

Caltrans' plan to massively widen Highway 1 will not decrease traffic congestion. And the quarry initiative's plan to build more than 200 residential units—with no plan whatsoever for dealing with a huge increase in traffic in the same overburdened part of Pacifica—will greatly increase traffic congestion. Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives (PH1A) wants to make a connection between these two bad plans that if allowed to go forward will result in environmental destruction to one of Pacifica's most cherished open-space areas, while not doing a thing to improve traffic flow. Here is my letter to the editor of the Pacifica Tribune, printed in the May 25 edition:

Can We Please Not Make the Traffic Worse!

Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives was founded to stop the city from approving the Calera Parkway Project, a proposed massive widening of Highway 1 between Reina Del Mar and Fassler Avenue. We oppose that project because it would be wider than 280 and would not improve traffic flow. It merely takes a bottleneck and makes the bottle bigger. Instead, we support better traffic signal timing, increased public transportation, carpools, and staggered school start times.

One thing that will clearly not reduce traffic on the highway is adding more than 200 residential units to that already clogged part of town, as proposed by the owner of

the quarry. Current sketches call for the traffic to come out on San Marlo Way, a tiny street that dumps cars onto the southbound lanes of Highway 1.

There is a reason why the quarry is currently not zoned for residential: that part of town cannot take such a tremendous increase in residents going in and out of that already bottlenecked part of the highway. The owner has not presented us with a plan for dealing with increased traffic, and the Calera Parkway Project was not designed with increased traffic coming from the quarry in mind.

Let's not make the problem worse by approving over 200 units of housing with no plans for the increased traffic it will cause.

Chaya Gordon
for Pacificans for Highway 1 Alternatives