MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JEFF GREEN, County Counsel

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Letter to CalTrans Regarding Stop Signs
Resolution No. 02-447

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,

ADOPTED THIS Order on December 17, 2002

ACTION AND VOTE:

Chairman Stewart;
Approve a Letter to CalTrans Regarding the Installation of the Stop Signs at the Intersection of Highways 140 and 49 North

BOARD ACTION: Chairman Stewart initiated discussion relative to the stop sign project, and expressed concern with the status of pending projects for Darrah Road/Highway 49 South intersection, Old Highway bridge replacement, STIP funding, and the downtown sidewalks.

Supervisor Pickard advised of the meeting he and Supervisor Reilly attended with representatives of CalTrans on Friday relative to these issues. Supervisor Parker noted that they are still discussing the downtown sidewalks issue.

(M)Balmain, (S)Parker, Res. 02-447 was adopted approving the letter/Ayes: Balmain, Stewart, Parker, Pickard; Abstained: Reilly.

cc: Jim Petropulos, Public Works Director
    File
December 17, 2002

Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 94274

Re: Installation of Stop Signs at the Intersection of Highways 140 and 49 North in the Community of Mariposa

Dear Mr. Morales:

The Board of Supervisors (Board) would like to take this opportunity to express our concern and disillusionment with the process which has been used leading up to the installation of stop signs in the community of Mariposa. The Board as well as the community of Mariposa has expressed disagreement with the installation of the stop signs on a number of occasions to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). However, all of the concerns raised by the Board and the community have been ignored by Caltrans. Several months ago a representative of Caltrans made a presentation to the Board relative to Caltrans’ “new look” wherein it was represented that Caltrans wanted to pursue a more collaborative process with local entities. We have seen no evidence that that “new look” has been implemented in Mariposa County. One example of the frustration that the Board has experienced relative to this matter surrounds a proposed public hearing that was scheduled by Caltrans relative to the installation of the stop signs. However, with very little advance notice Caltrans cancelled the public hearing and when called to obtain the reason for the cancellation a member of the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors was informed that the meeting was cancelled as a result of a request by the local government. The Board at no time requested cancellation of the public hearing. Quite the contrary, the Board was extremely interested in attending the public hearing.

It is the position of the Board that Caltrans failed to adequately follow the California Environmental Quality Act prior to the decision being made to install the stop signs. Additionally, it is the position of the Board that Caltrans used faulty information as a basis for its decision. Caltrans has justified the installation of the stop signs as a result of accidents occurring at the intersection. However, when you investigate the data that Caltrans used you will see that the accidents in most instances did not occur at the intersection but occurred at encroachments on to Highways 140 and 49.

The Board is extremely concerned that the installation of the stop signs is a prelude to installation of stoplights. The Board has taken a position since this issue was first discussed by Caltrans opposing stoplights at the intersection and will continue to do so vigorously.
Jeff Morales  
Director of Caltrans  
December 17, 2002

It is the position of the Board that Caltrans has provided no information, which in any way would justify the installation of stoplights at the intersection. The Board respectfully requests that you take whatever action is necessary to assure the Board and the County’s citizens that the Board will have meaningful input and be a full partner in discussions of any decisions to install stoplights in Mariposa County.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Robert C. Stewart, Chairman  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

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cc: Senator Chuck Poochigian  
Assemblyman Dave Cogdill  
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors  
Dana Cowell, California Dept. of Transportation Chief of Transportation Planning  
Mark Leja, California Dept. of Transportation District 10 Director  
Dinah Bortner, California Dept. of Transportation Chief of Maintenance & Operations  
Arthur G. Baggett, Jr., Chairman, State Water Resources Control Board  
James Petropulos, Mariposa County Public Works Director  
Amy Roberts, Mariposa County Transportation Planner  
Eric Toll, Planning Director