

LOSALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

August 19, 2014

Fariba Zohoury  
Caltrans District 4 Project Manager  
P.O. Box 23660  
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Re: Mitigation of Highway 280 Noise and Repaving Request

Dear Mr. Zohoury:

The Town of Los Altos Hills lies midway between Woodside Road and Highway 85 along Interstate 280. Approximately 8,500 people live in Town and are concerned with a growing noise problem on Interstate 280.

In its infancy, our citizens were fortunate to live in an area that featured quiet streets dotted with oak trees and redwoods and still has a population that appreciates a peaceful atmosphere. The City Council committed to preserve the semi-rural atmosphere and in 2007, has since further verified the commitment with a Noise Element policy. Unfortunately, it is now being made more difficult to enforce by the ever increasing Interstate 280 noise levels.

The sound volume levels from the I-280 freeway is adversely affecting the quality of life, property values and the general attractiveness of Los Altos Hills. There is always a very noticeable freeway noise, both day and night. Indeed, at times, the ambient sound power levels regularly exceed 60dB.

Los Altos Hills is the only city in the area that Interstate 280 actually bisects. Between Woodside and Highway 85, the Town has the highest population density and highest number of affected city residents of any city in that range. Traffic noise has been monitored for several years now; with the recent economic recovery, the road's noise level has dramatically increased in the last few years.

Our Town's Public Works Director recently learned that a project is being planned to repave Interstate 280 between Woodside and Highway 85. We have also learned that there are new pavement technologies that, if used, will significantly mitigate the I-280 vehicle noise by up to 90%. The most effective technology uses a recently developed rubberized pavement material. Relevant articles by highly regarded sources, including three from CalTrans, describe these new technologies and are cited below:

Fariba Zohoury  
August 19, 2014  
Page Two

- Caltrans Asphalt Rubber Usage Guide (January 2003) – describes a 40-88% reduction in noise.
- Caltrans Quieter Pavement Bulletin (October 2009) – mandates the use of quiet pavement technologies in areas with significant residential exposure
- Caltrans Rymer NITE Study – cites sections of I-280 paved with Asphalt Rubber that have achieved a 6dB reduction in noise (approximately 50%)
- UC Davis 12-Year Study – shows a 7 dB improvement on I-80 repaved sections
- Arizona Dept. of Transportation – describes a 90% reduction in noise levels.  
[http://www.azdot.gov/business/environmental-services-and-planning/programs/quiet-pavement-program/what\\_is\\_rubberized\\_asphalt.asp](http://www.azdot.gov/business/environmental-services-and-planning/programs/quiet-pavement-program/what_is_rubberized_asphalt.asp)

Citing the mandate in Caltrans' Quieter Pavement Bulletin (October 2009), Los Altos Hills requests that the portion of I-280 that borders Los Altos Hills be among the very first to be repaved. We also ask that a criterion for any repaving contracts be added that will identify vehicle noise reduction as a priority; we further suggest that a bonus be offered for smooth surfaces that will provide and retain lowered noise levels.

I look forward to your reply and agreement to collaborate in addressing this perplexing problem. Thank you for your consideration as we seek to preserve the values that define our Town and to protect our residents from the adverse intrusion of freeway noise upon their daily lives.

Sincerely,



John Radford, Mayor  
Town of Los Altos Hills

cc: Joe Simitian, Supervisor, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, District 5  
Bijan Sartipi, Caltrans District 4 Director  
Robert Salazar, Senior Engineer, Maintenance Division  
Robert Camargo, District 4 Region Manager  
Los Altos Hills City Council