

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Jim Frazier, Chair  
AB 2172 (Petrie-Norris) – As Introduced February 11, 2020

**SUBJECT:** State highways: Route 133: relinquishment

**SUMMARY:** Allows the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to relinquish to the City of Laguna Beach a portion of State Route (SR) 133. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Authorizes CTC, upon determining it is in the best interests of the state and upon an agreement being reached between the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Laguna Beach, to relinquish a portion of SR 133 from SR 1 to El Toro Road.
- 2) Requires the city to ensure continuity of traffic flow, maintain traffic signal progression, and maintain signs along the segments in their jurisdiction directing motorists to the continuation of SR 133.

**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.
- 2) Identifies state highways in statute. SR 133 is from SR 1 near Laguna Beach to SR 241.
- 3) Specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature that the prescribed routes of the state highway system connect communities and regions of the state and that they serve the state’s economy by connecting centers of commerce, industry, agriculture, mineral wealth, and recreation.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown

**COMMENTS:** Each session, numerous bills authorizing CTC to relinquish segments of the state highway 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 authorizes CTC to relinquish the segment, and CTC then approves the relinquishment and verifies its approval via resolution. The final step is for the Legislature to delete these segments from current law.

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 133 between SR 1 and El Toro Road is a 3.4-mile long segment originating in downtown Laguna Beach and entering Laguna Canyon as it travels north. El Toro Road is SR 133’s first major intersection. The northern-most part of SR 133 is a toll road; however, the segment considered for relinquishment in this bill is not a part of, nor directly adjacent to, the toll road facility.

The City of Laguna Beach is currently conducting a feasibility study to assess the potential needs of SR 133. The feasibility study will enable Laguna Beach to determine if they desire to have the state relinquish control of SR 133. If the relinquishment occurs, Laguna Beach would have more flexibility to implement standards related to its goals for future projects that are vested in the community's interests, including traffic calming measures and undergrounding of overhead utilities lines that will mitigate safety risks and provide for the overall wellbeing of residents and visitors.

According to the author, "SR 133 is one of only two exit and entry routes to and from the City of Laguna Beach and its maintenance provides for the safety of my constituents, especially in the event of an evacuation due to a fire. Currently, the city is exploring opportunities to vastly improve SR 133 for its residents and visitors."

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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