



August 8, 2000

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento District Planning Division  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Attention: Nina Bicknese

Subject: SCH No. 199902056 / Guadalupe River Project Modifications, Downtown San Jose, Draft Reevaluation/EIR/EIS

Dear Ms. Bicknese:

Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) staff have reviewed the *Integrated General Re-Evaluation Report/Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Report) for Proposed Modifications to the Guadalupe River Project, Downtown San Jose, California (Project)*. We have the following comments.

Saint John Street Bridge

The Report states that the existing Saint John Street bridge will be removed and replaced with a pedestrian bridge as part of the Project. VTA staff suggest that the new bridge be constructed to allow vehicles to use it as well. This bridge serves as a reliever route which provides additional and vital connections from the Arena area to the downtown area by bridging natural (the River) and manmade (Route 85) barriers to through-movements.

VTA-1

Downtowns function best when there are many ways for travelers, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, to get in and out of the area. For this reason, VTA staff is interested in seeing that this vehicle connection across the Guadalupe River be preserved. VTA staff suggest that the new bridge be constructed to accommodate one lane of vehicle traffic in each direction, sidewalks and bicycle facilities.

Public Access to the River Trail

To facilitate and encourage pedestrian and bicycle activity, VTA staff recommend that the Project provide public access points to the River Trail at all street crossings of the Guadalupe River. VTA staff stress the importance of convenient access to the Trail and encourage the Project to include or accommodate the entryways.

VTA-2

Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

VTA staff also recommend that the proposed project include pedestrian and bicycle amenities on the River Trail in the downtown San Jose area. Amenities should include pedestrian-scale lighting, pathfinder signage, refuse containers and landscaping, where appropriate.

VTA-3

Proposed Bridge Crossing

VTA staff recommend that the Report recognize the proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing the Guadalupe River at River Oaks Drive, north of the project area.

VTA-4

Route 87 HOV Lanes

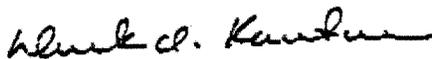
The *Measures A + B Transportation Improvement Program* includes the *Route 87 HOV Lanes Project* (HOV Project). The HOV Project proposes to widen Route 87, from 280 to 0.2 miles north of Julian Street, from a four- to a six-lane freeway. The HOV Project limits are in close proximity to the Project's limits.

VTA-5

VTA staff recommend that the Report include a discussion of the HOV Project and include provisions for the coordination of the design and construction activities for both projects. For additional information about the HOV Project, please contact Arul Edwin of Valley Highway Associates at (408) 952-4200.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please call Lauren Bobadilla of my staff at (408) 321-5776.

Sincerely,



Derek A. Kantar  
Environmental Program Manager

DAK:LGB:kh

cc: Devin Mody, SCVWD  
Arul Edwin, VHA  
John Ristow, VTA  
Roy Molseed, VTA Senior Environmental Analyst  
Grieg Asher, VTA TOD Program Manager