

**Governor Pete Wilson**  
Office of the Governor  
1st Floor, State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Marin 101 HOV  
Gap Closure Project  
(San Rafael, California)

July 30, 1997

**Dear Governor Wilson:**

I am a native of Marin County.  
I am a born and bred Republican.  
I am sixty-six years old.  
And I need your help:

I need your clemency.

I need a stay of execution for a death I believe is wrongful!

The proposed widening of highway 101 to the west, in San Rafael, between North San Pedro Road South to Mission Avenue, (as proposed by Caltrans) will result in the destruction of 49 homes and the displacement of 150 to 200 residents in our area of Brookdale Avenue.<sup>1</sup>

The stated rationale for the widening of Highway 101 is to increase the flow of morning commute traffic by eliminating an approximate 4/10 mile bottleneck.<sup>2</sup>

**The crux of the matter, Governor Wilson, is this: The widening of Highway 101 can be accomplished without spending several million dollars destroying existing homes, reducing the value of the remaining homes, in our neighborhood, and the displacement of close to 200 citizens.** Let me explain:

- Adjacent to the west side of Highway 101 is a 35 ft. wide Northwestern Pacific right of way, that could easily accommodate the approximate 18 feet required for the widening of Highway 101.
- The use of the N.W.P. right-of-way would eliminate the need for the "wrongful deaths" of my home and the other 48 homes in my neighborhood.
- The railroad advocates believe that some day we could have a light rail transportation system from Willits to Larkspur so commuters to San Francisco can drive to a train station, take a train to Larkspur Landing, transfer to a ferry boat to cross San Francisco Bay, then take another form of transportation to get to their place of work.

- Accordingly, the railroad advocates are reluctant to incur their right-of-way with the widening of Highway 101 and require that the railroad right-of-way be moved **concurrently** with the widening of Highway 101.
- As a result, our homes will be taken away from us due to a vague possibility that someday there may be a light rail system.
- My thoughts are that if the widening of the Highway 101 absolutely must be done-if it is the only viable way of solving the commuting congestion problem-then let's accept that fact. And we can do it **without destroying established neighborhoods.**<sup>3</sup> Then, if and when a light rail system becomes feasible, at that time our homes could be sacrificed.

Please help us, Governor Wilson, our homes should not be taken away unnecessarily at this time based on a remote likelihood of a "someday" light rail system.

Sincerely,



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P.S. Spokespeople for Caltrans state that they will be generous with us and will **try** to help us be relocated. But can not make any guarantees. They have stated emphatically that they can not be of any help in securing a new mortgage for us. At my age I doubt if I could qualify for a new mortgage.

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<sup>1</sup> This area was, coincidentally, developed by William T. Coleman and known as the Coleman addition.

<sup>2</sup> This proposal is a "band-aid" fix. As when the traffic proceeds more smoothly, more people will use their cars in lieu of the current available public transportation and more development will take place further north.

<sup>3</sup> The \$1,000,000.00 per mile soundwall adjacent to our property, and beyond, was built a little over ten years ago.