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County Of El Dorado
Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Via email: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Re: 9-17-19 agenda, BOS items #26, & #27

Madam Chair, and members of the Board;

This letter is to express my strong opposition to item #27 on the subject agenda. I have lived and worked in the Diamond Springs area for forty years, can attest to severe traffic congestion through downtown Diamond Springs for at least that long, and I have assisted in the development and implementation of plans to alleviate that congestion since the 1990's. It was recognized early on that the congestion problem was not primarily due to the State Hwy 49 tourist traffic that runs through downtown but rather the daily back and forth commute traffic from the south county to and from work and schools located to the west of Diamond Springs. The solution recommended by transportation planners was that there be an arterial road constructed that would channelize much of this traffic around Diamond Springs to link directly to Missouri Flat Road and Hwy 50 to provide a more direct and efficient route for westbound commuters.

A number of iterations of the plan have been investigated through the years, culminating in the current plan for the Diamond Springs Parkway that is the subject of this Board item. I won't go into the development history of this project; it has been thoroughly detailed in other documents. I will say that it may not be the perfect solution, but it will be a very effective mechanism for relieving the ever-increasing levels of unacceptable congestion through our town.

My opposition to this item includes the fact that it is in violation of the County's General Plan as amended. Since the congestion in Diamond Springs has been a matter of public record since at least the 1980's, under the provisions of Measure Y (the provisions of which were incorporated into the 2004 General Plan) it would be considered an "Existing Deficiency" under the terms of that Measure, and eligible for the use of public funds to correct that deficiency. Further, the Diamond Springs Parkway is a component of the General Plan Circulation Element, and the improvements called for in the Circulation Element are necessary to be constructed as part of the implementation of that General Plan.

Measure E was approved by the voters as a successor to Measure Y, and was incorporated into the General Plan by amendment. The provisions of Measure E require that funding for road improvements to accommodate the traffic generated through the implementation of the General Plan shall be paid for through traffic impact fees plus all available public revenues. Prohibiting the use of the Tribal funds for

the completion of this desperately needed Circulation Element improvement would directly violate the provisions of the County General Plan.

Finally, I am deeply disturbed that this proposed action seems to be in contradiction of the very principals that Supervisor Parlin expressed in her election campaign literature, an excerpt of which, taken from the internet, is included herein:

“ A few things about Lori:

Lori is community oriented and devoted to honoring and supporting the unique characteristics of each community as they strive to develop their sense of place and path to economic success.

Lori prefers economic development to include strong downtowns and tourism, agriculture, and geotourism, including bike trails, train rides, and river activities, not high-density rooftops.

Lori supports voter-enacted Measure Y, voter-enacted Measure E, and their goal to prevent traffic gridlock in El Dorado County.

Lori encourages balance in decision making and is ready to make tough decisions when necessary.

Lori has been and continues to be an advocate for open, trustworthy, and citizen-friendly local government.

Lori believes in community-driven development that blends with the quality of life of existing neighborhoods.”

If Supervisor Parlin’s proposal is approved by the Board of Supervisors it would damage the community of Diamond Springs, it would negatively impact the characteristics of our historic downtown, and irreparably hinder our path to economic success. Her proposal would violate the provisions of Measures Y & E, and lead to traffic gridlock in Diamond Springs and El Dorado, resulting in the continuing degradation of the quality of life in our existing communities.

Members of the Board should live up to the promises and obligations of the 2004 General Plan, protect the communities of El Dorado and Diamond Springs, and not forget the needs of the south county.

Please reject this ill-conceived and short-sighted proposal.

Sincerely,

Randy Pesses