



City of
Gridley

685 Kentucky Street
Gridley, CA 95948

December 5, 2007

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Notice of Intention to Consider Rescinding Freeway Adoption –
City of Gridley State Route 99**

Honorable Commission:

As you are aware, the City of Gridley was notified of a Caltrans Notice of Intent to rescind right of way properties located east of the City reserved for the Highway 99 bypass. Given the apparent growth pressures in Gridley, Live Oak and Yuba City, *and* given the inclusion of the bypass area in the City's long-term planning documents, the City has strenuously objected to the removal of this land reserved for highway use. The City of Gridley continues to request that Caltrans retain all of the right of way properties reserved for the Live Oak and Gridley bypass.

However, after several inter-agency meetings, the City realizes Caltrans will recommend rescission of these right of way properties to commence immediately with the understanding the sale could be delayed for up to two years in order to give the City (and possibly County) time to update our respective General Plans and formulate a plan to finance purchase of the parcels. The City also understands the Commission may approve favorable terms that would allow us to acquire the parcels needed for an alternative transportation route that would benefit both local and interregional travel.

The City appreciates Caltrans willingness to hold the properties until the end of 2009 which will allow the City time to update our General Plan. However, the City Council has some concerns on whether a full financial plan can be completed within this 2-year time frame. Please understand the difficult situation the City of Gridley faces – we are a small rural community with a population of 6,200 with twice the state average levels of poverty and unemployment. Although it may seem reasonable to request a financing plan and associated studies to purchase these properties, the task is difficult given City staff's current priority of coping with on-going development pressures and increased traffic through the City. In addition, the purchase of the properties will require inter-agency coordination due to the regional impacts resulting from this alternative transportation route.

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The City of Gridley will accept the route rescission request as presented, but hopes the Commission would entertain a future time extension request should it be necessary.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter. Planning for future transportation improvements in this area will be imperative to the economic health of our community.

Sincerely,



Jack Slota, City Administrator

**MR. WILL KEMPTON, DIRECTOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
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