



February 25, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham
U.S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0550

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

I am writing to you regarding the need for federal funding to ensure the completion of the missing State Route 56 (SR56) freeway connectors at the SR-56/Interstate 5 (I-5) interchange in Carmel Valley. As a business owner in Carmel Valley, it is evident that the completion of the missing connectors is essential to the continued growth and prosperity of our business community and San Diego's overall economy.

With the completion of SR-56, we will have the much-needed link between Interstate 15 (I-15) and I-5 in north San Diego County. However, this project will still remain incomplete without the funding for construction of the SR-56/I-5 west-to-north and south-to-east connectors. Until these connectors are completed, vehicles will be forced onto local streets in Carmel Valley. This will create an extremely inefficient traffic flow and will increase the likelihood of traffic accidents in the Carmel Valley community.

An additional consideration is the delay in residential development that will occur until the missing connectors are completed. It is estimated that 6,500 housing units, including more than 1,000 affordable homes, will not be built until the connectors are in place. This will result in the relocation of residential and business development to other parts of San Diego County or beyond, negatively impacting our economy and further extending our region's housing shortage.

We need your assistance in securing funding for completion of this critical transportation project, and those dollars will help make certain that businesses in the Carmel Valley region continue to prosper in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

John Couvillion
Vice President Development
Prentiss Properties