



# SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

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*Regional Groups Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties:  
Big Bear, Los Serranos, Mojave, Moreno Valley, Mountains, Tahquitz.*

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

January 6, 2009

Dear Ms. Bechtel:  
Re Mid-County Parkway Draft EIR/EIS  
The Sierra Club appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Mid-County Parkway (MCP) Draft EIR/EIS.

Our first concern is that the development of this road, rather than alleviating traffic problems, will exacerbate them. Every time a major road is built through what had been open space, development follows and traffic in the area quickly increases so that congestion is worse than it had been. This project would have the same result. Better solutions need to be designed for moving people.

In addition to producing more traffic congestion, this project promises to devastate the habitat areas of many threatened animals and plants. Riverside County residents have worked hard to develop a viable Multiple Species Habitat Conservation plan, which seeks to create/maintain linkages that protect animals. This road threatens to undo that progress.

The MCP will make it much more likely that traffic will be routed through the Cleveland National Forest, causing damage to the environment of that area.

The DEIR/EIS does not adequately address the health risks to those living or working within 1,500 feet of the proposed roadway. The majority of maps needs to show all homes, schools, walking paths to schools, parks, hospitals and outdoor work locations that are or could be within 1,500 feet of the proposed freeway.

Environmental justice issues are not resolved within this document. Plowing through the City of Perris, with a high percentage of non-white and lower-income residents, while averting more expensive homes in the Lake Mathews area raises matters of equity.

Finally, this project would be in conflict with our need to move toward sustainable development and reduction of our area's carbon footprint. Rather than contributing to the effort to reduce global warming, it continues the kind of thinking that has led our planet to the critical situation of the present time. Our County must take a responsible position in all future development by allowing only projects that enhance our environment rather than denigrating it.

In view of all these concerns, we urge that you adopt the no-action alternative to the MCP. Please keep me informed of all future meetings and documents related to this document by using the address below. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Hague  
Conservation Chair  
Moreno Valley Group of the Sierra Club  
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