

Public Comment

#1

October 1, 2019

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara



Re: Public Hearing: Fernald Point Lane Bridge Replacement Project

We reside at 1727 Fernald Point Lane in Santa Barbara, on a property directly contiguous to the proposed bridge replacement project.

While acknowledging that the bridge replacement appears to be a necessary undertaking, it is also clear that it will cause major disruption on Fernald Point Lane. Significantly, the properties at 1745 and 1755 Fernald Point Lane will be most affected, and it is important to us that those properties are treated fairly.

We are concerned that the communication from the County with Fernald residents with respect to the project plans has not been comprehensive enough, and that many aspects of the proposal may be unnecessary and unrelated to the bridge amelioration.

We are particularly concerned that the flood plain and appropriate drainage to and from the Picay Creek may be altered in a manner that could cause harm to local properties, including our own. It is critical that if the project proceeds that the County undertake to indemnify residents from the consequences of any disturbance in the natural flow of water. It also seems reasonable that the County would assume maintenance responsibly for the entire mouth of the Creek should it secure an easement from the relevant property owners.

Because we have not had access to completed County plans, it is difficult to understand why easements to the Creek, and landscape variation are necessary to directly facilitate the bridge project. We would ask that this be explained in detail to the community as well as any flood studies that the County may have been done that take into account new plantings be made available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Schwartz".

Mark Schwartz