

**Sonoma 101 Widening & Soundwall Construction (Wilfred to Route 12)  
Final Negative Declaration/Final Environmental Assessment**

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**Comment #17 - Oral Testimony**

1           many people said, "Remove the Berlin Wall. That's the  
2           only way we can reunite Santa Rosa." I'm saying this is  
3           the way to do it.

4                        What I would do in place of the present  
5           elevated freeway is a boulevard at surface level, a  
6           four-lane divided boulevard, tree lined, with timed  
7           traffic signals. And that would be our new north/south  
8           main street. That would do two things. It would  
9           restore the quality of life in downtown Santa Rosa by  
10          reconnecting Railroad Square to the rest of downtown,  
11          and it would solve the local traffic problems especially  
12          at College Avenue and Steele Lane because they're not  
13          dealing with a freeway anymore; we're dealing with a  
14          boulevard. That's it basically.

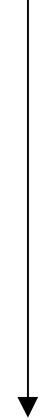
**Comment # 17**

15           S.C. MCCOWN: In my opinion, sound walls are  
16           not necessary. They are costly and not as effective as  
17           plants and trees. We have a beautiful county. Sound  
18           walls are impersonal and a deterrent to that beauty.

19                        The freeway through Danville, California,  
20           used to be lovely. Now it is like traveling through a  
21           concrete tunnel. Sound walls have not been proven to  
22           diminish noise. In some cases like Danville the sound  
23           travels up and impacts areas miles from the sound walls.  
24           Plants and trees are a more healthful alternative.

25                        JAMES BRENTON: Let's see. I'm the owner of

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**Response to Comment Letter #17  
S.C. McCown**

Comment Number	Response
17-A	See response to 6-A

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