

MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: TERESA McCLISH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
AGENDA ITEM 10.a. – MARCH 26, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CONSIDERATION OF A PROJECT STATUS UPDATE AND
RECOMMENDATION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE
BRISCO-HALCYON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT**

DATE: MARCH 26, 2019

Staff was alerted yesterday by Ms. Lara that her comments of May 10, 2018 were not included in Attachment 6. Attachment 6 includes “Draft Response to Comments on the initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment”. It is important to note that the Council is not being asked to certify the Mitigated Document this evening and that process will take place once the Preferred Alternative is selected and incorporated as such in the environmental documents. Staff had included Draft responses in order to provide additional information for the selection of the Preferred Alternative.

However, in addition to Ms. Alicia Lara’s comment, that was submitted during the comment period for the Environmental Documents, the project consultant has identified a handful of comments that were also inadvertently not included in this DRAFT response package matrix. Please see the attached missing comments. It should be noted that upon review by the project consultant, many of the comments are duplicative in nature, and some are outside the purview of the environmental process as they refer to comments on social media, etc. Nonetheless, these comments will be responded to in writing and presented with all comments received during the environmental comment period as part of the normal environmental review process.

cc: City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk
Public Review Binder

From: Jon Claxton [mailto:jclaxton@swca.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 11:21 AM

To: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>; Emily Creel <ECreel@swca.com>; Teresa McClish <tmclish@arroyogrande.org>

Cc: Robin Dickerson <rdickerson@arroyogrande.org>; Valadao, Paul@DOT <paul.valadao@dot.ca.gov>; Marsalek, Lucas@DOT <Lucas.Marsalek@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL:FW: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Hi all

The emails from yesterday and this morning regarding a missing comment has caused us to take a deeper dive on our side. In addition to Ms. Alicia Lara's comment, we identified a handful of comments that were not included in this DRAFT response package matrix. I've included the missing comments here as a separate file – compiled.pdf. Emily has cursorily reviewed them this morning. Many of the comments are duplicative in nature, and some are outside the EIR process itself as they refer to comments on social media, etc. As Jason mentioned below, these are DRAFT and we will plan to respond to them as part of the normal environmental review process.

Jon Claxton

Natural Resources Team Lead

SWCA Environmental Consultants

1422 Monterey Street, Suite C-200

San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401

P 805.543.7095 x6813. | F 805.543.2367 | M. 805.268.6898



Visit Our New [Website!](#)

-
The contents of this email and any associated emails, information, and attachments are CONFIDENTIAL. Use or disclosure without sender's authorization is prohibited. If you are not an authorized recipient, please notify the sender and then immediately delete the email and any attachments.

From: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:47 AM

To: Emily Creel <ECreel@swca.com>; tmclish@arroyogrande.org

Cc: rdickerson@arroyogrande.org; Jon Claxton <jclaxton@swca.com>; Valadao, Paul@DOT <paul.valadao@dot.ca.gov>; Marsalek, Lucas@DOT <Lucas.Marsalek@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: EXTERNAL:FW: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Here's a list of comments we've received so far. I don't see Alicia's comment included. I received her email on 5/10 and I forwarded it to Allison and Paul on 5/11. It may have gotten lost in transmission.....

Since we haven't approved the CEQA/NEPA document I don't see why we can't include her

comment letter with a response now. Also, it might be good to note, “[Draft](#) Response to Comments on the initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment” on the pdf that is available online since we probably need to note in the responses what the PDT chose as the Preferred Alternative.

Please note, the Environmental Coordinator role for this project has been transferred from Allison Donatello to Lucas Marsalek.

Jason Wilkinson

*Senior Environmental Planner
Caltrans District 5, SLO
(805) 542-4663*

From: Emily Creel <ECreel@swca.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:52 AM
To: tmclish@arroyogrande.org; Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>
Cc: rdickerson@arroyogrande.org; Jon Claxton <jclaxton@swca.com>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL:FW: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Thanks, Teresa. I’m checking on my end as well...

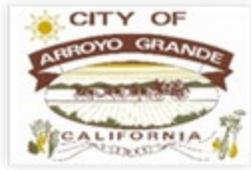
Emily Creel
Planning Team Lead

SWCA Environmental Consultants
P 805.543.7095 ex. 6814 | F 805.543.2367

From: Teresa McClish <tmclish@arroyogrande.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:44 AM
To: 'jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov' <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>
Cc: rdickerson@arroyogrande.org; Emily Creel <ECreel@swca.com>; Jon Claxton <jclaxton@swca.com>
Subject: EXTERNAL:FW: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Hi Jason,
FYI. Checking to see if we missed this or any others? For purposes of tonight’s meeting we will reiterate, what you’ve said, that responses will come with final environmental documents.
Thank you,
Teresa

Teresa McClish, AICP



Community Development Director

Community Development, City of Arroyo Grande

Tel: 805-473-5422 | www.arroyogrande.org

300 E. Branch St | Arroyo Grande | CA | 93420

City Hall Business Hours: M-Th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm; **Closed Fridays**

The information contained in this email pertains to City business and is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If the reader of this message is not an intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient and you have received this message in error, please advise the sender by reply email or phone and delete the message. Please note that email correspondence with the City of Arroyo Grande, along with attachments, may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and therefore may be subject to disclosure unless otherwise exempt by law.

From: Keith Storton

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 6:41 AM

To: Alicia Lara <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Teresa McClish <tmclish@arroyogrande.org>; Jessica Matson <jmatson@arroyogrande.org>

Subject: Re: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Good Morning Alicia,

Your comments are attached to pages 758-759 (attachment 6 of the Response to Comments of the IS/MND) of the AG Council staff report for 3/26. It was an email dated February 7, 2019 in regard to the Brisco informational meeting.

The IS/MND was published in February and I am uncertain as to the cut off for the acceptance of comments that would have generated a response by staff. However, several responses were added to this section (with no response). I assume these were received after to publishing of the Comments to IS/MND document.

I know at our February 12 Council meeting and the Brisco informational meeting on the 13th Director McClish indicated responses from citizens would be included as part of the public record, but I don't believe there was a suggestion that there would be a staff response for each.

Since you've added additional information I will forward this for inclusion to the public record.

Keith Storton
Arroyo Grande City Council Member

[300 E. Branch Street](http://300.E.Branch.Street)
[Arroyo Grande, CA 93420](http://Arroyo.Grande.CA.93420)
www.arroyogrande.org
kstorton@arroyogrande.org

On Mar 25, 2019, at 5:18 PM, Alicia Lara <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Respectfully, you didn't answer my question. Why then were some public comments selectively excluded? Ms. McClish stated at the February 12th Council Meeting, that the Public Comments/Responses would be included with the staff report for March 26th; she did not say only some would be included, while others would not be responded to until the Final MND/EA.

What criteria was used to determine which Public Comments would be included (with responses) in this presentation to Council, and which would not? And why is there no reference in this presentation to "other public comments" that will be responded to in the Final MND/EA, so the Council and the public is aware other folks/entities responded to the MND/EA prior to the May 12, 2018 deadline, without the opportunity to see those questions/comments nor a response, for tonight's meeting?

While I don't understand your selection process for responses to comments during the Public Comments period to be included at this time; I already clearly understood the purpose of tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you.

Alicia Lara

From: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 4:18 PM

To: Alicia Lara

Cc: Valadao, Paul@DOT; Teresa McClish; Caren Ray Russom; Kristen Barneich; Jimmy Paulding; Keith Storton; lgeorge@arroyogrande.org

Subject: FW: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Hello Alicia,

The comment you provided along with all other comments relating to the Draft MND/EA will have a response in the Final MND/EA that is scheduled to be released in late Spring. The purpose of the City Council public meeting scheduled for tomorrow night is to receive public input of those in attendance, discuss the items on the staff report, and for the City Council to vote on a recommended Preferred Alternative. The outcome of this vote will be a recommendation to the Project Development Team so they can respond to comments approve the project. The Project Development Team is made up of Caltrans staff and City of AG staff. Once the determination is made on the Preferred Alternative, Caltrans along with the City of Arroyo Grande will begin responding to the comments submitted by the public and other agencies.

If you have any other further questions please feel free to contact me or City of AG

staff.

Regards,

Jason Wilkinson
Senior Environmental Planner
Caltrans District 5, SLO
(805) 542-4663

From: Alicia Lara <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>; Teresa McClish <tmcclish@arroyogrande.org>; Caren Ray Russom <crayrussom@arroyogrande.org>; Kristen Barneich <kbarneich@arroyogrande.org>; Jimmy Paulding <jpaulding@arroyogrande.org>; Keith Storton <kstorton@arroyogrande.org>; lgeorge@arroyogrande.org
Cc: Chuck Cass <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Please explain why my Public Comments (see below) were not included or responded to as part of the agenda item presented to Council for March 26th?

Alicia Lara

From: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2018 7:48 AM
To: Alicia Lara
Cc: Chuck Cass
Subject: RE: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Hello Alicia,
Thank you for your comments and your support for Alternative 1. We will include your comments as part of the public record with a response in the Final Environmental Document.
If you have any further comments please feel free to contact me.
Regards,

Jason Wilkinson
Senior Environmental Planner
Caltrans District 5, SLO
(805) 542-4663

From: Alicia Lara [<mailto:>]

Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:47 PM

To: Wilkinson, Jason J@DOT <jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov>; jhill@arroyogrande.org; cray@arroyogrande.org; tbrown@arroyogrande.org; kbarneich@arroyogrande.org; bharmon@arroyogrande.org

Cc: Chuck Kass < >

Subject: Brisco-Halcyon Road Interchange Modifications Project Comments

Arroyo Grande City Council and Mr. Wilkinson:

First and foremost to any decision the City Council has to make, is their current and long term fiduciary responsibility to the residents of the city. The General Fund 10-Year Fiscal Forecast cast a very big long-term shadow on this entire project - because there are already existing services, such as CalPERS, health insurance, Workers' Compensation insurance, animal services, liability insurance, and the closure of Diablo power plant - the costs of which the City has no control over, that may very well bring the City's reserve to zero in 5 years. If the economy turns, or we have continued drought conditions, it will get real serious in what will seem to be a heartbeat. And the current talk of layoffs, means reduced services to the entire community. Given that - City Manger stated "We are getting to the point where every \$1,000 matters."

Thus it is with trepidation that I support Alternative 1 - provided the Council deems it is within the City's ability to address and maintain a healthy general fund financial state for the City overall. The Brisco underpass has been identified as a city issue for a long time; and there are offsetting funds available to the City now. Although I'm not as familiar as the Council is with the City's Budget, it seems that the excessive cost of Alt 4C will not be sustainable along with other City priorities, given the limited areas it addresses when compared to Alternative 1 at double the cost.

Alternative 4C does not address the varied improvements Alternative 1 does such as Camino Mercado improvements, identified in Table 11 of the Draft Project Report, as having the highest Collision Rates for US 101 Ramps within the scope of the report. Nor does alt 4C address widening Grand Avenue with pedestrian sidewalks, and bicycle lanes, or improvements to the NB onramps to 101 at Grand. In addition, Alt 4C shortens the weaving distance (cross traffic) on SB 101 at Brisco from 1,580 feet, to 940 feet; and although that has been approved by Caltrans, my experience has been it can be precarious trying to exit at Brisco as cars merge from Grand. As to Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, Alt 4C only noted improves associated with a new Park and Ride - which does not appear to address pedestrian/bicycle access across Rodeo at W. Branch.

Having only a short time to review both lengthy reports, I did not note if the 101 SB onramp at Grand, which requires acquisition of farm land, addresses major traffic/pedestrian/bicycle issues. So other than aligning it with 101 SB offramp at Grand, I'm wondering if it is necessary - given the stretched budget dollars.

As to sound walls, again, not sure if those are necessary - it appears the proposed walls would only provide minimal relief; in addition they would impact existing landscape and be a magnet for graffiti - and who will pay to address that timely?

I don't envy the heavy decisions you must make to fulfill your fiduciary responsibility to this community; thus if you deem that No Build is the option that you must go with, I can support that - however, know that Grand Avenue and Camino Mercado will still be impacted, as folks avoid Brisco to commute from point A to B. Thank you for your consideration.

Alicia Lara