



SUNOL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 24, 2018

California Department of Transportation, District 4
ATTN: Brian Gassner, Office of Environmental Analysis
P.O. Box 23660, MS 8B
Oakland, CA 94623

Mr Gassner,

The Sunol Citizens' Advisory Council (SCAC) has reviewed the materials presented by Caltrans at the August 15, 2018 SCAC meeting. The Council appreciates CalTrans' efforts to alleviate traffic congestion in Sunol. During the presentation, it was stated that the Arroyo de la Laguna Creek Bridge will be designed to last 100 years.

The bridge is part of the entrance to Sunol and contributes to the character of Sunol, the Council believes that the bridge is an important aspect to planning the Sunol of the future. At the September 19, 2018 SCAC meeting the Council voted to submit the following comments to Caltrans on the proposed Arroyo de la Laguna Creek Bridge Project:

1. To adequately scope the project, the three alternatives proposed for analysis need to be expanded to include two additional alternatives.
 - a. A fourth alternative that includes safe bicycle passageways across the bridge. Bicycle access is a priority that supports the Regional Trail Development Plan.
 - b. A fifth alternative that angles the eastern end of the bridge slightly north to Sunol Boulevard so that cars are not approaching the intersection close to the Water Temple gate. The present bridge alignment combined with the increased speed of cars passing through a green light has the strong possibility of significantly impacting the Water Temple gates. The water Temple gates are historically significant and dear to the citizens of Sunol.
2. Alternative 3 with a left turn lane presupposes that an intersection will be built at Sunol Boulevard. We understand that signal lights will be installed as a medium-term project to address traffic as an interim solution; however, previous CalTrans reports have identified a round-about as a more satisfactory traffic control measure. It is recommended that Caltrans plan for the Bridge replacement to accommodate roundabouts at the intersection with Sunol Boulevard and at Main Street and Highway 84.
3. The project seems to be piecemealed from other CalTrans projects on Highway 84. Some of the other projects will increase traffic speeds and volume leading to Arroyo de la Laguna Creek Bridge and the intersection with Sunol Boulevard. The cumulative result

will be a significant impact to the rural feel of the community and diminish the pedestrian-friendly atmosphere.

4. The three alternatives for the project do not adequately recognize and support the historic values, aesthetics, and the "Scenic Corridor" designation of Niles Canyon in their design considerations. Alternatives 2 and 3 would result in a significant visual and cultural impact. The safety railings that obstruct views of the creek corridor and the surrounding landscapes are not acceptable given that this is one of the last places in Alameda County that can show a natural landscape.
5. When evaluating the impacts of the project alternatives, we ask that CalTrans ensure that the bridge substructure is designed to facilitate and improve the natural movement of anadromous fish which will be arriving soon with the completion of downstream obstruction removals/improvements.

Attached to this letter is a description of how the residents of Sunol would like the intersection of Niles Canyon Road, Sunol Boulevard, Paloma Way and the Water Temple entrance to look. On behalf of the Sunol Citizens' Advisory Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping of the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Connie De Grange
Councilmember

Cc: Scott Haggerty, Supervisor District 1
Richard Valle, Supervisor District 2
Each Member, Sunol Citizens Advisory Council

ATTACHMENT



HISTORIC SUNOL WATER TEMPLE ENTRY WAY RESTORATION

Some of the most significant historic structures in Sunol are the entry gates to the San Francisco Water Temple. This Water Temple was designed by Willis Polk and built in 1910. It has gone through a complete restoration in 2006. As an extension of the Water Temple, four structures of cast concrete were built to define the intersection at the entry on Calaveras Road (see photo above).

When the intersection of the Sunol Pleasanton Road and Calaveras Road was widened, two of the entryway structures were destroyed with no regard for their historic significance.

So, with that as background, we in the Sunol Community, ask that our elected officials see the value of preserving these historic landmarks. And that these officials demand that any work to improve the aforementioned intersection include the rebuilding of the four gateways that define the intersection as in the past (see attached design drawing).

This is the moment in time when the restoration of these significant historic structures can be accomplished. Now is the time, given that the intersection is being redesigned, that money can be allocated to pay tribute to our past.

RESTORED
CAST CONC.
GATEWAYS.

SUNO PLAS RD

150'

50'

50'

HWY. 84

SE WATER TOWER

171

PROPOSED
SUNO
ROUNDABOUT

