

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

LISTED BELOW ARE THE QUESTIONS (Q) SUBMITTED BY  
THE PUBLIC FROM THE

**2023 SLIP-OUT REPAIR PROJECT NEAR 2180 HIGGINS CANYON  
ROAD (PROJECT) - PUBLIC ZOOM MEETING ON APRIL 13, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DEPARTMENT)  
HAS PROVIDED RESPONSES (R) TO THE QUESTIONS (Q) BELOW

Q1. Can you please record the meeting and make it available, so we can share with those unable to attend?

*R1. Yes. The recording of the meeting has been posted online.*

*Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/9MM8LhJDnz4>*

*The project webpage (<https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/2023-slip-out-repairs-near-2180-higgins-canyon-road>) also has a direct link to the recorded video, under the "Updates" section for April.*

Q2. Would you please send me in advance (all of us would be best) a copy of whatever engineering report(s) that you have about the site of the washout that addresses this current road closure?

*R2. We do not publish draft versions of documents to the public. The final Geotechnical Report is being finalized by our consultant and will be published on the project webpage.*

Q3. Can an ambulance be staged on-site for quicker emergency response?

*R3. The County's EMS has provided the following response:*

*Staging an unstaffed ambulance on the opposite side of the roadway compromise within the affected area is not a viable option and would not be likely to meaningfully improve response times nor patient outcomes.*

*As two examples of the many complications, ambulances and their equipment / technology require routine use and servicing to assure that they are in ready condition. As of the time of the meeting, there had been no 911 requests for emergency medical services response to any location on Higgins Canyon Road nor any marked / named roadway directly connecting to it since the slides occurred. The logistics for an initially responding crew to traverse the area of the closure with the necessary equipment and transfer into a pre-staged ambulance (as well as the reverse which would be necessary at the conclusion of the call) would also be physically challenging and time consuming. As such, this pathway*

would not be meaningfully faster than the ambulance accessing the affected area via the several alternative routes that exist via intact roadways.

911 medical response Countywide is effected with a dual paramedic configuration. By design a paramedic on a fire department apparatus arrives first with all necessary training, supplies and equipment to assess and initiate Advanced Life Support care, followed by the ambulance with a second paramedic shortly thereafter to support on-scene needs as well as transport the patient to the hospital. As CalFIRE stated at the community forum, it does have options and the necessary equipment to continue to deliver the initial responding paramedic via Higgins Canyon Road if necessary.

The EMS system also has established process to dispatch air ambulances as a back-up to the ground ambulance response to critical patients in areas which for various reasons are known to be challenging and exceedingly time consuming to access. The air ambulance may be dispatched by the County's 911 call center prior to arrival of first responders at the scene or upon their request thereafter depending on the identified needs of the patient and overall circumstances associated with the response.

The EMS system by design will continue to serve the affected area well despite the roadway compromise.

Q4. Can the barrier (Type K railing) be moved closer to the slide area to provide more space for vehicles?

R4. *After the meeting on April 13, 2023, the Department conducted a field visit to evaluate moving the barrier closer to the slide and we are not recommended this due to safety concerns. The narrow road width is a hazard for vehicles that need to turn around or go in reverse. The current barrier location near the driveway provides a safer space for vehicles to turn around.*

Q5. Will there be any large communication plans, or warning sign for the public about the road closure?

R5. *Subscribing to the Project webpage with your email is the best way to stay up to date on the road closure and slide repair (see Project webpage for more information and email subscription). Our Road Maintenance Division will evaluate and place advance warning sign on Higgins Canyon Road to alert drivers about the road closure.*

Q6. Public using Purisima Creek Trail for hiking is causing additional traffic impacts to Higgins Canyon Road.

R6. *We will work with our Traffic Section to determine what can be done to limit parking as much as possible, such as adding additional temporary "No Parking" signs. The County will coordinate with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to post information regarding the road closure.*

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

An email subscription button has been added to the Project webpage:

<https://www.smcgov.org/publicworks/2023-slip-out-repairs-near-2180-higgins-canyon-road>

**Subscribe for Email Updates! →**

Subscribers will be notified by email of any website updates once they sign up. The Department of Public Works will continue to update the Project webpage and share information with the public.

Updated as of May 3, 2023 at 3:04 PM

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