

February 4, 2008



REC'D FEB - 6 2008

~ WINEMAKING AT A HIGHER LEVEL ~

Kathryn Mathews
Executive Director El Dorado County Transportation Commission
2828 Easy Street, Suite 1
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Kathryn:

The members of the El Dorado Winery Association are encouraged by the November 1 Commission decision to amend the scope of the Camino/Highway 50 PSR to include the Smith Flat/Point View interchange and to extend eastward to include the Cedar Grove interchange.

The Smith Flat/Point View interchange (figure 1, attached) should provide a direct and convenient connection from Highway 50 to the lower area of Carson Road which will divert a portion of the vehicles that would be turning left further east of this location. Also, the Cedar Grove interchange provides direct and safe access to many areas of Apple Hill that draw large numbers of vehicles from September to after Thanksgiving. This interchange also needs to be studied to determine the impact of directing travelers to this location.

The El Dorado Winery Association will support the Commission's efforts to improve traffic safety in a manner which (a) results in the least harm to local residents and businesses and (b) protects agriculture and the pastoral character of our community. In this regard, we strongly support the creation of a PSR with the following elements:

1. The impact of facilities/options to be studied must take into account the future development of lands north and south of Highway 50 within the project area that are currently undeveloped or underdeveloped.
2. Conduct detailed traffic modeling that describes the impact of different options on congestion and traffic circulation in the project area, paying special attention to the seasonal impacts of Apple Hill activities.
3. Provide professional assistance as affected citizens bring forward options for consideration.

With traffic safety at the forefront, and in consideration of what is best for our community, we strongly recommend two options at this time:

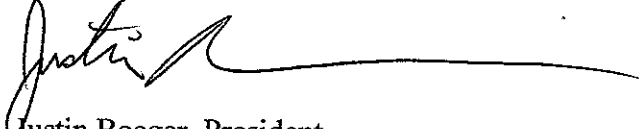


1. Install a barrier at the Still Meadows Road/Apple Café location, possibly as far eastward as Five-Mile Road, including "crash gates" for emergency vehicles, and make a direct connection from Still Meadows Road to Newtown Road along the best alignment among the four or five that have been studied; taking into account the ability to maintain continuity of the Trail System running east of Placerville.

2. Construct a grade separated crossing for Highway 50 eastbound traffic approximately 1,000 feet east of the upper Carson Road exit (figure 2) with the following features:
 - Retain access to Camino Heights Drive from the west for local residents and facilitate their access eastward to the new crossing.
 - Close the upper Carson Road exit with a safety shape in the median and construct a park-and-ride facility.
 - Where this eastbound off-ramp connects with Carson Road, construct a signalized intersection that includes a left turn pocket from westbound Carson Road to a westbound Highway 50 on-ramp.
 - The intersection would include a right turn loop from eastbound Carson Road to the westbound ramp onto Highway 50 (figure 3).

We trust that these options are reasonable for inclusion in the PSR based on the needs of the project to improve traffic safety; and reduce congestion which is a precursor to increasing accident rates. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Justin Boeger, President
El Dorado Winery Association