

10/19/20

To: California Transportation Commission

From: Tom Becker

Subject: Funding for VMT and GHG inducing project, Commission meeting 10/21/20

Dear Commission members,

This is a public comment letter for tabs 61, 89(16) and 102, to be submitted into the record for the CTC meeting of October 21, 2020.

The addition of HOV lanes on Highway 101 in South Santa Barbara County is a project acknowledged by the State of California and the County of Santa Barbara to be VMT and GHG inducing.

Currently, Coastal Development Permits (CDP) for segments of the HOV project are being appealed to the California Coastal Commission for violating Coastal Act Section 30253(4), which requires all new construction located in the coastal zone, including major public works projects, To minimize energy consumption and VMT.

In 2017, an alternative to the HOV project was submitted to CalTrans during the review period of the Draft REIR for the project. That alternative was based on policies and guidelines being developed at the time for the implementation of SB743. It called for improving conditions on Highway 101 by reducing VMT from the 2014 baseline through good planning and development strategies. No construction would be required for the alternative. The alternative would have a 50%+ reduction in VMT and GHG compared to the HOV project. The appeals to the Coastal Commission request that alternative be studied for VMT impacts, and compared to the HOV project VMT impacts.

I am requesting all funding for the VMT and GHG inducing Highway 101 project be delayed until all CDP and other permits have received final approval. If the state approves funding, then that is conclusive proof the State of California is being less than honest when it declares to federal agencies and federal courts that it is acting in good faith in its attempts to reduce VMT and GHG.

Thank you,

Tom Becker

Buellton, CA

tsbecker069@gmail.com

CC: Andrew Wheeler, U.S EPA

Mary Nichols, CARB

