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Conservation

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National Park Service

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Sanctuary Advisory Council GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Resolution of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Council Regarding Impacts and Mitigations of the Proposed Caltrans Highway One Realignment at Scotty Creek/Gleason Beach, Sonoma County California

Whereas, we value Caltrans' integrity in protecting Highway One and removing the box culvert that severs the ocean-lagoon-creek system; and

Whereas, in 2015, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary expanded its area to include all of the Sonoma coast; and

Whereas, the proposed Caltrans Highway One realignment and associated mitigations at Scotty Creek/Gleason Beach in Sonoma County, California (The Project) will impact the resources of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (The Sanctuary); the Council encourages a collaborative dialog between Caltrans, Sonoma County, and the Sanctuary to ensure that impacts to Sanctuary resources are prevented or minimized, and where unavoidable, result in appropriate mitigations at and adjacent to the Project site; and

Whereas, to ensure that proactive measures to protect water quality in the nearshore and offshore environment of the Sanctuary, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Council (Council) hereby requests that Caltrans initiate water quality baseline studies and develop a water quality monitoring plan to facilitate a comparative analysis before, during and subsequent to Project implementation; and

Whereas, in recognition of the negative impacts of coastal armoring which interrupts normal erosion processes and sediment dynamics, we request that Caltrans remove existing legacy debris from prior cliffside armoring - and residual discarded concrete - that is now in Sanctuary waters, and further, should avoid additional coastal and streambed armoring associated with the Project to the maximum extent possible; and

Whereas, Caltrans should implement a monitoring plan to identify current and new sediment source, character, and volume during construction and post-Project, and

Be it resolved, that the Council expresses its goal of using this project as an opportunity for modeling best practices for site-sensitive planning and mitigation throughout the Project location and in other future projects.

The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.