

SFCJPA 7-24-08
Item 8. Letter to Caltrans

DRAFT

Bijan Sartipi
Director, Caltrans District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94623

Subject: Improvements to US Highway 101 crossing over San Francisquito Creek in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

Dear Mr. Sartipi,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA), I would like to invite Caltrans to consider forming an exploratory partnership with the SFCJPA to investigate alternatives for improvements to the US Highway 101 crossing over San Francisquito Creek.

The SFCJPA is currently conducting an alternatives analysis to determine the best options for reducing damages caused by flooding from San Francisquito Creek. At the US 101 crossing, we are investigating potential projects to increase the hydraulic capacity of the structure, the two adjacent frontage road structures, as well as the stream reaches immediately upstream and downstream of the structure.

It is our understanding that Caltrans is in the preliminary stage of a project to replace the existing mainline highway structure due to structural deficiencies and deterioration. I understand that Caltrans staff is currently seeking funding for the project and is striving to coordinate the bridge replacement with the second phase of the approved project to install auxiliary lanes on Highway 101 between Marsh and Embarcadero Roads.

Staff from the SFCJPA and its member agencies -- the Cities of East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto; the San Mateo County Flood Control District and the Santa Clara Valley Water District -- met with Caltrans District 4 staff and Department of Transportation Structure Maintenance and Investigations staff on June 20, 2008 to discuss common goals of the agencies. The recommendation from staff in attendance was to initiate an exploratory partnership to determine how the agencies could best work together to accomplish the goals of improved water conveyance, traffic conveyance, and structure longevity. Working together on a single coordinated project, rather than initiating two separate projects, will likely save the agencies time and money, and minimize traffic disruptions and environmental impacts. I am hopeful that you will respond affirmatively to my request by endorsing a Caltrans/SFCJPA partnership on the Highway 101/San Francisquito Creek bridge replacement project. I look forward to working with you to develop a strong working relationship and a successful project. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact SFCJPA Project Manager Kevin Murray at (650) 474-2321.

Sincerely,

Ruben Abrica
Chair
San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Cc: SFCJPA Board of Directors
Ron Moriguchi, Caltrans District 4
File