

**SUSTAINABLE TAMALMONTE  
215 JULIA AVENUE  
MILL VALLEY, CA 94941**

June 4, 2013

Supervisor Kate Sears  
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
Re: Funding for Tam Valley & Almonte

Dear Kate,

Thank you for your kind response and update to your activities related to removing Tam Valley and Almonte from the Hwy 101 Corridor Priority Development Area (PDA).

We are very heartened by your report that you are taking steps to revise the Hwy 101 Corridor PDA in the Tam Valley/Almonte area.

In your email you stated that the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) allocated \$175,000 of One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) funds for a Project Study Report for bike/ped improvements along Shoreline Hwy from Coyote Creek to Flamingo Rd. As you know, 50% of OBAG funds are granted to areas in Priority Development Areas and 50% are granted to areas outside Priority Development Areas (PDAs). Regrettably, we understand the \$175,000 came from the OBAG funds designated for PDAs.

You further indicated that you are researching whether or not removal of Tam Valley and Almonte from the PDA would affect the above-mentioned funding. Included in your research is determining whether removing the Manzanita sites while retaining the PDA designation generally in Tam Valley and Almonte would preserve the funding.

Unfortunately, removing the Manzanita sites from the PDA while retaining the PDA designation generally in Tam Valley and Almonte is unacceptable to our community. As previously stated, we wish you to work towards removing all of Tam Valley and Almonte from the PDA.

If you establish that the OBAG grant for the Almonte Shoreline Project Study Report can be retained even though our entire area is removed from the PDA, then it would be of value to our community to keep the funding. If, however, our area would need to remain in the PDA, even partially, to keep the funding, then we do not want it. Funding concomitant with increased development would

obviate any benefit achieved through the related funding. Instead, we would want you to pursue bike/ped funding from Non-PDA OBAG funding or else from other sources.

Last week I spoke with Dan Cherrier, the TAM project manager for the “Almonte Shoreline – Project Study Report along Shoreline Hwy from Coyote Creek Bridge to Flamingo Rd.” Dan stated that the \$175,000 had not yet been touched and would not be needed until they move to the next stage, which would begin after August, 2013.

As already indicated, if keeping the \$175,000 is dependent on remaining in the PDA, then please return the grant to TAM to be spent on some other project. This should be easy to do, as it has not yet been spent. Instead, please pursue other sources of funding for our community.

In your email, you mentioned that you were not aware of other sources of funding currently available. However, based on some preliminary research, there are other sources, which if not available immediately, could be available in the near future.

#### **Information from the Marin County Bike Coalition:**

For instance, the Marin County Bike Coalition’s website offers access to their guidebook entitled; “The ABCs of Bike Funding”. - <http://www.marinbike.org/Resources/FundingABC.shtml>

The “ABCs of Bike Funding” guidebook lists the following **Funding Sources**:

- Transportation Funds for Livable Communities
- State Bicycle Transportation Account
- Transportation Funds for Clean Air Program (TFCA)
- Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3
- Safe Routes to School
- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Bay Trails
- Sales Tax
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Transportation Enhancements

The guidebook was prepared in 2002. So, it is unclear what the status is of all the listed funding sources at this time. However, we know some of the sources are still relevant (E.g. Safe Routes for School, CMAQ). Besides which, there are the 50% of OBAG funds which are for areas outside PDAs, which you could pursue, if not now then in 4 years.

**Information from TAM document, dated 11-29-12, regarding Programming of One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Funds:**

**OBAG Funds For Areas Outside of PDAs**

We reviewed Attachment F entitled; “Staff Funding Recommendation - Geographic Equity Scenario” from the Transportation Authority of Marin’s (TAM’s) document, dated November 29, 2013 pertaining to Programming of One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Funds (Action) - Agenda Item 8:

<http://www.tam.ca.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5493>

We understand that Attachment F shows the final selection of projects that were awarded OBAG funds. At the bottom of the page, it indicates that there is a remainder of \$2,341,000 set aside for “CMA Planning and Outreach”. Since these funds are “set aside”, it seems they have not yet been appropriated. Perhaps you could make a trade. Give back the \$175,000 that were awarded to the “Almonte Shoreline” project based on Almonte/ Tam Valley being in the PDA and in return, acquire the same amount for the “Almonte Shoreline” project from funds set aside for “CMA Planning and Outreach”.

**Description of CMA Planning and Outreach Funds:**

“CMA Planning and Outreach– These funds are set aside by MTC for CMA activities such as modeling work, monitoring of traffic, and update to the Congestion Management Program (CMP). TAM uses these funds to manage our SCS Adhoc Committee and provide support to local jurisdiction planning staff. TAM also offers direct consultant support for the delivery of federal-aid local projects and undertakes the programming of assigned funding and solicitation of projects. The CMA may also use these funds for planning activities by its member agencies.”

**On Page 8 of the above referenced TAM document another source of funding, CMA Dues, is listed:**

“CMA Dues - TAM receives dues annually from all of its member jurisdictions, totaling \$430,000. TAM has utilized these dues to match federal funds on projects or programs TAM participates in (such as matching funds we contributed to the station area plans) as well as other TAM efforts such as our audits. Staff believes we can free up CMA Dues funds totaling \$150,000 for two OBAG projects - the Novato Transit Hub design and the Feasibility Study for Fairfax to San Rafael Transit Corridor. The Novato Transit Hub design can proceed as scheduled, which would not otherwise be the case if we utilized OBAG funds. TAM cannot give any OBAG funds to any project in Novato as Novato does not have an HCD-certified Housing Element yet. This does not apply to the CMA Dues, and so that project can stay on schedule.”

If TAM can free up some of the “CMA Dues” funds for projects in Novato and Fairfax/San Rafael, surely it can free up funds for a project in Tam

Valley/Almonte. If the \$430,000 for this year has already been spent, then we can wait until next year to receive the funding.

Based on the information we have gathered, we believe there are a number of creative ways that you could find funding for bike/ped safety improvements in our community that are not dependent on Tam Valley and Almonte remaining in the Priority Development Area.

Thank you in advance for working towards removal of all of Tam Valley and Almonte from the PDA. Thank you also for pursuing sources of funding that make sense for our community.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Sharon Rushton

Chairperson

**Sustainable TamAlmonte**