



Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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March 17, 2016

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Marsh Road Channel Proposed Construction Project

While we applaud each of you and the Town collectively for the tenacity needed to make the necessary, immediate and overdue repairs to the Marsh Road Channel, it isn't lost on us that if the channel were already enclosed, with wider lanes of travel, we would not be having this discussion or these issues.

As you know, the Fire District's Fire Station 5 is located at Fair Oaks and 15th Avenue. In addition, Fair Oaks, Fifteenth, Middlefield and Marsh roads are all primary emergency response routes for the Fire District to effectively serve the community. We also have a minimum 7 minute response standard for all emergency responses, 90% of the time because seconds count and minutes matter.

We ask that the following items be completed or discussed in advance of the construction project:

1. Traffic counts be validated or taken on primary and potential "cut through" routes in Atherton and the County that could be impacted by this project. From statistical data gathered from the City of Menlo Park, we show about 18,000 to 22,000 car trips per day on Marsh and Middlefield road ways.
2. Traffic counts must be validated or taken on primary and potential "cut through" routes during the period of construction to monitor trends and the results must be cross checked and discussed based upon actual data with the Fire District.
3. That other roadways NOT be closed down until discussed and agreed upon by the Fire District as to how those decisions will effect public safety and emergency response.
4. That both the Atherton Police Department and Sheriff's office be assigned to this area during the initial starting phases of the project and then intermittently during the project to address potential cut through traffic concerns.
5. That the vendors contract be flexible enough to make scheduling adjustments, based upon unforeseen circumstances that could threaten or compromise public safety and/or emergency response.

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In summary, we understand that there are few, if any, good alternatives to closing a major roadway into, and/or, out of the Town. We have also long advocated that continuing to do nothing to improve this barrier, would not be acceptable to the Fire District.

We understand that the Town must balance many complicated issues of timing, hours of work, project speed, safety, noise, cost, perception and impacts to residents, commuters the region and public safety, all, as part of this important project.

The Fire District is committed to working with you in advance of this project but will also notify you immediately if we feel there could be a threat to public safety or the overall emergency response to the community.

We ask that additional correspondence and information include the Redwood City Fire Department, American Medical Response Ambulance Company and the California Highway Patrol, who may all be impacted by this project.

Thank you

Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief

Cc: Fire Board, Operations, Fire Prevention, file

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