

Public Comment # 11  
BOS Recd. 1-13-25

**From:** melody.lane@reagan.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 12, 2025 8:40 PM  
**To:** BOS-Clerk of the Board; Kim Dawson; Lori Parlin; Rafael Martinez  
**Cc:** Noel Stack; orasco@mtdemocrat.net; Shelley Wiley; Tiffany Schmid; David A Livingston; barry.smith@parks.ca.gov; BOS-District V; BOS-District IV; BOS-District I; BOS-District III; BOS-District II  
**Subject:** 1/14/25 BOS Agenda Item #11 Public Comments - Another Mt. Murphy Bridge Closure Due to a Drunk Driver  
**Attachments:** 6-4-19 Mt Murphy Bridge Item 46.docx; Mt Murphy Bridge plans move forward 5-20-22 MD.doc; Mt Murphy Bridge moves forward 6-7-19.docx; 5-12-22 DOT Mt Murphy Bridge presentation.doc

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Report Suspicious

Lori Parlin, Rafael Martinez, et al,

Sunday night around 1:00 AM I heard a loud crash down in the vicinity of the Marshall Gold Discovery Park. It sounded like someone dropped a huge load of lumber.

This afternoon a lady drove all the way from Loomis to pick up some furniture from me. But when she got to the Mt. Murphy bridge, it was closed and DOT crews were busy making repairs to the bridge. After I drove down to meet her, we went back up to my house to load up the furniture into my car and then drove the 9-mile round trip to the other side of the bridge where her car was parked to transfer the furniture.

Afterwards I spoke with the DOT crew doing repairs to both sides of the bridge. They informed me another drunk driver hit the bridge last night around 1 AM and got his car wedged in the metal bridge frame. Fortunately, the driver didn't end up in the river. Then I asked why residents weren't notified of the bridge closure. DOT said that "everyone" (except me) was notified that the bridge would be closed for **at least two days, probably longer.**

In the event of an emergency, time is of the essence. The last time a drunk driver hit the bridge in 2021 it remained closed for months and local residents weren't even permitted to walk across the bridge to get their mail, yet DOT vehicles were seen regularly driving across. In fact, Lori Parlin and Rafael Martinez censored me during their subsequent town hall meetings regarding that last bridge closure.

Item #11 of the 1/14/25 BOS Agenda pertains to the Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee making a presentation to the BOS regarding **the Mt. Murphy Bridge, and the boardwalk from Henningson Lotus Park to the MGD Park headquarters.** This was the subject of a PRA #P004345-051622 that I submitted to Rafael Martinez in 2022 which he was very reticent to respond to. (See attachment)

The public deserves honesty and transparency, but residents have been kept in the dark about the Mt. Murphy Bridge for far too long. Therefore, I informed my neighbors about this upcoming BOS agenda item to enable them to participate on Zoom.

It is worth noting that Dist. #4 Supervisor Lori Parlin and DOT Director Rafael Martinez remain unresponsive to correspondence and direct questions pertaining to the Mt. Murphy bridge replacement and lack of proper road maintenance. Residents have been particularly concerned about the public safety aspects of Mt. Murphy

Road and the bridge connecting both sides of the of the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. If the bridge is congested with huge RVs from the Coloma Resort in the event of another wildfire upon Mt. Murphy, then local residents on the NE side of the river will be like sitting ducks with nowhere to go. EDC cannot afford to “kick the can further down the road” until another Paradise, Lahaina, or LA disaster strikes Coloma.

It was very disturbing for us to learn late Friday afternoon that staff requested item #11 be “Continued Off Calendar.” It is a fact that the CLAC (formerly RMAC) have never represented the best interests of Coloma river residents, nor have they followed the Brown Act as required by law. Please note that the very brief CLAC Annual Report Power Point presentation attached to this agenda item was composed by none other than the **American River Conservancy** who work in close conjunction with the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park:

11     24-1398   Staff requesting item 11 be Continued off Calendar.

Continuing this important item off calendar (behind closed doors) can only mean there is something fishy going on that the BOS does NOT want the public to know about. Lack of transparency is *not* what any reasonable person would call “Good Governance”. For starters, constituents have a right to know the answers to the following questions:

- 1) What happened to all the former grant money designated to the Mt. Murphy Bridge replacement, and what is the new timeline?
- 2) When can residents expect the Mt. Murphy Bridge to be repaired and reopened since the DUI incident last night?
- 3) Will the individual be identified and held responsible for the damages to the bridge, or will it be at taxpayers’ expense?
- 4) Who was the DOT employee responsible for notifying affected Coloma residents about the bridge closure, and how/when/where was that information disseminated?

Sincerely,

*Melody Lane*

**Founder – Compass2Truth**

All authority belongs to the people...in questions of power, let no more be heard of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution. ~ Thomas Jefferson ~

The following public employees who've been involved in this bridge project have either been fired or are no longer employed in EDC:

Mike Applegarth	Mike Ranalli
Janet Postlewait	Tom Celio
Terri Daly	Bard Lower
Kim Kerr	Ross Branch
Pam Knorr	Don Spear
Ron Briggs	MGDP Super. Jeremy McReynolds
Norma Santiago	Matt Green & Rory Allen

All the aforementioned individuals have kicked the can down the road and ignored the necessary road improvements, egress problems and public safety concerns tackled by members of the Stakeholders Committee. There's never been any mention to residents about an Underground Utility District.

The Stakeholders preference was Option #2 because it was the option that made the **most sense**. It would run parallel to the historic bridge from the site of the old mill on the opposite side of Grange Hall. However during the last Stakeholder meeting no mention was made whatsoever about Option #2. When I brought this up, Janet Postlewait and Matt Smeltzer avoided answering our questions, especially about the necessary egress & safety factors affecting Mt. Murphy, Carvers and Bayne Road residents.

Furthermore they never answered emails or explained how the bridge safety rating magically rose from ZERO to 13.5. I'm submitting into the public record just a small sample of those unanswered emails. Rafael Martinez, State Parks, CalTrans, and CH2M Hill personnel have been equally evasive. When a CPRA was submitted to State Parks regarding this CIP, I received instead a highly confidential but very revealing contract involving American River Conservancy that was sent to me by mistake. From that point forward State Parks refused to lawfully respond to CPRAs. The question remains, **WHY HAS THE GOVERNMENT BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO OUR CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY?**

Another concern of stakeholders was the use of the Delphi Technique to arrive at predetermined outcomes. The public is entitled to honest services but it is obvious decisions about this CIP were already made behind closed doors. It's all about what State Parks and Big Government wants; never mind the residents whose taxes are paying for this "bridge to nowhere."

I represent residents who are most at risk in this project. In 2017 when this CIP last came before the BOS Shiva Frentzen directed me to speak "off line" with Matt Smeltzer, but Matt was uncooperative. At the same time Mike Ranalli directed Matt to meet with Kris Payne regarding the bridge discrepancies. Kris Payne is NOT a member of our community, nor did I appreciate Kris' denigrating remark that "*The dynamics would be different if you would be there.*" That is a very strong indicator of collusion and the lack of transparency or accountability which is against all public policy.

Note there still is **NO EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN** as Norma Santiago assured us in 2014. Supervisor Briggs also assured us the historic bridge will NOT be removed, but that is **EXACTLY** what they are doing!



One of my neighbors stated in a letter to Mike Ranalli concerning data presented during the Stakeholder meetings: “*The BOS has based all of their decisions regarding the Mt. Murphy Bridge Project on incorrect information.*”

The 2014 Sacramento Bee article entitled “*El Dorado County deserves better*” mentions Terri Daly, Mike Ranalli, Shiva Frentzen and Sue Novasel. It then succinctly summarizes the problem: “*Both an outside firm’s assessment of county government and a county grand jury found a deeply dysfunctional government in which bullying, intimidation and disrespect run rampant.*”

Lori, this project is within your district, so please don’t pass the buck to any of the other supervisors or to the **fraudulent Coloma Lotus Advisory Committee**. Pursuant to your oaths of office, what exactly are you going to do to ensure Coloma residents get the respect, transparency, and accountability they deserve in regard to this CIP project?

Madam Clerk: Please enter these documents into the public record:

- 1) This transcript
- 2) 7/30/13 @ 6:39 PM email – B. Day
- 3) 5/28/14 @ 12:44 PM email – Santiago/No Evacuation Plan/CPRA
- 4) 12/12/14 @ 6:32 PM email – Bee/EDC Deserves Better
- 5) 3/4/15 M. Smith letter to Ranalli – False info to BOS
- 6) 2/12/17 @ 9:05 PM email – Kris Payne/Matt Smeltzer

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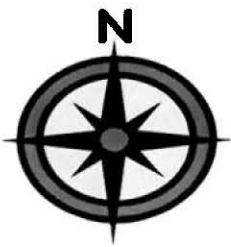
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# Compass2Truth

*Citizens for Constitutional Liberty*

P.O. Box 598  
Coloma, CA 95613

May 13, 2022

To: District #4 Supervisor Lori Parlin  
DOT Director Rafael Martinez  
Clerk of the Board Kim Dawson

## CA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST - P004345-051622

Pursuant to my rights under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I therefore ask to obtain **via email** the DOT Mt. Murphy Bridge slide presentation made during the 5/12/22 Coloma Grange Hall Town Hall. These materials should be immediately accessible.

To avoid unnecessary delays or costs of duplication, electronic copies are acceptable and may be emailed directly to [melody.lane@reagan.com](mailto:melody.lane@reagan.com) in pdf format. **Access is always free.** Fees for "inspection" or "processing" are prohibited. (§ 6253)

**The agency must justify the withholding of any record** by demonstrating that the record is exempt or that the public interest in confidentiality outweighs the public interest in disclosure. (§6255) **If you determine that some but not all of the information is exempt from disclosure and that you intend to withhold it, I ask that you provide a signed notification citing the specific legal authorities on whom you rely.**

It is further requested that your determination be made within **10 days, or sooner**, as stipulated within the California Public Records Act, Government Code 6253(c). **\*Note these time periods may not be used solely to delay access to the records. (§ 6253(d)) The law makes no provision for extensions due to Covid-19.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me immediately if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Melody Lane*

**Founder – Compass2Truth**

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**From:** melody.lane@reagan.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 3:32 PM  
**To:** BOS-Clerk of the Board; Kim Dawson; Lori Parlin; Rafael Martinez  
**Cc:** Noel Stack; BOS-District V; BOS-District IV; BOS-District I; BOS-District III; BOS-District II  
**Subject:** 1/14/25 BOS Public Comments - Agenda Item #11

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You have not previously corresponded with this sender.

If the Mt. Murphy Bridge is safe enough for DOT to park their big trucks on it during repairs, then why are residents prohibited from walking across the bridge to access their mail at the Coloma Post Office?:

January 13, 2025

(PLACERVILLE, CA) -- El Dorado County's Department of Transportation has closed Mt. Murphy Road Bridge over the South Fork American River in Coloma due to damage to the bridge, and it is not open for vehicle or pedestrian traffic. Motorists are advised to use Mt. Murphy Road to Marshall Road in Garden Valley to exit the northeast side of the river. Vehicles over 30 feet are not advised on Mt. Murphy Road. Motorists should also allow extra time when traveling through the detour to arrive at their destinations on time. Due to the narrow one lane road condition of Bayne Road, only local traffic is advised.

Transportation staff is currently working to gather all the information needed to put a restoration plan in place as soon as possible and is currently making minor repairs. We are currently engaging structural engineers to bring specialized inspection equipment that can detect damage not visible to the human eye and anticipate they will be out this week. A contractor will be hired to complete the necessary structural repairs. The completion date is unknown at this time, but it is estimated that the closure will last at least one month. The

Department of Transportation will provide updates to the public as available.

The County sincerely appreciates the cooperation and patience of motorists that use this bridge, and we apologize for the inconvenience of this closure.

For questions regarding this closure, please contact the County's Transportation main line at (530) 621-5900 or (530) 642-4909.

CLAC/RMAC has never represented the local residents of the Coloma Lotus valley. Stakeholders were assured by former Supervisor Briggs that the historic one-lane bridge would remain and the new bridge would be built parallel to the old one. It begs the following questions:

1. Why have Supervisor Parlin and DOT Director Rafael Martinez been reticent to respond directly to local residents' inquiries about the bridge replacement timeline that has apparently been indefinitely postponed?
2. How do you explain the disappearance of the government grant money for the bridge replacement project?
3. How will the latest DUI incident affect the CIP bridge replacement project?

On Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 12:51 PM TJ Madsen wrote:

Bummer, looks significant. More so than the previous collision. Wouldn't be surprised if this closed the bridge for several weeks.





*Melody Lane*

*Founder – Compass2Truth*

*“If the freedom of speech be taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.” ~  
George Washington ~*