

## **THE TROUBLE DOWN SOUTH**

Today let's explore Pacifica's troubled portal to the south on Highway 1. I drive this stretch of road every day, and the problems I see there seem so easy to fix that it truly puzzles me why we cannot get our taxpayer-supported state and county agencies to do something about it.

## **CLEAR THE PAVED SHOULDERS**

As you leave Linda Mar and drive uphill to the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide, please notice that Caltrans (in response to my earlier items in this column) has mowed some of the grass and weeds that grow alongside the highway but still has not cleared the mud, rocks, and debris off the paved shoulders (the area outside the white lines where bicyclists are supposed to ride). Despite warnings about this safety hazard in my past two columns, the state transportation department (Caltrans) has done nothing to clear the paved shoulders. This makes the road dangerous for bicyclists and motorists (and the occasional homeless pedestrian). Everyone who uses Highway 1 should complain mightily to Caltrans about this dereliction of duty. Get on the phone, get online, and get up in their faces. They have offices in the Linda Mar park-and-ride lot and off Highway 1 south of the tunnels. Please join my protest movement. Do it for all of us who have to drive south of Pacifica.

## **GET RID OF THE UGLY BUNKER**

Next up on the southbound route is the abandoned military bunker at the top of the hill of dirt south of the tunnels. I understand Caltrans owns this land, yet despite posted signs warning people not to park or climb there, daily hordes of tourists clamber up the peak to visit the ugly old bunker. I don't know what the attraction is. From what I have been told, it is scarred with graffiti and reeking of urine. Perhaps some misguided guidebook has fooled hundreds of people into thinking that if they go up the hill to the bunker they will achieve enlightenment or see a vision or experience some kind of nirvana. What a waste of millennial muscle!

## **DANGER AT GRAY WHALE COVE**

Continuing south, you come to the place where taillights routinely back up traffic. Beachgoers crossing Highway 1 between Gray Whale Cove and the parking lot east of the highway face extreme danger every day as speeding vehicles, heavy traffic, fog, and blind curves add up to a disaster waiting to happen. San Mateo County and the State of California have been dragging their feet for decades on a solution to this highway nightmare. They keep talking

about crosswalks, flashing lights, traffic lights, overpasses, underpasses. Why does it take government agencies so long to fix an obvious major safety hazard? Talk about gridlock in Washington! We have it right here on the Midcoast.

### **GRAMMAR JAMMER**

“Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They drink. They leave.”  
(Brandon Specktor)

### **SWAMI SEZ**

“A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a workstation.” (Swami Umami)

### **MAYBURRITOVILLE**

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