

Agenda Item E.1 Update on the Design of the Los Carneros Widening

Mayor and Council,

I am very concerned that the vacation of a ROW easement that is important to the community is on the September 3rd agenda with a deceptive title. Item E.1 Update on the Design of the Los Carneros Widening is really about the relinquishing of public easement for the Heritage Ridge development. The developer needs the easement because they didn't design the project to fit the site.

The County didn't vacate the easement because they knew there would be need for the easement in the future. You had asked to receive information on potential future projects that would be needed for the easement. There is currently a known use, it is the addition of sidewalk, curb, and gutter and this should be planned for... Pedestrians are just as important as bicyclists and are entitled to safe access along Los Carneros. This is a project that should be included in any discussion of the easements.

The easements can't be vacated unless according to Street and Highway Code Section 8324 " it is unnecessary for present or prospective public use". The Right Of Way can't be vacated if there will be need for it in the future, there is one and there will be others.

The staff report says that if a sidewalk, curb, and gutter are wanted later, the City will have to buy the land back (from Towbes). From the staff report, **"If the proposed right-of-way discussed herein was approved by the City and then sometime in the future both curb, gutter and sidewalk and a Class I bike were desired, the City would likely have to obtain additional right-of-way from the adjacent property owner at a cost and would likely have to build a retaining wall along the right-of-way to enable the improvements."** This project and as yet unknown projects will cost the City if the easements are given away to Heritage Ridge now.

I noticed that Attachment 1 showed the easement south of Calle Koral was also being shown as being relinquish to Towbes. There is not any public discussion of this in the report nor has there been any previously. The way this was deceptively noticed and south of Calle Koral easement being part of the Los Carneros project but not being discussed makes this entire agenda item seems questionable.

I ask that you take no action and retain the easements for the use of the community.

Barbara

September 2, 2019

From: "Goleta, CA" <webmaster@cityofgoleta.org>
Date: August 31, 2019 at 4:55:10 PM PDT
To: "Kasdin, Stuart" <skasdin@cityofgoleta.org>
Subject: Heritage Ridge give away
Reply-To: Gary Vandeman <vangaryvan@gmail.com>

Message submitted from the <Goleta, CA> website.

Site Visitor Name: Gary Vandeman
Site Visitor Email: vangaryvan@gmail.com

I am opposed to giving away land that narrows the options for future road improvements. The eventual development of Bishop Ranch will create additional traffic on Los Carneros Road. Keep our options open. In fact, I suggest getting more land from Heritage Ridge in trade for releasing a large parcel of developmental property to them.

Keep the options open!

Gary Vandeman