

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 1

A-35

LATE
DIST

From: Todd Wilson <toddwojai@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 11:41 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment - BOS 11/28 Orcutt Roundabout A-35 #23-01122
Attachments: 11-25-2023 Roundabout comment letter.docx

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Ms. Alexander,

Attached is my public comment letter for Tuesday's BOS roundabout agenda item. Please provide to our Board of Supervisor members.

Thank you for your assistance
Todd Wilson

November 25, 2023

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Fourth Floor Room 407
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Re: Orcutt Roundabout 11-28-2023 Board Agenda Item A-35 Number 23-01122

Dear Supervisors,

I recommend denial of the Santa Barbara Public Works Department request for \$86,000 for independent contractor funding of Roundabout Project Plans at Clark Ave. and Norris Ave. in Orcutt. Public Works states; "This project will help provide better connectivity for all users of this intersection, calm traffic speed into Old Town Orcutt, accommodate planned and future development and create an opportunity for a gateway feature."

As you know, Approved County CIP reflects an unfunded project and additionally, last time I checked County AB 1600 Mitigation Fund account, was woefully inadequate to support this improvement. Utilization of taxpayer funded Measure A is not appropriate, in this case.

Original 1997 Orcutt Community Plan (OCP) was a well crafted long range plan document, involving over 30 meetings and public input, envisioning this idyllic Clark Ave gateway to Old Town Orcutt as tree lined, with a center median to be paid by the adjacent commercial properties. County departments and decision makers have turned their back on that vision by recommending approval of projects absent traffic and environmental analysis, substandard projects and failed to even mention this roundabout in EIR's for Key Site 21 (KS21), KS 18, KS 3, KS 2 and KS 17 developments all reaching the Board over the last 3 or so years. The Orcutt Plan Area has been poorly administered by county planning processes over the last 8 years and I expect ever since 1997 OCP adoption.

Public Works has not adequately provided public outreach for community input and should not be allowed to expend valuable taxpayer dollars without adequate public input. An environmental document is absolutely necessary to assess all impacts of this proposed roundabout. The Board should be interested in a Cal Trans impact analysis and probably approval of this proposal.

Try addressing the chronic school traffic impacts by using this proposed \$2 Million CIP target to upgrade all the streets surrounding the Junior High and Academy High School and access Clark Ave Gateway corridor – bring this neighborhood out of the 1940's. School ingress and egress

could then utilize the multiple streets not just Norris Ave. Neighbors, students and community deserve a look at this alternative. I thought OTORA stood for Old Town Revitalization Association. With County help, revitalization has had over 20 years focused on the commercial district and many ways gummed up the well crafted vision of 1997 OCP.

Old Town Orcutt already has Gateway access to both business district and residential district. Don't clog it up like a heart attack with the proposed Clark/Norris roundabout. School buses, Farm heavy equipment, large semi and delivery trucks utilize this connector corridor between Hwy 1 and Highways 135 and 101. I have doubts these vehicles will even fit in that space, not to mention accommodating bicycle traffic...there is a steep slope down to proposed OASIS Community Center at proposed roundabout intersection. I remind you that the OASIS project is the primary reason Foxenwood Lane left turns are blocked by deliniators and clearly created the Public Works need of this roundabout proposal. I also remind you OASIS is a substandard project in it's own traffic design and blew out a 40 year conservation easement, identified by tract map label "Open Space Not a Building Site." 2016 Planning Director recommended denial of the OASIS Project, identifying it as not good planning. A community center is not an allowed use under Rec. Zoning. I tried to inform the Planning Commission Chair of this very roundabout, when the commissioner cut me off, saying; "I don't care about traffic..."

I guess...and now Public works wants to spend taxpayer dollars on a dubious roundabout that I suggest has been poorly vetted by this largest unincorporated community - at 35,000 residents.

Board of Supervisors, I have suggested in the past that Orcutt was desperately in need of an elected Municipal Advisory Council as a way to effectively participate in Orcutt Community Plan administration. Today's roundabout proposal is not ripe for your authorization. I appreciate the opportunity to share my viewpoint.

Best Regards

Todd Wilson
Orcutt Homeowner

Katherine Douglas

From: Charles Williams <charleswilliams3207@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 12:30 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Roundabout is clearly for the benefit of the County and Oasis Community Center
Attachments: Roundabout is clearly for the benefit of the County and Oasis Community Center.pdf

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Roundabout comments attached.

Thank You

Chuck Williams

120 North Ave Old Town Orcutt

805)720-6657

ROUNADABOUT: THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN AGENDA ITEM

November 28/2023

Roundabout clearly benefits the County and Oasis Community Center,

Roundabout was planned, after approval of KS-18 was sold to this board with a forged EIR document.

Clearly was never meant to be a Senior Center as were led to believe.

Seniors were used to get this Community Center approved. A community loss of approximately 40 acres of open space. S.B. county held development rights to open space in perpetuity. Behind closed doors, County gave Oasis the development rights to cover up a \$500,000 a poor decision made by 4 planning commissioners.

Oasis Condition of approval clearly states this project needs a left turn lane. Requiring a new roundabout. There is no room on Clark Avenue for this required lane, or an unsafe roundabout that will also eliminate a designated parking area. Roundabout, is another band aid on a mortal wound. Unbelievable!

You are here today to approve an \$80,000 35% plan for a Roundabout professional service agreement with GHD, using CEQA law.15378 (b) Stating this is "not a Project", but is an Operational Improvement Project in order to eliminate an EIR. A 35% \$80,000 plan for a Roundabout is the first step for building ANY PROJECT! This is misleading.

CEQA law 15378 (a) is more accurate for this project. Clearly this is Roundabout is the project.

More smoke and mirrors

Why was this roundabout not mentioned in the Hwy 1 (golf course KS-21 residential project), KS 17 (sr. citizen housing), KS 3 residential development, or any of the circulation sections of environmental review? Last projected Cost of the Roundabout was \$2, 000,000. This means to me that we tax payers are now on the hook once again, paying for Oasis Roundabout bail out, to cover county mistakes.

Commissioner Cooney warned Planning Commission board of the liabilities involved approving this project from the very beginning, when planning staff recommended project denial.

During the Last, and final Oasis hearing commissioner Cooney emphasizing before final approval of very possible legal repercussions approving this project.

Moving this project forward is Government Corruption at all Levels, and could very possibly warrant the need of a Grand Jury investigation. Deny this request.

For the last 20 years county focus has been on Business in the Commercial district and OTORA. Our streets have been carelessly impacted, business sprawl out into the street. Parking loss in residential areas, more trash in our streets, homeless. School traffic gets awful, the new school building on Pinal at May Grisham is awful aesthetically, and should have never

been built on that site. We have become a dumping ground for the county and special interest to make money. When are you going to take care of the residents. My property taxes go up every year, I see fat salaries, and careless decisions made that impact the OLD TOWN COMMUNITY quality of life. You are clearly not helping residents with the decisions made by this county. Please fix this! This is Old Town IS OUR HOME! Sorry For the Rant, it shouldn't be this way!

Thank you!

Chuck Williams

Orcutt Resident