

## Vaughn A Jones

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Ms. Bechtel and everyone involved with the Riverside County Transportation Commission, My name is Vaughn Jones and I have been a resident/homeowner in the Lake Mathews area now for a little over 9 years. When we made the decision to purchase our home we were told that there were plans to expand Cajalco into a 4-lane highway with 2 lanes on either side. This information came shortly after being told there were plans to expand Lake Mathews providing us with a direct view of the lake. No, I don't want to buy your used car. Yes, we were also told about the variety of endangered species' also taking up residence in the area and thought it would help maintain a rural setting. We were not informed however about this 6-lane Mid County Parkway that was being proposed.

I attended the meeting held this past Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside County Administrative Center. As I listened intently I heard the results of a number of surveys and studies describing changes to the local environment that would be required for this Parkway to be built. They included the "relocation" of not only endangered animals and plants but also the "relocation" of human beings. I believe the phrase used was - we will attempt to negotiate a reasonable amount for the individual properties based on current fair market value. If we cannot reach an agreement, eminent domain will be enacted. This term "fair market value" is intriguing. Not long ago I had a few loads of dirt delivered to my property. A few days later I was approached by a County representative who told me I needed to disperse the small mounds of dirt before an endangered animal took up residence. If I did not comply I would be required to leave them or face a fine of \$500.00 or more. At that rate I figure my 2.5 acres of dirt should run around \$500,000,000 plus the cost of relocating me to the same type of suitable environment.

Let's face it this Mid County Parkway is not about providing a quicker commute. Look at it and ask yourself, where are all these cars going? Their going to the already congested I-15 and once they get there they will have one on-ramp and one off-ramp. The commission is correct in calling this a "Parkway" because that is exactly what it will be a Park(ing)way. This project is simply recreating the problem that exists with Van Buren connecting the I-215 and the 91 freeways.

Don't be fooled by all the rhetoric. The only reason for this project is the MONEY. The contracted surveyors get paid. The RCTC are getting paid. The contractors "winning" the bid will get paid and the County can only get money for the budget if they spend the money in the budget. I suggest the 3 billion dollar projected cost be used to offer quality mass transportation alternatives and financial incentives to the commuters and companies where these individual cars are headed at the same time everyday.

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