Big Sur Coast Highway Management Plan
Context: Maintain essential services while preserving intrinsic qualities.
Big Sur Coast, California
CSS Approach

- Involved community and agency stakeholders as equals
- Conducted outside the NEPA process
- Education about technical issues
- Shared responsibility for outcome
Transportation Need

- Reliability of Highway 1
  - Lack of detours in event of closure
  - Tourism-based economy
  - Emergency services
Compatibility with Natural Environment

- Needs: Protect natural habitats and visual qualities
- Major Issues: Reaching agreement on appropriate protection strategies
- Resolution Methodologies: Share technical information; perform new studies as basis for consensus building
Compatibility with Human Environment

- Community Needs: Sustainable economy and sense of place

- Major Issues: Uncertainty about future closures and resulting long-term changes

- Resolution Methodologies: Develop and document “best practices”
Project Vision

- Restore, maintain and preserve the natural and scenic character of the corridor while continuing to operate the highway in a safe and efficient manner.
Stakeholder Involvement
Transportation Success

- Improved interagency coordination for highway restoration in emergencies
- More efficient regulatory compliance that streamlines project delivery
- Expanded options for landslide debris disposal
Facility as a Community Asset

• Highway 1 = Lifeline
  – Supports the regional and local economy
  – Unique type of “main street” connecting rural settlements to each other and to commercial centers in the north and south
  – Highway 1 is a destination in itself, making preservation of intrinsic qualities essential to sustaining the sense of place
Accomplishments & Shortcomings

• Benefits
  – Heightened degree of trust
  – Improved overall coordination for project delivery

• Shortcomings
  – Time and labor intensive
  – All expectations not met
  – Breakdown in continuity
CSS Bottomline

- Caltrans was actively listening
- Caltrans was not in a defensive mode
- Decisions about the plan were made by consensus; but no change in decision authority for specific actions
- Agency “customers” have become good partners
Contact Information

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