

September 7, 2022

To: The Contra Costa Supervisors Transportation, Water & Infrastructure Committee (TWIC)
From: Jonathan Goodwin & Sveinn Erik Ólafsson (Canyon residents)
Re: Report on Needed Capital Improvements to Pinehurst Road in District 2

Introduction

In several places Pinehurst Road has need of structural stabilization which, if neglected, could lead to serious debilitation of the roadway. We request that these repairs be included in the County's CRIPP (Capital Road Improvement & Preservation Program), particularly in light of the public safety considerations involved.

General Background

Pinehurst Road is the only road serving the southwest area of the County because there is zero redundancy in this part of the road network. From an emergency response perspective, it is imperative to harden this road to make it as reliable and resilient as possible. The late Supervisor Gayle Uilkema told us it was listed in an emergency response plan as a vital alternative route, but we are unable to verify that at this time. However, on recent youtube videos, one can find Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief David Winnacker explaining that Pinehurst Road is an important evacuation route for the Town of Moraga (to which one can add South Orinda).

On a regional scale, Pinehurst Road would be a primary evacuation route out of the Piedmont Pines/Montclair sections of Oakland. Additionally, it is increasingly becoming an important commuter route, especially with phone apps now directing drivers to it. Recreational use of this road has increased since the current pandemic began and will increase more so when East Bay Regional Park District opens up their Eastport addition to Sibley with its inter-connecting bike trails in 2023.

Locally, the community of Canyon is 100% reliant on Pinehurst Road as the one and only connection to the County Road network and the only access road for emergency services of any sort. It is the only County Road located in a large section of a Very High Fire Severity Zone which augments its importance.

Summary of Needed Repairs

We are calling your attention to typical challenges found along a roadway which twists along the contours of a steep hillside articulated by numerous side creeks; that is, these all have to do with damage caused by the flow of water. Some instances involve a failed culvert, others are due to surface water sliding off and carving away the hillside supporting the road, and some appear to be due to the action of the creek. All of these are remediable.

Conclusion

We hope this report amply demonstrates to the TWIC that a conversation about this with Public Works is needed. We trust you will ask them to study the matter and offer recommendations which might be added into the CRIPP.

Please see the photos and descriptions below of the areas we feel are most in need of prompt attention. Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

Areas threatening Pinehurst Road in District 2, listed in order of apparent severity



Repair Location 1 - On Pinehurst Road near postmile 0.2 there is a culvert washout needing repair with possibly a gabion wall, or interlocking concrete bars or some other form of structural support and possible culvert replacement.



Areas threatening Pinehurst Road in District 2, listed in order of apparent severity



Repair Location 2 – postmile 1.7 two washouts in close proximity, one with black plastic, and one without. The one without black plastic is the site of a fatal accident on December 28, 2009 when a Canyon resident drove into the creek at this site. These sites would benefit from a gabion basket wall or interlocking concrete bars. a culvert replacement and perhaps a guardrail.



Areas threatening Pinehurst Road in District 2, listed in order of apparent severity



Repair Location 3 – postmile 4.6-4.7. Culvert washout undermining road. Replace culvert and establish erosion control such as gabion baskets or interlocking concrete bars, and guardrail.



Areas threatening Pinehurst Road in District 2, listed in order of apparent severity



Repair location 4 – postmile 4.3 Earlier repair that needs new wood and extension to cover undermining shoulder.

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Repair location 5 – postmile 4.2 This is the long-term narrow spot that requires widening to remove the two-way stop. Right-of-way issues may be involved as well as possible grading and reinforced wall on the uphill side. Relatively low priority.



Areas threatening Pinehurst Road in District 2, listed in order of apparent severity



Repair location 6 – postmile 0.3 excess soil has been placed over a likely culvert opening and creek crossing. This situation prevents easy maintenance and could cause mud closing of road in a big rainstorm. Relatively low priority.