

## Filming in Big Sur/Bixby Bridge/Highway One in Monterey County

Rev. 2/4/2025

Due to increased sensitivity to traffic delays caused by Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) for those transiting Highway One in Big Sur, it is important to notify local residents and business groups in advance of film production activities that include ITC or other high-impact activities such as helicopters and drones. The growing number of tourists along Highway One, in addition to requests to film in the Bixby Bridge area has heavily impacted residents and businesses. The following guidelines will help ensure continued access and better cooperation with the Big Sur Community.

**Requests to film on Highway One with ITC will be considered on a case by case basis subject to the potential impact on the community, with special consideration given to the size and duration of the production as well as the inclusion of other events happening in the area at the same time.**

- 1) The existing moratorium on film production requiring ITC between Memorial Day and Labor Day remains in effect.
- 2) Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) may not last longer than five (5) minutes.**
- 3) No helicopter filming is allowed below 1,000 feet at Bixby Bridge/Bixby Canyon. Flights below 1000 feet in other areas require prior approval from all affected jurisdictions.
- 4) The use of a drone will require consultation with a biologist from the Ventana Wildlife Society and having a biologist on-site to monitor endangered California Condors if deemed necessary.
- 5) Proposed over flights below 1000 feet over water require a separate permit from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). It could take up to 30 days as they analyze the feasibility of film shoots based on animal/sealife cycles in specific areas along Highway 1.
- 6) Productions planning over flights of the Sea Otter Refuge - on the west side of Highway 1 from Carmel River in Carmel-by-the-Sea to Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria -also need a permit from California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Current contact is Amanda Canepa at [Amanda.canepa@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.canepa@wildlife.ca.gov).

- 7) Drones are not permitted over private property without permission from the landowner(s).
- 8) Drones are not permitted over Caltrans rights-of-way (including turnouts) without a Caltrans encroachment permit and ITC enforced by CHP.
- 9) Coast Road must not be used as a basecamp. A permit from Monterey County must be obtained to park essential production vehicles (only) at this location.
- 10) Residents living off Coast Road must be allowed access to their properties, except during active ITC holds.
- 11) No more than 50% of any turnout may be used.
- 12) ITC is prohibited on weekends.
- 13) **No more than one (1) production with ITC will be allowed in any one week, and there must be at least six (6) calendar days between all production activities.**
- 14) **No more than two consecutive days of film activities will be allowed**, including prep, strike and weather days.
- 15) Productions must notify the Coast Unified School District to coordinate shoot times around school bus schedules.
- 16) ITC must be suspended when necessary to make way for school buses and emergency vehicles.

Once you have submitted a film permit application to the California Film Commission, or with the county (for locations under their jurisdiction), **please notify the entities below (at least two days prior to the first prep or shoot day) whenever activities include ITC, helicopters, drones or parking on Coast Road.**

Notification Contacts:

Monterey County Supervisor Kate Daniels' Office  
[district5@countyofmonterey.gov](mailto:district5@countyofmonterey.gov)

Karen Nordstrand  
Monterey County Film Commissioner  
[Karen@filmmonterey.org](mailto:Karen@filmmonterey.org)

Joe Burnett  
Sr. Wildlife Biologist–Coordinator

California Condor Program

Ventana Wildlife Society

831-800-7424

[JoeBurnett@ventanaws.org](mailto:JoeBurnett@ventanaws.org)

[www.ventanaws.org](http://www.ventanaws.org) & [www.mycondor.org](http://www.mycondor.org)

Kacy Cooper

Permit Coordinator

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

[Kacy.cooper@noaa.gov](mailto:Kacy.cooper@noaa.gov)

831-647-1286

Coast Unified School District

[dadams@coastusd.org](mailto:dadams@coastusd.org)

Chief Cheryl Goetz

Mid Coast Fire Brigade (Bixby Bridge and north is in this sector of fire service)

[firechief@midcoastfirebrigade.org](mailto:firechief@midcoastfirebrigade.org)

831-601-5718 / 831-625-8175

Big Sur Kate Blog

<https://bigsurkate.blog>

[kwnova@mac.com](mailto:kwnova@mac.com)

Big Sur Chamber of Commerce

[info@bigsurcalifornia.org](mailto:info@bigsurcalifornia.org)

The Community Association of Big Sur

[alerts@cabigsur.org](mailto:alerts@cabigsur.org)

Some productions may choose to make a donation that would have a positive, direct impact on Big Sur residents. These local non-profits include: the volunteer Mid-Coast Fire Brigade (northern portion of Big Sur) and Big Sur Fire Brigade (southern portion of Big Sur).

Mid-Coast Fire Brigade (Chief Cheryl Goetz)

c/o Mid Coast Fire Brigade

38000 Palo Colorado Road

Carmel, CA 93923

[firechief@midcoastfirebrigade.org](mailto:firechief@midcoastfirebrigade.org)

Big Sur Fire Brigade (Chief Matt Harris)

c/o Big Sur Fire

P.O. Box 520

Big Sur, CA 93920

[bigsurfire@gmail.com](mailto:bigsurfire@gmail.com)

For further questions, please contact:

Alfonso Casey

Caltrans Permit Coordinator

California Film Commission

[alfonso.casey@film.ca.gov](mailto:alfonso.casey@film.ca.gov)

323-817-4105 office

Lori Moilov

State Parks, Buildings and Facilities Permit Coordinator

California Film Commission

[Lori.moilov@film.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.moilov@film.ca.gov)

323-817-4106 office

**SAMPLE NOTIFICATION LETTER FOLLOWS**

**Notification of Upcoming Film Activity – Big Sur Area**

Date:  
To: Big Sur Residents and Businesses  
From:

Re: Film Production Activity on Highway 1 in the Big Sur Area, [ACTIVITY DATE]

In an effort to better communicate with Big Sur residents regarding upcoming filming activities, this is to notify you of an upcoming permitted film shoot scheduled for [DATE] from X:00am to X:00pm. Our work will require intermittent traffic control (ITC) at and near Bixby Bridge and Hwy 1 (Mile Markers XX to XX). As per our permit, a portion of the Bixby Bridge turnout will be used for parking of production vehicles (if applicable). (No more than 50% of turnout will be used).

We will be hiring California Highway Patrol officers to facilitate the ITC – ensuring public safety and access with only brief traffic holds of 5 minutes. Most of our trucks and equipment will be stationed a few miles away on private property (if applicable; note: it is best not to use Coast Road for parking).

We have taken all steps to ensure that the required permits have been obtained from Caltrans and Monterey County and will comply with restrictions necessary for a safe and efficient shoot.

The production company would like to show its appreciation to the community with a donation to [XXXX]. (If applicable)

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. I hope this advance notice is helpful for you to plan your day.

Sincerely,

NAME  
Location Manager  
Company name  
Phone  
Email