

Date of Hearing: April 1, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Lori D. Wilson, Chair

AB 2817 (Dixon) – As Introduced February 15, 2024

**SUBJECT:** State highways: Route 1: relinquishment

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Laguna Beach a portion of State Route (SR) 1 that is located between Moro Ridge Road and Via Mentone if the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Laguna Beach enter into an agreement providing for that relinquishment.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Defines a “state highway” as any roadway that is acquired, laid out, constructed, improved, or maintained as a state highway pursuant to constitutional or legislative authorization. (Streets and Highways Code (SHC) Section 24)
- 2) Statutorily identifies state highway system routes. (SHC Section 300-365)
- 3) Establishes SR 1 as from:
  - a) Route 5 south of San Juan Capistrano to Route 101 near El Rio except for the portions of SR 1 relinquished:
    - i. Within the city limits of the City of Dana Point between the western edge of the San Juan Creek Bridge and Eastline Road at the city limits of the City of Laguna Beach;
    - ii. Within the city limits of the City of Newport Beach between Jamboree Road and Newport Coast Drive;
    - iii. Within the city limits of the City of Santa Monica between the southern city limits and Route 10; and,
    - iv. Within the city limits of the City of Oxnard between Pleasant Valley Road and Route 101. (SHC 301)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** Relinquishment is defined as the statutory conveyance of all rights, title, interests, liability, and maintenance responsibilities of a state highway, or portion thereof, to another government entity, according to Caltrans’ 2018 Project Development Procedures Manual. Caltrans possesses and controls all state highways. California Streets and Highways Code, Section 73 authorizes the CTC to relinquish transportation facilities to cities and counties. The relinquished facilities become city streets or county roads. Section 73 identifies four types of relinquishments: legislative enactment, superseded by relocation, collateral facility, or a non-motorized transportation facility.

Each session, numerous bills authorizing the relinquishment of segments of state highways to local jurisdictions are passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Relinquishment transactions are generally preceded by a negotiation of terms and conditions between the local

jurisdiction and Caltrans. Once an agreement has been established, the Legislature can delete the portion of a highway from the Streets and Highways Code or authorize CTC to relinquish the segment. The CTC then approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via resolution. The relinquishment takes effect only after CTC approval and a certified copy of the relinquishment resolution is recorded in the county office of the recorder.

This bill is consistent with Caltrans' policy encouraging the relinquishment of state highways that do not serve regional or statewide transportation needs. Recipient agencies often seek relinquishment of state highways so that they can have greater control over the facility, which often serves as a local street.

*SR 1.* The City of Laguna Beach would like to implement various street improvements and efficiencies along SR 1 within the city limits. The goal is to accommodate motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as to promote tourism and economic development and reflect the character of Laguna Beach.

*According to the author,* “The City of Laguna Beach, in my district, is hoping to improve State Route 1. Their goal to accommodate motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as to promote tourism and economic development and reflect the unique character of Laguna Beach is one I encourage. Currently, Caltrans has possession and control over the State’s highways and is limited in the types of improvements it is able to make to those highways. This bill is necessary to formally begin the process of relinquishment of SR-1 within the boundaries of the City of Laguna Beach from Caltrans to the City.”

*In support,* the City of Laguna Beach writes, “The City of Laguna Beach is exploring opportunities to further improve SR 1 for its residents and visitors. AB 2817 will help the City reach its local transportation and safety goals...For these reasons, the City of Laguna Beach is proud to sponsor AB 2817 and thank you for supporting the City’s in your district.”

*Previous legislation.* SB 1318 (Transportation), Chapter 491, Statutes of 2010 makes non-controversial changes to sections of law relating to transportation and housing, including cleaning up a number of old relinquishment statutes so that they conform to the standard format.

SB 504 (Monning), Chapter 504, Statutes of 2019 allows the CTC to relinquish segments of SR 1 in the City of Pismo Beach.

AB 2172 (Petrie-Norris), Chapter 126, Statutes of 2020 allows the CTC to relinquish a portion of SR 133 to the City of Laguna Beach.

## **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

### **Support**

City of Laguna Beach (sponsor)

### **Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Julia Kingsley / TRANS. / (916) 319-2093