

Attn: Thomas Rosevear
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Division of Environmental Planning & Engineering
California Department of Transportation District 4
111 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94623
VIA FACSIMILE: 510-286-5600

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the State route 1/Calera Creek widening project.

As a resident of Vallemar (the neighborhood adjacent to the project) and the owner of a business on Highway that lies within the proposed project boundaries I have 2 major concerns.

First, like many people who reside in the area I am not convinced of the need for a project of this scope. I appreciate the congestion that occurs on Highway 1 because I see it every day. Being someone who travels down Reina Del Mar and along Highway 1 every day it seems clear to me that the problem originates at the Vallemar School. The school starts every day during the morning rush hour traffic and there are NO busses to transport the children to the school. Every parent drives their child to school and causes congestion in the morning, which along with the poorly timed traffic lights is the source of the vast majority of the congestion. Literally hundreds of parents dropping off their children at a school ~ 100 yards from a congested intersection during rush hour just does not work, but it does not require a multi-million dollar road project to solve that problem.

My second concern is about my business located on Highway 1. I own the veterinary hospital located at 4300 Coast Highway. I have been the owner of the hospital for over 20 years. I have expanded and grown my business with ~ 1 million dollars in improvements and I employ 25 people. There are 2 things that will negatively affect my business, perhaps significantly and fatally.

First, during the construction of the project, if it goes forward, it is IMPERATIVE that ingress and egress from my business not be obstructed. This is a serious concern of mine and the other operating businesses along the east side of the highway.

At least one alternative would require acquisition of right of way and easements for utilities. That removes parking spaces from the front of my hospital. Parking for the business is EXTREMELY tight as it is. The loss of even 1 or 2 parking spaces would have a significant impact on my business. That, in effect, also has a negative impact on the City of Pacifica due to a potential loss of jobs and the taxable income of a large local business. The opposite side of the highway from my hospital is nothing but an empty lot (the quarry). Why cut into my property and those businesses adjacent to mine when shifting the project over to the west eliminates the need to obtain any right of way or easement rights?

I do understand the problems with traffic congestion along Highway 1 but as a resident and business owner in Pacifica, I have some serious concerns about this project. Unless my concerns are adequately addressed I cannot support this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Hurlbut, DVM
Owner/Medical Director, Pacifica Pet Hospital