



City of Calimesa

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September 9, 2021

Mike Lara, Mayor
City of Beaumont
(Sent via email)

Mayor Lara,

I am writing regarding the City of Beaumont's desire to work regionally and cooperatively on a strategic plan to identify and prioritize transportation needs along the Interstate 10 (I-10) corridor, specifically the San Gorgonio Pass Region. At its meeting on September 7, 2021, the City of Calimesa City Council considered the following proposed Joint Resolution and related Attachment A as provided by the City of Beaumont:

A Joint Resolution of the City Councils of the City of Banning, City of Beaumont, and the City of Calimesa, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians to Expand and Diversify the San Gorgonio Pass Regional Transportation System to Mitigate Environmental Impacts and Support Regional Growth

Let me start by saying, the City of Calimesa understands that the San Gorgonio Pass, a major transportation corridor on I-10 connecting the Los Angeles area to the Coachella Valley and ultimately to many other portions of the continental United States, is of significant importance not only locally, but also regionally and nationally.

The City of Calimesa also realizes that in order to make a meaningful long-term impact on the transportation network in the San Gorgonio Pass, it will require significant planning, coordination and cooperation on the part of all stakeholders in the region, not to mention millions of dollars in funding. The City of Calimesa stands ready to work with all stakeholders in the region to improve the transportation network along the I-10 corridor.

Regarding the proposed Joint Resolution, the City of Calimesa offers the following comments:

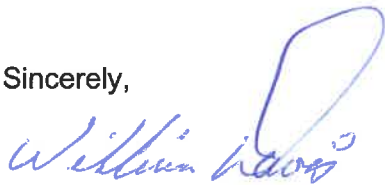
- The City is in favor of working regionally on an I-10 Corridor Strategic Plan.
- The City will appoint a member to the Oversight Committee at its September 20, 2021, meeting.
- The scope of the Strategic Plan should be discussed and agreed upon by the Oversight Committee. The proposed Attachment A should not drive the process.
- The process should be collaborative wherein each entity should have an equal voice.

- The process should include an impartial "facilitator" (perhaps the County or another regional stakeholder) to ensure buy-in from all entities.
- Financial responsibilities of all entities (that are party to the Joint Resolution) must be agreed upon prior to proceeding with a formal study and, in the future, with implementation.

Lastly, although the City of Beaumont is recommending that one Resolution be adopted by all entities, Calimesa recommends that rather than a Joint Resolution, perhaps a Joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be considered. The independent numbering by each entity of a Joint Resolution will likely cause confusion, as the Resolution numbering for each entity will most likely be unique to that entity.

In summary, the Calimesa City Council looks forward to working with all stakeholders to improve transportation along the I-10 Corridor in the San Gorgonio Pass.

Sincerely,



William Davis, Mayor
City of Calimesa

cc: Todd Parton, Beaumont City Manager