

THE BELTRÁN FAMILY

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September 13, 2019

County of El Dorado
Board of Supervisors
Attn: Clerk of the Board
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: 9/17/19 BOS Agenda Item 26: 19-1279 and Item 27: 19-1324

Dear Chair Parlin and Members of the Board,

My family and I moved to the Somerset area from Mendocino County in March of 2000. One of the things that impressed us about the area was the quality of the county roads and their maintenance. Being able to clearly see the road lines at night and during inclement weather; the regular surface maintenance that provides extra traction especially during the winter when ice and snow are present, shoulder and ditch clearance alongside the roads to maximize visibility and safety and new safety measures as needed such as the three way stop at Bucks Bar and Pleasant Valley Roads.

Over the past 10 years we have seen that quality significantly decline due to many factors including lack of federal and state funding, increased expenses of material and labor and staff reductions. This has increased the maintenance costs of our vehicles due to extra wear and tear on the suspensions, brakes and tires. These added expenses combined with all of the other costs of running a small business make it much harder for local businesses that rely on our county roads to conduct their business to thrive and grow.

It also has created safety hazards and a lack of visibility, especially along major evacuation routes such as Pleasant Valley Road, Mt Aukum Road, Newtown Road, and many others. The threat of wildfire is a very imminent threat and the county needs to make the safety of evacuation routes a priority and allocate the funds being used for the Diamond Springs Parkway Project to the more imminent road maintenance needs. If developers want better traffic access for their projects and developments, then they need to be the primary funders of those traffic improvements not the county or its taxpayers.

In our opinion, the Diamond Springs Parkway is not a necessary project at this time, especially considering that the money being spent on this project could benefit more county residents through improved road maintenance throughout those areas of the county, especially in those areas that are most vulnerable to wildfires.

Yes our county needs economic growth, however, there are also commercial areas that have already been developed and yet have long term empty storefronts that should be revitalized and utilized before we build even more strip malls and commercial centers along Missouri Flat Road. We do not want to see the western Placerville area to become the next Bidwell Drive in Folsom.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rey & Kristine Beltran