MEMORANDUM

to Nieves Castro, Project Manager, Caltrans District 3 Planning

from Joan Chaplick, Public Involvement Specialist, MIG, Inc.

re SR 99 Soundwall Community Safety and Enhancement Project
November 1, 2010 Meeting Summary

date November 19, 2010

Participants

Terri Bridges, Caltrans Headquarters
Nieves Castro, Caltrans District 3 Planning
Bobbe Dworkis, Sacramento County Neighborhood Services
Eva-Marie Gordon, Caltrans District 3 Excess Lands
Hilary Gould, Sacramento County Neighborhood Services
Rusty Grout, Caltrans District 3 Maintenance
John Wells, Caltrans District 3 Maintenance
Joan Chaplick, MIG Inc.
Nicole Lewis, MIG Inc.

Welcome and Review Meeting Purpose and Outcomes

Joan Chaplick welcomed meeting participants and invited a round of introductions. The purpose of the meeting was to debrief on the community meeting that was held on Monday, October 25th, determine how to best respond to community concerns, and identify next steps in community outreach.

Discussion of Community Meeting Results

Team members discussed the results of the October 25th community meeting. Members felt that the meeting went very well overall and for some, exceeded expectations. Success was in part due to the high level of community participation. The outreach strategy, which focused on one-on-one conversations as a follow-up to the mailed postcards, was successful. Participants were pleased to have a chance to give their input and be heard.

Although the Team was not able to answer every question, they were able to answer most and responded honestly when they didn't have an answer and would need to follow-up. The responses were specific and practical and did not over promise. Nieves commented that the honesty in responses increased the Team credibility.

Hilary noted that the resident's willingness to participate is a vital first step in the community outreach process. Providing food and child care and a convenient meeting location made it easier to attract participants. The facility was clean and well-furnished and very suitable for the purpose of the meeting. If possible, the same meeting location should be used for future meetings.

MIG should update the FAQs as soon as possible and the Team should continue to communicate with the community. For future meetings, we should publicize that the child care provider is bi-lingual.

Key Issue Discussion

The main area of resistance, understandably, arose from the individual needs and concerns of homeowners.

I. Tree Maintenance and Removal:
Caltrans has mapped and recorded trees and identified which needed to be removed. In this process four properties have been under evaluation. The evaluation needs to be finalized. This hasn't been done rather it was discussed at a subsequent meeting with Steve. He asked for Landscape to evaluate the area to determine how many trees should be removed because they are unhealthy and how many would remain to determine cost. This is pending.

Caltrans needs to confirm who is responsible for the removal of these trees. Participants want to know not only who must pay for tree removal, but what party is responsible if the tree is not removed and causes damage by falling or losing branches.

John suggested an evaluation of the entire corridor to determine which trees need to be removed versus which need additional care such as pruning. Joan seconded the appropriateness of this action since the project is moving to the next level of strategic action.

Eva wanted to confirm that Caltrans was not promising to remove every tree. Rusty reminded the Team of the importance of applying for a green tree removal permit; Caltrans can't simply go ahead and cut trees down.

The County is concerned with the loss of valuable tree canopy if the trees are removed. Nieves suggested a rationale for removing the trees; due to their potential to cause damage they have become a large liability to Caltrans. In order to minimize both liability and respond to community concern, it was suggested that Caltrans develop guiding principles or criteria to help describe the conditions under which a tree should be removed within the project area. For example, one criteria might be to identify the trees that may fall on a home. Bobbe suggested there be a balance between removing a hazardous tree and retaining the tree canopy of the existing mature trees.

Joan recognized the need to set forth a step by step process to maintain the project's momentum.

John raised the question about trees on the new property lines in the path of the fence? Of the 48 properties, there may only be a handful of trees that are right on the property line. It will be important to determine who is responsible for these trees.

It was suggested that the Team identify community resources that may be available to provide advice about the trees. The UC Cooperative Extension Master Tree Gardner program was identified as a possible resource. It was noted that it will be a challenge to remove trees given the lack of working space and proximity to the homes and sound wall.

At the meeting, community members expressed concern about the removal of fallen debris, particularly at the fence line. In some places the mulch is 12-18 inches deep, though this varies from property to property. Caltrans does not want to promise the removal of the debris since it would be a significant action and it is not required. Caltrans will remove downed limbs and other larger debris before the properties are transferred, but not the mulch. When Caltrans fells a tree, the property owner has first right to the wood before it is removed. This work, in addition to the fencing will be a lot of activity for Caltrans to accomplish in a short timeframe. Rusty suggested setting up a meeting with Steve to address the tree removal concerns of the community.

II. Potential Property Tax Increase:
Participants were concerned about a potential property tax increase,. Appraisers will be doing a valuation process as of the date of transfer. Due to a parcel's limited access and size it is more than likely a token value would be attributed to it. It is not until it's sold that they will look at these issues:

III. Owner's Maintenance Responsibility
Eva reminded meeting members that if work is done on someone's property, it will be left in adequate condition. After a fencing and clean-up process, the property becomes the owner's responsibility. This should be made prominent in project materials given the number of questions received at the community meeting. A next step would be to clearly define owner maintenance responsibilities.

IV. Individual Issues Requiring Follow-up
Sheri and Cesar have unique issues with their property and have requested help. It was agreed that someone would follow-up with them. Sheri sent an email with a question about the sound wall and its role in reducing soot and pollution. Eva will follow up with Steve
Rusty shared that the soundwall was never intended to stop pollution. A response to her questions would be helpful.

There were some specific questions about the trees. Cirilo Hernandez wanted to know about a specific he wanted to plant. John will follow-up.

Joan reminded the group about one of the properties (Sherri's father's property) had an incorrect address on the poster. She provided the correct information at the meeting.

Cesar Placencia was concerned about a tree that appeared to be growing at a 45 degree angle tree. His property is at 5912 Mascot Avenue and this can be handled through the tree evaluation process.

John needs to follow up with the owner from 5916 Mascot who was concerned about the potential burden of additional maintenance.

Number of people who attended community meetings during various phases:

- 3 people from phase 1
- 0 from phase 2
- 7 from phase 3
- 1 from phase 4
- 2 tenants from Mascot (part of the 7 attendees for phase 3)

One of the FAQs should address how the multiple fences will serve as a deterrent. People may not understand that a criminal is not likely to cut more than one fence. Eva suggested highlighting Sumac Lane as an example to help illustrate that point.

There was some concern about the possibility of breaches in the wall. In these areas, cyclone fencing is easily cut so using something more substantial should be considered. With multiple fences up cyclone fencing should be an effective enough deterrent.

Community Outreach Activities

The group discussed what the next steps should be for community outreach activities. It was noted that Hilary will not be available for door to door activities during the first two weeks of November.

It was determined that it will take two more weeks to get deeds from Jacob. Contracts or deeds will not be sent out until we have answers to many of the questions answered at the meeting. By December 1st there will probably be materials ready for Phase 1 owners to sign. Based on this, fences may go up in February depending on weather. The first phase of documents should go to the CTC at the January 2011 meeting.

The team will focus on getting questions answered and updating materials within the next two – three weeks. The group discussed hosting a community meeting in the 3rd week of January. The

team will need to prepare in advance for a presentation to Delivery Hour. Nieves will coordinate getting on the agenda for this meeting.

There was discussion of potentially doing a focus meeting for Spanish speakers.

Caltrans will be ready to issue a press release once the fencing goes in. A press release prior to this activity may not be effective.

Next Steps and Next Meeting

Team members identified the following next steps and action items to take place in advance of the next team meeting:

- Update FAQs and label with prominent updated date (MIG).
- Confirm owner maintenance responsibilities so that it is clearly spelled out for the Community (John).
- Notify/contact Steve Kirkpatrick and share community feedback re: trees. Ask for Steve to request approval from Jeff Bodey to evaluate trees in Phase 1. (Rusty)
- Update project website with community meeting announcement, an updated slideshow, and other updated materials as needed (MIG).
- Design and produce draft materials for community meeting, including a mailer/postcard with meeting information (MIG).
- Conduct a more detailed tree survey of the entire 99 corridor, particularly of trees targeted for removal (Caltrans Landscape).
- Set up meeting with Steve to address the tree removal concerns of community (Nieves)
- Follow up with Steve regarding Sheri's question about sound wall height variation (Eva.) Nieves to send Sheri's address to Bobbe, Hilary, Eva, and Joan for correction.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, December 15, 10am to 12pm. Caltrans District 3, 2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento. The meeting agenda will include preparation for the community meeting and presentation at Delivery Hour.