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August 23, 2020

Members of the City Council
City of Lafayette
3675 Mount Diablo Blvd., Suite 210
Lafayette, California 94549

Re: Agenda Item # 6A - 8/24/2020 - Terraces of Lafayette

Members of the City Council:

Attached to this correspondence is a letter dated August 21, 2020 from Rick Ramacier, General Manager/CEP of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection). You should all have a copy of this letter as it was addressed to the Mayor and council regarding testimony made by Renee Powell of TJKM Transportation Consultants at the council's meeting of August 10, 2020. On the council's agenda that evening was the staff-recommended acceptance of the CEQA addendum and approval of the Terraces project. The letter was in response to a query by former Mayor Don Tatzin after Ms. Powell testified at the August 10th hearing that the County Connection would be providing 22 busses to evacuate Acalanes students and 5 for Springhill students in the event of a wildfire. However, the letter indicates that contrary to Ms. Powell's very specific testimony as to how the evacuation process would play out, it does not appear that the County Connection had any knowledge of this supposed arrangement. In fact it does not appear that TJKM ever contacted the County Connection at all. You'll recall that the subject of wildfire evacuation of students from the schools near the Deerhill property had been of major concern to the council at the August 10th hearing, and the assurances of TJKM that that evacuation would be handled by parents and County Connection busses, was meant to assuage those concerns. However, attached the letter states that *no one on the County Connection staff recalled ever speaking with anyone from TJKM regarding the proposed project (the Terraces), the topic of wildfire evacuation, or with someone from TJKM at all.*

The information contained in Mr. Ramacier's letter completely refutes Ms. Powell's testimony and TJKM's position that County Connection busses would take the place of cars to evacuate students from both schools and that the utilization of those busses would eliminate much of the vehicular traffic otherwise expected during an emergency evacuation. This apparent fabrication is but one of many erroneous statements and conclusions made by TJKM in the course of the analysis of this project. TJKM's traffic model, which has been challenged over and

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over again by Save Lafayette, Elite Transportation Group and common sense, now appears to be actually completely erroneous . TJKM is not to be trusted with analyzing anything having to do with the transportation impacts of the Terraces project or emergency evacuation of any residents, especially students. These gross errors - and most certainly there are many more - require that TJKM' s entire analysis be disregarded.

There will be testimony on the content of this letter and its serious consequences for the credibility of TJKM at Monday' s hearing on the Terraces project. Please take another look at the letter in the context of the matter which will be before you on the 24th

Sincerely,



Laurel S. Stanley

Attachment

County Connection

2477 Arnold Industrial Way Concord, CA 94520-5326 (925) 676-1976 countyconnection.com

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Mike Anderson and members of the City Council
City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd . #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Mayor Anderson and Council Members,

It has been brought to my attention that during your city council meeting of Monday, August 10, 2020, the prospect of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection) providing evacuations in the event of a wildfire in Lafayette relative to a council discussion on a proposed housing development came up. My understanding is that this was raised by Renee Powell of TJKM Transportation Consultants.

When this was first brought to my attention by Don Tatzin - who as you know represents the City of Lafayette on the County Connection Board of Directors - we thoroughly checked with our staff and found that no one on our staff recalls speaking with anyone regarding the proposed project in question, or about the topic of wild fire evacuation, or with someone from TJKM at all. So, we next made several attempts to contact TJKM and Renee Powell for more information regarding the conversation she stated she had with us. As of the morning of Friday, August 21, 2020, we have not heard back from her or her firm.

However, since the topic of any role County Connection might have in a wildfire evacuation in Lafayette was raised, let me briefly outline our likely role.

County Connection is part of the Contra Costa County Emergency Response Plan under the county Office of Emergency Services (OES). When an emergency arises such as a wildfire, earthquake, flood, etc., the County activates its Emergency Operations Command (EOC). We in turn report to them in a declared emergency. The EOC reaches out to County Connection with requests for whatever they might need to respond to the emergency. We then assess in the moment how we can best respond.

How we can respond is totally dependent on the various factors that exist in the moment of a particular emergency. These factors could include but are not limited to: traffic, the exact nature of the emergency, the distance of the evacuation from our resources, and how quickly we can get employees organized to respond who might not be at work in the moment. To further elaborate, there are no pre fixed numbers of buses or vehicles pre assigned to different kinds of emergencies.

Likewise, we might get called to respond to a very fast, limited in scope emergency by a local police or fire department. As with county declared emergencies, how fast and deep we can respond to such calls are very dependent on the type of factors noted above. Again, these decisions would be made in the moment.

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Moraga • Orinda • Pleasant Hill • San Ramon • Walnut Creek



I hope you find this helpful and clarifying relative to the potential role of County Connection during a natural disaster such as a wildfire . If anyone wishes to discuss this topic further, please contact me directly by text or call at 925-383-2268, or via email at [ram aci er@ccct a.or g](mailto:ramaci er@ccct a.or g).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Ramacier".

Rick Ramacier
General Manager/CEO
Central Contra Costa Transit Authority
2477 Arnold Industrial Way
Concord, CA 94520
925-680-2050

cc. Don Tatzin, County Connection Board Member
Greg Wolff, City of Lafayette Planning Director
Renee Powell, TJKM Transportation Consultants
Ruby Horta, County Connection Director of Planning, Marketing, & Innovation