

PROJECT FACT SHEET

Piedras Blancas Realignment

05-49280 – San Luis Obispo County, Route 1 PM 64.0/R67.2

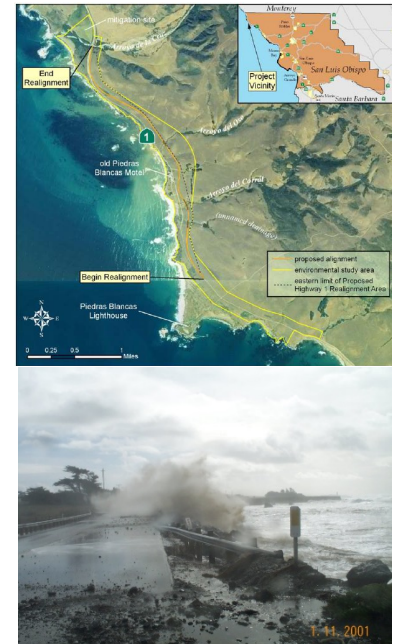
Near San Simeon from Point Piedras Blancas to North of Arroyo de la Cruz Bridge



PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SCOPE

PROPOSAL: Realigns 2.8 miles of roadway up to 475 feet inland of the existing alignment. The project includes two twelve-foot lanes with eight-foot shoulders and access to the former Piedras Blancas Motel, which is currently part of the Hearst-San Simeon State Park. The project includes restoration of the existing highway to natural conditions and restoration and enhancement of nearly 20 acres of off-site State parklands to mitigate impacts to disturbed areas.

PURPOSE AND NEED: Severe coastal erosion (up to 5 feet per year in some areas) has jeopardized the operation the highway at this location. The project protects the highway alignment for approximately the next 100 years and will provide for continued highway operation while recognizing the need for public access to the coastline and protecting sensitive resources.



PROJECT FEATURES

- Standard 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders relocated away from hazardous areas
- Provides for motor vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel
- Restores natural function of creeks by replacing three significant crossings with bridges
- Consistent with California guidelines for accommodating sea level rise
- Removes artificial revetments allowing bluff and intertidal zone to establish stable equilibrium
- Maintains hydrologic connectivity of wetlands by use of permeable roadway subbase materials
- Permanent wetland and ESHA impacts are fully mitigated – no net loss
- Temporary impacts to ESHA and other habitats fully restored to preconstruction condition
- Restores fallow farm land owned by California Dept. of Parks & Recreation to natural conditions
- 76 acres of private lands between new and former alignments added to public ownership
- Maintains mobility and continuity of public access along the coast and to the shore including parking at each end of the project and driveway access to the former Piedras Blancas Motel
- Provides environmental data, coordination and funding contribution for the development of the California coastal trail
- Retains shoreline views and increases long-range views through change in the highway elevation
- Relocates utilities underground within the roadway
- Contour grading reduces erosion and promotes growth of native vegetation
- Incorporates aesthetic treatment of bridges including open style bridge rail with bicycle rail

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

- Route 1 is a State Scenic Route, a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road and on the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route
- Project is within the coastal zone, adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve

- Exploits the series of agreements between the State of California and the Hearst Corporation regarding realignment areas, scenic conservation easements and conversion of private lands to the public domain
- Acquired three private parcels portions of which will be in the public domain
- Development of the California coastal trail providing access along and to the shoreline

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental documentation includes an Environmental Impact Report, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an Environment Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The combined document was approved on August 11, 2010. The project impacts biological resources, wetlands, and potentially changes the visual experience at some locations along the new roadway. The project includes mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to less than significant. Biological mitigation includes planting and wetland creation as part of restoring the existing highway to more natural terrain. A mitigation site north of the Arroyo de la Cruz will create wetlands and breeding habitat for California red-legged frog and provide additional coastal prairie and coastal scrub lands. Permit requirements include coastal development permit, US Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, as well as consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

FUNDING

Right of Way Capital:	\$14,170,000
Roadway Construction Capital:	\$21,945,000
Two Follow-on Mitigation Projects Construction Capital:	<u>\$11,412,000</u>
Total	\$47,527,000

SCHEDULE STATUS

ROADWAY CONTRUCTION:

PA&ED (Actual)	R/W Acquisitions	R/W Cert (Actual)	Ready to List (Actual)	Begin Construction	Construction Complete
Aug 11, 2010	Complete	Dec 22,2014	Dec 22,2014	October 2015	May 2018

MITIGATION:

PA&ED (Actual)	R/W Acquisitions	Ready to List	Begin Construction	Construction Complete	Environmental Monitoring Complete
Aug 11, 2010	N/A	January 2018	June 2018	June 2027	May 2028

ELECTED OFFICALS

Assembly District: Jordan Cunningham (35)
 State Senate District: Bill Monning (17)
 U.S. Congressional Districts: Salud Carbajal (24)

PROJECT MANAGER: Paul Martinez / (805) 549-3407 / paul.martinez@dot.ca.gov