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Ramirez, Angelica

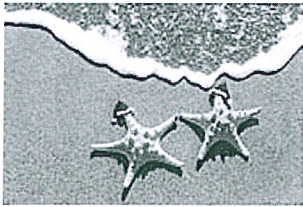
Public Comment



From: Michele Beach <mbeach@smjuhsd.org>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 12:42 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: COMMENT FOR 12-15-2020 MEETING - Connecting Rodeo Drive to Union Valley Parkway
Attachments: SSSC-COPY-220121412140.pdf
Importance: High

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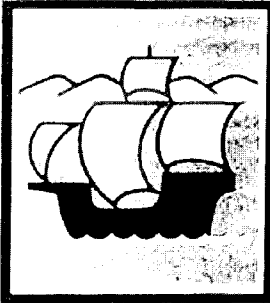
Please see the attached letter from the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.
Thank you!



Happy Holidays

Michele Beach

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Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

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December 14, 2020

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, Ca 93455

VIA EMAIL: sbcob@countyofsb.org

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I would like to reiterate the support of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District for the proposed safety project connecting Rodeo Drive to Union Valley Parkway (UVP) and the 101 interchange.

Construction of the Career Technical Education (CTE) and Agriculture Farm Center (Ag Farm) at 1280 Founders Avenue is expected to be completed in January 2021. The site will become occupied by District support staff and potentially begin agriculture farm operations (including row crop and animal husbandry activities) immediately upon turnover by the Contractor. CTE classes are scheduled to commence in Fall of 2021. As activities increase at the site, so will daily traffic including staff, support personnel, bus transportation of students (up to an estimated 18 trips), community visitors, FFA students (morning and afternoon trips for animal feeding), and supply vendor trucks. Safety of our students, staff, and visitors is always our primary concern, which makes any opportunity to enhance their safety a priority for us.

As is obvious to all who live in or commute through the area, access to east freeway locations during certain times of the year have become increasingly challenging with the wonderful success of the Elks Unocal Event Center. As operations commence at the CTE & Ag Farm, associated routine traffic will increase daily, but also add to the traffic challenges occurring during Elks events. The completion of the connection from the UVP loop to the frontage road will provide an alternate route to the area which should help minimize current and future access and egress concerns as the area continues to develop.

In October of 2020, our Board of Education formally supported the safety project through a letter to the Planning Commission and a formal Resolution (#9-2020-2021). I wanted to again voice our support of this important safety project and our appreciation of the County's continued initiative in moving it forward. The added connection between the UPV and Santa Maria Way will improve the overall circulation and result in enhanced safety for all traveling through the area including CTE & Ag Farm students, staff, and visitors and the entire Santa Maria/Orcutt community.

Sincerely,

Antonio Garcia, Superintendent

AG:mpb