



האקדמיה היהודית סן-דייגו
The Jewish community day school

January 10, 2003

The Honorable Randy Cunningham
Congressman, 51st District
613 West Valley Parkway, Suite 320
Escondido, CA 92025

Subject: SR-56 I-5 Connectors

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

One of the greatest challenges facing the Carmel Valley community is the growing traffic congestion along the Interstate 5 (I-5) north-south corridor and on our local streets. Increases in the number businesses and residential growth in Carmel Valley and the surrounding area continue to contribute to this congestion.

One transportation project that will help reduce congestion is the completion of the middle section of State Route 56 (SR-56). SR-56, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2004, will help relieve congestion on both I-5 and in our community. Although the middle section of SR-56 will be completed, this important east-west freeway will not be complete at the I-5/SR-56 interchange because funds have not yet been identified to build the west-to-north and south-to-east connectors. Without these two connectors, commuters heading west on SR-56 to I-5 north or existing I-5 south heading east on SR-56 will be diverted to local streets, adding to congestion in Carmel Valley and on I-5.

The San Diego Association of Governments recently issued its draft MOBILITY 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which includes funding for the two missing connectors, but the earliest the completion date would be 2010, and that completion date could come as late as 2020.

The primary north-south highway link for Carmel Valley residents is I-5, and these residents will be further encumbered by the increased local traffic that is generated by a completed SR-56 freeway. This additional traffic will increase the likelihood of traffic accidents and excessive congestion and wear-and-tear on local streets in Carmel Valley due to the additional commuter and heavy truck traffic.

As part of the Carmel Valley community, the San Diego Jewish Academy draws its students and faculty from our local community as well as throughout San Diego. Since our school takes access from SR-56, our parents, staff and students will be directly impacted by the additional congestion that will result from the failure to construct these important freeway connectors.

As our Congressional representative, we urge you to work for the necessary federal funding to complete the connectors which will benefit the residents and businesses in Carmel Valley as well as the other communities located along the I-5 corridor in north San Diego County. We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure the completion of this important regional transportation project.

Sincerely,

Larry Acheitel
Executive Director

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