

Attn: Thomas Rosevear
Yolanda Rivas, Branch Chief
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 Parkway Widening Project.

I am one of the owners of Pacifica Pet Hospital at 4300 Coast Highway. I am very familiar with the traffic patterns around the two intersections involved. My concerns are both personal and practical.

Practically speaking, while I do see the traffic problems in the morning, I'm not sure that the multi-million dollar expansion project you are proposing will do anything to solve the issue. Traffic backs up in the morning ***starting*** at the Highway 1/Reina Del Mar intersection, and building to the south. Widening the highway south of Reina Del Mar, then collapsing it back to 2 lanes at that point will do absolutely nothing to ease congestion unless there are significant changes made to the way school traffic enters/leaves the Vallemar district (for example, re-routing traffic to a second light or merge lane). The light will still be there, and everyone will still need to get through THAT light. It seems to me that the problem lies mostly with the school traffic in the morning. It is my understanding that the school in this location starts earlier than the others in Pacifica. In my opinion, a solution as simple as changing the start time for school could do a lot more to ease congestion and cost a **WHOLE** lot less money.

I have had friends who commute to the city from Pacifica tell me that the congestion adds no more than 15-20 minutes to their commute time, at the worst. The only time that traffic is an issue in Pacifica through that area is in the morning during commute hour. Given this, a multimillion dollar fix seems to be overkill so that people can save 15 minutes in the morning. Personally, I'd prefer to get up 15 minutes earlier rather than spend a lot of taxpayer money in the current economy for a solution that may not work anyway.

Personally, I have additional concerns. Our business lies within the proposed project area. We have been there for 20 years, providing the community with jobs and the city with tax revenue. Taking away 900 square feet of our property will cut 20 feet into our property, significantly impacting our parking situation and making it impossible for us to stay in business. Also, during construction I anticipate much disruption to the roadway, which will inevitably effect ingress and egress onto our property. Veterinary Hospitals are not a high-profit margin business - the inevitable loss in business during construction may very well impact us to the point that we could no longer afford to remain in business as well. As you can see, there is great potential for this project to be disastrous to our business.

Because I believe there are other fixes that would be less costly to the taxpayers AND less disruptive to the businesses along this corridor, unless these concerns are addressed, I cannot in any way support the highway widening project, and will actively work to gain community support against the project.

Sincerely,

Loring Slivinski, BA, CPDT-KA
Owner/Hospital Administrator, Pacifica Pet Hospital