

Matthew Brady, Director  
CalTrans District 1  
1656 Union St, Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Director Brady

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors wishes to thank CalTrans for moving forward with the replacement of the Highway 162 bridge over the Eel River at the confluence of the Eel River and Outlet Creek. This vital part of Mendocino County infrastructure could fail in an earthquake, isolating parts of the county from the coast and Highway 101.

Access to the Eel River at the bridge provides important recreational opportunities for Mendocino County residents and visitors to our county. This tourism is a significant part of our economy. People visit the Eel River to canoe, kayak, raft, fish, swim, picnic, and simply enjoy the river. Access to the Eel River is very limited. Indeed, in the 23 river miles between Hearst and Dos Rios, Highway 162 is the only publicly owned access point.

As part of the replacement project, we urge you to work with interested parties to provide a simple path to the river, suitable for people to carry their recreational equipment by hand. We also urge you to provide parking for at least 10 cars near the bridge. We understand and sympathize with the concerns of the landowner in the vicinity of the bridge. Parking should not impair their driveway or other uses of their property, and the path to the river should entirely be on public property.

We would like to work with you to preserve this important recreational resource. Please let us know what we can do to help.

Thank you for considering our views in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors