

Ramirez, Angelica

General Public Comment

From: County Executive Office
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:40 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: FW: How Animals Safely Cross Highways



From: Richard Closson <rgclosson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 11:31 AM
To: County Executive Office <caoemail@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>
Cc: info@coastalranchesconservancy.org; info@gaviotacoastconservancy.org
Subject: How Animals Safely Cross Highways

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Hello to All Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

A very interesting multimedia article in yesterday's New York Times is germane to an ongoing discussion of the Board concerning the creation of a culvert or wildlife crossing under Highway 101 near Cañada del Barro. I support the wildlife crossing in place of a simple, and admittedly less expensive, culvert.

I have read the CalTrans reasoning that a wildlife crossing would double the cost of a \$7.5 million culvert. Two recent news stories help put that in perspective for me.

First, due to a confluence of circumstances, the California state coffers seem anticipated to have a \$76 billion(!) surplus and there are discussions on how to spend that windfall.

Second, a foolhardy recall effort of the Governor is estimated to cost taxpayers \$400 million for electoral certification of an outcome that is all but a foregone conclusion. I acknowledge the importance of elections, but add this for the stark cost comparison of what is considered "important."

Although the CalTrans spokesperson Jim Shivers claims "CalTrans funds are extremely competitive," the side-by-side comparison of an extra \$7,500,000 cost with a \$76,000,000,000 budget surplus is laughable.

Please do whatever is in your power to enable the wildlife crossing. I would also appreciate advice on what I, as an individual Californian, can do to support your effort.

Regards,
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