



# US 101/Trinidad Access Improvements Project

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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

# TITLE VI STATEMENT

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## TITLE VI QR Code





# Meeting Format

## **Presentation, followed by Public Scoping Comments**

- Comments made during comment period will be considered official scoping comments
- Comments can also be submitted in writing





# Agenda

- Project Overview
- Current Alternatives being Considered
- Environmental Scoping Process
- Public Scoping Comments

# Project Overview

Fred Tolsted  
Marine Laboratory  
Humboldt State  
University  
NEXT RIGHT

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## Purpose

Provide safe and sustainable access to and from US 101 for multi-modal transportation to the surrounding communities along Scenic Drive

## Need

The only access to Trinidad Rancheria and surrounding community lands from US 101 is Scenic Drive.

- Significant portions of Scenic Drive do not meet current AASHTO design standards with respect to horizontal and vertical geometry, traveled way width, shoulder width, and clear zone/roadway departure countermeasures. Additionally, there are not adequate provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists, who often utilize the roadway.
- Scenic Drive encompasses a geologically unstable route, which lacks redundancy for emergency services and reliability for the traveling public for the communities along Scenic Drive.



## Purpose

Relieve projected traffic congestion associated with planned future development

## Need

The current capacity at the intersection of Main Street with US 101 NB ramps, US 101 SB ramps and Scenic Drive would be inadequate to accommodate projected increases in traffic due to planned future development



## Purpose

Reconnect tribal lands

## Need

The construction of US 101 severed tribal lands. Currently tribal land and housing is located east of US 101 with no direct access to essential tribal services





# Project History

2002	Access Improvement Feasibility Study
2012	Project Development Team formed
2016	Project Initiation Document phase started
2017	Project Study Report – Project Development Support (PSR-PDS) approved (considered 8 alternatives and 4 sub-alternatives)





## Alternate No. 1

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect Tribal Lands



## Alternate No. 2

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect Tribal Lands

An aerial photograph of a wooded area with a proposed road interchange. The interchange is highlighted in white and grey, showing multiple lanes and a central roundabout. The surrounding area is dense with trees and some buildings are visible in the lower left.

## Alternate No. 3

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community




Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect Tribal Lands

## Alternate No. 4

### • Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect tribal lands



EXIT  
726





## Alternate No. 5

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community




Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect tribal lands

## Alternate No. 6

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect tribal lands

## Alternate No. 7

### Purpose & Need?



Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect tribal lands



EXIT  
726



An aerial photograph of a coastal region, likely in Oregon, showing a proposed road project highlighted in white. The project starts from the left, runs horizontally across the middle, and then curves to the right, ending near a body of water. The surrounding area is mostly forested, with some buildings and parking lots visible. The title 'Alternate No. 8' is centered at the top.

## Alternate No. 8

### Purpose & Need?



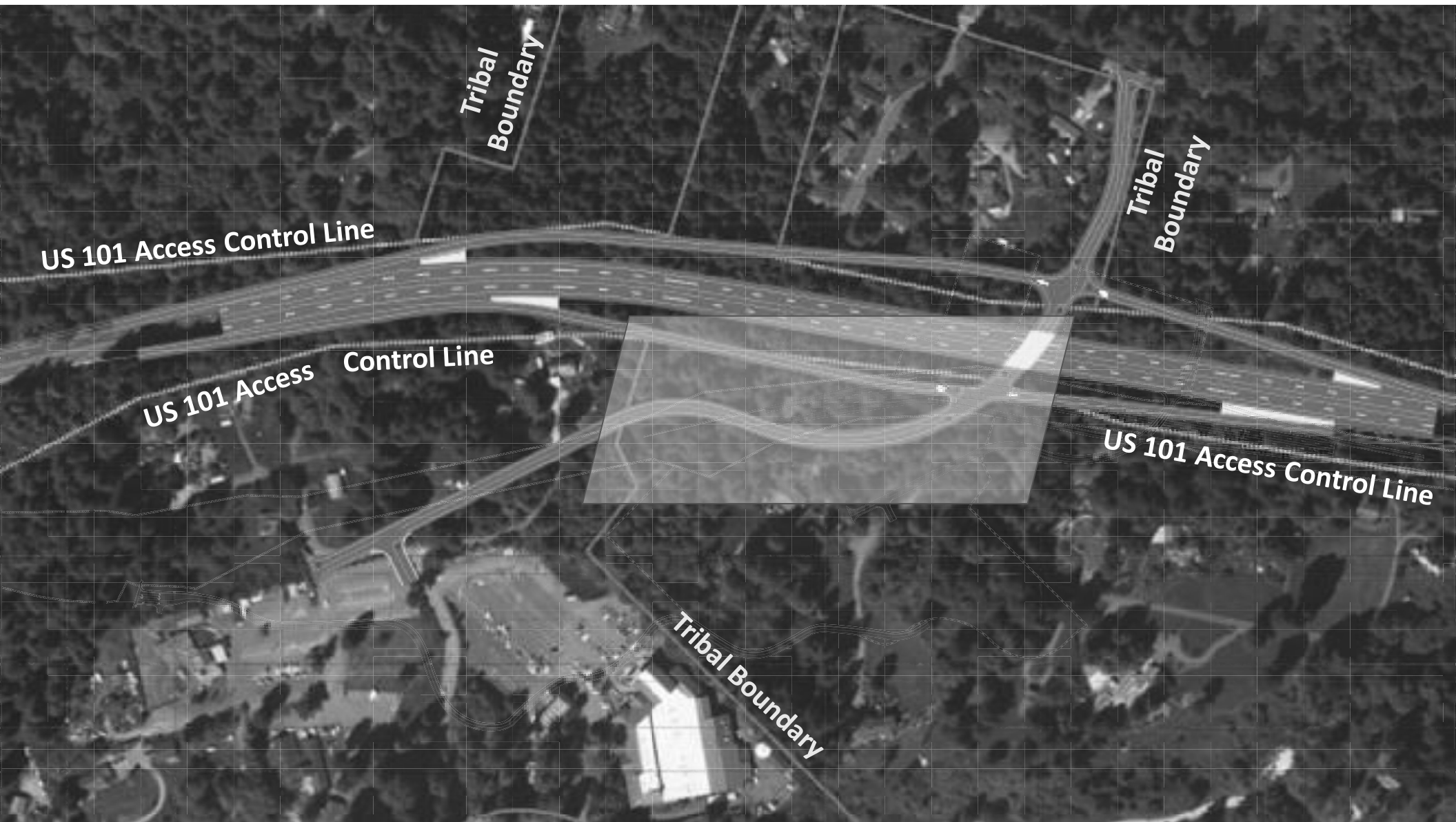
Safe & sustainable access  
for multi-modal transportation to  
Scenic Drive community



Relieve projected traffic congestion



Reconnect tribal lands





# Alignment with Purpose & Need



	Alternate 1	Alternate 2	Alternate 3	Alternate 4	Alternate 5	Alternate 6	Alternate 7	Alternate 8
Safe & Sustainable access for multi-modal transportation to Scenic Drive Community	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adequately accommodate future development traffic	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Connect Tribal Lands	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓

An aerial photograph showing a coastal region. The top half of the image is dominated by a dense, dark forest. A road or railway line runs horizontally across the middle of the forested area. Below the forest, there is a small town or village with several buildings and a grid-like street pattern. The town is situated on a peninsula or a narrow strip of land that meets a large body of water. The water is dark and occupies the bottom half of the image. The text "Current Alternatives being Considered" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially covering the forest and the town.

Current Alternatives being Considered

An aerial 3D rendering of a proposed road interchange and surrounding landscape. The image shows a multi-lane road entering from the left, curving, and then splitting into two main branches that meet at a complex interchange. The interchange features several roundabouts and overpasses. The surrounding area is densely wooded with many trees, and there are some small buildings or structures scattered throughout. The terrain appears to be hilly or uneven. The overall style is a grayscale 3D model, likely used for planning and visualization purposes.

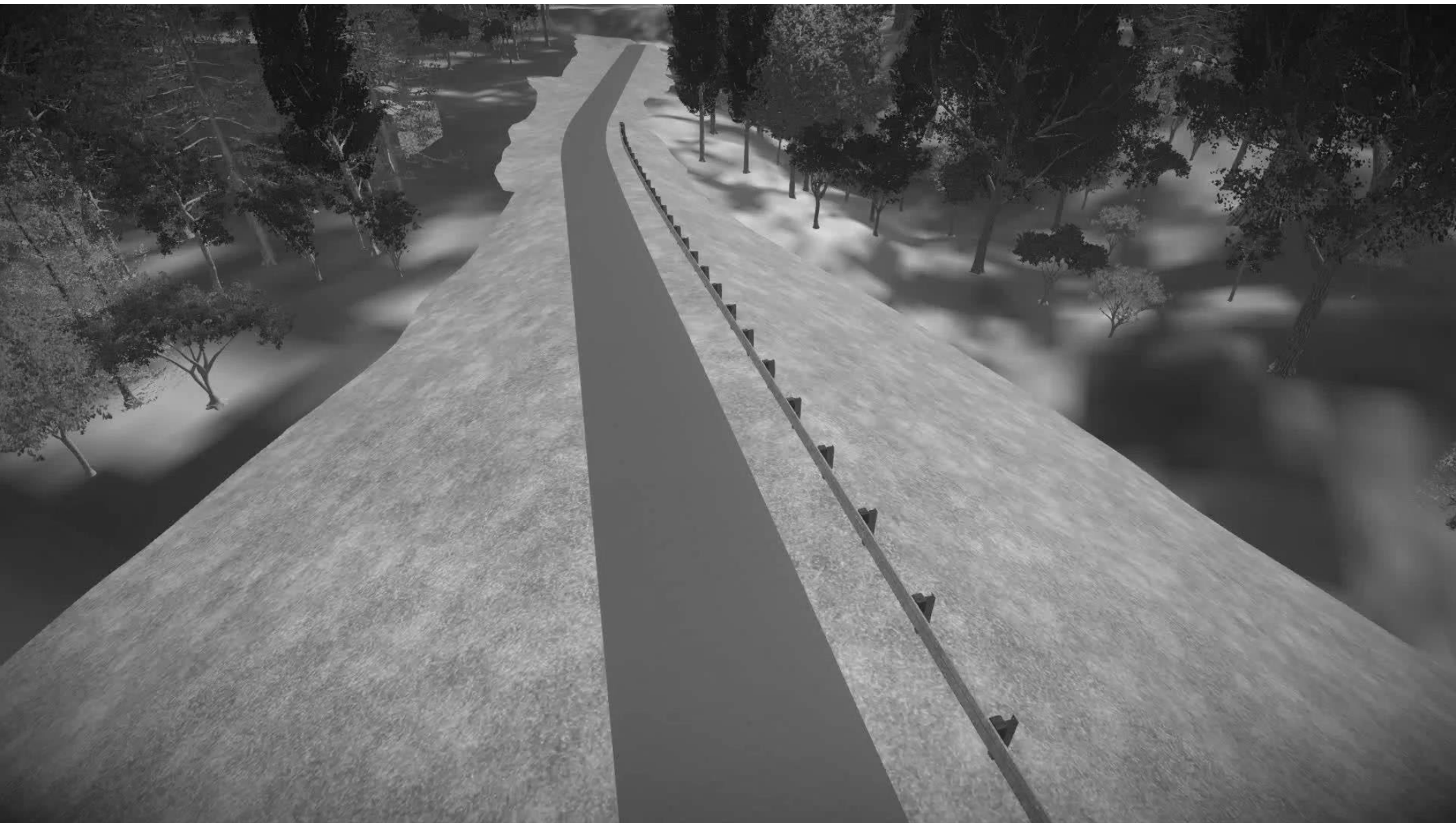
Alternate 3D































An aerial photograph showing a proposed road project, labeled 'Alternate 5C', winding through a heavily forested area. The road is depicted with white lane markings and a central median. It starts from the left, curves around a small pond, and then continues towards the right. The surrounding landscape is dense with trees, and there are some small buildings or structures visible in the lower-left corner. The text 'Alternate 5C' is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Alternate 5C







































# Environmental Scoping Process



# Before we begin...

## Overview of commonly used terms and abbreviations



CEQA – California Environmental  
Quality Act  
(State environmental law)

*Requires public agencies to review and consider the environmental consequences of their discretionary actions.*



EIR – Environmental Impact Report  
(Report/Analysis/Disclosure)

*Report to inform the public and public agency decision-makers of significant environmental effects of proposed projects, identify possible ways to minimize those effects, and describe reasonable alternatives to those projects.*



NOP – Notice of Preparation  
(of an EIR)

*A brief notice sent by the lead agency to notify the responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and involved federal agencies that the lead agency plans to prepare an (EIR) with potentially significant impacts for the project and to solicit feedback on the content of the EIR analysis.*

# Environmental Review

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Required for all discretionary approvals
- Three types of environmental documents
  - EIR – significant environmental effects*
- Purpose – disclose impacts, identify mitigation, consider alternatives

# EIR Process

Public Input

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Notice of Preparation (February 14, 2024 – March 15, 2024)

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Scoping Meeting (February 20, 2024)

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Environmental Impact Analysis

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Draft EIR publication

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45-day public comment period

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Public hearing

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Final EIR publication (*includes written responses to public comments*)

# Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting

- ✓ Opportunity to provide input on scope and focus of EIR
  - ✓ Identify potential project alternatives
  - ✓ Identify potential impacts and evaluation methods
  - ✓ Identify potential mitigation measures
  - ✓ Identify potential policy issues/inconsistencies
- X Not a discussion on the merits of the project
- X Answers to questions about impacts are not known at this time

# Scope of the EIR

- NOP published February 7, 2024 –  
*identifies likely issues*

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:** The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for environmental factors checked below. The purpose of the following discussion is to provide a summary of the environmental impact issue areas that will be analyzed further in the proposed project Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forestry Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology & Water Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use & Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities & Service Systems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology & Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population & Housing	



A black and white photograph of a coastal landscape. On the left, a steep, grassy cliff with some trees slopes down towards the water. The shoreline is rocky with several large boulders. Waves are breaking on the beach, creating white foam. The ocean extends to the horizon under a clear sky.

# Public Scoping Comments

# Tips for Presenting Comments



Please present comments on the scope and content of environmental factors to be evaluated in the EIR



Please refrain from presenting comments in the form of a question



# Comment Prompt



*Are there potential environmental issues that should be included in the analysis?*



*Is there any specific information that you/your organization may have that will be useful in the EIR analysis ? References can be given.*



*Are there any feasible mitigation measures that should be included in the analysis?*



*Are there other feasible alternatives that should be considered?*



*Are there other EIR sections that should receive special focus?*

Public  
Participation  
*We want to hear  
from you!*



# Public Scoping Comments



Please provide comments to be  
included in the EIR review by  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2024**

**Comments can also be submitted via writing to:**

Jason Meyer, Environmental Branch Chief  
California Department of Transportation  
District 1  
1656 Union Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Or via email to:**

[trinidadaccess@dot.ca.gov](mailto:trinidadaccess@dot.ca.gov)