

The Greenbelt

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Report on Highway 156 Meeting

On October 27, a meeting was held in Supervisor Calcagno's office to discuss the problems of highway 156. Representatives of several different Caltrans departments and, the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) attended as well as representatives for Congressman Sam Farr, State Senator Maldonado, North Monterey County Fire department, and Monterey County Public Works. Two residents from the old and new sections were the only local residents present.

Supervisor Calcagno asked community residents to voice their view of the problems associated with Hwy. 156. Those voiced, in order of importance, were 1) congestion, 2) accidents, and 3) the interchange at 101/156.

A traffic light for Oak Hills was discussed as a partial solution to the congestion problem. Caltrans says that 156 is a *high* priority for *signalization*. Various figures were mentioned as price tag for a signal light. They seemed to range from \$3 - \$5 million. Caltrans studies indicate that a traffic light at Cathedral Oak would back traffic onto 101 during heavy traffic period such as

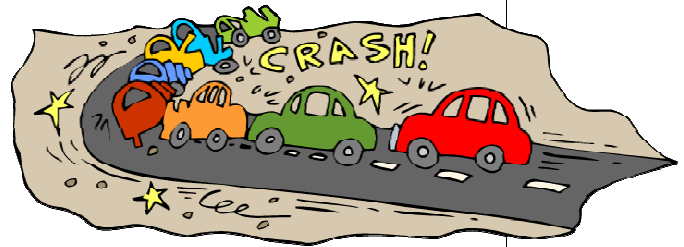
Saturday and Sunday mornings. To reduce the length of the backup a second lane on the west-bound side of the road, both before and after the signal light, is required, adding to the high cost of a light. Bottom line - a traffic signal will require a lot of money and time, up to three years, to install even after Caltrans decides to install one.

Suggestions to increase speed limit signage, make the length of 156 a *no-passing* zone, better road marking and signage along 156 and at the 101 to 156 ramp, more speed limit enforcement, and other semi-temporary remedies were presented.

In my opinion, Caltrans seems to be controlling what gets done and when it will be done. The TAMC rep. kept nodding her head at their comments, but as I recall offered no real positive comments. Calcagno seemed to be willing to bend to work with Caltrans, but made several rebuttals to the Caltrans ideas and comments making me feel he was in our camp and fighting for permanent solutions to 156 problems.

Caltrans planners advised forming a *Safety Corridor*. (Another committee??, Another meeting?? Have we not

already identified the problems?) However, on the positive side, doing this brings funding not available otherwise to help identify problems and determine solutions. It was at this point I rather heatedly pointed out that we know what the problem is (congestion) and that the band-aide solutions being discussed would all be unnecessary if the congestion problem were addressed and fixed! I further suggested that busi-



nesses like the aquarium, Laguna Seca, Pebble Beach, large hotels, and other collectors of tourist's money be asked to help pay for congestion relief. It was decided to form the *Safety Corridor Task Force* and to plan on bringing that committee together following the November 15th presentation of the Caltrans 156 plan to local residents.

I strongly suggest that as many residents attend the November 15th meeting as possible.

*Respectfully submitted by
Jerry Gifford, OHHA Board
Vice-president*

Oakhills Homeowners Association

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Off-loading Those Dead White Elephants

The garage sale is over, but many of us still have "stuff" in the garage that we want to get rid of that was just too awful to put out to sell. Others of us have dead or dying TVs or computer monitors that only a novice would take, let alone buy.

Still, you need to get rid of all this junk before you can convince your spouse that you need that new 45-inch flat-screen TV for the holidays.

Enter Super Recycler Day by Waste Management.

This extra garbage service can be scheduled twice a year at *your* conven-

ience to remove a large amount of junk, and not just on Mondays.

All you have to do is call Waste Management at 831-796-2200 at least two days ahead of time to schedule this extra pickup.

Regular bagged garbage will be picked up on your regular pick-up day. Bulky items will be picked up by a special truck 3-5 days after scheduling.

You can fill an

area 4-foot X 6-foot X 8-foot with everything except hazardous waste. Other restrictions are, during each Super Recycler Day, you may put out one appliance, two mattress and box spring sets (four pieces), and five tires.

Two items that contain an amount of hazardous waste can be included in limited quantity: TV sets and computer monitors. You may put out two, either two of one kind or one TV and one monitor.



Meet Rod Karg: Board Member

I have been a route salesman with Frito-Lay for the last 8 years. Prior to that I was a District Manager for Carl's Jr. and Frito-Lay for 16 years and I helped my wife manage her deli for 7 years.

I bring to the board 23 years of P&L accountability and experience in controlling costs.

My mission is to deliver the maximum benefits to the homeowners while minimizing costs.

A good example is our recent stump grinding project. Professional estimates were all over \$3000. We rented a stump grinder and with the help of Steve and Barbara Naslund, Jerry Gifford, Mike Kuntz, and Al Brekke, we removed the stumps along Charter Oak Blvd. for less than \$300.

If you have ideas that can save the homeowners money, please email me at rodk@oakhillshoa.org.



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