

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Board of Supervisors

FY 2000 Inventory Items #124



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James T. Beall, Jr.
Supervisor, Fourth District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 9, 1999

TO: Board of Supervisors
Richard Wittenberg, County Executive

FROM: James T. Beall, Jr. *Jim Beall*
Supervisor, District 4

cc: Gary Graves
Phyllis Perez, Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Budget proposal for the extension of a soundwall along San
Tomas Expressway

It is requested that the Board of Supervisors consider a one-time allocation of \$50,000 for a 100 lineal foot extension of the soundwall along northbound San Tomas Expressway in the City of Campbell. The funds should come from the Roads and Airports Department's Budget. This proposal will construct a soundwall between the terminus of the current soundwall and the southern boundary of Merrimac Drive's right of way.

The Hamilton East Homeowners Association (HEHA) notified my office of several safety and quality of life issues that would be ameliorated with the extension of the existing soundwall.

There are significant safety concerns that result from ending a soundwall at the exact edge of a residential complex. There is little protection for the neighborhood from errant vehicles on northbound San Tomas Expressway because the soundwall does not extend beyond the end of the residential complex. There is no protection from vehicles on northbound San Tomas Expressway that leave the roadway at an angle. The California Highway Patrol has informed my office that within the last twelve months there have

been 13 vehicular accidents along northbound San Tomas Expressway between Hamilton Avenue and Payne Avenue.

The soundwall will provide the security requisite to fulfill the HEHA's desire to create a quiet space for the enjoyment of the outdoors and peaceful contemplation. The City of Campbell and the HEHA have worked together for many years to enhance the vacant lot at the western terminus of Merrimac Drive. The City of Campbell has graciously provided four Ornamental Pear trees and ten Redwood trees. The HEHA has irrigated and pruned the trees and maintained the appearance of the area. There are plans for the addition of a bench and grass. The City of Campbell Public Works and Community Development Departments have indicated that they would be willing to recommend the vacation of the Merrimac Drive terminus to the City Council. The last remaining piece of the plan is the soundwall.

The expressways are the jurisdiction of the County. Therefore, quality of life and safety concerns that result from the design, construction, or operation of the expressways are paramount. Precedent for this proposal can be found in the provision of enhancements to County expressways in Palo Alto and San Jose.

The Roads and Airports Department generated the cost estimate at my request. It is attached to this proposal for your review.

JTB:sc

County of Santa Clara

Roads and Airports Department

101 Skyport Drive
San Jose, California 95110-1302



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 21, 1999

To: Michael Murdter, Director,
Roads & Airports Department

From: Craig Petersen, Assistant Civil Engineer
Highway Design

Subject: Cost estimate for soundwall on San Tomas Expressway per Sean Charpentier

A field check revealed that existing sound wall is a 6' high precast concrete wall. An additional 100 LF would start at the edge of the last townhouse and protect the terminus of Merrimac Drive. We estimate the total cost to be \$50,000, which includes county labor costs for engineering & construction.

cc: J. Randall.
R. Parsons.
D. Collen