

>>> "Beth Oehlert" 3/24/2012 >>>

Dear Mr. Monowitz,

Thank you for responding to my phone call to follow up after the "Highway 1 Safety and Mobility Study" meeting in Montara early March. My concerns are that we have an outside group, the Local Government Commission, with its group of three consultants, each with sustainable development and smart growth as their mission with their ultimate goal to remove cars from the road.

The study calls for six new speed limits on a designated expressway (planned limitations of 40 mph in most of Montara and Moss Beach), installation of medians, gateways, flashing lights in the road, roundabouts, divided medians and possibly undoing the expressway designation to allow for even slower speeds and designs. There is also a planned commuter pedestrian and bike path parallel to and on the east side of Highway 1 and extending into our residential neighborhoods. This commuter path is intended to provide travel alternatives for Midcoast residents and is totally separate from the recreational Coastal Trail.

The vast majority of the residents that attended the meeting were opposed to this study. Coastside traffic issues impact everyone, but the solution is not to add more frustrations to our daily commutes. Or is it? I understand that this IS the goal of the proponents of Sustainable Planning Agenda 21.

Do the people designing these "improvements" really believe a commuter trail is a viable option for getting to work, taking our children to school or going shopping in Half Moon Bay? Do we really need a commuter trail that people will rarely use at the expense of slowing traffic?

In short, I believe we need to reject the agenda of the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission to use a process to acquire funds for projects not in the best interest of Coastside residents. As you know, the county has applied to ABAG to qualify the coast as a Planned Development Area (PDA). This PDA is in line with a regional plan to support development that is compact and connected, also called "stack and pack". Is this what the outside groups envision for "sustainable infill development" on the coast? Absurd!

These outside groups (ABAG, One Bay Area, LGC, MTC) will decide where Planned Development Areas exist and where growth can and cannot occur. I can guarantee you that the majority of residents on the coastside do NOT want more development here dictated by unaccountable groups outside of our area, groups who will decide what it will look like based on what is acceptable to them.

I understand that ABAG has requested a deferral of any action on a PDA designation for the coast. The agency plans to pick up the issue at a June meeting to allow more local governments more time to communicate with local residents. What does that mean? Is this where their predetermined plans are promoted and any local opposition marginalized?

Do we have a chance to make a difference, or will this thing go through as ordained by MTC and ABAG???

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter and my thoughts on this study. I am very concerned that the expressed views of the attendants did not reach the ears of those who make the decisions.

Sincerely,  
Beth Oehlert  
Coastside resident for 25 years