



Highway 1 Piedras Blancas Realignment



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has realigned 2.8 miles of Highway 1 in northern San Luis Obispo County up to 475 feet inland of the original alignment to protect the route from severe coastal erosion exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The project will protect the highway for the next 100 years and provide access for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. Completed in 2017, the realignment of the highway at Piedras Blancas will not only restore the natural functions of nearby creeks by replacing three significant crossings with bridges but the removal of artificial revetments will enable bluff and intertidal zones to reestablish equilibrium. Furthermore, the permeable roadway materials used during construction will maintain the hydrologic connectivity of adjacent wetlands. As climate-related extremes such as sea-level rise, drought and flooding impact the integrity of California's coastal areas, the realignment of this iconic highway is one adaptive measure that will uphold the built and natural environment for years to come.



Images provided by the California Department of Transportation

For more information about Safeguarding California and Climate Change Adaptation efforts in California, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/>