



The Town of Alamo

Your source for information on the Alamo incorporation effort



<http://www.alamoinc.org/>

Updating Alamo...

Number 9

The Ultimate Configuration – NOT!

On Monday, June 30, over 100 Alamo residents crowded into two small conference rooms at the distant Dougherty Station Community Center to voice their unanimously negative feelings about a proposal to reconfigure Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road. The TriValley Transportation Council met to rule on this unpopular proposal that would in effect offer I-680 drivers an alternative to the freeway on Danville Boulevard, greatly increasing traffic and congestion on an already badly congested street running right through the center of Alamo.

As Alamo residents kept arriving and under the provisions of the Brown Act (California's open government legislation) the meeting was moved to the downstairs auditorium. Chairman Scott Perkins, a San Ramon city council member, introduced county staff who immediately made it very clear that the Ultimate Configuration proposal was being taken off the table – permanently. As the county's road planner said: "I will not work on this again in my professional lifetime".

At Chairman Perkins' request, other council members, including Supervisor Mary Piepho confirmed that they would not be re-introducing this project and Newell Arnerich, a TVTC member and a Danville council member reminded the (almost 100%) Alamo audience that all TVTC decisions have to be unanimous, making it even less likely that the project would be brought back.

While some Alamo attendees remained concerned that the process of removing the project from the various lists it occupies would take far too long, the overwhelming sense of the meeting was that the Alamo community had made its voice heard effectively and constructively. It will now be up to the new Alamo Roads Advisory Committee (note the "advisory") to work on alternative plans for Alamo roads pending Alamo voters' decision to incorporate.

However – Alamo has had no direct representation on the TVTC and while we are grateful to Supervisor Piepho for her help on this issue, ultimately she has to represent the county's interests, which may diverge from Alamo's. Alamo needs to incorporate and to have a seat on the TVTC where the required unanimous decisions would give Alamo control over its own destiny. We may have dodged a bullet this time, but we really need to be at the table with the other incorporated communities in the Valley.

What can we learn from this experience? When the Alamo community comes together on an issue it cares about, it can be effective. The effort to incorporate Alamo has already generated a new sense of community. How much more effective will we be as the incorporated Town of Alamo with our own elected town council? Incorporation will allow us to take definitive action on our local issues, including land use planning, parks, policing, roads and traffic – and will give us a seat on the TVTC, where we must be represented.

Thanks are due to Supervisor Piepho who responded promptly and thoughtfully to Alamo's concerns, to the TVTC for its action to remove the project from consideration and to many Alamo residents, particularly Grace Schmidt, whose leadership on this issue brought so many of us out along the further reaches of Bollinger Canyon Road on Monday. This was an excellent example of the Alamo community working together – let's move to incorporation and work together on all of the issues Alamo faces in the future.

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