



**OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR
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May 8, 2026

REPORT

of the

**SOUTH COAST TRAFFIC
ADVISORY PANEL**

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SOUTH COAST TRAFFIC ADVISORY PANEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY 2026

IMMEDIATE

A. ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

In many areas current traffic laws --including speed limits, prohibitions on unsafe passing, tailgating, exceeding noise limits and commercial roadside photography -- are adequate but insufficiently enforced. Too many locals and visitors alike ignore traffic laws at their peril. The region, especially State Routes 84 and 35, is also plagued by cars, motorcycles and car clubs that travel at high speeds, make risky passing maneuvers and tailgate, all on narrow and winding mountain roads. These racers not only put themselves at great danger, but all other motorists on the road, as well as any residents and cyclists. Serious, often life-threatening accidents on these roads are a weekly occurrence. Moreover, the noise created by high-speed motorcycles and cars with modified mufflers pierces the quiet of mountain communities for miles beyond the roads themselves.

The four most common traffic violations:

- Speeding
- Unsafe passing
- Tailgating
- Noise violations

High problem areas:

- SR 84 - from the intersection of 84/35 (Four Corners) to the intersection of 84/ 1 (beach), especially:
 - through La Honda
 - through San Gregorio at Stage Road
 - on the straightaways
- SR 35 – from the intersection of SR 35/92 to the San Mateo County line, especially:
 - Kings Mountain at the Fire Station & Community Center (13889 Skyline Blvd)
 - Clouds Rest Vista Point – the straight stretch on SR 35 before and after the Vista Point

When traffic problems are worst:

- Weekends and Holidays - year-round, especially in nice weather
- Summer - with an increase in both beach traffic and car & motorcycle clubs
- Mornings – any day of the week, year-round

Recommendation:

- Increase enforcement by CHP and the Sheriff on the weekends, at the sites noted above. (not just the presence of uniformed officers, but actual enforcement of traffic laws)
- Stage concentrated law enforcement events 3-4 times / year at different sites
- Set up 2-3 ghost police cars at sites well known for speeding
- Set up driver feedback signs at high-risk areas (i.e. at the entrance to town of La Honda)

B. STOP COMMERCIAL ROADSIDE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bay Moto-Photo and similar businesses set up on the sides of SR 35 and 84 to photograph speeding cars and motorcycles. This encourages dangerous and illegal behavior, especially by motorcyclists who may go by repeatedly, engaging in increasingly dangerous maneuvers to show off for the photographers

Recommendation:

Cite roadside photographers for commercial photography in the Caltrans right-of-way without an encroachment permit.

NEAR TERM

A. ROAD MAINTENANCE

- Turnouts

Safe turnouts are needed for motorists to be able to pull over to let speeding and aggressive tailgaters go by. However, most of the turnouts are in such bad condition that motorists will not use them for fear of damaging their cars, a situation which contributes to road rage and a generally unsafe environment.

Recommendation:

- On SR 84 – have at least 6 turnouts from Four Corners to La Honda cleaned, with potholes filled
- On SR 35 – make more turnouts available along the whole stretch from Four Corners to Alpine Road

- Foglines:

Clearly marked foglines are a critical safety guide for drivers to stay on the road during low-visibility conditions like fog, heavy rain, or darkness. They define the boundary between the driving lane and the shoulder, helping motorists maintain lane position and avoid drifting into traffic. Clear foglines are also needed for the safety of the many cyclists who use our highways.

Recommendation: Repaint and maintain the foglines on these roads:

- Pescadero Creek Road
- Alpine Road
- SR 35
- SR 84

- Vegetation Management

Keeping sightlines free of vegetation intrusion at critical junctures is essential for traffic safety. At the intersection of SR 84 and Stage Road, for example, traffic accidents were sharply reduced after a large growth of brush that blocked sightlines in both directions, was cut back. Mowing, hand tool, or other non-herbicidal methods of removal should be used whenever possible.

Recommendation

While vegetation management along the entire stretches of our highways is optimal, it is costly, so we recommend that attention be focused on these critical sites:

- SR 84 at the intersection of Stage Road in San Gregorio
- SR 84 at PM 4.3
- SR 84 at PM 5.5 at the Equestrian Center
- SR84 for 2 miles west of 4 Corners (PM 13.0 to 4 Corners)

B. SIGNAGE

- Signage for turnouts

Motorists need to know in advance that a turnout is ahead, so that they may safely exit the roadway. This will reduce unsafe passing, tailgating and road rage. However, many of the current ‘turnout ahead’ signs are either hidden, in disrepair or nonexistent.

Recommendation

- Have existing signs cleaned up
- Add more “turnout ahead” signs

- Signage for speed limits

It is difficult to expect motorists to respect a speed limit when signage is hidden, hard to read or when speed limit signs are few and far between.

Recommendation

- Clean up existing signs to make them more visible
- Clear vegetation around existing signs
- Add more speed limit signs where few now exist, notably:
 - SR 35 around the Kings Mountain Fire Station & Community Center
 - SR 35 stretch between the intersections of SR35 /92 and SR 35 /84 (Four Corners)

- Signage for mile markers

Steel mile markers are critical location indicators for reporting accidents

Recommendation

Replace mile markers where they are missing

C. SPECIFIC SIGNAGE

There are specific trouble spots along our highways that have been the scene of repeated accidents. Clear signage that alerts drivers to upcoming hazards could prevent many of these tragedies.

- **Kings Mountain Fire Brigade / Community Center**

13889 Skyline Blvd. There is a partially hidden driveway that is well-used by the Fire Brigade and community members. Low visibility at this site make safe entry and exit difficult when motorists pass at very high speeds. Coupled with the recommendation for a lowered speed limit on that stretch, clear signage alerting motorists to the well-used driveway would greatly enhance safety for all.

- **SR 35 / Portola Heights Road**

Most passing motorists don’t realize that 53 homes lie behind the gate on Portola Heights Road, so too many of them speed past without regard to the need of the residents to be able to safely exit onto SR 35. Accidents and near misses are too common at this site.

- **SR 35 / Castanea Ridge Road**

Residents of this community also face great difficulty in exiting safely onto SR 35 when passing motorists are unaware of their driveway. Likewise, slowing to be able to safely exit SR 35 onto Castanea Ridge Road would be made safer by the addition of signage.

- **SR 35 / Clouds Rest Vista Point**

With nature preserves on both sides of SR 35 at this Vista Point, plenty of hikers and cyclists can be found crossing the highway year-round, many with pets and small children in tow. As motorists often drive at high speeds in the area where there are no other pedestrian crossings or intersections for many miles, signs alerting motorists to an upcoming pedestrian crossing are warranted.

A deer crossing sign would also help alert motorists to another common hazard.

- **SR 84 / Portola Valley Road to 4 Corners - truck warnings**

SR 84 narrows at many points along this stretch and many corners are tight, so trucks over 50 feet should be warned to take alternate routes so that they don't imperil other drivers when their long loads inevitably cross into opposing lanes on the tight corners.

Recommendation:

Add signage in the locations 4 locations noted above.

LONGER TERM

A. INTERSECTION TRAFFIC CALMING

Davenport, CA on SR 1 is an excellent example of what can and should be done for both La Honda and San Gregorio. The advance warning to motorists, the blinking traffic lights, the speed feedback signs and textured pavement all serve to slow traffic as people enter the small town of Davenport.

- **La Honda - SR 84 at Sears Ranch Road**

There is a pedestrian crossing from the town's residential area up to the elementary school, and across to the store, post office and fire station. Currently the crossing has no signal, stop sign or indication of a pedestrian crossing other than faded crosswalk markings. It sits on a straightaway already noted for high speeds (50+ mph).

Recommendation:

- Pedestrian demand lights
- Blinking warning lights in both directions
- Textured pavement
- Warning / notice of upcoming crosswalk at both entrances to the town
- Lowered speed limit through town (see Speed Limits below)
- "Reduced Speed Ahead" signs coming into town

- **San Gregorio – SR 84 at Stage Road**

Although it is not marked as such, the intersection of SR 84 and Stage Road is used by many pedestrians on the weekends by patrons of the San Gregorio Store many times a week for its music events. Moreover, the constant flow of beach traffic on SR 84 in the summers makes this a particularly hazardous spot for pedestrians. And as there are no other intersections or pedestrian crossings for 10 miles between La Honda and the coast, unfamiliar motorists need to be alerted to the presence of a pedestrian crossing at Stage Road.

Recommendation:

- Painted crosswalk
- Textured pavement
- Signage warning of an upcoming pedestrian crossing in both directions
- Blinking lights alerting motorists to an upcoming intersection

B. SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS

- **Four Corners**

The current speed limit of 40 mph through the intersection of SR 35/84 is too high given the volume of cars, trucks, motorcycles, pedestrians and cyclists moving through the area on any given day, but especially on weekends.

Recommendation:

Reduce the speed limit to 25 mph through the intersection of Four Corners

- **La Honda**

The current speed limit through town is 35 mph but is regularly exceeded by 20+ mph by those passing through. Lowering the speed limit to 25 mph, coupled with intersection calming measures and enhanced enforcement noted above, will reduce the hazards for school children and other pedestrians.

Recommendation:

Reduce the speed limit to 25 mph through the town of La Honda.

- **San Gregorio**

The current speed limit in the Stage Road area is 50 mph. Lowering the speed limit to 35 mph, coupled with intersection calming measures and the enhanced enforcement noted above, will reduce the hazards to both motorists and pedestrians.

Recommendation:

Reduce the speed limit to 35 mph through the Stage Road area on SR 84

- **Kings Mountain @ Fire Station/Community Center**

The current speed limit on SR 35 on the stretch around the Kings Mountain Fire Station and Community Center is 50 mph. Lowering the speed limit to 35 mph for ½ mile in either direction, coupled with the addition of signage alerting passing motorists to the existence of a well-used entrance to a Fire Brigade and Community Center will enhance safety for both the firefighters and community members.

Recommendation:

Reduce the speed limit to 35 mph before and after the entrance to the Kings Mountain Fire Brigade.

- **South Skyline**

The long straight stretch before and after the Clouds Rest Vista Point is exceedingly popular among racers, both motorcycle and cars. Speeding and showboating are common in front of the Vista.

Recommendation:

Reduce the speed limit before and after the Clouds Rest Vista Point

C. AUTOMATED SPEED CAMERAS

The vast distances to be covered by law enforcement on the South Coast, as well as funding and personnel constraints, point to the benefits of installing automated speed enforcement cameras in areas known for high speeds and accidents. However, the current state automated speed enforcement pilot program under AB 645 is limited to 5 jurisdictions, none of which are on the South Coast.

Recommendation:

That our state representatives explore ways to expand the current state pilot program for automated speed enforcement cameras to include high impact areas on the South Coast.

D. SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS FOR ACCIDENT HOT SPOTS

There are a number of turns on SR 84 that experience an unusually high number of serious, sometimes fatal, auto and motorcycle accidents. These tragedies not only take their toll on the accident victims themselves but also impact nearby residents who feel compelled to respond, day or night, to these emergencies as best they can. Local first responders, including the all-volunteer La Honda and Kings Mountain fire brigades, must devote an inordinate amount of their time to accidents that could be prevented.

Recommendation:

That Caltrans undertake safety reviews of SR 84 and 35 with a view to enhancing road safety with barriers and signage, and other measures as deemed appropriate, to significantly reduce accidents. The Panel suggests that these 'hot spots' merit special attention:

- On SR 84: 1.3 miles west of Four Corners
- On SR 84: mile marker 9.85
- On SR 84: mile marker 10.1
- Intersection of SR 1 and 84
- 1 mile in each direction from Four Corners on SR 84 and SR 35

Traffic Advisory Panel Meetings with Government Agencies

With the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department	November 8, 2023
With the California Highway Patrol (CHP)	January 24, 2024
With the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)	April 24, 2025
With the San Mateo County Department of Public Works	June 5, 2024

Working meetings of the Traffic Advisory Panel:

August 9, 2023

September 13, 2023

January 28, 2026

April 15, 2026