

M e m o r a n d u m**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS**CTC Meeting:** January 22, 2015**Reference No.:** 2.2a.
Action**From:** SUSAN BRANSEN
Interim Executive Director**Subject:** **NOTICE OF PREPARATION – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE GLEASON BEACH STATE ROUTE 1 REALIGNMENT PROJECT****ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, provide comments in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Gleason Beach State Route 1 Realignment Project?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission make no comments regarding the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR for this project; however Staff recommends that a letter be sent to Caltrans that states the following:

- The Commission has no comments with respect to the project’s purpose and need, the alternatives to be studied, the impacts to be evaluated, and the evaluation methods used.
- As this project is programmed in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program, notification should be provided to the Commission as a Responsible Agency.

BACKGROUND:

Caltrans is the designated CEQA Lead Agency responsible for the environmental review of this project. For project summary information and a copy of the NOP, please see Caltrans’ memorandum included as agenda item 2.2a.

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: January 22, 2015

Reference No.: 2.2a.
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Katrina Pierce, Chief
Division of
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, review and comment at the January 2015 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

ISSUE:

- 04-Son-1, PM 15.1/15.8. State Route 1(SR 1) in Sonoma County. Construct roadway improvements including realigning a portion of SR 1 near the town of Jenner. (PPNO 0748E)

PROGRAMMING:

This project in Sonoma County will realign a portion of SR 1, moving the roadway eastward away from the coast. The project is programmed in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total estimated cost is \$36,870,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2017-18. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Alternatives for the project include:

Alternative 19A – This alternative would remove the existing Scotty Creek culvert structure and propose beach visitor parking at Gleason Beach. The proposed highway alignment north of the proposed bridge touchdown would be to the east of the residences located north of Gleason Beach. South of the proposed bridge the highway would be aligned eastward a short distance from the existing highway.

Alternative 19B – This alternative would be similar to alternative 19A except the highway alignment south of the proposed bridge would be located farther east of the existing highway.

Alternative 20 – This alternative would be similar to Alternative 19A except that the proposed bridge and the highway south of the proposed bridge would be aligned approximately 150 feet east of the other alternatives.

No-build Alternative

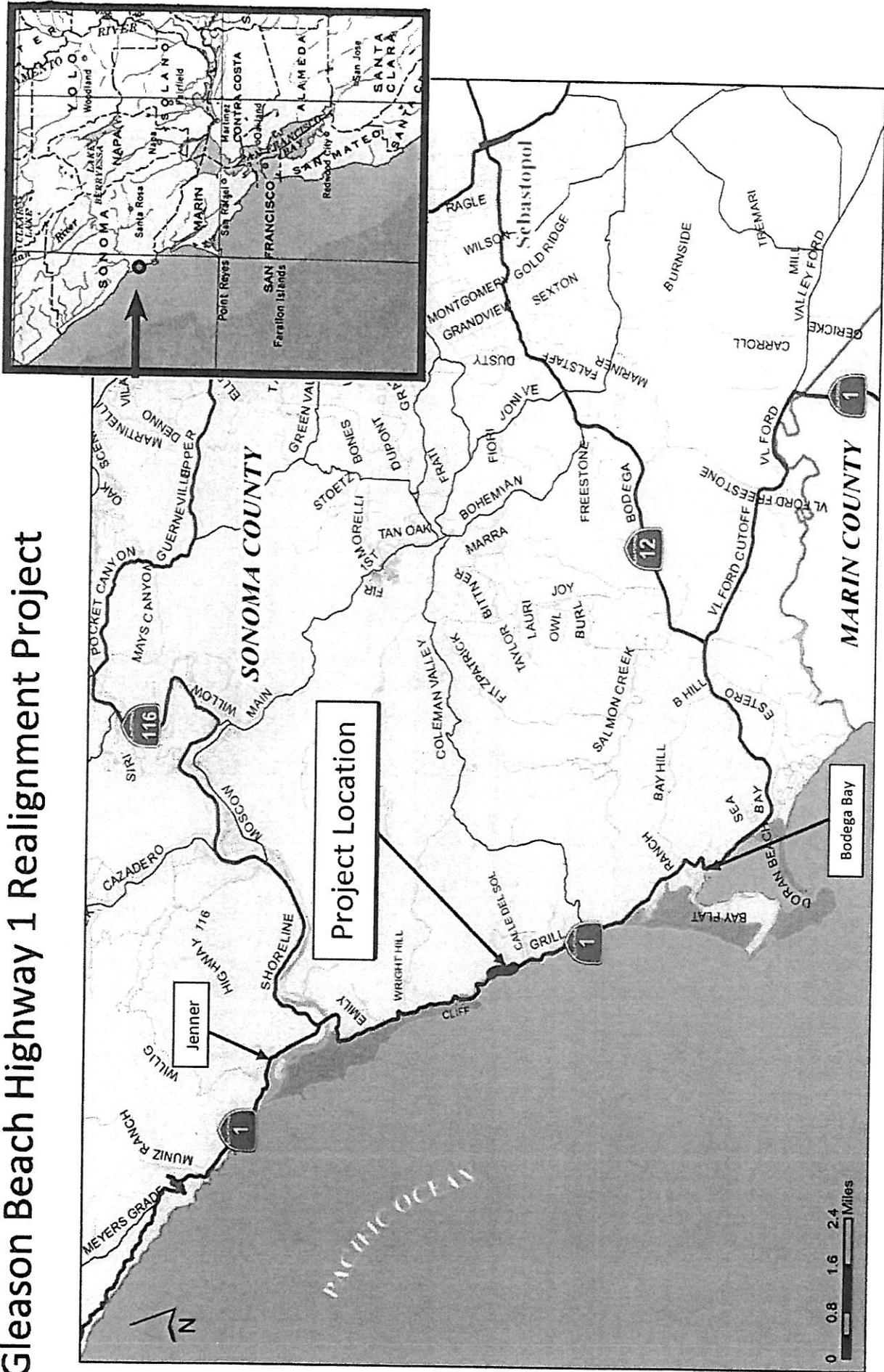
POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Biological, including rare and endangered species and coastal wetlands.
- Visual.

Based on the potential for significant impacts to the areas listed above, an Environmental Impact Report is being prepared for the project.

Attachment

Gleason Beach Highway 1 Realignment Project



NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: _____

From: California Dept. of Transportation
P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**
Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Project Title: Gleason Beach Highway 1 Realignment Project

Project Location: State Route 1, between Jenner and Bodega Bay in unincorporated Sonoma County

Project Description: The California Department of Transportation proposes to realign a two-lane section of State Route 1, moving the roadway eastwards and away from the coast. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide a safe transportation facility that is no longer vulnerable to rapidly advancing coastal erosion.

This is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation will be the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project described below. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

A more detailed project description, location map, and identification of potential environmental effects that may result from this project are contained in the attached materials.

A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Stefan Galvez-Abadia, Office Chief, E-mail stefan.galvez@dot.ca.gov, Telephone 510.286.5506 at the address shown above. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date 3/13/2014

Signature
Title


Office Chief