



Scenic Pacifica

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Pacifica Council Forced to Delay Public Meeting to Discuss Highway One Project

The community meetings planned by the city council to hear the thoughts of Pacificans about Caltrans' proposed work on Highway 1 from north of Reina Del Mar to south of Fassler Avenue (the "Calera Parkway Project") will have to be delayed because of a lawsuit filed against Caltrans.

The council had planned to host a series of meetings. The first meeting was to be oriented to fact-finding, with the consultants who prepared the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Caltrans making a comprehensive presentation of their work, a document of over 1,900 pages. (Copies can be viewed at both libraries and in most city offices). The goal of this first meeting was to assure that everyone concerned about the project, whether supportive or against, had an opportunity to learn all they could from the team that did the research and wrote the EIR.

Subsequent meetings would be devoted to the council's hearing the comments of all residents about whether the project should be supported or not. The council planned to hold as many meetings as were necessary to assure interested residents could be heard.

Calera Parkway is a Caltrans project, funded by the San Mateo Transportation Authority (the "TA".) The TA has a policy that a project will be funded only if the host city requests that it be funded. This means that Caltrans will complete all planning and environmental documents, and the Pacifica city council, having the benefit of this information, will vote either to request the funding, or not to request the funding.

The environmental documents have been deemed finished and have been certified by Caltrans. However, a Pacifica citizen has filed suit charging that the documents are not complete, and the next stop will be in a courtroom. The project cannot move forward until the legal issues are resolved.

"It is frustrating. Many of our citizens have been waiting to learn more about this project and to voice their opinion of whether Pacifica should support it, or not," said Mayor Len Stone. "The council has been waiting patiently for the opportunity for our community to be heard and now we are forced to wait to move forward." Stone added that the city will keep citizens posted about progress, after the opposing attorneys have met and things become more clear.

Readers who are interested can see the entire EIR at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm#sanmateo>, under "Route 1/Calera Parkway Project from North of Reina Del Mar to South of Fassler Avenue"

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