

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

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JEFF ALMQUIST
 FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 12/8/98

November 24, 1998

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 County of Santa Cruz
 701 Ocean Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: HIGHWAY 9 CORRIDOR

Dear Members of the Board:

The Highway 9 corridor through the San Lorenzo Valley constitutes one of the most heavily traveled two lane commute routes in Santa Cruz County. This State Highway passes through three town centers, the most central of which is Ben Lomond. Currently, a daily average of 20,000 motorists travel through Ben Lomond. Despite the recent completion of a repaving project in the center of Ben Lomond and installation of a new traffic signal, there are still a number of road, pedestrian and drainage improvements called for in the approved Town Plan that have not been accomplished.

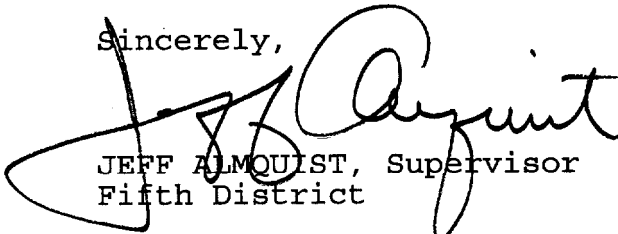
Staff in the Public Works Department have recently identified several potential sources of grant funds to pay for these improvements. Two possible funding sources identified by the department are the Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA) and Caltrans Minor A. The preliminary cost estimate is \$500,000 to complete curb, gutter, sidewalk, landscaping strip and drainage improvements from one end of town to the other. The TEA grant would need to be submitted in January, 1999; the 'Minor A' grant would follow on. Staff believes that this project is eligible for these sources of funding and that the amounts for which we would probably be eligible would be sufficient to cover the anticipated project cost.

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It is imperative that this project move forward with deliberate speed in light of the funding cycles involved. Therefore, in order to continue to enhance our opportunity to make these improvements to the Highway 9 corridor, I request that the Board direct the Department of Public Works to take the following actions:

1. Allocate and expend the time and staff commitment needed to apply for possible funding sources and return to the Board for final approval of any grant application;
2. In the event funding is approved, to implement the grants and implement those improvements proposed by the Ben Lomond Town Plan that are within the scope of the funded project, including completion of the roadsides and drainage improvements consistent with the Ben Lomond Town Plan; and
3. Negotiate any needed agreements with Caltrans to complete the project.

Sincerely,



JEFF ALMQUIST, Supervisor
Fifth District

JA:ted

cc: Public Works Department

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