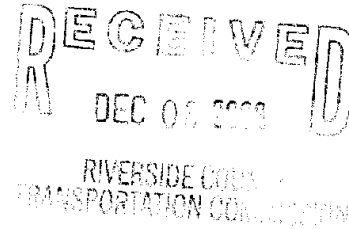


November 26, 2008

June Scales  
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Perris, CA 92570

RCTC  
4080 Lemon St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA, 92501



Regarding the Midcounty Parkway

Dear Commissioners,

THANK YOU for extending the timeline for comments on the EIR/EIS for the midcounty parkway. Each time I survey a section, more concerns arise.

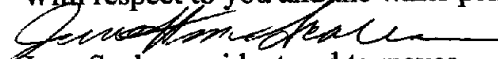
This letter concerns the section 3.21 about the endangered species. I am certain that I have seen the Riverside fairy shrimp, *Streptocophalus woottoni*, in large puddles in the Gavilan Plateau area. The EIR/EIS states that the species is no longer present based on reports done in 2006-5 and 2006-7. Those were the two driest years of the last ten in this area. There were no wildflowers. In the spring of 2007 we didn't even need to weed abate. This species does not hatch in dry years. Of course none were found in those years. Also, research has found that the crustacean has an adaptation of partial hatch that guarantees survival through long periods of drought. (USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GRT-195.2005) At the meetings in Oct., your representative said you intend to build bridges over the stream beds draining the Gavilan Plateau and crossing the Gavilan Rd. Even though your intent is to save habitat, I feel that so much will be destroyed during the building that the endangered species such as the fairy shrimp will never be able to return.

I am also concerned about species that are not endangered yet, but will probably cease to live in the park or other open areas if the building and resultant traffic occur. All of what students are taught concerning California, the quail, the jackrabbit, the poppy, the burrowing owl, the very rare chocolate lily, still exist here in this tiny ecosystem. How can they survive the blasting and destruction during the building process? Surveying only the little area on each side of the parkway's path does not measure the effect it will have on the larger community. Soon, people will have to leave California, especially Riverside County, to see what once made it such a beautiful, special place.

The report's carelessness on the issue of the fairy shrimp makes me suspect most of the other opinions concerning endangered and threatened species.

My questions to the commissioners are: **Will more studies be done if it rains this spring to verify that the Riverside fairy shrimp are absent? If the species is found in the area, what precautions will be taken during building of long bridges to not destroy their delicate habitat? What can be done to protect the covey of quail that lives by Gavilan Rd.?**

With respect to you and the white pelican,

  
June Scales, resident and taxpayer