

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Laurie Tamura <laurie@urbanplanningconcepts.com>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 11:16 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Union Vally Parkway letter fo support 12-11-2020 BS
Attachments: Union Vally Parkway letter fo support 12-11-2020 BS.docx



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Please post this letter of support for the Union Valley Parkway project to be heard at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Thank you.

Laurie Tamura

December 11, 2020

Supervisor Gregg Hart, Chairman
Members of the Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara County
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Circulation Element change for Union Valley Parkway

Dear Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Please accept this letter in support of the revision to the Circulation Element for the east extension of Union Valley Parkway to connect with Rodeo Drive. As a 35-year resident of Orcutt and a member of the Orcutt General Plan Advisory Committee in the early 1990's, the development and completion of the Union Valley Parkway project has been very important to me.

For some background, this interchange has been on county planning documents since the 1960's and was originally referred in the first County General Plan as the East West Expressway. In 1982, the name of this line on the maps was renamed Union Valley Parkway. Section of the road were built through the 1980's and 1990's but it was not until 2010 that the final plans for the interchange and the final construction was completed for UVP interchange and the road segments that took UVP west out to Blosser Road. This major transportation infrastructure project relieved traffic on Lakeview Road, Santa Maria Way, Foster Road, and Clark Avenue.

In 1996-97, Unocal donated to the Santa Maria ELKs 200 acres on the east side of the Highway 101. The ELK's applied for a Conditional Use Permit for an event center. Over the last 23 years, Rodeo Facility, and the program that the Santa Maria ELKs run have become one of the best Rodeos in the nation for its size. When events happen at this facility there is only one way in and one way out at Santa Maria Way and Highway 101.

Four years ago, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District acquire land on this side of the highway to build a new High School campus for agriculture and technology classes. This campus is under construction and will be ready for classes in 2021.

Originally in the Orcutt Community Plan this side of the freeway was identified as Key Site 33 for future Highway Commercial development when there was a connection to Union Valley Parkway interchange. Unfortunately, the OCP did not clearly note the eastern connection to Union Valley Parkway interchange. When Caltrans did the project study report for the interchange, they made it clear that the county needed to have this connection in their circulation plans before they would consider an eastern access to the interchange.

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So here we are today. The community is asking for the amendment to the Circulation Element as step one of many steps to connect the frontage road from Santa Maria Way to Union Valley Parkway.

This is a request that will address many safety issues as noted in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Staff Report. This amendment will address a community and valley issue and we hope that the Board of Supervisors will accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approval of this project.

Thanks very much for your consideration and time on this matter.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurie Tamura", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Laurie Tamura, AICP
Principal Planner