



0171

County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 5/21/02

May 15, 2002

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

RE: TRAFFIC CAPACITY ON SOQUEL AVENUE

Dear Members of the Board:

As you are probably aware, the City of Santa Cruz is currently considering some elimination of auto traffic lanes on Soquel Avenue. Since there are *so* few traffic lanes that run to and from Santa Cruz from the east, the elimination of one lane would be a 20 percent reduction in traffic capacity. The City is currently conducting workshop meetings and it has not yet chosen one plan, although there is a preferred alternative that is being recommended by a task force.

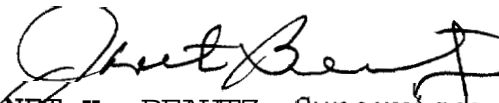
Given the congestion that currently exists on Soquel Avenue and other roads coming into and out of the City, it is clear that any plan that reduces traffic capacity is going to have significant consequences as to safety, the environment and neighborhood issues.

Based on my discussions with County Counsel, it is our understanding that just as building a new traffic lane would be a project under CEQA, so too is eliminating one. Thus, it seems absolutely necessary that the City do an Environmental Impact Report before making any of the changes contemplated. I have been told by a City representative that no EIR has been done and that a decision may be considered by the City Council as early as June.

I would therefore recommend that the Board direct the County Administrative Officer to take the following actions:

1. Request that the City of Santa Cruz provide in writing the time line for approval of any project affecting traffic capacity on Soquel Avenue.
2. Communicate to Santa Cruz City staff that our Board believes that a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report must be done before any project affecting traffic capacity on Soquel Avenue is approved.
3. Provide a report back to the Board regarding the above and any other information that may be obtained in regard to this project on our agenda of June 4, 2002.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Supervisor
First District

JKB:ted

cc: County Administrative Officer

3080A1