

## **RESOLUTION 2008-12**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CONCERNING THE PROPOSED WIDENING OF HIGHWAY 156 INTO A RAISED 4-LANE HIGHWAY WITH LIMITED ACCESS AND A 2-LANE ACCESS ROAD ON THE NORTH AND AN INTERCHANGE AT BIXBY ROAD**

WHEREAS, the City of San Juan Bautista has been designated a Preserve America Community by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, in part based upon the preservation of the historic agricultural surroundings; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Juan Bautista has been designated a 2008 Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, significantly because of the preservation of the historic agricultural surroundings; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Juan Bautista has worked to develop a Certified Local Government program to maintain its historic character which includes the ambiance created by the surrounding farms and ranches; and

WHEREAS, Highway 156 is qualified as a scenic highway and the City of San Juan Bautista is on record requesting the San Benito County Council of Governments (COG) to pursue reactivating this designation for the section of Highway 156 that travels through the San Juan Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Pinnacles National Monument has identified San Juan Bautista and the SCENIC Highway 156 corridor as their preferred entrance to the National Monument, as opposed to the more urbanized trip on Highway 25, and has taken steps towards seeking funding for a visitors center in San Juan Bautista; and

WHEREAS, the deAnza National Historic Trail runs through San Juan Bautista and across Highway 156 representing one of the last remaining, original paths for the historic trail and, in recognition of this the deAnza National Historic Trail, will have National Parks Rangers posted in San Juan Bautista beginning Summer 2008; and

WHEREAS, San Juan School is located next to Highway 156 and already has noise and diesel fuel pollution challenges from the existing Highway 156; and

WHEREAS, the existing Highway 156 has created serious noise pollution problems for the City of San Juan Bautista to the extent that windows can not be left open during the summer, one National Historic Registry property had to close their bed and breakfast due to noise, and the noise disturbs activities at the San Juan Bautista Community Center which is located on almost the farthest point in the City from Highway 156; and

WHEREAS, the San Benito County Board of Supervisors is on record that the expansion of Highway 156 should utilize the smallest possible footprint (as opposed to the recent unofficial letter sent by Supervisor Loe to our elected state officials); and

WHEREAS, the current California Department of Transportation plan raises the level of the highway approximately six feet off the valley floor, which will have a significant impact on the drainage of the valley, potentially leaving large amounts of stagnant water in fields; and

WHEREAS, the loss of substantially more acres of farmland than is absolutely necessary will result in additional run-off into already challenged drainage basins, which can enlarge the areas threatened by flooding; in fact, this very issue has caused areas never previously identified as flood prone to be flooded in other jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, until March of 2008 San Benito COG had been on record as supporting the minimal footprint; and

WHEREAS, the VTA (Valley Transportation Authority) has worked with the San Benito County COG and developed a plan for an alternate route to replace the existing Highways 25, 152 and 156, which would save significant time and money for travelers, and save San Benito County taxpayers money; and

WHEREAS, the VTA route would dramatically improve the congestion of these separate highways with a four to six lane freeway from the intersection of San Felipe Road and Highway 156 to Highway 101, south of the existing Highway 25; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has expressed their unanimous will several times previously, including recently in Resolution 2006-14 where they voiced their approval for the widening alternative proposed by the VTA and Resolution 2006-19 where they requested, under the California Heritage Corridor Act, that the San Juan Valley be designated a Heritage Corridor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA HEREBY**

- I. Requests that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG assert their collective position that any expansion of Highway 156 be limited to two lanes with safety improvement similar to Highway 25 in San Benito County; and
- II. Requests that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG define that a minimal foot print does not include raising the roadway 6 feet over the valley floor; and
- III. Requests that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG define that a minimal foot print does not include an overpass at Bixby Road but rather stop lights along the road where appropriate to assist traffic in crossing or turning onto Highway 156; and

- IV. Requests that that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG reaffirm their support for the VTA’s options from Highways 152 and 156 to Highway 25 as the primary alternate, high-speed corridor across San Benito County, including all truck routing; and
- V. Requests that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG go on record actively supporting and doing whatever is necessary to effect the return of Highway 156 through the San Juan Valley as a scenic roadway; and
- VI. Requests that that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG do everything within their political power to support the efforts of San Juan Bautista to secure Federal and State funding for a historic transportation-oriented museum in San Juan Bautista highlighting the four historic transportation routes that all went through San Juan Bautista including the deAnza Trail, The Old Stagecoach Road, The Mission Road, and The El Camino Real; and
- VII. Requests that the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the San Benito County COG do everything within their political power to support the efforts of San Juan Bautista, the Pinnacles National Monument and the deAnza National Historic Trail to bring a joint use visitors’ center to San Juan Bautista that can service all regional Federal parks and recreation lands.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008 at a regular City Council Meeting, by the following vote:

AYES:       Dias, Edge, Hill, Paradise, Laverone  
NOES:       None  
ABSTAIN:   None  
ABSENT:     None

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Dias III, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trish Paetz, City Clerk