



DRAFT LETTER Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RVMAC)
PO Box 243, Redwood Valley, CA 5470

CalTrans District 1, Mendocino/Lake Counties
Attn: Manny Machado, Public Information Officer

Oct.11, 2023

RE: Russian River Bridge Project at Hwy 20, Redwood Valley

Dear Manny Machado,

This is a follow up to a CalTrans presentation to our Council in February 2023. At that time, CalTrans staff reported to the Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RVMAC) that the Hwy 20 interchange near Hwy 101 would only be closed for a few days at a time during construction of the new bridge. Specifically, we heard “closures are expected 4 days in March, 3 separate days in summer, and 4 days mid-fall” during construction. Subsequently, a few weeks ago, it was announced that the Redwood Valley/Hwy 20 area on/offramp, also known as Road 144, would be impacted by closure for a period spanning from a few weeks ago through June 2024. That seems to be a change from the original plan.

Members of the RVMAC and the business community are hearing many complaints about the on/off ramp closure. Specifically, one business owner has reported a 20% loss in business since the closure. For our local businesses that have endured economic strains from the pandemic and other challenges, this isn't welcome and could indeed prove critical to their ability to survive the next year.

We have heard reports of drivers traveling at night who must take the detour over Road A, which as you know is unlighted, intermittently striped, curving, and altogether challenging, especially late at night when some people get off work or otherwise must return along this unsafe road. Further, some drivers are making illegal, off-road U-turns across Hwy 20, which is extremely dangerous. There must be another way. Any cost savings for this lengthy closure are not worth the risk. Furthermore, we are concerned about response time impacts for fires, medical aid, and other emergencies, when minutes count. Redwood Valley/Calpella Fire District Chief Kerry Robinson has expressed concern about the impact on emergency response times during road closure, especially regarding medical aid, traffic accidents, and fire season.

Please take these concerns to the decision-makers who can find another solution besides this extensive on/offramp closure period. Thank you for your consideration. We would appreciate a response.

Sincerely,

RVMAC, Dolly Riley dollypriley@gmail.com, Jini Reynolds, Chris Boyd, Marybeth Kelly, Pien Ris-Yarbrough, Adam Gaska, Fran Laughton, and Kahli Johnson

This correspondence is the voice of the RVMAC on a matter of concern for the community, and not necessarily the opinion of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.

Cc: Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

