

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Caltrans District 4  
Attn: Yolanda Rivas  
P.O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623-0660



Re: State Route 37 Traffic Congestion Relief Project

Dear Ms. Rivas:

The Marin Conservation League has been following the proceedings of the four-county SR 37 Policy Committee since its formation by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2015. We recognize the significant congestion on SR-37 and the need for an interim approach to relieve congestion and address traffic delay while a long-term solution for the 21-mile corridor (Ultimate solution) is being designed and constructed. We encourage an interim approach with minimal environmental disturbance. What is constructed for this project must not hinder the priority that the Ultimate project must allow for a functional tidal marsh that adapts to ongoing sea level rise due to climate change.

Encouraging high occupancy vehicles (HOV) is a potential benefit for air quality (AQ). All three designs have HOV lanes. Will the high occupancy be for two or three occupants? What is the projected AQ benefit of each occupancy requirement?

Lights are proposed in all three alternatives. What can be done to reduce the light intrusion on the night sky? How will lights impact surrounding marshes and their wildlife? How can these impacts be reduced?

Sheet piles are proposed in multiple areas to reduce settlement of the roadway. Please identify these sites. Will the sheet piling reduce the subsurface flow of water in the marshes? How will the hydrology be affected? What impact would that have on the viability of the marsh on either side of the sheet piles?

Please consider adding an alternative which includes a 'flyover' at the SR37/Highway121 interchange, that would eliminate the need for a stop sign or an at-grade railroad crossing, as well as a new bridge on Tolay Creek. It would certainly help move traffic more smoothly through this current bottleneck.

Evaluate reducing the number of side roads to improve the safety of the highway, as elimination of these intersections should be considered for the Ultimate project and could improve the connection of the marshes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to receiving the environmental document.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert Miller in black ink.

Robert Miller  
President

Handwritten signature of Susan Stompe in blue ink.

Susan Stompe  
Co-Chair, Land Use, Transportation  
and Water Committee

Handwritten signature of Kate Powers in blue ink.

Kate Powers  
Co-Chair, Land Use, Transportation  
and Water Committee

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Marin Conservation League was founded in 1934 to preserve, protect and enhance the natural assets of Marin County.