

- May 19, 2026 Board Meeting
  - Heard Preliminary Analysis Report
  - Move forward to prohibit parking on State Route 1 on both its sides, north and south of Bixby Bridge;
    - Adopt ordinance
    - Place signage

# Location Map



# Previous Condition (circa Dec 2023/Jan 2024)



# Current Condition (News story May 2026)

Memorial Day crowds jam Bixby Bridge, and a firefighter says a fire engine could not get through



# Recommendations

- Find that the adoption of the ordinance is statutorily exempt under Sections 15269(c) of the CEQA Guidelines because the action will involve specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency; and
- Introduce, waive first reading, and set June 23, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. as the date and time to consider adoption of an ordinance amending Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit parking at all times on both sides of State Highway 1 from approximately 900 feet north of the north abutment of Bixby Bridge (Caltrans Post Mile 59.64) to approximately 700 feet south of the south abutment of Bixby Bridge (Caltrans Post Mile 59.25), in the unincorporated area of Monterey County; and
- Authorize the Director of Public Works, Facilities and Parks to apply on behalf of the County for an encroachment permit from Caltrans to install no parking signs on both sides of State Highway 1 in the limits described in the ordinance around Bixby Bridge.

Questions or Comments?

