

LATE DISTRIBUTION

# 29  
7-17-12

July 16, 2012

DATE 7-17-12

Supervisor Knight

RE: Agenda Item #29 – US 50/Silva Valley Parkway Interchange Project and Freeway Agreement with Caltrans

Please vote no and encourage your colleagues to do the same on the US 50/Silva Valley Parkway Interchange Freeway Agreement. I believe the interchange project is not in the best interest of the El Dorado Hills community especially for those who live, walk, run, or bike on Silva Valley Parkway (Silva Valley); or who have children attending one or more of the four schools along or near Silva Valley; or those who are members of the Church on Tong Road. Construction of Silva Valley Parkway Interchange (Project) will increase traffic, which in turn, will cause safety to decline. The quality of life as the residents know it will deteriorate, and potentially slow the housing market recovery for the residents near and along Silva Valley.

I believe County staff did not conduct sufficient community outreach regarding the impacts of the Project. Additionally, County's staff are not listening to the residents, school district, or APAC. In the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), staff responses were generally dismissive to the community's concerns about safety, increased traffic, air, noise, and light pollution the Project will have. Residents and Buckeye Union School District expressed concerns regarding safety with increased traffic; however, staff's responses did not adequately address these concerns in the EIR. The response to Buckeye Union School District was to refer to another project widening the Parkway from two to four lanes, and that it would be evaluated in as a separate project. These concerns should be evaluated with this Project and not postponed. It is this Project that will cause the increased traffic and safety issues along Parkway. I believe our children, pedestrians and cyclists' safety should be of first priority to the County and to you; not an interchange project.

I also believe that the 2004 General Plan and the 1990 plan are flawed with designating Silva Valley as a major arterial for El Dorado Hills community. Silva Valley is not an appropriate road to designate as a major arterial roadway. All along Silva Valley are homes, schools, and a library. Children, cyclists, runners, and pedestrians use this road. The increased traffic will cause safety problems and increased air and noise pollution all along the road. Traffic should be encouraged to use El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Bass Lake Road. Considering the Project will impact the residents and schools further down the road, were these residents and schools provided notice of the Project? All parents with children attending these schools should have received notice. The County should do more than the legally required noticing. I urge you to request policy change that provides for sufficient community outreach, including public meetings held at EDH CSD and Serrano HOA on all major El Dorado Hills projects, and public notices published in EDH local newspapers, The Village Life and Telegraph. The County should adopt a policy to work with EDH CSD and Serrano HOA on all major projects impacting the residents. The community should have adequate opportunity to provide feedback, even if that feedback is this is not the right project for our community.

Lastly, the Project will encourage the development of retail establishments at the interchange site. El Dorado Hills has sufficient, if not an overabundance of, retail space on El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Town Center. We do not need more retail on Silva Valley. If gas fueling stations and mini-marts are permitted at the interchange, then crime will increase. Besides some commercial space at the Serrano Visitor Center and the Public Library, no retail or other commercial space exists along Silva Valley. It is primarily residential with schools, public library, and a church. For quality of life and safety reasons, it should stay this way.

Please vote no on the Freeway Agreement. Additionally, please present a resolution or request staff place a hold on the Silva Valley Interchange project until adequate outreach has been performed. The 2004 General Plan designating Silva Valley as a major arterial and expressway should be reconsidered. The 1990 designation is outdated, and likely did not consider the current residential use. Staff should be required to conduct adequate community outreach including mailing questionnaires to the El Dorado Hills' residents to determine if the community wants this Project; and to work with our EDH CSD and Serrano HOA Board members. Until it is known that the community wants this Project, the Project should not continue. Thank you.

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