

DEPARTMENT: County Administrative Office

BY: Rick Benson

PHONE: 966-3222

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:** Receive report from Caltrans regarding the Ferguson Slide Permanent Restoration Project options. Discuss the options as presented by Caltrans and authorize the chairman to sign a letter to Caltrans communicating the Board's preferred alternative.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:** On November 28 and 29 Caltrans conducted public meetings regarding plans for the Ferguson Slide Permanent Restoration Project. Caltrans is inviting comments from the community. Caltrans conducted similar meetings in June of 2007 and at that time your Board submitted a letter of support for "Alternative S."

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:** An official letter on the County's behalf would not be submitted, however, board members would be free to submit individual comments.

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Draft letter of support for alternative S.
Source:		
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	_____ 4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	_____ 4/5's vote	
Contingency	_____ 4/5's vote	
( ) General ( ) Other		

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Res. No.: 07-565 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved  
 Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
 County of Mariposa, State of California  
 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

Requested Action Recommended  
 No Opinion  
 Comments:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

CAO: RyB

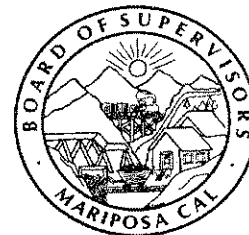


# COUNTY OF MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

JANET BIBBY, CHAIR  
LYLE TURPIN, VICE CHAIR  
BRAD ABORN  
DIANNE A. FRITZ  
BOB PICKARD

DISTRICT III  
DISTRICT II  
DISTRICT I  
DISTRICT IV  
DISTRICT V



## MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTE ORDER

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TO: RICHARD J. BENSON, CAO

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Receive Report from CalTrans Regarding the Ferguson Rock Slide Permanent Restoration Project Options, Discuss Options and Authorize The Board of Supervisors Chairman to Sign a Letter to CalTrans Communicating the Board's Preferred Alternative

RESOLUTION 07-565

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on December 11, 2007

#### ACTION AND VOTE:

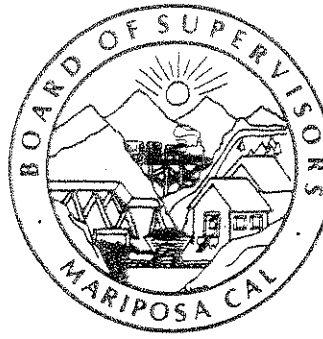
Richard J. Benson, County Administrative Officer;  
Receive Report from CalTrans Regarding the Ferguson Rock Slide Permanent Restoration Project Options, Discuss Options and Authorize The Board of Supervisors Chairman to Sign a Letter to CalTrans Communicating the Board's Preferred Alternative

**BOARD ACTION:** Kome Ajise, CalTrans District 10 Director, provided information on the public hearings they held on November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and relative to their plans and goals to reopen the Highway to full service as soon as possible – they have set an aggressive schedule and hope to be able to start construction in the summer of 2008. Discussion was held. Kome Ajise, Julie Dunning/CalTrans Deputy Director, and Christine Cox/CalTrans Office Manager for Environmental Studies, responded to questions relative to the project and the temporary third bridge that is proposed to keep traffic flowing during construction; and relative to the permitting process with the Forest Service and the federal agencies. Chair Bibby thanked CalTrans for being so accessible to the Board and the public during this process. Following discussion, (M)Turpin, (S)Aborn, Res. 07-565 was adopted approving the letter to CalTrans/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: File

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ..... BRAD ABORN  
District 2 ..... LYLE TURPIN  
District 3 ..... JANET BIBBY  
District 4 ..... DIANNE FRITZ  
District 5 ..... BOB PICKARD



RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS  
Clerk of the Board

P.O. Box 784  
MARIPOSA, CALIFORNIA 95338  
(209) 966-3222  
1-800-736-1252  
FAX (209) 966-5147  
[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

December 11, 2007

Mr. Kome Ajise  
District Director  
California Department of Transportation, District 10  
1976 Charter Way  
Stockton, California 95205

Dear Mr. Ajise:

The Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County thanks you and your staff for your continued prompt and professional attention to the Ferguson Rockslide. Resolution of this matter remains the single most critical challenge to the economic vitality of our county and surrounding areas.

During your presentations on November 28 and 29, you asked for input from the community regarding the initial study of the Ferguson Slide Permanent Restoration Project. We have no doubt that the citizens of Mariposa County have given you their individual thoughts and opinions regarding the alternatives.

When reviewing the merits of the various plans and in response to community input, the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County wishes to reaffirm its support of Alternative 'S.' We continue to believe this alternative is best suited to serve our community as it will allow full use of Highway 140 for our citizens as well as visitors. It will allow your department to proceed with the permanent fix with fewer delays since Alternative 'S' includes more traditional engineering and building methods. It is our understanding that this alternative may have fewer environmental constraints and additionally that the costs associated with Alternative 'S' are more reasonable than the other alternatives.

Preserving the wild and scenic nature of the Merced River is important to the citizens of Mariposa County. We believe that Alternative 'S' will not hinder the recreational use of the river and are impressed by the design features which make the viaduct aesthetically compatible with the natural landscape while preserving the access so critical for health and safety.

The Board of Supervisors strongly endorses efforts to expedite the completion of road restoration. Visitors to the park and citizens living north of the slide are entitled to full governmental services. The temporary fix hinders the ability of the County to deliver those services. It is most troubling that safety equipment and first responders

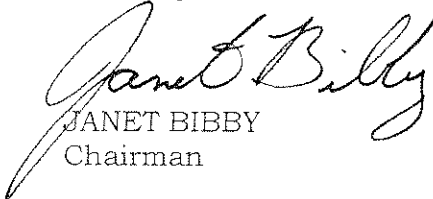
experience significant delays. In some cases, they are unable to respond because of the bridge restrictions.

Also of great concern, the change in traffic flow caused by the rockslide is negatively affecting the environment in and around Yosemite National Park. Buses and other heavy vehicles are being forced to use roads beyond their designed capacity, thereby damaging the roads and necessitating increased maintenance. The increased traffic of heavy vehicles at other park entrances causes delays and forces idling of these vehicles further degrading air quality. With the increased volume of bus traffic there has been a corresponding increase in accidents on roads used as alternative entrances into the park.

In addition to the environmental consequences, restrictions on Highway 140 are negatively impacting the economy of Mariposa County in general and the town of Mariposa specifically. During the past year and a half extensive measures have been taken to promote Mariposa County. While many of these efforts have proved successful they cannot be sustained. Many local businesses have closed and several local merchants have expressed difficulty in remaining open. Without the tourists brought into the town of Mariposa by bus the entire community has been damaged even if all the indications are not immediately evident.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important decision and we stand ready to assist in whatever manner possible to help assure a rapid re-opening of Highway 140. We also urge you to take whatever actions possible while planning for construction to allow full use of Highway 140 by buses, emergency vehicles, recreational vehicles and all commercial traffic as soon as practical.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY  
Chairman

JB/RB/mbh

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congress Member George Radanovich  
State Senator Dave Cogdill  
Assembly Member Tom Berryhill  
Lance Brangham, Caltrans