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SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE CLIMATE CRISIS

November 29, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) request that the California Transportation Commission approve the installation of suicide deterrent fences along the Arroyo Simi Overhead Bridges in Moorpark. It is my understanding that the project is included in a list of proposed new 2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Amendments to be considered at the California Transportation Commission regular meeting on December 7 and December 8, 2022, in Riverside, California.

In 2021, a Suicide Prevention Task Force was formed to seek physical and community-based solutions to deter suicides and suicide attempts at the Arroyo Simi Overhead Bridges, which connect Highways 118 and 23 in Ventura County. The task force included representatives and elected members of VCTC, Caltrans, City of Moorpark, California Highway Patrol, Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura County Suicide Prevention Council, and the Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center. The months of discussions have resulted in a plan to construct a safety barrier system along the Arroyo Simi Overhead Bridges, as well as community-based measures intended to prevent suicides and suicide attempts.

The safety and well-being of our community members are always of utmost importance, as is the safety of motorists traveling along highways. Unfortunately, numerous suicides and suicide attempts have occurred at the Arroyo Simi Overhead Bridges, at times resulting in the tragic loss of life. The addition of suicide deterrent fences is a critical component of a planned multi-pronged approach intended to help protect people during times of crisis.

For these reasons, I am respectfully requesting that the California Transportation Commission give full and fair consideration to the VCTC request to approve the installation of suicide deterrent fences along the Arroyo Simi Overhead Bridges in Moorpark proposed in the new 2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Amendments, consistent with all the relevant rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress