

TAB 77

Alene Taylor & Judy Horn

Bob Alvarado, Chair

California Transportation Commission

Dear Mr. Alvarado,

We are writing today to encourage the California Transportation Board members to vote yes on agenda item #77 on your May 14th meeting agenda.

Kings County's number one transportation need for the last 20 years has been the widening of Highway 198 from the City of Hanford east to Highway 99 in Tulare County. Many had given up hope of ever seeing this project done. The local joke was "Yeah, that'll happen when Highway 198 gets widened. The price tag for this project had grown too large for a small rural county to ever afford. We were truly feeling like the "other California", not L.A., not San Francisco, and not important to Sacramento. Then Bond money became available and the California Transportation Commission (you) championed our cause and awarded us enough bond money to make this project doable. Please know how very grateful Kings County residents are for your actions. The fact that your Commission members stood firm on this allocation despite political pressure was much appreciated by those who live in Kings and Tulare County as well as the rest of the San Joaquin Valley.

Our county's economic need of this project is more critical today than ever before. Our agricultural base is shakier than we have seen it in our lifetimes (let's just say over 50 years) and the lose of jobs and tax revenue is devastating. Our unemployment rate is 16% and in some communities goes as high as 38%.

Moving this Highway 198 project forward, as your yes vote would do, is one of the few rays of hope that for our future economy that we have in Kings County. Thank you for your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Alene Taylor and Judy Horn

Founding members of Kings Partnership for Children

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DANNY D. GILMORE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

March 24, 2009

Ms. Bimla Rhinehart, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 "N" Street, Room 2221
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

I am writing to you today to express my full support for the proposed SR 198 widening project that is scheduled to be considered by the CTC at their meeting on Thursday, May 14th, 2009.

Prior to my election to the State Assembly I served as a California Highway Patrolman for 31 years. Fifteen of those years were spent as commander of the Hanford and Visalia CHP offices. As such, I am well aware of the public safety issues associated with the two lane stretch of SR 198 between the communities of Hanford and Visalia. Due to the high volume of traffic, coupled along with dense seasonal fog, this two lane section of SR 198 has and continues to present a clear and present danger to travelers. Too often, I responded to calls, many of them fatalities, on SR 198 that could have been avoided had there been additional lanes and safety features.

The proposed project that will be before the commission should be approved for a number of reasons. The dollars that have recently been made available under Proposition 1B are meant for projects such as SR 198. This is in fact a "shovel ready" project and is "advertising ready." Additionally, the total project is projected to be under budget. It is supported by both Kings and Tulare Counties and it will complete an entire freeway and will create much needed jobs. This project is a strong candidate for approval and an example of effective government investment.

I strongly endorse and support this proposed project and hope the CTC will consider it favorably.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danny D. Gilmore".

DANNY D. GILMORE
Assemblyman 30th District

DDG:ns1

Copy to M.T. 2/2
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May 12, 2009

Ms. Bimla Rhinehart, Executive Director
 California Transportation Commission
 1120 "N" Street, Room 2221
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Rhinehart:

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my full support of the proposed Route 198 widening project that will come before the CTC for funding consideration on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

As a long time supporter of this project, I am pleased to learn that funding has recently been made available through Proposition 1B. It is also my understanding that this project is not only "shovel ready" but also estimated to come under budget. We must take advantage of this perfect opportunity and see this expansion come to fruition and become a four lane road. This project is supported by many in Kings and Tulare Counties, as it will bring much needed jobs, lessen congestion and improve traffic safety.

I appreciate your favorable consideration of this project and if I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dean Florez
 DEAN FLOREZ
 California State Senate
 Sixteenth District