

January 07, 2022

California Transportation Commission
Mitch Weiss, Executive Director
1120 N Street MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Deferment of Deadlines – Covelo SR 162 Multi-Purpose Trail

Dear Mr. Weiss:

My name is Kathy Britton, I am a long time resident of Round Valley since 1965. I would like to express support for allowing additional time to complete project development for the Covelo SR 162 Multi-Purpose Trail being implemented by the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG). I understand that allowing additional time for the project would require an exception to standard procedures. However, the extreme need for this project and its unique aspects warrant an exception.

There is a very high and well documented accident rate along SR 162. Due to that we have had many fatalities, most of which were vehicle vs. pedestrian collisions. Although SR 162 is a State highway, it also serves as the main street through Covelo, and the valley proper. Since the time that MCOG began the environmental review on this project, at least three more pedestrians have been killed in the project area. Many in the Round Valley community have suffered because there is no safe place to walk through the community. Children and adults cannot safely ride their bicycles on the roadway either. This project will provide a safe alternative to walking or riding in the lanes of traffic on the State highway.

The Covelo and Round Valley community is a disadvantaged, underserved and underrepresented community. Median income is far below the statewide average. Due to our rural nature and remote location, the community has little access to basic services and our infrastructure needs are often ignored. In addition to the terrible safety problems on our roads, our community has suffered in recent years from crime, fires, and severe pandemic related impacts. The trail project will help address some of the inequity that we have long experienced.

In addition to the unique need for this project, the implementation is also very unique. This project was identified many years ago as part of a community-wide planning project of the Round Valley Indian Tribes. MCOG agreed to implement the trail project on behalf of the community. Unfortunately, MCOG discovered late in the project that they don't have the authority to carry out all of the project development tasks independently and had to ask Caltrans to take on some of that responsibility in order to move forward with the project. This agreement between agencies took nearly a year to resolve and put all right-of-way actions on hold. We understand that this unexpected but necessary transfer of responsibilities is very unusual, and one of the highly unique aspects of this project. We also understand that deferment of deadlines has been allowed by the CTC in similar situations when agreements between agencies required considerable time.

Thank you for considering a deferment of deadlines to allow time needed to complete project development, which will provide the fastest path to construction and ensure that the entire project is completed, including the portion adjacent to the state highway as well as the east-west portion that runs entirely through Round Valley Indian Tribes land.

The California Transportation Commission has the power to keep this project moving forward and ultimately save lives. We encourage you to use that power to help our community.

Should you have any questions, I may be reached at XXX or by email at XXX

Sincerely,



Kathy Britton

Covelo, California 95428

From: Jon Chapman
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2022 8:34 PM
To: California Transportation Commission@CATC
Subject: Covelo CA 95428 highway 162

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

I am emailing you concerning the bike path and walkway that is to be installed on highway 162 Heading into town. You need to extend the time frame to be able to get this done anymore stalls in making this happen will result in loss of life remember that when you make your decision if you stall this project you will be taking somebody's life or father a brother a sister a mother a daughter etc etc. I already know too many people that have been hit and even killed on that road in the exact same location they're putting this path this path should have been put in 20 years ago don't delay delaymake this happen And thanks in advance