



CITY OF PERRIS

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January 7, 2009

Cathy Bechtel
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Development
Riverside County Transportation Commission
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MID COUNTY PARKWAY – DRAFT EIR COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

The Riverside County Transportation Commission, in conjunction with Caltrans, and the Federal Highway Administration, proposes to improve west-east transportation in western Riverside County between Interstate 15 and State Route 79 by constructing a new parkway, known as the Mid County Parkway. The City has reviewed the Environmental Impact Report prepared for this project and, under separate cover, will be providing a formal response from the City Attorney.

The City Attorney's letter details significant concerns regarding all the various alignment alternatives; however, it is our belief that all potential impacts associated with the Placentia Street alignment could be remedied via a series of mutually agreed upon mitigation measures. However, this letter is to emphasize the City's specific objections to Alternatives 5 and 7 (the Rider Street alignments). Staff has determined that these alignments pose severe community impacts, as outlined below:

- The Rider Street alignment affects a large number of existing residential and commercial properties (56 employecs displaced, \$424,593 in lost property tax revenue, and \$2,640,122 in lost sales tax revenue).
- Displaces the Ritchie Brothers Equipment Auction, one of the more established local businesses and largest sales tax generators in the City.

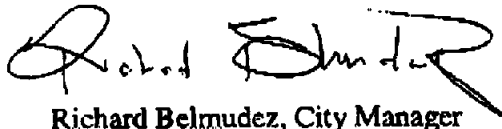
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- Directly impacts Val Verde High School and the Val Verde Unified School District Administration and Facilities Operation Building.
- Adversely impacts the North Perris Specific Plan and the associated North Perris Road and Bridge Benefit District. The amount of property which would be removed from the District seriously jeopardizes the Districts ability to spread costs to the remaining properties and still maintain viability as a funding mechanism for necessary infrastructure improvements.
- Does not lend itself to a depressed section, and as such creates visual and noise impacts which will be difficult to mitigate.
- Existing Rider Street, an east-west Secondary Arterial, would be severed by the Rider Street alignment. Also, it appears that the west Frontage Road would be largely eliminated by this alternative, and it is not clear that the plan would perpetuate the north-south connection of Indian Avenue.

The City of Perris appreciates RCTC's consideration of the comments made herein, and welcomes future meetings to discuss mitigation measures and resolve issues associated. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Habib Motlagh at 951.943.6504.

Sincerely,



Richard Belmudez, City Manager

cc: Mayor Daryl Busch
Habib Motlagh, City Engineer
Eric Dunn, City Attorney