The scenic route north of the slide was set to welcome visitors July 17 for demolition, and a replacement project is completed until the Pfeiffer Creek bridge replacement project is completed in late September. Now that tourists can travel through the area of Paul’s Slide, they can access more than 24 miles of Big Sur.

Across the country, 500 million plastic straws are used daily — a mystifying statistic, considering the nation’s population is 321 million. “Plastic straws are their own kind of nightmare,” Topp said.

Many of the time, straws aren’t even used, Topp said, suggesting that restaurants could save money by skipping them altogether. This effort would help stem the use of plastic cutlery and straws, instead of the ubiquitous plastic, according to drafts of ordinances presented at a city workshop.

If the rules are adopted by the council, the straw law would take effect six months prior to the plastics ban.

The city’s new environmental compliance manager, Agnes Topp, said the changes would help stem the use of plastic cutlery and straws, instead of which can be recycled.

“They are a big source of litter on beaches and trash in the landfill,” she said.

The effort to dislodge the rock was successful — video footage provided by Caltrans shows it being blasted into smithereens.

“The boulder needed to be blasted,” Caltrans spokesperson Susana Cruz told The Pine Cone. “It was located about halfway down the slope and lodged there. We couldn’t keep it there and there have public access beneath it.”

By MARY SCHLEY

The scenic route north of the slide was set to welcome visitors July 18 for the first time in four months, but first, a large boulder that hung dangerously over the highway had to be removed. To do the job, a Caltrans crew with specialized training placed 14 sticks of explosives in and around the big rock July 17. The sticks were filled with nitromethane, a flammable liquid, and ammonium nitrate, a commonly used explosive.

“Carmel residents have to be forewarned,” Cruz said of the plan to have an employee there. “It’s for safety reasons in case anything comes down.” And if another slide happens there, Caltrans has gates that will make it easy to close the scenic route quickly.

Halfway down the slope and lodged there. We couldn’t keep it there and there have public access beneath it.”

That’s the rock (above) is blown to bits short time later, the rock (above) is blown to bits.

A Caltrans crew (left) prepares a large boulder at Paul’s Slide in Big Sur for demolition, and a short time later, the rock (above) is blown to bits with explosives.

A. Caltrans crew (left) prepares a large boulder at Paul’s Slide in Big Sur for demolition, and a short time later, the rock (above) is blown to bits with explosives.

By KELLY NIX

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