

Wandering Wondering

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HIGHWAY 1 SOLUTION

"Some people in town have voiced concerns about the width and number of lanes in Caltrans' Highway 1 design, and how it fits into the aesthetics of our coastal community. I too felt the new design was a little large, so I looked at the intersections from all directions in an attempt to improve traffic flow while minimizing the width and number of lanes. Solution: two through lanes at Rockaway (same as now) and three through lanes at Vallemar. The frontage road in front of the Shell station and tire shop next door now would extend all the way to Vallemar, then become a turn lane and through lane in front of Ash's Vallemar Station. From Sharp Park southbound, add a third lane near the sewer plant, and it becomes a left-turn-only lane at Fassler, leaving only two through lanes south of the intersection. Other improvements include adjusting the width of the median and margins, and straightening the roadway near the lumberyard. But the first step is to settle lane configurations, then add bells and whistles later." (Scott McIntosh)

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

"Too bad we can't find a way to generate energy from fog. At least we can capitalize on visitors coming to Pacifica to enjoy the fog and cooling off during global warming." (Ken Miles)

GRAMMARLY: HOW GOOD IS IT?

A fellow editor asks about Grammarly. Here is my take: As with most other spell, style, and grammar checkers, this program is only as good as the humans who input and code the content, so it does some good but also some harm. As an added layer of quality control, backup, and second pair of eyes, it's probably somewhat useful, especially for a novice, but there really is no substitute for a real human editor. The main problem with all such programs is their occasionally vague, unhelpful, or downright silly suggestions. Their best catches are spelling errors and duplicated words, so it can't hurt to run those tests just in case you were sleepy or impaired when you wrote the copy.

FRESH & EASY REDUX

"Fresh & Easy is back, and purportedly better than ever. The small-format grocery chain, bought out by Southern California supermarket magnate Ron Burkle, began a big reintroduction campaign this week, highlighting 'affordable organics,' 'gourmet' made-on-the-premises takeout, no artificial flavors or coloring and everything fresh as can be. Burkle's Yucaipa Cos. took 167 Fresh & Easy stores off Tesco's hands in September -- the British supermarket chain lost \$1.8 billion on the venture -- and closed 40-odd stores...Despite reports to the contrary, the Fresh & Easy name survives. 'We set out to make our stores and our brand fresher, easier and more relevant to modern consumers who are looking for healthy, convenient options,' said Mike Evans, the chain's head of marketing." (Andrew S. Ross, San Francisco Chronicle, June 20)

SWAMI SEZ

"To the paranoid people who check behind shower curtains for murderers: If you find one, what's your plan?" (forwarded by Pierre Messerli)

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