

HIGHWAY 1

Hearings set for final phase of project

By PK Hattis
pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » The public review and comment window is now open for a newly released environmental impact report detailing the last phase of a multimodal transportation project along Highway 1.

The project, overseen by the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission and Caltrans, involves establishing a combination of auxiliary lanes and bus-

on-shoulder facilities from Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive, along with construction of Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail.

The rail trail segment includes 1.2 miles of a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line complete with four overcrossings.

The impact report, required by state law, is meant to equip the public with an in-depth review of the project's environmental impacts, methods for minimizing those impacts as well as reasonable alternatives to the effort.

Written comments can be mailed to Lara Bertaina with the California Department of Transportation at 50 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo or emailed to lara.bertaina@dot.ca.gov. Comments must be received by 5 p.m. June 2 and the report itself can be viewed at:

- The Capitola, Live Oak and Watsonville public libraries.
- The Santa Cruz County Public Works Department

IF YOU GO

What: Environmental impact report public hearings for multimodal Highway 1 project.

When: 6-7:30 p.m. May 2 and 4.

How: May 2 event held virtually and Zoom link is at scrtc.org. May 4 event is at Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Drive, Aptos.

on the fourth floor of the county building at 701 Ocean St. in Santa Cruz.

- Online at bit.ly/State-Park-FreedomBlvd.
- Caltrans' District 5 Office at 50 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

Additionally, two public forums have been planned in May where information about the project will be shared and comments can be submitted before the final design is selected.

The first meeting will be held virtually from 6-7:30 p.m. May 2 and the second will be an in-person open house two days later, May 4, with the same timeframe at the Rio Sands Hotel, 116 Aptos Beach Drive, Aptos.

The impact report details the third and final phase of the Watsonville — Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program, a combination of projects aimed at bringing transportation solutions to three major county corridors including Highway 1, Soquel Drive and the Branch Rail Line.

Planners celebrated the groundbreaking for Phase 1 Wednesday, which hones

PROJECT » PAGE 4

FOOD BIN, HERB ROOM

Developer presents plans for development

However, the plan does not include tenant parking

By Aric Sleeper
asleeper@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » Architects from local building studio Workbench presented their pre-application plans for the construction of a mixed-use building at 1130 and 1132 Mission St. — the current site of the Food Bin and Herb Room.

The staff from the Santa Cruz based development firm presented the designs for the site alongside Santa Cruz Senior Planner Ryan Bane and project developers and owners of the long-lived local shops, Peggy Eulensen and Doug Wallace.

"A little over a year ago, Doug and Peggy, the owners of the Food Bin and Herb Room came to us with a request," said Jamileh Cannon, founding partner and principal architect at Workbench. "To thoughtfully develop their parcel and breathe some new life into the beloved stores."

At the meeting, Wallace and Eulensen, who took over ownership of the shops in 2018, stated their main goals for the development. Wallace said that the primary goal and impetus for the monarch butterfly-themed redesign is to create an enduring home for the Food Bin and Herb Room.

"I get that question often from customers: Why are you doing this? Why are you taking away the stores?" said Wallace. "Really it's to find something that is more sustainable long term and a little more modern."

Wallace said the other big intentions with the redevelopment of the two lots are to create housing, maintain the shops' character and its function as a community meeting place on the West-side of Santa Cruz.

"It's a store and it's a shop, but it's also a place where people hang out, get information, get educated," said Wallace. "It really is: How do we keep that going in a new space?"

Before the Food Bin and Herb Room moved to Laurel and Mission streets, the corner was home

BUILDING » PAGE 5

MEETING ON CAPITOL HILL

MOUNT MADONNA STUDENTS VISIT WITH JIMMY PANETTA



DEVIN KUMAR — CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Mount Madonna School junior class speaks on Wednesday with Rep. Jimmy Panetta on the steps of the United States Capitol. The students are in Washington, D.C. this week as part of their Values In World Thought program. Rather than spend time sightseeing, the students are interviewing public servants at the Pentagon, the Department of Justice and members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives about living lives of service. They attended an event with Ukrainian Ambassador to the US Oksana Markarova, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Reps. Panetta and Don Bacon where the public officials condemned Russia's kidnapping of Ukrainian children after the officials introduced resolutions in the House and Senate. After meeting with Panetta, MMS student Beatrice Miller said, "When asked how we can prepare ourselves for our future, Rep. Panetta stated that the best thing you can do for yourself is to represent yourself well by working as hard as you can to be as good as you can at every job you have."

HIGHWAY 9 HOLIDAY SLIDE

Full closure scheduled for next week

Highway could reopen to two-way traffic as soon as Wednesday

By PK Hattis
pkhattis@santacruzsentinel.com

BEN LOMOND » An overnight closure has been scheduled for early next week at the Holiday Slide along Highway 9 as crews work to reopen the winding roadway to two-way traffic after months of repairs, according to a release from Caltrans.

A full closure from lower Glen Arbor to Holiday Lane will be in effect beginning 9 p.m. Monday until 5:30 a.m. Tuesday. This gives workers time to remove concrete barriers and the temporary one-way signal system currently facilitating traffic, patch and repair the roadway and apply permanent striping.

Caltrans officials say the highway could fully reopen as soon as 5:30 a.m. Wednesday if final inspections confirm the soundness of the roadway and stability of the slope above it where the slide originated.

The section of highway was left impassible in early January

HIGHWAY » PAGE 4

HIGHWAY 9 CLOSURE

Where: Lower Glen Arbor to Holiday Lane

When: 9 p.m. Monday until 5:30 a.m. Tuesday

Why: Prepare the roadway for final inspections in hopes of re-opening to two-way traffic.



CALTRANS — CONTRIBUTED

A view from the roadside of the Holiday Slide at Highway 9 in January. The road has been closed since Jan. 9.

SANTA CRUZ BEACH

Eclectic mix of entertainment coming to Boardwalk this summer

By Nick Sestanovich
nsestanovich@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ » For more than 116 years, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has provided a certain allure for residents and tourists alike, not only through its bounty of rides, amusement park attractions and close proximity to Main Beach but also through its plethora of other forms of entertainment: music, movies, magic and more.

All of that will be present this summer, when the Boardwalk hosts a variety of entertainment, all at no charge.

The first major entertainment attraction is the Live Music on the Colonnade series every Thursday night from June 15 to Aug. 10, featuring a mix of variety bands, tribute acts and even some local groups.

Boardwalk spokesman Kris Reyes said bands are chosen through a rigorous process with the goal of finding quality performers.

"We spend a lot of time researching bands, talking to people in the industry that know good live acts and filtering through, trying to figure out which would be good bands for our Boardwalk guests and who would be a good fit for what we're trying to achieve," he said.

In past years, the Boardwalk hosted a free summer concert series on Fridays, which drew big-name acts such as Blue Oyster Cult and Eddie Money. However, Reyes said the temporary closure of the park during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in changes in how the Boardwalk presents its concerts.

"As we reemerged from COVID and reopened, it allowed us an opportunity to reevaluate the totality of our entertainment offerings and look at things differently than we had in the past," he said.

Last year, the Boardwalk experimented with hosting smaller local bands on weeknights rather than Fridays, and Reyes said it resonated well with audiences.

"We found that our guests really enjoyed the experience, and it really aligned with our revised operating hours post-COVID," he said. "It was just a really perfect fit for us, so we really wanted to expand upon that this year."

Kicking things off June 15 is Sang Matiz, a seven-piece San Francisco band that fuses Afro-Latin beats, tropical elements and touches of funk.

BOARDWALK » PAGE 4



SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Lights along the arcade illuminate the Cocoanut Grove at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk as dusk falls over the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf and Main Beach.