



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 150.03

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 25, 2011

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration Division, Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: Safety On Highway 154

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support for the recent action taken by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), requesting that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) take administrative action to restrict the transportation of hazardous materials along portions of Highway 154 (SR-154) in Santa Barbara County that are located within the watershed of Lake Cachuma.

DISCUSSION:

On October 21, 2010, the SBCAG Board of Directors voted unanimously to pursue expanding the current ban on hauling hazardous waste to include all hazardous materials transported on SR-154. This action was taken after hearing a report by Caltrans and the CHP) about traffic safety issues on SR-154, and hearing from the public during public testimony.

Following the October SBCAG action, on December 7, 2010, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted to submit a formal request to the CHP asking that they take administrative action to expand the ban. The City of Santa Barbara has been asked to join the County Board of Supervisors in making a written request to demonstrate support of the SBCAG action on this issue, ensuring that the watershed of Lake Cachuma is protected from potential spills of hazardous materials. It is also intended that this expanded restriction will include exemptions for necessary access to local delivery and pick up points, and that emergency vehicle and law enforcement access will not be impeded.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Protection of the Lake Cachuma Watershed is important to the protection of the City's water supply.

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed letter to the California Highway Patrol

PREPARED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director/kts

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



City of Santa Barbara

Office of Mayor

HSchneider@SantaBarbaraCA.gov

www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov

January 25, 2011

Helene Schneider

Mayor

City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101-1990

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

Tel: 805.564.5323

Fax: 805.564.5475

Chief Adam Cuevas
California Highway Patrol
Coastal Division
4115 Broad Street, Suite B-10
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Chief Cuevas:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the CHP take administrative action to restrict the transportation of hazardous materials along those portions of Highway 154, in Santa Barbara County, that are located within the watershed of Lake Cachuma, which is a drinking water reservoir that meets the requirements specified in California Vehicle Code Section 31304(a)(1)(B).

After taking public testimony, on October 21, 2010, the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) voted unanimously to pursue expanding the current ban on hauling hazardous waste to include all hazardous materials transported on the highway.

On January 25, 2011, the Santa Barbara City Council voted to support this action. We respectfully request that all hazardous materials transportation be restricted on SR-154, between Route 246 to US-101, in order to eliminate hazardous materials transportation through the watershed of Lake Cachuma, the City's primary water supply. The restriction should include exemptions for necessary access to local pickup and delivery points. In addition, an exemption for emergency circumstances, with the concurrence of a member of the agency having traffic law enforcement authority, should also be included.

We believe that this action is necessary to protect the public's health and safety, and meets all of the legal requirements to restrict Hazardous Materials transportation as provided in Vehicle Code Section 31304.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Helene Schneider
Mayor



Please consider the environment before printing this letter.