

**APPLE VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL AND
VICTORVILLE CITY COUNCIL
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING – MARCH 1, 2010**

The Joint Special Meeting of the Apple Valley Town Council and the City of Victorville was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Allan at the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District – 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with the following members present:

Town of Apple Valley Council Members: Ginger Coleman; Scott Nassif; Rick Roelle; Mayor Pro Tem Bob Sagona; Mayor Peter Allan.

City of Victorville Council Members: Terry Caldwell; Ryan McEachron; Mayor Pro Tem Mike Rothschild; Mayor Rudy Cabriales. Absent: Councilmember JoAnn Almond

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Town of Apple Valley Councilmember Scott Nassif.

Discussion of Yucca Loma Bridge/ Yates Road/ Green Tree Blvd. Project

Kenneth J. Henderson, Assistant Town Manager, Economic and Community Development, presented the staff report as filed with the Town Clerk.

Brad Miller, Town Engineer, presented the Council with a presentation of the proposed project including a computer model that showed the existing and future traffic conditions. He commented on the benefits of the project.

Mr. Miller, answered questions of the City of Victorville Council regarding the traffic flow from Bear Valley Road going into Hesperia to get to the I-15 Freeway.

Elizabeth Diamond, Dokken Engineering, commented on the two alignments that are detailed in the environmental documents. She recommended the northerly alignment as the better option. She also commented on the sound walls east of Yucca Loma Bridge to protect from noise. Ms. Diamond announced future meetings to be held regarding the project.

Councilman Nassif, Town of Apple Valley, asked questions regarding the traffic impact on Hesperia Road.

Ms. Diamond, Dokken Engineering, responded stating that the traffic study for this particular project indicates that the levels of service standards are being met. She also noted that it was important for each community to prioritize the projects according to its needs.

Councilman Roelle, Apple Valley, asked questions regarding timeline of the project.

Brad Miller, Town Engineer, answered questions of the Town of Apple Valley Council regarding the traffic impact on various roads.

Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, City of Victorville, stated that he is in support of the Yucca Loma Bridge going around Spring Valley Lake; however, he expressed concern regarding the Yucca Loma/Green Tree corridor. He read from the Daily Press that speaks to the concept that there is no corridor along Green Tree Blvd and felt it puts the City of Victorville at risk. He also expressed concern regarding how he believed the Green Tree corridor would affect the properties in the area.

Councilman Roelle, Town of Apple Valley, questioned why the City of Victorville waited until now to express their concerns over this project as currently designed. He stated that the Yucca Loma Bridge project has been discussed for over five (5) years and reviewed extensively at SANBAG.

Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, City of Victorville, expressed serious concern over the question asked by Councilman Roelle regarding this project. He believed that while on the SANBAG Board Councilman Roelle was only acting on behalf of the Town of Apple Valley and not Victorville.

Councilman Nassif, Town of Apple Valley, commented on the Nisqualli corridor and, in agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, felt it would be the better solution. However, he recommended that staff come back to the Council with a proposed temporary corridor until they could establish a solution that would benefit the whole community.

Brad Miller, Town Engineer, stated that by approving this phase of the environmental document, it would not commit the City of Victorville and they would still have an opportunity to look at other alignments.

Mayor Cabriaes, City of Victorville, commented on past joint meetings and the discussions that were held regarding alternate alignments. He agreed with Councilman Nassif, to come up with other solutions.

Councilman Caldwell, City of Victorville, commented on the proposed project. He expressed concern regarding the current conditions that did not exist when the project was first proposed. He also expressed concern regarding dealing with Caltrans and felt the cost would fall back on the City of Victorville.

Mayor Allan commented on the Green Tree route. He asked what impacts there would be to the environmental plan should a recommendation be made that the City of Victorville Engineering staff provide the Councils with other solutions to the Green Tree corridor.

Kenneth J. Henderson, Assistant Town Manager, Economic and Community Development, Apple Valley, explained the importance of moving forward with the proposed alignment due to the environmental challenges. Mr. Henderson reiterated that if the City of Victorville were to support the alignment on tonight's agenda, it would not commit them. He noted that having another alternative studied may prevent the project from moving forward and cause additional expenses.

John Brown, Town Attorney, Apple Valley, provided clarification to the Councils that approval of this particular environmental document would not commit to construct the project in any way. He requested to know if this project can be subsequently amended to access the Nisqualli alignment or other alternatives subsequent to approval of this particular document.

Councilman Caldwell, City of Victorville, expressed concern regarding Caltrans' involvement if the City of Victorville were to adopt the environmental phase.

John Brown, Town Attorney, recommended that further discussion along with input by representing Attorneys be deferred to a future date.

Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, Victorville, expressed concern regarding the assumption that the City of Victorville will be responsible for the corridor.

Elizabeth Diamond, Dokken Engineering, commented on the involvement by Cal Trans and the federal funding for the project. She explained the different phases of the project and noted that there would be a period of time where the City of Victorville can look at different alternatives.

Councilman Caldwell, City of Victorville, requested to know if the federal funding for this project would be affected if they were to adopt the environmental document for this particular alignment.

Namat Hosseinion, Senior Environmental Planner, Dokken Engineering, responded stating that the alignment documents show what the environmental impacts are and preserves the opportunity to use it. He noted that it offers information on the steps to take regarding other alternatives.

Andre DeBortnowsky, City Attorney, City of Victorville, reminded the Councils that the item is receive and file only.

Councilman McEachron, City of Victorville, commented on the proposed alignment. He stated that although he supports the proposed project, he is also recommending that staff look into an alternative option to the Green Tree alignment.

Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, City of Victorville, commented on alternative alignments and stated he would not support the alignment from Ridgecrest to Hesperia Rd.

Mayor Pro Tem Sagona, Town of Apple Valley, asked questions regarding the federal funding and how it would be affected should a change be made. He also recommended a study be done for an alternative that would benefit both communities.

Councilman Nassif, Town of Apple Valley, commented on the commuters who travel from Apple Valley to Victorville. He felt that the proposed corridor would enhance the retail operations between the two cities.

Sean McGlade, City Engineer, City of Victorville, commented on the Hesperia Rd and Green Tree Rd interchange. He also commented on the impact to Bear Valley Rd based on the traffic study. He recommended that the Engineering staff from both cities work together to look at the other alternatives.

Jim Cox, City Manager, City of Victorville, commented on the environmental document. He reminded the Council that this is a receive and file item only and reiterated that the discussions would not commit the City of Victorville.

Mayor Allan recognized the following individuals who wished to speak on this item at 7:24 p.m.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Maury Richmond, Victorville, spoke in opposition of the project and felt it would add to the traffic in Victorville. He also expressed concern regarding traffic flow on Bear Valley Road and felt there is a lack of communication between local agencies and Caltrans.

Scott Eckert, Victorville, spoke in support of the Yucca Loma Bridge project. He respectfully requested that the public be kept informed of this project. He recommended that the two cities work together to come up with a solution to complete the project in a reasonable amount of time.

Andy Silva, representative from Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt's Office, spoke in support of the proposed project. He thanked both Councils for agreeing to meet to discuss the project. He stated that it is Supervisor Mitzelfelt's top priority with regard to transportation and that they would like to see the project move forward.

COUNCILMEMBER DISCUSSION:

Mayor Allan, Town of Apple valley, clarified that the cost of the project is \$100 million.

John Brown, Town Attorney, recommended that staff address questions in writing. He clarified for the Councils that the project can be subsequently changed and that there are legal assurances that there are several paths available.

Mr. Brown respectfully requested that he be excused from the Joint Special Meeting.

JOHN BROWN, TOWN ATTORNEY, WAS EXCUSED FROM THE DAIS AT 7:37 P.M.

Councilman Caldwell, City of Victorville, questioned whether or not there are any known factors that would bring traffic flow onto Nisqualli Road from the Yucca Loma Bridge project.

Sean McGlade, City Engineer, City of Victorville, responded stating that these matters would be looked at in a traffic model, particularly the traffic flow from Apple Valley to the Nisqualli Rd interchange.

Andre DeBortnowksy, City Attorney, City of Victorville, expressed concern regarding the need to do another environmental study should the City of Victorville decide to look at other alignments.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of additional environmental studies.

Councilwoman Coleman, Town of Apple Valley, thanked the City Council of the City of Victorville for their support with this project. She commented on the concerns expressed by Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild and the importance of paying attention to the lines on the alignment project. She felt this would be a great project for the region.

Mayor Pro Tem Sagona, Town of Apple Valley, spoke in favor of showing support should the project need to be modified.

Councilman Nassif, Town of Apple Valley, agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Sagona. He commented on the importance of moving forward and working together to make the alignment work.

Mayor Pro Tem Rothschild, City of Victorville, questioned who would be financially responsible should they decide to change the alignment.

Mayor Pro Tem Sagona responded stating that according to the comments made by both legal Councils, it is possible to make amendments to the existing plan.

Frank Robinson, Town Manager, Town of Apple Valley, commented on this item being a receive and file item only to receive input from both Councils and the public on the Yucca Loma Bridge project. He thanked staff for coordinating the Joint Meeting between the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Victorville.

Mayor Allan asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak under general public comments.

There was no one wishing to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Allan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sagona, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the Joint Special Meeting of the Apple Valley Town Council and the Victorville City Council at 7:52 p.m.

Town Clerk

Mayor