DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Supervisors Stetson and Pickard
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve letter to Yosemite National Park Superintendent Tollefson supporting a possible acceleration of the timeframe for either a short-term fix or for a major reconstruction of the one-mile segment of the El Portal Road from Big Oak Flat Road Intersection to the Pohono Bridge.

The draft letter is attached, along with information from Yosemite National Park relative to this project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

There was discussion concerning this matter during Board Information and with the item concerning the continuation of the local emergency due to the landslides on Highway 140 enroute to Yosemite National Park on December 5, 2006, and the Board asked that the matter be scheduled on the December 12th agenda.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No  Current FY Cost: $  
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded  
Amount in Budget: $  
Additional Funding Needed: $  
Source:  
Internal Transfer  
Unanticipated Revenue  
Transfer Between Funds  
Contingency  
( ) General  ( ) Other  

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No  Current FY Cost: $  
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded  
Amount in Budget: $  
Additional Funding Needed: $  
Source:  
Internal Transfer  
Unanticipated Revenue  
Transfer Between Funds  
Contingency  
( ) General  ( ) Other  

CLERK’S USE ONLY:

Res. No. #563  Ord. No. _____
Vote – Ayes: 5  Noes: _____
Absent: _____
Approved  
Minute Order Attached  ( ) No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office. 
Date: 
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board County of Mariposa, State of California
By: Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

☑ Requested Action Recommended  
☐ No Opinion  
Comments: 

CAO: 

Revised Dec. 2002
December 12, 2006

Superintendent Michael Tollefsen
Yosemite National Park
Post Office Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

RE: El Portal Road Reconstruction – Pohono Bridge to Big Oak Flat Road Intersection

Dear Superintendent Tollefsen:

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors is greatly concerned about the timeframe of the El Portal Road Reconstruction. This matter if not addressed as promptly as possible could create irrevocable harm to our County’s tourism based industries and the regional communities who are vitally linked to Yosemite National Park.

It seemed absolutely clear at the Mariposa public scoping session on Thursday, November 30th, that the potential (and all too likely) collapse of the roadbed would be economically devastating to our County. Our recent experience with the closure of Highway 140 due to the rockslide was a severe blow to our tourist season and to have three of the four access roads to Yosemite Valley closed to our visitors would clearly dwarf that impact.

While the long-term fix is still being evaluated, it is our understanding that the National Park Service [NPS] expects to focus on some short-term patch work, probably commencing in the Fall of 2007. Again, as mentioned above, if a collapse were to occur it would have a catastrophic effect on the economic viability for not only Mariposa County but for much of the surrounding region as well. Therefore the County of Mariposa strongly supports any means possible in accelerating the timeframe for either a short-term fix or for a major reconstruction of the one-mile segment of the El Portal Road from Big Oak Flat Road Intersection to the Pohono Bridge. It is imperative that health and safety not be jeopardized throughout this process. Further, we support a construction process that allows the road to remain open, with as little delay to our residents (commuters) and visitors as is practical.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this very critical matter and please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

LEE STETSON
Chairman

LS/BP/mbh

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congress Member George Radanovich
TO:       CHAIRMAN STETSON, District I  
          SUPERVISOR PICKARD, District V

FROM:    MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Approve a Letter to Yosemite National Park Superintendent Tollefson Supporting a Possible Acceleration of the Timeframe for Either a Short-Term Fix or for a Major Reconstruction of the One-Mile Segment of the El Portal Road from Big Oak Flat Road Intersection to the Pohono Bridge

RESOLUTION 06-563

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on December 12, 2006

ACTION AND VOTE:

Approve a Letter to Yosemite National Park Superintendent Tollefson Supporting a Possible Acceleration of the Timeframe for Either a Short-Term Fix or for a Major Reconstruction of the One-Mile Segment of the El Portal Road from Big Oak Flat Road Intersection to the Pohono Bridge (Supervisors Stetson and Pickard)

BOARD ACTION: (M)Pickard, (S)Bibby, Res. 06-563 was adopted approving the letter. Supervisor Bibby noted that there was a new draft letter provided to the Board.

Chairman Stetson called for input from the public:

Leroy Radanovich, Interim Tourism Coordinator, stated he feels the point is that the Park Service has declared this portion of road to be dangerous with eminent potential of failure and he asked who assumes the liability. He suggested that the request be for immediate repairs to ensure that the road is no longer dangerous in the interim of the permanent reconstruction.

Dick Hutchinson referred to the mention at a meeting of the culverts on the road that are cracking; and he stated he feels that we need to keep pressure on this matter to get the road fixed.

Supervisor Pickard advised of discussions with Superintendent Tollefson and Congressman Radanovich on this matter. The motion was amended, agreeable with the maker and second, to include in the letter that it is imperative that health and safety not be jeopardized throughout this process and for the letter to be distributed to our legislators/Ayes: Unanimous. Supervisor Bibby noted that individual comments are also allowed.

Cc:     File