



*Protecting the beauty & natural
resources of our valley since 1964*

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Carpinteria Valley Association

PO Box 27, Carpinteria, CA 93014 CarpinteriaValleyAssociation.org

August 27, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Carpinteria Valley Association
Re: Arroyo Parida Bridge on 192

The Carpinteria Valley Association has been dedicated to preserving the beauty and rural feel in the Carpinteria Valley for the last 50 years, and as such we are opposed to the Caltrans proposal for replacing the Arroyo Parida Bridge on Foothill Road / Highway 192.

Caltrans has proposed replacing the current 1920's era Arroyo Parida Bridge on State Route 192 with a new larger bridge that is completely out of character with a rural country road. Caltrans has proposed replacing the current 20' wide bridge with one that is 40' wide. After four presentations to the County Board of Architectural Review, on Feb. 7, 2014 the BAR denied this proposal as being too large and out of character with the surrounding rural, agricultural and residential area. Caltrans then appealed BAR's decision to the County Planning Commission which also denied the Caltrans proposal on May 7, 2014, based on three findings dealing mainly with the incompatibility of such a large straight bridge in an area trying to protect the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat of the Arroyo Parida (Arroyo Paredon) Creek. Not only is the bridge itself large, but it expands its reach approximately 980' on either side and therefore does not follow the natural contours of the existing landscape. There are some +/- 80' tall clustered, native sycamore trees with an active hawk nest. Widening and flattening the roadway for this bridge would be incongruent with the stretches of the highway to the east and west of the project area. The project includes removal of 12 sycamores and 21 oaks, many located within the riparian corridor. Even though Caltrans would replace the trees targeted for removal, the new landscaping would not be in proportion to the project, the site, or the area adjacent to Highway 192. The County Planning Commission staff report cited numerous inconsistencies with Coastal Plan Policy 4-3, 3-14, 2-11, 9-35, 9-36, Toro Canyon Plan Policy VIS-TC-2, VIS-TC-1, BIO-TC-13, DevStd BIO-TC-13.1, BIO-TC-13.2, CIRC-TC-1.5, and Coastal Act Policy 30251.

Since the denial of this expansion, Caltrans has made this bridge into a one lane bridge with stop signs at either end which the neighbors and CVA find quite agreeable and much more pleasant and safe. It has slowed traffic and speed down considerably and made the bridge much more in keeping with the rural character of this area. This has been especially true on Sunday afternoons when returning out-of-towners like to use 192 to bypass southbound traffic on 101.

Caltrans has stated that the project footprint has been reduced to Caltrans' minimum allowed state safety standards, but has also acknowledged that safety standards can be modified by Caltrans on a case-by-case basis.

CVA supports the neighbors', BAR's, and County Planning Commission denials of the project as being incompatible with the rural nature of this area.

Sincerely,

Mike Wondolowski, President
Carpinteria Valley Association