



January 21, 2026

File No.: 730.15998.19210

Taven Kinison Brown
Community Development Director
City of Gonzales
147 Fourth St. P.O. Box 647
Gonzales, CA 95926

Re: SCH # 2020039055

Dear Mr. Brown,

The California Highway Patrol (CHP), Monterey Area, received the "Notice of Preparation," of a draft Environmental Impact Report for the Puente Del Monte Specific Plan, State Clearinghouse (SCH) number 2020039055. I have reviewed the proposed project.

The CHP's interest in commenting surrounds our concern for public safety. United States 101 (US-101) serves as a primary vehicular artery traversing Monterey County, which links Los Angeles to San Francisco and beyond, and a high volume of traffic flows through the highway. Collectively, the project's proposed production of nearly 2,500 new homes, an industrial shopping area, various parks, trails, schools, and other public facilities, would without question result in an increase in volume of vehicular travel, which would have a negative impact on traffic safety on US-101 and the roadways surrounding the project's vicinity. The Department's concerns with potential impact of this project include the following:

- Increased incidents requiring emergency response during construction.
- Traffic congestion issues which would result along on and off-ramps of US-101 Northbound and Southbound at 5th Street/Johnson Canyon Road.
- Traffic congestion issues which would result along on and off-ramps of US-101 Northbound at Gloria Road/Tavernetti Road.
- Traffic congestion issues which would result along on and off-ramps of US-101 Southbound at Alta Street.
- An additive effect on congestion during peak commute hours, which will result in an increase in crashes and slower first responder response times to emergency incidents.
- Additional enforcement demands.



Regarding traffic congestion issues at the previously mentioned on and off-ramps, the commuting public would be inconvenienced while waiting to enter or exit US-101, but more importantly, obvious safety issues, particularly at the off-ramps, would be created while multiple vehicles slow and stop to exit US-101 as traffic traveling at freeway-speeds passes by them. The issue would necessitate the need for creating sufficient clearance (widening of roads and ramps), and additional traffic control measures to mitigate the potential increase in crashes, injuries, and fatalities. A complete redesign of the off-ramps, mainly at US-101 Northbound at Gloria Road/Tavernetti Road, with more robust traffic control measures, would aid in furthering traffic safety.

Additionally, since CHP Monterey Area has a memorandum of understanding in place with the Monterey County Sheriff's Department to handle traffic-related matters within unincorporated Monterey County communities, the CHP would see an increase in additional enforcement demands due to increased vehicular, pedestrian, and bicyclist traffic produced from the project. If the new construction area remains a community of unincorporated Monterey County, the increased enforcement would be the responsibility of the CHP and would continue until the time the area is decided to be annexed as City of Gonzales jurisdiction.

In reviewing the potential environmental affects you list on page 9 of the Notice of Preparation (Public Services) and page ten (Transportation and Traffic), I see your office attempts to account for the concerns listed above. However, the affects listed seem more focused on traffic issues in and around the project zone, and not also adjacent to US-101. While the widening of Gloria Road between US-101 and the project zone would certainly aid in reducing congestion, an effort to widen 5th Street/Johnson Canyon Road and Alta Street adjacent to US-101 would further provide congestion relief. Additionally, revamping the aforementioned on and off-ramps while improving traffic control measures at all locations in collaboration with the Department of Transportation, would further result in improved traffic safety.

If the project is approved and moves forward, we are hopeful project operators will diligently establish, monitor, and enforce rules related to vehicle safety as CHP personnel work to ensure compliance with California Vehicle Code provisions.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (831) 770-8000.

Sincerely,

A.E. Elias

A. E. ELIAS, Captain
Commander
Monterey Area

