TAB 15

PATRICIA C. BATES
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September 25, 2009

California Transportation Commission
1220 N. Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Funding for San Clemente Sound Walls

Dear Members of California Transportation Commission:

I am writing to urge you to consider making the proposed freeway sound wall projects in City of San Clemente a priority in your next round of funding allocations.

The proposed sound walls in San Clemente, at El Camino Real along the southbound San Diego Freeway (I-5) and at Avenida Vaquero along the northbound I-5, are important projects that have great support in the City of San Clemente and the surrounding region.

Noise study results found the retrofit noise barriers were feasible and were cost effective, with construction dependent on the availability of State funds. To date, a significant amount of money and effort has been put forth to design and develop the sound walls. Based on the Orange County Transportation Authority's evaluation of the retrofit sound wall program, the sound walls in the San Clemente community ranked highest within the County of Orange.

Most importantly, the El Camino Real project addresses both sound and safety issues, as there is a history of cars running off the freeway at that location. Additionally, environmental approval and permits may lapse due to any further delay. For example, the California Coastal Commission permit will expire in March, 2010. The environmental studies may also need to be updated if the projects are delayed much longer.

For these reasons, I urge you to reconsider making the San Clemente sound wall projects a priority for receiving funding. These projects are very important to the residents of San Clemente and all of south Orange County and will provide a safer, less noisy freeway. A significant amount of time and money has already been put forth toward completing these projects, and it is important that they are given the opportunity to be completed.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA C. BATES
Chair, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Fifth District

CC: Bob Alvarado, Chairman, California Transportation Commission

Lucy Dunn, Commissioner, California Transportation Commission

Will Kempton, CEO, Orange County Transportation Authority

Bill Cameron, City Manager, City of San Clemente