



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4418 • (831) 460-3200 • info@scrtc.org

September 1, 2023

Manu Koenig
Chair, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
info@scrtc.org
(831) 460-3200

Chris Spohr
District Superintendent
California State Parks – Santa Cruz District
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018-9660

Subj: Need to Address Unsafe Parking and Sanitary Conditions Along Highway 9

Dear District Superintendent Spohr:

I am writing to express significant concerns regarding the disorderly parking situation that has been observed along Highway 9, particularly in the vicinity where visitors access Henry Cowell Redwood State Park at its northern boundary. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission has been closely monitoring the situation, and we believe that immediate action is needed to address the challenges associated with safety, accessibility, and sanitation in this area.

The increasing number of visitors to Henry Cowell Redwood State Park has led to a notable parking congestion issue along Highway 9. This not only poses a danger to motorists and pedestrians but also has the potential to negatively impact the surrounding environment. The current disorderly parking practices along the highway create a hazardous environment for both visitors and residents, impairing the flow of traffic and potentially causing accidents. We strongly urge both Caltrans and California State Parks to collaborate and devise a comprehensive plan to improve the parking situation.

Furthermore, safety improvements are paramount in this area. The existing conditions fail to adequately safeguard pedestrians and cyclists who use the highway to access the park. Designated crosswalks, improved signage, and the implementation of traffic-calming measures should be considered to ensure the

safety of all individuals traversing the region. By enhancing safety infrastructure, we can encourage sustainable transportation options and make the area more accessible to a broader range of visitors.

In addition to the parking and safety concerns, the lack of sanitary facilities is a significant issue that requires immediate attention. The absence of proper restroom facilities can lead to unsanitary conditions and negatively impact the natural beauty of the park and its surroundings. We kindly request that California State Parks work in tandem with relevant agencies to install suitable restroom facilities that cater to the needs of the visitors while preserving the integrity of the environment.

We believe that addressing these concerns collaboratively will significantly enhance the visitor experience, promote safety, and protect the ecological balance of the region. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is committed to working alongside Caltrans and California State Parks to find viable solutions to these challenges. We invite you to engage in a dialogue with us and other relevant stakeholders to formulate a plan of action that addresses these issues comprehensively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and a fruitful collaboration to improve the transportation and recreational experience for all those who visit the Henry Cowell Redwood State Park area.

Sincerely,



Manu Koenig

Chair, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

CC: Scott Eades, District Director, Caltrans District 05



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Scott Eades
District Director
Caltrans District 05
50 Higuera St,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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California State Parks – Santa Cruz District