



County of San Diego

RICHARD E. CROMPTON
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
5510 OVERLAND AVE, SUITE 410
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1237
(858) 694-2212 FAX: (858) 694-3597
Web Site: www.sdcountry.ca.gov/dpw/

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Bill Overton
Association Manager
Rancho Santa Fe Association
17022 Avenida de Acacias
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

SUBJECT: Rancho Santa Fe Association Community Support of Roundabouts and Associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Mr. Overton:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) received your letter dated November 9, 2015 relaying the property owner survey results and Rancho Santa Fe Association (RSFA) Board of Directors decision on the following:

1. Overturn its May 7, 2015 vote recommending traffic signals.
2. Support the EIR and roundabouts alternative as the preferred intersection improvement.
3. Formally request that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors certify the EIR and embark on a project to install roundabouts at the three intersections.

DPW appreciates that the decision of roundabouts versus signals has been somewhat divisive for the community and that reaching a solid recommendation required time. We are pleased to hear that consensus has been reached.

As you are aware, the roundabout project began in 2004 at the request of the RSFA as an alternative to the traffic signal approach DPW typically uses to improve congested intersections. RSFA provided initial funding to begin the design. Since that time, community interest in the roundabouts has waxed and waned. Considerable time, funding, and effort were expended to bring the project to Draft EIR public review from late 2012 to early 2013. As part of the EIR public comments, the RSFA requested a reduction in the size of the roundabouts and took a passive position of not objecting to the certification of the EIR. Concurrently, the RSFA also initiated a new independent study of a traffic signal concept.

Based on the lack of clear support for the roundabouts and the upswing in support for signals, the County decided to hold off on bringing forward the EIR for certification pending a clear recommendation from the community and RSFA. During 2013-14, DPW coordinated with the

RSFA consultant preparing the traffic signal concept and the RSFA Transportation Subcommittee. This process culminated in the May 11, 2015, RSFA letter requesting the County to move forward with a traffic signal project for the intersections. The County again made the decision not to bring forward the EIR for certification since installation of traffic signals would not require an EIR. The RSFA is now requesting to reverse the May 2015 decision supporting traffic signals after conducting a survey of the property owners in fall 2015 where the latest survey results indicate the community now prefers roundabouts.

With the most recent resolution in favor of roundabouts and with the passage of three years since public review, the County reviewed the studies conducted for the EIR for applicability. While the majority of the EIR studies and conclusions are still accurate, a few subject areas will need to be refreshed to document that current conditions still support the original findings. The estimated cost to refresh the EIR is approximately \$75,000 of which DPW has \$15,000 remaining for the project and an additional \$60,000 is needed. Currently DPW has no additional funding available to complete this work; therefore, we are requesting that the RSFA contribute funds to update the EIR studies. Once funding is identified, it is expected to take approximately four months to complete the studies and bring the project to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

Certification of the EIR is an important milestone toward getting the roundabouts built as it would make the project more competitive for grants or other funding opportunities. However, it should be noted that funding has not been identified to acquire needed right-of-way for roundabouts or for construction. Therefore, there is no estimated timeframe for construction completion.

We look forward to moving on to the next step with the community's desired project. We are available for further discussion or to help with questions. Please contact me at 858-694-3739 or Leann.Carmichael@sdcounty.ca.gov for any questions on the Draft EIR or Sirous Deylamian at 858-694-2814 or Sirous.Deylamian@sdcounty.ca.gov for questions about the roundabouts project design.

Respectfully,



LEANN P. CARMICHAEL
LUEG Program Manager, Environmental Services

Larry Roberts, RSFA Planner
Chris Champine, Land Use Advisor, District 5
Chris Livoni, Land Use Advisor, District 5