



MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

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Ms. Susan S. Simpson
Chief, Environmental Planning - North
California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Dear Ms. Simpson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS/R for the Marin 101 Gap Closure project. We also appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the project at the workshop and hearing you held in July.

There are a few aspects of the project that we believe the DEIS/R should explain or explore in more detail:

- Expand the analysis of the reversible lane with either a fixed or moveable barrier as the ultimate HOV lane project.
- Clarify the impact on the community and businesses on West Francisco Boulevard of adding auxiliary lanes and HOV lanes between Bellam and downtown San Rafael versus simply adding HOV lanes.
- Explain the reason for the dramatic difference in northbound versus southbound delay in the 2010 ultimate HOV lane scenario with light rail.
- Because it is likely that the light rail will terminate in San Rafael rather than Larkspur, provide estimates for highway delay under this assumption for all of the scenarios that include light rail.
- Provide more discussion of alternate designs for reducing reflected noise and enhancing the visual aspects of the sound wall.

We also urge that replacement of wetlands and trees lost due to the project be as close to the site of the loss as possible and be made in at least a two to one ratio. We further urge that the replacement trees be native and that provision be made for their care until they are well established.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Stompe
President

JD:je

Ex Comm Action