

Isom, Sandy J.

From: CindyRAGLM@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2008 10:16 AM
To: LakeMathewsTalks@yahoogroups.com;
GHSchoolRedistrictingCommittee@yahoogroups.com;
Lake_Mathews_Transit@Yahoogroups.com; RAGLMNotice@Yahoogroups.com;
Rolling_Meadows_Road@yahoogroups.com; Watt_LMCOI@Yahoogroups.com;
WoodcrestTalks@Yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: Results of MCP Meeting Last Night In Woodcrest

In a message dated 12/3/2008 8:07:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time, m_l_duval@hotmail.com writes:

| When you get a few more hours sleep, could you please post more details on how the meeting went?

One issue was finding where to go. Most of us had no idea where the auditorium was. The parking lot on Wood Rd. was open, but you couldn't get to the auditorium from there. You had to come into the parking lot on Markham, turn right once inside the gate and park. The auditorium is the building there on the far right corner. Once we all found out where it was and where to park people started coming in.

When we got there we were given paperwork, asked to sign in and told to write our question down on paper and they would answer some of them, that there would NOT be any public speaking by residents. That set me off! That was NOT what we had asked for and NOT what the meeting was suppose to be for. The meeting was requested so that the community residents so negatively impacted by this proposed freeway could be heard, have a voice and be able to speak directly to the RCTC commissioners ... HERE ... IN OUR COMMUNITY, not some city setting far away from the real issues of this parkway/freeway. Well, clearly the RCTC commissioners didn't want to do that. So, Supervisor Buster ... an RCTC Commissioner himself ... put together this community meeting. He lined up RCTC and the counties transportation department and had them give there presentations on transportation needs and how they saw best to address them ... fix them. People were NOT happy that they were not going to get to speak directly to the commission. They did want to be able to speak to whomever was there to hear them. They didn't want the "We will select a few comment slips and answer them" game. We all know how those work. They become just that ... selective. Well, I do have to give them credit, they did ask some good questions presented by the residents. Once that started, the comments started coming right from the floor/from the residents. Then they did agree to allow myself, Laurie Taylor, Ann Grell and John Roth (resident & on the Planning Commission for Riverside County) to speak ... as we have been very involved in this community and this project. We had spent time getting ready for this meeting and had what the community wanted and had said to us ready to go. We had their own info. (RCTC's) there to use for why this freeway shouldn't go in ... period. We had reasons they couldn't begin to think about ready to present to them and that they were not going to want to have to think about. Things they are unaware of because they don't live here and don't know this area ... above and below ground ... like those of us that live here do.

They had at least two staff members counting heads at the meeting last night. I just checked with Supervisor Buster's office and they report 110 people showed for the hearing ... residents. This did not include the staff of RCTC or Riverside County Transportation and the Supervisor's office.

RCTC brought their visual images of the freeway in areas of our community. We had commented on the EIR and how they had reported images taken in this area (photo's of the area and overlays of the freeway) yet they were not in the EIR. They were there last night. Not attractive to say the least and again shown with one or two cars on them. Yet they report how badly this freeway is going to be needed and the thousands of cars that will travel it every day ... all day ... all night. So why didn't they generate visuals that showed that parkway with those thousands ... hundreds ... fifty or sixty ... twenty five cars on the

thing? Again with the semantics!!! If they showed it in a realistic light they would have been run out of town, so they show you this expansive, smooth flowing, clear, fast moving, un-congested "Parkway." The image that you might have a few cars coming through, here and there, now and again, but it will be pleasant, un-invasive and you won't even really notice it's there. Well, we may live a rural lifestyle and we came here to enjoy, be with, commune with and respect nature. We may raise our own food, have our gardens, but it sure doesn't mean we were born in our own cabbage patch garden! Give us some credit for some brains ... please! They didn't pull the wool over anyone's eyes and they got called on the carpet for even trying to do so. And when they tried to sell us on all the good they were going to be doing while putting this thing in, they were laughed at.

Our County Transportation Department/Juan Perez then took the floor and showed a map some 50 years or more old that showed Cajalco Rd. as the major roadway through this area. He showed the plans now underway to improve Cajalco and other area roadways. He showed cost comparisons to the parkway/freeway and county road improvements. They addressed jobs coming, homes coming and the needs for tomorrow. They showed how they could do this without the parkway/freeway. The county talked about the amount of money the county would be putting into just keeping the reports up to date as this freeway is built stage by stage, over some 19 years or longer. They talked about the known cost, the availability of funds for county roadways and the time it would take them to get them done. The County was applauded for their studies, their vision and their direction. The fact that they were working with what was already here and just widening roads, not running 4 to 8 lane freeways through sensitive habitat, beautiful hillsides, generational farmlands and rural communities. They were far more properly addressing the future needs of Riverside County while also respecting the lifestyle of its long time residents and respecting the NEEDS of rural residents.

David Stahovich/Chief of staff to Supervisor Bob Buster and Supervisor Bob Buster addressed some of their concerns with the parkway/freeway idea and questioned much of what this thing had turned into. Other options were presented to those in attendance. Clearly the wants of those ... by a vast majority ... were to drop the plans for this freeway all together. It was far too costly and there was a good chance that once started it might never be completed ... as they don't today know where the money will come from and could only say that it would be built with funds from here there and other places and would be built as the funds were found. Can we PLEASE take a look at what is going on today with the global economic situation! All the smoke screens corporate business put up are now fallen down. There is no money! We all know we will make it through this, but it is going to take some time and there will have to be many changes. Money such as what this parkway calls for is just not there and won't be for far more then 19 years! That means we don't have the money to build this freeway ... not this county ... not this state and not the Federal Government. If we don't have it, we can't build it! My last comment to those up front last night was, "lets take the money the county is putting into this RCTC/Mid County Parkway plan and turn it over to our own County Transportation Department and let them create our future roadways. If we find a need for a freeway, we will come to you."

Laurie Taylor/Vice Chair of RAGLM brought forward a list of question for RCTC and residents called for a number of them to be answered ... as she ran through her list. I'll try to get her list and post it.

I had a four page statement that listed all the reasons why this freeway should not go in. I couldn't read them all, so, I focused on RCTC's own Oct. 2006 Measure A Program of the Project Needs Through 2015 report to the RCTC Commission. I'll post my list in a later post as well.

Ann Grell spoke of the mountain and her well known quote, "If you mess with this mountain, she will mess with you!" She addressed past problems with roadways and underground water issues. She spoke of the uranium found in the mountain years ago and how it reached the water system and what kind of health

problems this freeway could bring. She spoke of the caution needed even by our county transportation dept. when working on roadways out here.

John Roth spoke of the plan he offered to RCTC (route 4.9A) and why he offered the plan he did. He addressed why the freeway ended up coming up the plateau and the issues of not taking out disadvantaged, lower income homes farther down Cajalco Rd, which caused the move away from Cajalco and started the drive up the plateau. John's plan said, "Okay, you can't buy up those low income homes and displace those lower income residents, we understand that. So, he went around them, like RCTC did and then brought the route back down to where it was before, back to Cajalco. Then he pointed out, this was more reasonable and less costly. He pointed out that this was if a freeway was really needed.

Clearly the people there supported the no build option B, to not build the parkway/freeway and have our own County Transportation Dept. build Cajalco Rd. as they have in their own plans. The no build plan A was to not build the parkway/freeway and not have the county improve Cajalco. The majority of us agreed and have known since we moved here years back that it was always in the plans to improve Cajalco and make it a major roadway in Riverside County. As Juan Perez's map showed ... it goes back some 50 years! As the area grows, they keep improving Cajalco Rd. Just like it's always been in the plans to do.

The meeting ran over the time set with the school. The school staff were kind enough to allow us to finish, allowed for time to speak one on one with those from RCTC and the County and were very gracious to all of us. I do thank them for their kindness and understanding. They were very much like a community school, not a school within a community yet not part of the community. It was my first time on the campus and I was impressed.

Now the ball is in your hands. RCTC had comment cards at the meeting last night and the cards stated that comments (their cards) were due in by Dec. 8. The EIR is open for input from all until Jan. 8. So, Wait for me to post the list of issues Laurie presented and for my list of reasons I had at the meeting last night, look up the EIR on the web, here is the link:

Mid County Parkway Project , go over it and send in your comments. Here are the addresses you'll want to send them to:

Mr. Tay Dam/The Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA. 95814-4708

Supervisor Bob Buster
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA. 92501

Cathy Bechtel/RCTC
P.O. Box 12008
Riverside, CA. 92502-2208

Mid County Parkway (MCP)
Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)
Cathy Bechtel, Project Development Director
4080 Lemon Street, 3rd. floor
Riverside, CA. 92501

Riverside County Transportation Department

Juan Perez, Director
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, CA. 92501

Cindy Ferry



Community Spokesperson for the Greater Lake Mathews area.

Owner/Operator of: LakeMathewsTalks@Yahoogroups.com, GHSchoolRedistrictingCommittee@Yahoogroups.com,
[Lake Mathews Transit@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:Lake_Mathews_Transit@Yahoogroups.com) and [Watt LMCOI@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:Watt_LMCOI@Yahoogroups.com)

Member/Monitor of: RAGLMNotice@Yahoogroups.com and WoodcrestTalks@Yahoogroups.com

CindyRAGLM@aol.com (best way to reach me)

[\(951\) 657-6610](tel:(951)657-6610)

[16115 Rocky Bluff Road](mailto:16115_Rocky_Bluff_Road)

[Gavilan Hills, CA. 92570-7471](mailto:Gavilan_Hills_CA_92570-7471)

Make your life easier with all your friends, email, and favorite sites in one place. [Try it now.](#)