

PROJECT 101

Widening Sonoma County's Corridor

September 25, 2003



Mayor Armando Flores
Members of the Rohnert Park City Council
City of Rohnert Park
6750 Commerce Blvd
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Dear Mayor Flores and Members of the City Council:

The Highway 101 Political Action Committee is comprised of local business leaders, including the County's largest employers, who have worked for over two years toward securing federal and state funding for improvements to U.S. 101. Our businesses and employees depend heavily on this transportation artery, and are deeply affected by its present inadequate condition. Needless to say, any further adverse impacts to this "freeway" are of even greater concern.

We take no position whatsoever on whether or not the proposed casino along Stony Point Road in Rohnert Park is a good idea for the City or County. We are astonished, however, that absolutely no environmental impact report has been submitted for this project, nor has any traffic study been performed. Proposed mitigation funds for the casino project omit improvements to Highway 101 altogether (with the exception of a freeway interchange improvement that serves to benefit the casino).

There can be no doubt whatsoever that a casino drawing as many as 10,000-20,000 automobiles a day along with a 300 room hotel and 2000 seat auditorium will have substantial adverse impact on Highway 101. It will also impact Stony Point Road, which many motorists now use as an alternative to US 101 and Hwy 116. It is incomprehensible to us that thousands of Sonoma County residents and visitors will be affected for years to come by worsened conditions on our major transportation routes and yet there is no information available about the nature and extent of this effect, nor are there any plans to mitigate it.

If the plans our group has helped develop are successful, and if we achieve the funding levels we are working toward, we can expect to see improvements on U.S. 101 by the end of this decade. We hope to complete three lanes all the way in ten years.

We believe it is unconscionable to negotiate for benefits to the public from the casino project and totally ignore one of the single biggest factors that can affect the lives of all our citizens for years to come. We hope you will join us by insisting that appropriate information be provided to the public through reputable traffic studies, and that all adverse effects of the casino on our major transportation artery be mitigated.

Sincerely,

Barry Weitzenberg
Chairman

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Mike Thompson

Representative Mike Thompson
Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton
Honorable Gray Davis, Governor

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