



Public Comment #27

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING...

2 messages

DATE 2/9/21

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Pat Johnson <pjohnson3378@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 9:35 AM

To: don.ashton@edcgov.us

Cc: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, bosthree@edcgov.us, bosfour@edcgov.us, bosfive@edcgov.us, edc.cob@edcgov.us

Dear Mr. Ashton:

For decades Mosquito/Swansboro has been ignored. Building permits have been sold, taxes have been collected, and yet when a vital service is needed for safety purposes totally at federal expense, it is over-analyzed and ultimately abandoned. Over the decades, millions of dollars by this county have been wasted over such decisions, and funds have been re-directed for other non-urgent EDC programs at the expense of our community and county. How much money has already been invested in this project?

It should be paramount to El Dorado County that fire safety and the safety of the school buses carrying El Dorado County students on the antiquated and dangerous Rock Creek Road be a priority. Please do not waste funds (again) already expended for the Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project only to begin this process in another few decades. Do you really want to see another Paradise, California incident in El Dorado County wherein tax-paying citizens cannot escape or vital resources cannot access our community? Do you want the possibility of a school bus going over one of the multiple cliffs on the treacherous Rock Creek Road? I and the majority of tax-paying citizens in Mosquito/Swansboro do not!

Attached is a letter from Concerned Citizens of Mosquito/Swansboro. We implore you to do the right thing, Mr. Ashton, and get this project completed instead of once again kicking it down the road a fourth time wasting tax-payers' time and money.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Johnson

A Concerned Citizen of Mosquito/Swansboro

 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MOSQUITO BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.pdf**
778K

EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>
Draft To: Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>


Tue, Feb 9, 2021 at 9:50 AM

Is this an item

Office of the Clerk of the Board
El Dorado County
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667
530-621-5390

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 **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - MOSQUITO BRIDGE REPLACEMENT.pdf**
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VISION STATEMENT of EL DORADO COUNTY

Safe, healthy and vibrant communities, respecting our natural resources and historical heritage

February 8, 2021

Supervisor John Hidahl
El Dorado County – District I
bosone@edcgov.us

Supervisor George Turnboo
El Dorado County – District II
bostwo@edcgov.us

Supervisor Wendy Thomas
El Dorado County – District III
bosthree@edcgov.us

Supervisor Lori Parlin
El Dorado County - District IV
bosfour@edcgov.us

Supervisor Sue Novasel
El Dorado County – District V
bosfive@edcgov.us

Clerk of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
edc.cob@edcgov.us

Re: **Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project**
Support Federal Funding for Fire Safety for Your Citizens

Dear Board of Supervisors:

**"The chief purpose of government is to protect life.
Abandon that and you have abandoned all."
~ Thomas Jefferson**

This is an appeal to lock-in and confirm upcoming funding for the Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project (Project) as it is imperative for the safety of our community and to the economic well-being of El Dorado County. This is the **THIRD** attempt by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors to secure a replacement bridge for this community. Excessive time spent by government officials and community members and millions of tax payer dollars expended and wasted over decades for this Project -- still nothing to show for it. As the current Mosquito Bridge is designated unsafe by standards set by state and federal governments, it is imperative the replacement structure move forward as quickly as possible. One hundred percent (100%) federally funded, this Project will be reimbursed to El Dorado County and more importantly, **your tax-paying citizens will be safer.**

The Paradise Fire (aka "Camp Fire") and the deaths (which occurred during this event) was one of the most expensive natural disasters in the world. Removing toxic debris alone cost their county, and our state, and federal governments nearly \$2 billion.¹ **Victims of this catastrophic fire were unable to escape due to lack of reliable roadways and gridlock, which occurred**

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2019/11/09/777801169/the-camp-fire-destroyed-11-000-homes-a-year-later-only-11-have-been-rebuilt>

during evacuations. Their elected officials were careless and reckless regarding their citizens' safety, and not cognizant of the dangers in that community.

This Project will at least create a safer route to evacuate and at the same time allow firefighters, engines, and ambulances to enter as **deadly switchbacks would be eliminated by the new Mosquito roadway.** Presently, the only other route available is Rock Creek Road, which is also unsafe and unreliable due to rockslides and eroding roadways on the cliff side with major drop-offs to the American River Canyon. As stated so succinctly in the *Mountain Democrat* on May 10, 2015, concerning the present Mosquito Bridge:

On average, Mosquito Bridge is used in about 1,400 trips a day by people coming and going from the Mosquito-Swansboro area. The county spends about \$75,000 on annual maintenance while the bridge and its environs have a 32 percent higher accident rate than comparable roads.... (This is largely due to the switchbacks of the present antiquated and unsafe Mosquito Road and Bridge; these switchbacks would be eliminated with completion of the Project allowing safety vehicles to enter and citizens to more safely evacuate in case of fire or other natural disasters.)

Of the county's 79 bridges, 22 are scored above 80 on a 100-point scale used by the Federal Highway Administration, which operates bridge safety and bridge building programs.... Thirty-eight local bridges rank between 50 and 80 now. The below-50 cohort includes 17 county bridges. Mosquito has a rating of 12, second only to the Mt. Murphy Bridge in Coloma, which ranks below zero...Mosquito was a 3 prior to its most recent repairing and re-planking....

The FHWA bridge funding program will cover 100 percent of bridge replacement for "off-system" bridges, typically small, rural ones.... "23 percent of our bridges are eligible for replacement." The program funds about \$300 million for bridges annually.

As concerned individuals lament about "no-growth" platforms in our county, please know that Swansboro is allowed to sell only two-acre lots. **The majority of those lots are already committed and sold. Building permits continue to be issued by El Dorado County** in this area, and young families are moving in who deserve a safer community for their children and their school bus, which currently takes **Rock Creek Road; this road is a disaster waiting to happen.**

We understand your votes are influenced by "no-growth" and "recreational" special interest groups (aka lobbyists) in this county who fund your campaigns and influence your votes. We are asking you put aside your bias and look-out for the well-being of the community and its tax-payers. **It is inexplicable why El Dorado County would not confirm and vote for federal funding for this Project and its community for its citizens' safety. The new high-rise bridge would ultimately save money annually and generate more tax dollars to this county by its citizens.**

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF MOSQUITO/SWANSBORO

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
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We implore you to do the right thing and **vote yes** to secure this vital funding, which will be reimbursed to El Dorado County. **Safety should be the number one priority of this county for its citizens.** Please do the right thing for your tax-paying, hardworking residents and vote for this federally-funded replacement bridge. Your tax-paying citizens deserve a fighting chance for survival during a catastrophic fire event or other natural disasters.

Respectfully submitted,

**CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR SAFETY OF MOSQUITO / SWANSBORO
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA**

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States Senate Congressman for Fourth District of California
331 Hart Senate Office Building 2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gavin Newsom El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce
Governor of the State of California 542 Main Street
State Capitol, Room 4153 Placerville, CA 95667
Post Office Box 942849 Email: chamber@eldoradocounty.org
Sacramento, CA 94249 Email: psi@eldoradocounty.org

U.S. Department of Transportation U.S. Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4100
Washington, D.C. 20590 Sacramento, CA 95814

Grand Jury of El Dorado County CAL FIRE Legal Office
330 Fair Lane PO Box 944246
Placerville, CA 95667 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Mosquito Volunteer Fire Department
P. O. Box 1011 8801 Rock Creek Road
Diamond Springs, CA 95619 Placerville, CA 95667

KCRA Channel 3 News *Mountain Democrat*
3 Television Circle 2889 Ray Lawyer Drive
Sacramento, CA 95814 Placerville, CA 95667

Sacramento Bee
2100 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95816