

June 26, 2023

VIA EMAIL ONLY:

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California Transportation Commission
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RE: BOB JONES TRAIL EXTENSION

Dear Reinie Jones:

As a major property owner along the proposed Bob Jones Trail, I am requesting that your Commission deny the County's request for a time extension for the following reasons.

The County of San Luis Obispo has been advised for over 20 years that this route for a public trail is very dangerous due to periodic, severe flooding. This fact was proven recently by the severe flooding that occurred this year in this location resulting in extensive damage to all properties in this location.

This flooding most likely would have destroyed all fencing proposed by this project, numerous portions of the trail, and probable damage to the proposed bridges. In addition, it is very likely numerous lives would have been lost.

The proposed trail in this area would also invite the homeless to move in and create camps along the creek which is already a major problem on the existing Bob Jones Trail promoting crime, fire hazards, and unsanitary conditions. The City and County have not been able to solve this continuing problem.

The fire hazard that would be created by this trail location is severe! It would endanger approximately 30 existing homes which are directly uphill adjacent to the trail in a wooded area. Specifically, the Bunnell Ranch, Baron Canyon, and others.

All property owners along this trail suffered serious property damage during this winter's storms and flooding. The County, in its extension request, failed to mention that three other property owners have joined in a lawsuit against the County and have denied access to their properties for trail planning and have stated that they will not provide easements.

Surely there are enough common-sense people on your Commission to realize that this is a very bad and dangerous investment for the public. If the same money and effort were spent on improving the existing trail on the west side of the highway, it could be made a safe and desirable route above the freeway instead of below and adjacent to where the users are subjected to the danger of vehicles running off the highway which does occur periodically. That route would also not be a draw for the homeless population.

As one of the major property owners along this proposed route, for over 40 years, I have seen it

flood as many as 7 times in one year and have seen flood waters 8 to 10 feet deep over areas where the trail is proposed. I will not allow this trail to be built through my property.

I hope you will have the common sense and courage to deny an extension of time for this project. It is time to get realistic and deny this project for the benefit and safety of the public. This project as proposed is a complete waste of funds. It will cost the County serious annual maintenance costs and most likely lead to a serious disastrous event including the loss of lives. With continuing upstream development, the flooding issues will only get worse.

I have recently been offered over \$200,000 for an easement by the County which I intend to reject. I have no intention to provide an easement for this project, which I have made clear for over 20 years.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Ray Bunnell
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cc: Board of Supervisors