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*Agenda Item #11*

September 12, 1991

City Council  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Highway 12 Bridge Modifications

Honorable Members:

On July 30, 1991, a meeting was held by the City and CalTrans representatives to discuss the Highway 12 construction project. The meeting was attended by Mel Davis, Jim Mitchell, Lynn Hamilton, Richard Green (CalTrans) and Kim Cordell. Mr. Green informed the city for the first time that modifications to the Highway 12 bridge will eliminate the pedestrian walkway on its north side. At the meeting Mr. Mitchell requested, and was assured that he would receive, CalTrans plans for the bridge modification. Despite repeated requests from the City, the plans have not yet been received.

Meanwhile, the Laguna Park Master Plan progresses. It appears that the recommended alternative will include a trail loop that requires a pedestrian crossing at the north side of the Highway 12 bridge. (The southside crossing can be handled by the County trail.) It does not seem reasonable to us that the City should pay the cost of replacing the pedestrian crossing eliminated by CalTrans.

We therefore request that the Mayor write and telephone Senator Barry Keene and Assemblyman Dan Hauser to ensure that sufficient funds are set aside in the current Highway 12 construction budget to replace the pedestrian crossing. The new crossing should be a suitable structure located on the north side of the highway bridge. This rather drastic step is necessary because:

(1) CalTrans has ignored repeated requests by the City for design plans, even though construction is only months away.

(2) CalTrans declared the project exempt from environmental review. As a result, there has been no public or agency review of the plans, and no requirements for mitigation of impacts such as the loss of a pedestrian crossing.

(3) As a matter of public safety, it is imperative that funds for a replacement crossing be included in the current construction package, and not put off to some indefinite future appropriation.

*Fran Murphy*  
*Mandi Marsh*  
*Patty Holden*  
*Wendy Brown*  
*John P. Salzman*

*Richard Green*  
*Richard H. Peterson*  
*Mrs. Fern*  
*M. Cordell*

Members, Laguna Park Technical Advisory Committee