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TAB 80

7/30/11

Bimia G. Rhinehart
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
Room 2233 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re Funding for Implementation of LU009-0085

Dear Ms. Rhinehart;

I understand that Commission approval will be sought at the upcoming August meeting for funding of the above construction. I also understand that 100% financing would be obtained from CMIA-Prop 1B funds. This Caltrans proposal would widen a segment of Highway 101 from Carpinteria past the community of Mussel Shoals at a cost of $90 million.

The highway improvement is badly needed and in my view is an appropriate expenditure of public funds. However, a significant portion of these scarce dollars is planned to be spent for the creation of a bidirectional bicycle lane which would be diverted off of the highway, down a ramp, through a small beach community of Mussel Shoals, and back onto the highway across the only ingress/egress to the community. Associated with this would be various pedestrian ramps and walkways, fences walls, etc.

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Putting aside the issues of safety and practicality, the expenditure, and indebtedness entailed in the pursuit of an amenity, no matter how desirable for recreational bicyclists, seems to me, and many others, almost reckless. The State of California, and indeed the Federal Government can barely pay its bills. Public expenditure for health care, education and welfare has been drastically curtailed. Many State Parks have been closed. Seen through this lens, how can we in good conscience allow this to go forward ?

I would like to submit to each of the Commissioners a proposal to delete this portion of the LU009-0085 plan from any funding approval. In 2011, this would be responsible stewardship of public funds.

Respectfully yours,

David Chernof, MD
Clinical Professor of Medicine
UCLA School of Medicine

Cc Assemblyman Das Williams
Congresswoman Lois Capps
Governor Jerry Brown

MEETING HANDOUT