

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

50 HIGUERA STREET  
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415  
PHONE (805) 549-3101  
FAX (805) 549-3329  
TTY 711  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/>



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

March 15, 2012

George Dondero  
Executive Director, SCCRTC  
1523 Pacific Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911

Dear Mr. Dondero:

This is in regard to your recent correspondence to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) regarding rumble strips on the centerline and shoulders of Highway 1 from Shaffer Road to Swanton Road in Santa Cruz County.

Caltrans takes pride in our mission to *Improve Mobility Across California*, and safety is always our top goal. To align with the Caltrans mission and goals, we strive to ensure that projects meet the needs of all users of the state highway system. The need for safety improvements on Highway 1 between Shaffer Road and Swanton Road was recently reviewed due to the pattern of accidents, especially run-off-road vehicle accidents. For the period of 01/01/2004 to 12/31/2009, this corridor experienced a total of seven fatal collisions that killed eight people, including a cyclist. During this same time period, there were 77 non-fatal injury collisions involving 131 people. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of these collisions involved vehicles running off the right shoulder of the highway, and 14% percent involved bicycles. Nationally, single vehicle run-off-road accidents account for one out of every three fatal collisions. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports drift-off-the-road crashes caused by drowsy, distracted, or otherwise inattentive drivers are reduced by shoulder or edge line rumble strips.

Between 1998 and 2000, Caltrans and members of the bicycle community formed a Rumble Strip Task Force which worked with the California Bike Advisory Committee to explore various rumble strip patterns that could be traversed by bicyclists and also provide an adequate warning to errant drivers. Various test vehicles were used in this study, as well as bicycle riders of various ages and experience levels. The Rumble Strip Task Force and Caltrans efforts received favorable comments from cyclists who helped develop the 2001 Report Evaluation of Milled-In Rumble Strips, Rolled-In Rumble Strips and Audible Edge Stripe. (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/traffic/rsreport01.pdf>)

George Dondero

March 15, 2012

Page 2

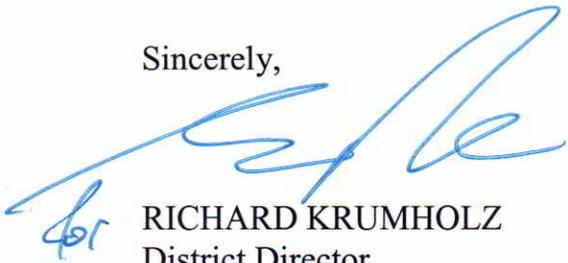
As a result of that study, revised standard plans were adopted to make rumble strips more accommodating for bicyclists, making them traversable without discomfort or control issues. Caltrans Rumble Strip policy update, October 5, 2011, also provides for a design that places the rumble strip under the vehicle travel way edge line.

(<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/traffic/rspoldir.pdf>)

Caltrans will work with the community to maintain the Highway 1 corridor while improving the safety for all users of the state highway system. We are in the initial scoping stages of this safety project and construction is expected to begin a year or two from now. Caltrans' dialogue with the bicycle community will continue, and input from all users is important to us. We are planning on attending the April 9, 2012 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting and would be happy to present information as part of the Director's report at a future board meeting.

When the project is complete, it is my sincere hope that it reflects the needs of the community who share our goal of maintaining safety for all users on this scenic stretch of Highway 1.

Sincerely,



RICHARD KRUMHOLZ  
District Director

Cc: Regional Transportation Commission  
Regional Transportation Commission's Bicycle Advisory Committee