



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

HIGHWAY 1 DETOUR

I dropped by the Caltrans trailer park in Linda Mar recently and chatted with the man in charge of the San Pedro Creek bridge project. Crews already have begun prep work for the Highway 1 detour via Pedro Point frontage road, but actual traffic diversion begins the week of June 17. Look for possible snarls in traffic as well as inside the cars. Be prepared for gnarly traffic at the reroute chokepoints. The project raises the height of the Highway 1 bridge over the creek to that of the frontage road bridge. The new bridge is to be seismically safer and stronger than the 60-year-old span it replaces.

DANGER AT DEVIL'S SLIDE TUNNELS

While I had Caltrans' ear, I suggested adding a "WRONG WAY, DO NOT ENTER" sign at the Devil's Slide Tunnels north portal where the roadway splits before the bridge, to prevent a southbound driver (especially a drunk or disoriented one on a foggy night) from accidentally entering the northbound lane and causing a horrendous crash with oncoming traffic. If you drive south toward the tunnel entrance, you will see the split I am talking about right before you get onto the bridge. With all the lane and line markings at that banked curve, you can see the visual confusion and potential for a deadly head-on collision with a wrong-way driver. And don't get me started on the ridiculously narrow bike lanes alongside Highway 1 leading up the hill to the tunnels, which together with blind curves and excessive motorist speed, can only mean a really bad accident is just waiting to happen. As you know if you regularly read this column and my Pacifica Riptide blog, I am a huge fan of the tunnels. Always have been. But as we learn to drive the new Highway 1 configuration, we are discovering safety issues that could use a tweak or two to make Devil's Slide a safer place to drive. Let's hope Caltrans and the City of Pacifica are listening.

HOW GREEN ARE YOU?

Despite our personal differences over politics, sports, and breakfast cereals, we all can agree that each of us is responsible for helping to save our crazy little planet. We can despair about climate change; there is no denying the evidence. But for the sake of our mental health, and the health of the Earth, we should try to do as many green things as we possibly can do. Each green behavior change makes a difference. So here in no particular order are ideas for you to act on now: buy natural, nontoxic cleaning products; use sustainable building and construction materials and practices; get low-flow toilets and showerheads; reuse, recycle, and compost; install solar panels; ride a bicycle or a bus to shop and work; get better gas mileage (lots of good advice out there on the Internet and from your Uncle Charlie); buy local; use a clothesline, not a dryer; instead of running heaters and air conditioners, dress according to the temperature (we coastsiders do our bit for the environment by wearing shorts and t-shirts year-round); switch to energy-saving light bulbs; do your reading and research, then vote green; walking is good for you and good for the planet; eat and drink organic; take the train whenever you can (it's much cleaner than the plane); join the Pacifica Beach Coalition; share this newspaper with someone else, then recycle it.

SWAMI SEZ

"If you want to lengthen the perspective of time, then fill it, if you have the chance, with a thousand new things. Go on an exciting journey, rejuvenate yourself by breathing new life into the world around you. When you look back, you will notice that the incidents...have heaped up." (Jean-Marie Guyau, 19th-century philosopher, quoted by Douwe Draaisma in his book "Why Life Speeds Up As You Get Older")

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