

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

BCPUD

BOX 390 270 ELM ROAD BOLINAS CALIFORNIA 94924

415 868 1224



December 26, 2023

DRAFT

VIA E-MAIL: vpearson@marincounty.org

Veronica C. Pearson
Senior Ecological Restoration Planner
Marin County Parks
Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 260
San Rafael, California 94903

Re: Traffic Safety Concerns re the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project.

Dear Veronica:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (“BCPUD”), I am writing to convey the Board’s continuing concerns about the traffic safety implications of the soon to-be reconfigured single intersection proposed for Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road once the cross-over road is eliminated as part of the Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Resiliency Project (“Project”). As the Board repeatedly has stated throughout the course of the Project, the directors are very supportive of the comprehensive environmental and ecological restoration objectives of the Project. However, the directors (and members of the public at large) believe the implications of changing the traffic flow in and out of Bolinas from two separate “entry points” off of Highway 1 to Olema-Bolinas Road to a single entry point has not been adequately analyzed. We previously urged the County to collaborate with CalTrans to explore opportunities for reducing the potential for accidents at the new single intersection, including: the installation a left-turn “pocket” lane on Highway 1 for north-bound traffic; the installation of flashing lights at the intersection to alert drivers arriving from either direction to the upcoming intersection; and, the installation of a four-way stop or roundabout at the intersection to sufficiently slow traffic and reduce the potential for accidents.

It is our understanding the County endeavored to work with CalTrans in a collaborative fashion to incorporate as many of the suggested safety features as possible for the final design of the new intersection at Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas Road. However, we understand CalTrans concluded the Project as designed is within its guidelines and therefore is not inclined to implement any additional safety features. **In light of the implications for the safety of Bolinas residents and coastal visitors posed by the newly configured single entry to Olema-Bolinas Road from Highway 1, we are sending copies of this letter to Senator Mike McGuire and Assemblymember Damon Connelly to alert them to our community’s concerns and request their assistance in persuading CalTrans to implement critical safety features to reduce the potential for accidents at this location.**

Very truly yours,

Jennifer Blackman
General Manager

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cc: Senator Mike McGuire
Assemblymember Damon Connolly
Ralph Camiccia, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee
Rudi Ferris, Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee
George Krakauer, Fire Chief, Bolinas Fire Protection District