



Memorandum

AGENDA NO:

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2019

To: City Council

Date: April 1, 2019

From: Councilmember Michael Brownrigg

Subject: Committee Report

Tuesday, 3/19/19: El Camino Real

- City Manager Goldman, Director of Public Works Murtuza, Vice Mayor Beach and I met with a senior group of Caltrans officials, headed by Director Tony Tavares, on March 19 in Oakland. We used the meeting to review the work of the ECR Task Force and some of the idiosyncrasies of Burlingame and the ECR. Our goal was to underscore that this is a unique stretch and it required a unique process to come up with a resolution, which we did — at least by template. And to move forward, we stressed, there would need to be an ongoing special process, not the standard Caltrans “here is what we think is best and now let us tell you why you are wrong to object” sort of process. Happily, most of them seemed to get it, especially the Director and Deputy Director. So we left the meeting cautiously optimistic the process would regain momentum and retain its special character of collaboration.

Floribunda and El Camino Real

- As an adjunct to this discussion, we reviewed the status of the Floribunda / ECR intersection. You will recall that Caltrans had wanted to do a major road widening there in order to reduce accidents, and the City argued forcibly that the FIRST SOLUTION should be to prohibit left hand turns southbound before going to the extreme of widening the road, changing the character of ECR in Burlingame and losing a number of large trees as well. As a part of our preparations for the March 19 meeting, we sought accident data for the 3 years since we made the change and the 3 years prior. According to police data from Burlingame and Hillsborough, there have been 3 accidents since we instituted No Left Turn. In the three years prior, there were 11 accidents. The data seems compelling. Caltrans agreed that we have a point; they told us their study period runs for one more year

and they still have funds earmarked for this project BUT it seems increasingly unlikely that they will need them. So, again, cautiously optimistic that we may have reached a good resolution with Caltrans, although the final decision will be made next year.

SB 54 – Plastic Recycling

- A growing amount of the plastic that producers are putting into packaging and around/in products is not recyclable. Until recently, mixed plastic would be sent to China and if it was later landfilled because it was unusable, well, no one was the wiser. But after China cracked down on garbage, this outlet no longer exists. According to one industry expert at a conference I attended today, mixed plastic used to fetch \$40/ton; it now COSTS garbage haulers \$40/ton to get rid of. Moreover, plastic is winding up in oceans, waterways and byways. One recent study in Europe found micro plastic particles in the feces of 100% (100%!) of the humans tested. SB54 would require that ALL plastic be recyclable (currently, plastic marked 1&2 is recyclable, and everything else #s 3-7 is not). I plan to write a memo and present it to Council for consideration to write in favor of SB 54.

Burlingame Praised by Bee Keepers

- I attended an environmental meeting in Redwood Shores with a number of organic food interests and wanted to let you know that San Mateo Beekeepers Guild singled us out for praise in the speed and efficiency with which we moved to deregulate bee keeping.