

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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August 2, 2016

Ms. Priscilla Martinez-Velez
Regional Transportation Plan Lead
California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning
Office of Regional Planning
1120 N Street, MS 32
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Draft RTP Guidelines**

Dear Ms. Martinez-Velez:

We have reviewed the current draft for the 2016 update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Guidelines. We are very pleased to report our opinion that this draft contains those elements that we have advocated, individually plan by plan, to Caltrans and the various MPOs, RTPAs and other transportation planning agencies. In particular, we focused on the following topics that are especially relevant for planning land use and infrastructure in the State's Coastal Zone:

1. **Public access**, with emphasis on both the continuity of the California Coastal Trail (CCT), and on the role of the public road nearest the coast. The public road nearest the coast plays a special role in terms of Statewide circulation, recreational/public health resources, and our tourism economy. It is important not only for the public's ability to get to and along the shoreline, but also as a vantage point for scenic viewing, for beach access parking, and as a primary location for trailheads to access the many segments of the CCT as it is completed. And, where no off-highway alignment is available, publicly-owned transportation corridors in certain instances provide potential CCT alignments or public parking opportunities.
2. **Sea level rise**, with particular reference to the need for adapting public infrastructure and land use planning to the realities of climate change impacts. The draft Guidelines commendably point to the goal of sustainability over the long run.
3. **Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, that is, the Guidelines call for RTP provisions that support the reduction of GHGs, in line with Legislative directives (and the corresponding Coastal Act policy reference to conformance with air quality standards).
4. **Local Coastal Program (LCP) conformance**. Each coastal city and coastal county is required to prepare a LCP to govern coastal land use. Where called for, each is required

to also include a Public Access Element. In a process that has been ongoing since the enactment of the 1976 Coastal Act, the California Coastal Commission has now certified LCPs for most of the State's coastline. In every LCP, the existing and proposed transportation infrastructure connects or provides the framework for the allowed kinds, locations and intensities of allowable land use—and, for public access.

Now, many of these certified LCPs are themselves due for a periodic review and update. Having the RTPs updated will be a tremendous help in this process. Therefore, pulling together the statutory references and links in a single guidance document will, we believe, be a great efficiency—and will result in better transportation plans and mutual consistency between transportation plans and Local Coastal Programs.

In addition to the above comments, we also would like to offer the following additional text for your consideration:

p.157, under the sub-heading “AB 1396—California Coastal Trail,” first paragraph, modify the last line to read “...development of the coastal trail. *The law also requires that Regional Transportation Plans include provisions for the coastal trail. As RTPs are updated, the CCT provisions from each respective certified LCP Land Use Plan's policies, programs and maps should be integrated into the RTP update.*” [suggested new text in italics]

p.158, same sub-heading, second paragraph, add after last sentence “*Prioritization of projects within RTPs should include consideration of connecting the CCT across identified critical gaps in the coastal trail system.*” [suggested new text in italics]

p.158, list of links, add www.yourcoast.org [provides access to content featured in the *Coastal Access Guide*, as periodically updated and published by the UC Press]; also, delete http://scc.ca.gov/webmaster/pdfs/CCT_Siting_Design.pdf [does not work], and add <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/access/ctrail-access.html>.

In summary, we hope you will be able to retain the updated Guideline language as already drafted, and incorporate the additional text as suggested above. We thank you for excellent work, and look forward to seeing the various RTP updates that will be drawn up by each of the State's coastal transportation planning agencies.

With appreciation,



Tami Grove,
Development and Transportation
Program Manager
California Coastal Commission