

Half Moon Bay
Coastside Foundation
Coastside CRMP & Fire Safe Councils
aka California Watershed Posse (CWP)



"Change is inevitable...
Survival is not."

May 26, 2004

To: San Mateo County Planning Commission
From: Oscar Braun, Executive Director
RE: Regular Agenda item: # 6 at 1:p.m.

Owners: Dana Denman, Andrea Bechtolshiem,
June Schanbacher, Charlise Heiser, Trust

Applicant: Caltrans

File No: PLN2003-00428

Location: 1986 Devil's Slide Highway 1 Improvement Project, Pacifica

Assessor's Parcel No: 023-731-020

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SAN MATEO COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

Consideration of a Coastal Development Permit, pursuant to Section 6328.4 of the County Zoning Regulations, to allow the construction of a two 4,000 foot long tunnels with two approach bridges, north of Montara, in unincorporated San Mateo County. **This project IS appealable to the California Coastal Commission.**

PROJECT PLANNER: Mike Schaller: Telephone: 650-363-1849

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Save Our Bay Foundation and the Coastal Family Alliance, we ask the San Mateo County Planning Commission to "**DENY**" Caltrans Coastal Development Permit (CDP) application File No: PLN2003-00428 to build the Sierra Club sponsored tunnels/bridges 4 lane freeway alternative. Why? Because after review of the DSSEIS/EIR by San Mateo County and the California Coastal Commission on May 11 & 12, 1999, determinations were lawfully made that the tunnels are not a reasonable alternative because of their inconsistency with current Local Coastal Planning (LCP) policies, wetlands destruction, and various safety and cost issues. Enclosed please find a chronological history of the Devil's Slide Second Supplemental to the 1986 Final Environmental Impact State/Environmental Impact Report and Save Our Bay's whistle blowing alerts and protests on behalf of the San Mateo County rural coastal communities.

The goal of the Measure T's proponents (Sierra Club & COSA) was never to build tunnels; they simply wanted to stop the Martini Creek bypass and maintain limited access to the coast. The Tunnel Initiative (Measure-T) has proven to be a fiasco. Supervisors Mike Nevin, Richard Gordon and Jerry Hill have betrayed the public trust. This San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has concealed from the public since, May 11, 1999 that the Sierra Club sponsored "Sooner Safer Cheaper" Tunnel Initiative was dead on arrival and a \$300 million boondoggle.

Can San Mateo County afford an environmental movement and Supervisors that cannot be trusted? Think of all the work left to do: The protection of our Peninsula watershed wildland urban interface "**WUI**" from catastrophic wildfires, smart growth to prevent urban sprawl and the preservation of our rural coastal farming communities. If environmentalists cannot be trusted at the resource management planning table, then soon we will no longer be invited. And that would be a tragedy, not just for environmentalists, but the environment itself. Much as we would work to protect our environment, so must we protect our honor, or neither will survive.