

SCH NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Dept. of Transportation  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

**Program Title (Tier I): Big Sur Bridge Rail Replacements**

**Program Location:** State Highway 1 in Monterey County on the Big Sur Coast:

Bridge Name	Bridge Number	Post Mile	Year Constructed
Big Creek Bridge	44-0056	28.1	1938
Bixby Creek Bridge	44-0019	59.4	1932
Rocky Creek Bridge	44-0036	60.0	1932
Garrapata Creek Bridge	44-0018	63.0	1931
Granite Canyon Bridge	44-0012	64.3	1932
Malpaso Creek Bridge	44-0017	67.9	1935

Program Description: Caltrans proposes bridge rail replacements on six historic bridges along the Big Sur Coast to bring the facilities up to current standards.

**Project Title (Tier II): Garrapata Creek Bridge Rail Replacement**

**Project Location:** State Route 1 (Post Miles 63.0)

**Project Description:** Caltrans proposes a bridge rail replacement on the Garrapata Creek Bridge (No. 44-0018) to bring the facility up to current standards.

This is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation will be the lead agency and will prepare a (Tier I) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a project level (Tier II) EIR for the project described below. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We invite your agency's input as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant 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 the potential environmental effects are included on the following pages of this NOP. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent **no later than 45 days** after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Jason Wilkinson at the address shown above. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date 4/10/20

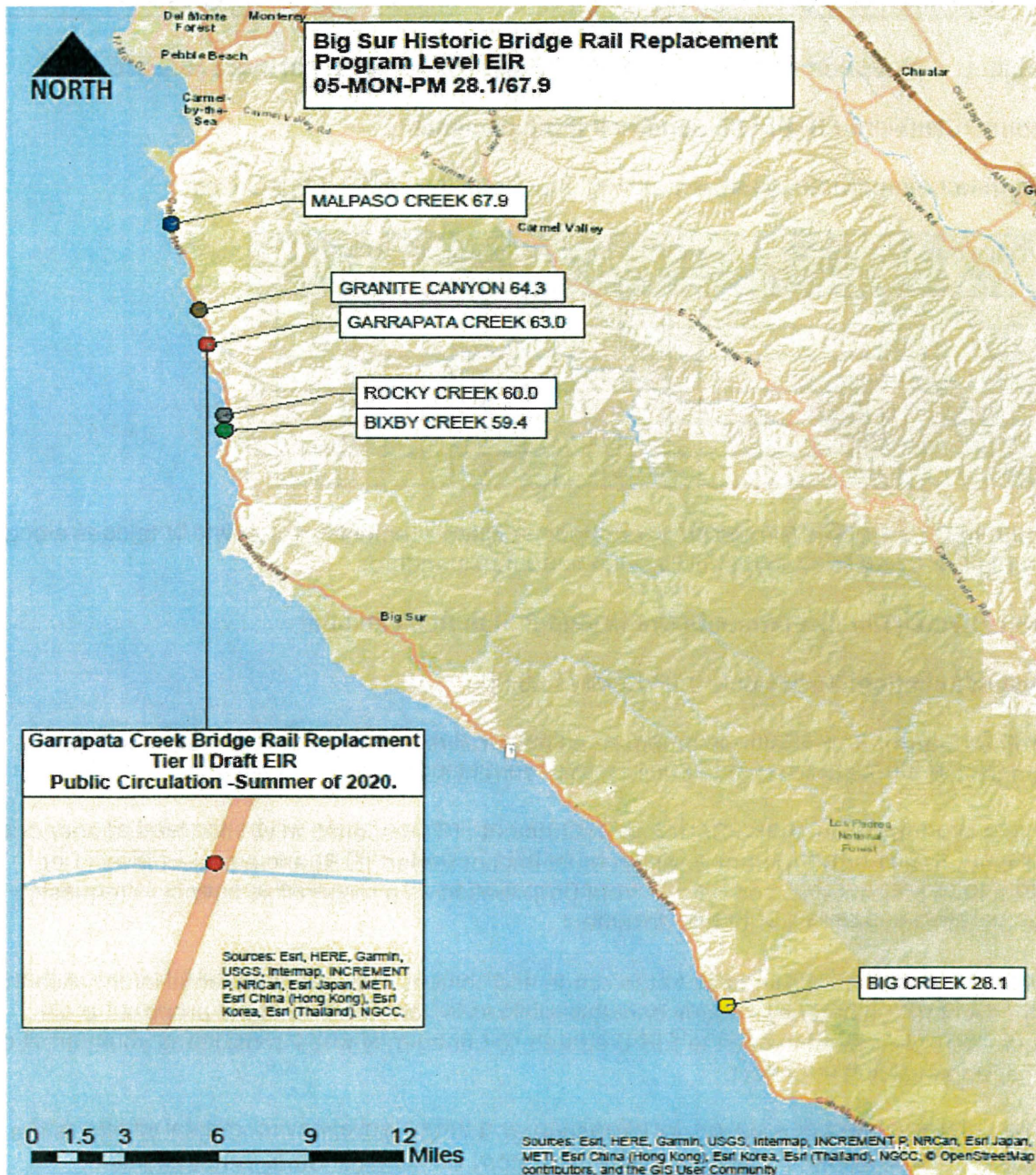
Signature

*Settle*

Title

Associate Environmental Planner

Location Map:



## Project Description

Garrapata Creek Bridge (No. 44-0018) is an open-spandrel arch bridge that was constructed in 1931, widened in 1998 and seismically retrofitted in 1987 and 1998. Garrapata Creek Bridge is located at post mile 63.0 just south of Carmel, in Monterey County and is one of 7 historic arch bridges along State Route 1 on the Big Sur Coast. The bridge is 285-feet long and consists of 12-foot lanes and 0 to 1-foot shoulders.

This structure has nonstandard concrete baluster bridge rails on both sides of the structure. The rail end posts exhibit fine pattern cracking, and the barrier rail posts are severely deteriorated with dozens of incipient spalls and spalled posts in addition to previous impact damage.

The project on State Route 1 near Carmel-By-The-Sea in Monterey County proposes to replace the existing nonstandard concrete baluster bridge rail and approach railing on Garrapata Creek Bridge (No. 44-0018) at PM 63.0. The irreversible damage from pervasive salt laden fog has accelerated the overall deterioration of concrete and reinforcing steel of the bridge rail, warranting replacement.

Caltrans proposes to address these concerns with the 2 possible alternatives identified below:

**Build Alternative:** Proposes replacing the existing non-standard bridge rail and approach railing with new railing that meets current traffic safety standards.

**No Build Alternative:** The non-standard bridge rails would continue to deteriorate and would not be replaced.

## Potential Environmental Impacts

The Draft Program EIR (Tier I) will address potential environmental effects of the proposed project for each of the environmental topics outlined in the CEQA guidelines, Appendix G. The proposed project may impact environmental resources, or may have the following effects, including:

- Visual/Aesthetic  
Due to the high degree of viewer sensitivity along State Route 1 and the adjacent public campground and beach, the project will be assessed for potential impacts to scenic vistas, alterations to visual character, and for consistency with the California Coastal Act, state Scenic Highway, National Scenic Byway, and Coast Highway Management Plan principles. Impacts to visual/aesthetic resources will be reduced through measures such as bridge rail design and treatment, planting, and other elements.
- Cultural Resources  
The project is located within the Carmel-San Simeon Highway Historic District, which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Garrapata Creek Bridge is a contributor to the historic district and is also individually eligible for listing in the National Register. The existing bridge rail is a contributing element to the bridge's historic nature. Currently it is assumed that the bridge rail cannot be replaced in-kind and that the project will potentially result in an adverse effect to a historic resource. Section 106 Consultation will be required.
- Coastal Resources
- Cumulative Impacts

- Section 4(f)
- Biological resources

There would be no effects on paleontological resources, noise, hazardous waste, utilities, water quality, or air quality. The project would not affect planned land use. The project would not require the relocation of residences or businesses.

#### AGENCY COMMENTS

Agency input regarding the Scope of the EIR, environmental factors potentially affected, and project alternatives must be submitted to Caltrans no later than 5:00pm on May 29, 2020.

Written comments can be mailed to:  
California Department of Transportation, District 5  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Attention: Jason Wilkinson

Or emailed to:  
[Jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov)