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October 31, 2005

To: Board of Supervisors, County of Ventura

Attention: Supervisor Parks, Supervisor Long

Subject: Santa Rosa Assessment District – additional traffic lights on Santa Rosa Road

OFFICE OF CLERK  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Reference: Meeting with Supervisor Long on Thursday, October 27, 2005

During the referenced meeting with Supervisor Long, I expressed my reasons for opposing the addition of four traffic lights on Santa Rosa Road. Supervisor Long asked me to write my points of view in a letter to the board.

I am a 25 year resident of the Santa Rosa Valley and I oppose the addition of new traffic lights on Santa Rosa Road for the following reasons:

1. Emissions and noise will increase in the valley.
  - a. The additional lights mean vehicles will make more stops as they transit the valley, causing more smog emissions at idle and more noise as the vehicles accelerate from the stops.
2. Safety on Santa Rosa Road will not be improved.
  - a. The traffic lights will disrupt the steady flow of traffic and cause more stop and go vehicle actions.
  - b. The recent deaths on Santa Rosa Road would not have been avoided with the addition of more traffic lights.
3. The movement to add more traffic lights on Santa Rosa Road has been organized by a small group of residents that want to make the valley an exclusive residential area while attempting to keep other drivers out of the area by making driving difficult and time consuming.
  - a. The plan to synchronize the (then) seven traffic lights to 45mph would discourage commuters from using Santa Rosa Road. I contend that this will force more commuters to use Hwy 118 (Los Angeles Ave) between Camarillo and Moorpark raising the possibility of more congestion and accidents on that road.
4. I question the appropriateness of a Santa Rosa Valley resident offering to pay the county's portion of the cost of the new lights (approximately \$250,000).
  - a. I am not implying that "yes" votes were bought on the board; but, I do believe that "no" votes have been avoided because county funds are not being used. Would the Board of Supervisors review this request differently if county funds were being used? Or, did this offer to pay the county's share of the cost make this an easy decision to go along with the request?

If the Board of Supervisor's is really serious about improving traffic flow and safety in the Santa Rosa Valley they should consider widening Santa Rosa Road to four divided lanes.

Sincerely,



Donald L. Cordes

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