

November 30, 2008  
18705 Yellow Brick Rd.  
Perris, CA 92570

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONERS

RCTC  
4080 Lemon St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Regarding Midcounty Parkway  
Dear Commissioners,

This letter concerns the section S5.24 of the EIR/EIS stating that Federal law requires the EIR/EIS to consider the parks and recreational areas affected by the construction. At the October meeting I noticed there was no mention of Harford Springs County Park. When I asked the assistant about the omission, she stated that since the parkway does not actually touch Harford Springs it did not have to be included in the study or be listed on the table. **I find this using the letter of the law in order to ignore the spirit of the law.**

Harford Springs is listed as an undeveloped park. Being undeveloped is what makes it such a jewel for the enjoyment of the original environment of California. Thousands of visitors enjoy the birds, reptiles, animals, and wildflowers every year as they hike, ride, or bike in nature's quiet. There are remnants of Riverside Co. history that are unique. This parkway is planned to come within a few feet of the boundaries. Because the park is so small it is going to be **greatly compromised.**

This park is unusual because of the quiet that can be found there. This is something that today is more scarce than the gold that was once mined from its land. When the urban noise of the parkway is only a few feet away, that quiet that recreates peace in the human soul will be **forever destroyed.**

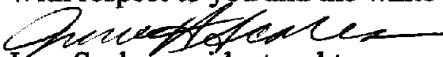
There are several places in the park where there are 360 degree vistas of the surrounding mountains framed by layers of hills and valleys. A person has to travel many miles to find such refreshing views. With the building of bridges and the blasting away of mountaintops at least half of those amazing views will be forever destroyed.

Because the park is only a mile square, the destruction of habitat to the north will make it hard for the animals and plants to survive. They are dependent on all that is in that community. Most biologists and botanists will tell you that the species living here may look like those in other areas, but that they actually carry a different gene pool. As you destroy our poppies, that variety will be **forever destroyed.**

This lovely gem of a park was donated for the recreational enjoyment of the residents and the preservation of the history and natural environment that once made Riverside Co. a desirable place to live. Over half of that value will be taken away by the proximity of an 8 lane freeway. I will treasure each day I have left to soak up the beauty that has been donated before it is **forever destroyed.**

**Will the commissioners reevaluate the effect of the parkway on Harford Springs? Will the commissioners preserve a place of recreation for the residents in this part of Riverside Co. by keeping the parkway off the Gavilan Plateau?**

With respect to you and the white pelican,

  
June Scales, resident and taxpayer