

DATE: 2/16/99 AGENDA ITEM # 14.
() APPROVED () DENIED
() CONTINUED

TO: JAMES L. APP, CITY MANAGER
FROM: BOB LATA, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR *BL*
SUBJECT: DRAFT LETTER TO CALTRANS REGARDING TIMELY
INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION
OF BUENA VISTA DRIVE AND HIGHWAY 46 EAST
DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 1999

Needs: For the City Council to consider approving a draft letter to Caltrans.

- Facts:
1. The City of Paso Robles has been working with Cuesta College and the Paso Robles Public School District to seek authorization to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East.
 2. With the assistance of Senator Jack O'Connell, a meeting was held with the Caltrans District 5 Director in November 1998.
 3. The Caltrans District Director indicated that if a traffic signal were to be approved for installation at that intersection, Caltrans would want to have Buena Vista Drive widened to the north as part of the same project.
 4. Cuesta and City staff have drafted a list of possible Measure D funded projects in support of Cuesta College. The subject traffic signal and Buena Vista Drive widening are near the top of the draft list. The project priority list will be subject to City Council approval, which will consider recommendations by the Cuesta College Board.

RIMC CODE:	Community Development Department
FILE/CAT:	Advance Planning
DATE:	February 3, 1999
SUBJECT:	Highway 46E / BV Traffic Signal
RETENTION:	Permanent

5. The attached draft letter to Caltrans would commit the City to funding the traffic signal and street widening (from Borkey Area Specific Plan and Measure D funding) and seeks to obtain immediate Caltrans approval to prepare plans & specifications and to construct the described improvements.

**Analysis
and**

Conclusion:

With the establishment of Cuesta College, development activity in both the City and the County, and plans for construction of the Kermit King Elementary School, there is a growing public safety concern regarding the intersection of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East.

The attached draft letter is intended to seek a timely authorization from Caltrans to proceed with plans, specifications, and construction of a traffic signal at that intersection.

As demonstrated by letters of support, the concerns regarding the timely need for the traffic signal are shared by Senator Jack O'Connell, Assemblyman Abel Maldonado, Mary Chambers / FIX-46, and County Superintendent of Schools Julian Crocker.

Policy

Reference:

General Plan, Borkey Area Specific Plan and Environmental Documents

Fiscal

Impact:

The projected cost of installing the traffic signal and widening Buena Vista Drive north from Highway 46 East to Experimental Station Road is estimated at \$820,500 (including both design and construction). Because the Borkey Area Specific Plan had already allocated \$125,200 toward this project, the net funding needed from Measure D would be approximately \$695,300. Use of Measure D funds for this purpose would be subject to City Council consideration of recommendations from the Cuesta College Board.

Options:

- a. That the City Council authorize the Mayor to send the attached letter to the Caltrans District Director, with the funding of the project being contingent upon Council consideration of input from Cuesta College.
- b. Amend, modify or reject option "a".

h:\bob\60\cuesta\99\rpt to cc re letter to caltrans 3 Feb 99

February 17, 1999

Jay D. Walter, P.E.
District Director of Transportation
State of California, Department of Transportation
District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415

SUBJECT: Traffic Signal, Intersection of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East

Dear Mr. Walter:

Thank you for meeting with representatives of Cuesta College and the City of Paso Robles on November 24, 1998. Your time and interest in our concerns regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East are sincerely appreciated!

As our staff and the Cuesta College representatives conveyed to you, in the coming months and years we will be experiencing increasing use of the subject intersection from a number of sources. Attached is a summary of various types of traffic generating projects, along with some related background information.

Also enclosed are copies of Resolutions from Cuesta College, the Paso Robles School District, and the City of Paso Robles, all supportive of installing a traffic signal as soon as possible. Time is of the essence. None of us wants to be installing a traffic signal in response to one or more serious accidents.

In your meeting with our staff and the Cuesta College representatives, there was discussion of coordinating installation of the Buena Vista / 46 East traffic signal with a widening of Buena Vista Drive to four lanes northward from Highway 46. Please be advised that the City of Paso Robles is prepared to commit the resources necessary to proceed with a widening of Buena Vista Drive in conjunction with installation of the traffic signal.

In order for us to proceed in a timely manner, the City, Cuesta College, and Paso Robles School District would appreciate your authorization for the City to hire a firm to prepare plans and specifications for the traffic signal and the widening of Buena Vista Drive. The selection of the design engineer and preparation of the plans and specifications would, of course, involve consultation with Caltrans. The City is prepared to work with other interested parties to advance the funds necessary to prepare the plans and specifications for both the traffic signal and the road widening.

DRAFT

3

In addition to Resolutions of support from Cuesta College, the Paso Robles School District, and the City, also enclosed are letters of support from:

- State Senator Jack O'Connell
- State Assemblyman Abel Maldonado
- Mary Chambers, Chair of the FIX-46 Organization
- Julian Crocker, County Superintendent of Schools

We would very much appreciate your authorization to proceed with preparation of plans and specifications for the traffic signal in conjunction with the Buena Vista widening at your earliest convenience.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me, our City Manager Jim App, or our Community Development Director Bob Lata at (805) 237-3970.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Duane J. Picanco, Mayor

h:\cuesta\98\caltrans re bv-46e 3 Feb 99

DRAFT

Projects Impacting the Intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive

1. Cuesta College opened in August 1998 with 1300 students enrolled in the Fall semester. The school property is 82 acres in area and will be growing in phases over the coming years to a projected school population of 8,000 to 10,000 students.
2. In addition to the primary campus, a recent annexation includes approximately 23 additional acres that is being donated to Cuesta College. It is anticipated that a conference / business center will be developed on this property.
3. The site of Cuesta College includes a "One-Stop" center designed to assist former Welfare recipients. This traffic will be in addition to projected Cuesta College impacts.
4. The Borkey Area Specific Plan, which was adopted in 1989, anticipated up to 524 single family dwelling units. Construction is currently under way, pursuant to Tract Map No. 1895, consisting of 122 dwelling units.
5. Paso Robles Schools has a elementary school site west of Buena Vista Drive. This property was purchased some years ago, in anticipation of residential growth. The School District indicates that it plans to construct the Kermit King Elementary School within the next two to three years. Safe turning movements for school buses, both eastbound and westbound, call for the traffic signal at Buena Vista / 46 East.
6. An additional area of approximately 117 acres was annexed to the City during 1998. The property is zoned for "Agriculture". Please note, however, that both the County and City AG zones permit a range of recreational uses, and the property owner has in the past been operating a commercial nursery and "corn maze". With annexation, we are anticipating that there may be more traffic generating recreational land uses.
7. In addition to the Martin Brothers Winery Tasting Room that is dependent upon access at Buena Vista / 46 East, the main Martin Brothers Winery is located further north in the County on Buena Vista Drive. The main winery has a number of public entertainment events throughout the year (but primarily Spring and Summer), which add traffic to that intersection.
8. Sylvester Winery is located further north on Buena Vista Drive, also relying on traffic through the Buena Vista / 46 intersection.

Related Background Information:

Two Environmental Impact Reports, supported by technical studies, have pointed to the need for access to and from Buena Vista Drive at Highway 46 East (Borkey Area Specific Plan EIR, 1989; Cuesta College North County Campus Subsequent EIR, 1998).

The only east-west alignment road along the north side of Highway 46 is the dedicated right-of-way through the Cuesta College Campus (the right-of-way is now called Ronan Road; a street name change to Dallons Drive under consideration). This road is planned to be constructed with a subsequent phase of Cuesta College. In light of the nature and scale of the above described developments along Buena Vista Drive, and considering traffic safety concerns for both college students and staff, it would not be desirable to channel the traffic through the Ronan Road / Dallons Drive alignment to Golden Hill Road.

Summary / Conclusion:

There is a growing demand for safe access to and from Highway 46 East for Cuesta College students and staff, residents, Paso Robles schools, and for customers and staff of recreation and commercial land uses.

As was noted at the November 24, 1998 meeting, based on environmental impact studies, traffic safety and other concerns, it would be unrealistic to expect that this growing amount of traffic could access Highway 46 at any point other than the Buena Vista Drive intersection.

Cuesta College, the Paso Robles School District, and the City of Paso Robles all support taking immediate steps to prepare plans, specifications, and construct a traffic signal at the intersection of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East.

SACRAMENTO OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 5035
SACRAMENTO CA 95814
(916) 445-5405

SAN LUIS OBISPO OFFICE
1260 CHORRO STREET, SUITE A
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 547-1800

SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
228 WEST CARRILLO, SUITE F
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 966-2296

VENTURA OFFICE
89 S CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE E
VENTURA, CA 93001
(805) 641-1500

California State Senate

SENATOR
JACK O'CONNELL
EIGHTEENTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



CHAIR
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
COASTAL CAUCUS
MAJORITY CAUCUS
MEMBER
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES

January 26, 1999

Mayor Duane Picanco
City Council Members
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mayor Picanco and Council Members:

This letter is to convey my support for the installation of a traffic signal on State Route (SR) 46 at the intersection of Buena Vista in the City of El Paso de Robles.

As you may know, I arranged a meeting with Jay Walter, Caltrans District 5 Director, in December of 1998, and other interested parties to further pursue the installation of a traffic signal at the Buena Vista location. Director Walter was receptive to the idea of a traffic signal provided that significant improvements were made to the Buena Vista roadway near the intersection of SR 46 by the City. Additionally, Director Walter suggested that Caltrans install street lighting to further improve this intersection. Director Walter stated that Caltrans would pursue street lighting independently from the traffic signal issue.

Therefore, I would like to encourage the Council Members to take action to make the necessary improvements to Buena Vista which will improve the overall traffic safety of the Buena Vista intersection and SR 46 as a safety corridor. I am confident that Caltrans, under Director Walter's guidance, will aid the City and the Council in their efforts to make necessary improvements to the intersection of SR 46 and Buena Vista, including the addition of the much needed traffic signal. I applaud your diligence and foresight in this matter.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other state matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,


JACK O'CONNELL

JO:tj
T5a

cc: Robert Lata, Community Development Director
Jay Walter, Caltrans District 5 Director



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
(916) 319-2033

Assembly
California Legislature



ABEL MALDONADO
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

January 27, 1999

RECEIVED

FEB 1 1999

STATE COLLEGE

Jay D. Walter, P.E.
District Director of Transportation
State of California, Department of Transportation
District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415

SUBJECT: Traffic Signal, Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East

Dear Mr. Walter:

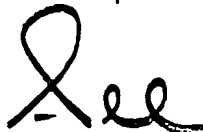
Constituent safety is paramount to the productivity, progress and overall well being of the 33rd Assembly District. I am writing to you in support of installing a traffic signal at the corner of Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East in conjunction with plans to widen Buena Vista Drive to four lanes, northward from Highway 46.

As I am sure you are aware, some 1300 students enrolled in the new Cuesta College campus in Paso Robles last August and bring high volume use to these roads. Additionally, surrounding land is planned for new elementary schools, residential communities, and other public facilities that will only increase the traffic flow each year. Two Environmental Impact Reports (Borkley Area Specific Plan EIR and the Cuesta College North County Campus Subsequent EIR, 1998) identify additional use and impact to the current roads and traffic patterns.

Due to the growing demand for safe access to and from Highway 46 East for Cuesta College students and staff, residents, Paso Robles schools, and for customers and staff of commercial and recreational land uses, I strongly encourage you to make a decision in favor of installing a new traffic signal.

I join Cuesta College, the Paso Robles School District and the City of Paso Robles in asking your department to prepare plans, specifications, and construction of this traffic signal as soon as possible for the future safety of these busy roadways.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abel Maldonado', with a stylized 'A' and 'M'.

ABEL MALDONADO

AM;mb

cc: Senator Jack O'Connell
Duane J. Picanco, Mayor, Paso Robles
Grace Mitchell, President, Cuesta College
Eric Smith, Paso Robles School District
Bob Lata, City of Paso Robles

MARY E. CHAMBERS, DIRECTOR
1744 PONDEROSA LANE
PASO ROBLES, CA. 93446
"FIX 46"
18051239-2888
DATE: 12-6-98

Jay D. Walter, P.E.

District Director of Transportation

State of California, Department of Transportation

District 5

50 Higuera Street

San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93401-5415

Date: December 5, 1998

Dear Mr. Jay D. Walter;

Subject: Signal at Buena Vista Drive and Highway 46 East. Paso Robles, Ca.

Since the onset of the planning for the college, fall of 1997, the "FIX 46"

Committee has been in communication with Caltrans regarding potential traffic hazards.

Due to the variations of vehicles on Highway 46, and no recognized frontage roadway north of Highway 46, between Buena Vista Drive and Golden Hills Road, this seems to be an area of confusion.

A signal has been requested, because this is a safety hazard for vehicles turning East or West, entering and exiting Buena Vista Drive.

Our "FIX 46" Committee has been concerned with this situation from the beginning. Now, with the school population and a grammar school also in the planning, as well as further development. I would think this would be of the uppermost concern of Caltrans.

Thank you for your time and appreciate your approval on this safety issue.

Mary E. Chambers, Chairman of "FIX 46"

Mary E. Chambers



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Julian D. Crocker, Superintendent

January 19, 1999

RECEIVED
CITY MANAGER

JAN 21 1999

CITY OF PASO ROBLES

Duane Picanco, Mayor
City of El Paso de Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Dear Mayor Picanco:

I am writing this letter of support for the immediate improvement of the intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive in Paso Robles. Both the City and the Paso Robles Public Schools have recognized that this project is urgently needed to provide for the safety and convenience of the increasing numbers of citizens who are already using this intersection. As we both know, the voters of Paso Robles passed a local bond measure (Measure D) in June 1998, which provides funds for both the widening of Buena Vista Drive and the installation of a traffic signal at this intersection. The City has committed these funds for this project and is to be commended for this effort. It is now necessary for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to approve this project in order to begin the improvements. I am joining with you in urging Caltrans to act swiftly to approve this locally funded project.

Specifically, the following projects located along Buena Vista Drive are causing, or soon will cause, a substantial increase in the vehicular traffic using this intersection:

The opening of the North County Campus of Cuesta College in September 1998.

This is a significant achievement in bringing access to higher education to hundreds of students in the North County. However, the more than 1000 students who attend the college obviously creates a need for safe and efficient access and egress from the campus.

The planned growth in residential development (Borkey Specific Plan) already under development.

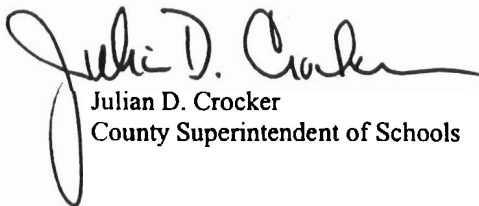
The establishment of the infrastructure is already under way with residences to follow shortly.

The anticipated construction of a new elementary school (Kermit King School) which will house 500 students.

This school could be completed by the fall 2000, and will significantly increase traffic in this area.

I am in complete support of the widening of Buena Vista Drive in this area and the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive. I am particularly aware of the need to provide safe access for school buses to enter and exit from Buena Vista Drive with the proposed opening of Kermit King Elementary School. I agree with you that this project cannot be postponed, but needs to move forward now. Vehicular traffic is already significant, and we know this will increase dramatically very soon in light of the above named projects. Please include me and the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education as strong advocates for the immediate signalization and widening of the Highway 46 East-Buena Vista Drive intersection.

Sincerely,



Julian D. Crocker
County Superintendent of Schools

VS

cc: State Senator Jack O'Connell
Assemblyman Able Maldonado
Dr. Patrick Sayne, Superintendent, Paso Robles Public Schools
Jim App, City Manager, El Paso de Robles

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO: 98-18

SUPPORTING INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL
AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 46 EAST AND BUENA VISTA DRIVE

WHEREAS, traffic safety is a paramount concern of the staff, administration and the Board of Trustees of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District; and

WHEREAS, the opening of the North County Campus of Cuesta College with over 1300 new students emphasizes the need for both safe and efficient access to and from Highway 46 East at its intersection with Buena Vista Drive; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the number of students attending the Cuesta College North County Campus will continue to grow in the coming years, making it increasingly imperative that improved traffic control at the subject intersection to be provided without unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS, the Paso Robles Public Schools plan to construct the new Kermitt King Elementary School at a location accessed from the Highway 46 East/Buena Vista Drive intersection; and

WHEREAS, especially for the safe turning movements of public school buses, there is a need for timely installation of traffic signalization at the subject location; and

WHEREAS, approved and anticipated residential subdivisions and development in both the City and the County Unincorporated area north of Highway 46 will create additional demand for safe ingress and egress at the subject intersection; and

WHEREAS, through the adopted Borkey Area Specific Plan, new residential development will contribute a proportionate share toward funding a new traffic signal at the subject intersection; and

WHEREAS, the amount of time necessary to prepare design plans and obtain official approvals for a traffic signal to be installed at the subject intersection makes it necessary to begin the process without further delay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the San Luis Obispo County Community College District emphatically supports the installation of a traffic control signal at the intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive as soon as physically possible in order to provide enhanced vehicular traffic safety for the present and future students attending the Cuesta College North County Campus and Kermitt King Elementary School, and the needs of present and future residents of the subject area.

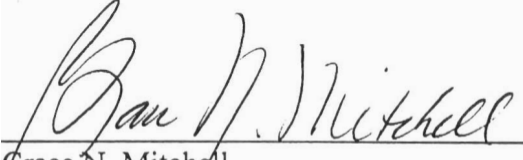
Motion by: James W. Brabeck

Seconded by: Gaye L. Galvan

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0
Student Trustee Advisory Vote - Yes

I hereby certify that the above action is a true and accurate copy of the action taken by the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting on September 2, 1998.

Date



Grace N. Mitchell
Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 98-37

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPPORTING INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL
AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 46 EAST AND BUENA VISTA DRIVE

WHEREAS, traffic safety is a paramount concern for students, parents, teachers and the community in the City of Paso Robles; and

WHEREAS, the opening of the North County Campus of Cuesta College with over 1300 new students emphasizes the need for both safe and efficient access to and from Highway 46 East at its intersection with Buena Vista Drive; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the number of students attending Cuesta College's North County Campus will continue to grow in the coming years, making it increasingly imperative to provide for improved traffic control at the subject intersection to be provided without unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS, the Paso Robles Public Schools plan to construct the new Kermit King Elementary School at a location accessed from the Highway 46 East/Buena Vista Drive intersection; and

WHEREAS, especially for the safe turning movements of public school buses, there is a need for timely installation of traffic signalization at the subject location; and

WHEREAS, approved and anticipated residential subdivisions and development in both the City and the County Unincorporated area north of Highway 46 will create additional demand for safe ingress and egress at the subject intersection; and

WHEREAS, through the adopted Borkey Area Specific Plan, new residential development will contribute a proportionate share toward funding a new traffic signal at the subject intersection; and

WHEREAS, the amount of time necessary to prepare design plans and obtain official approvals for a traffic signal to be installed at the subject intersection makes it necessary to begin that process without further delay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District emphatically supports the installation of a traffic control signal at the intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive as soon as physically possible in order to provide enhanced vehicular traffic safety for the present and future students attending the North County Campus of Cuesta College and Kermit King Elementary School, and the needs of present and future residents of the subject area.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS eighth day of September, 1998 by the following roll call vote:

(Ward/Swindell)

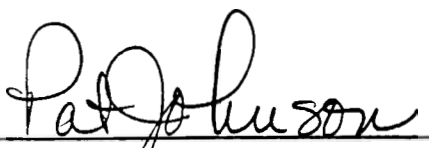
AYES: **Dugger, Machado, Swindell, Willhoit, Zmugg, Johnson, Ward**

NOES: **None**

ABSTAIN: **None**

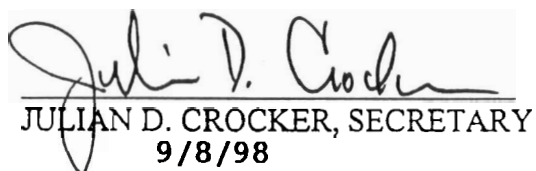
ABSENT: **None**

PASO ROBLES JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



PAT JOHNSON
PRESIDENT, PAT JOHNSON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTEST:



JULIAN D. CROCKER
JULIAN D. CROCKER, SECRETARY
9/8/98

RESOLUTION NO. 98-157

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
SUPPORTING INSTALLATION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL
AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 46 EAST AND BUENA VISTA DRIVE

WHEREAS, traffic safety is a paramount concern for both citizens and public officials in the City of Paso Robles; and

WHEREAS, the opening of the North County Campus of Cuesta College with over 1300 new students emphasizes the need for both safe and efficient access to and from Highway 46 East at its intersection with Buena Vista Drive; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the number of students attending Cuesta College's North County Campus will continue to grow in the coming years, making it increasingly imperative to provide for improved traffic control at the subject intersection to be provided without unnecessary delays; and

WHEREAS, the Paso Robles Public Schools plan to construct the new Kermit King Elementary School at a location accessed from the Highway 46 East / Buena Vista Drive intersection; and

WHEREAS, especially for the safe turning movements of public school buses, there is a need for timely installation of traffic signalization at the subject location; and

WHEREAS, approved and anticipated residential subdivisions and development in both the City and the County Unincorporated area north of Highway 46 will create additional demand for safe ingress and egress at the subject intersection; and

WHEREAS, through the adopted Borkey Area Specific Plan, new residential development will contribute a proportionate share toward funding a new traffic signal at the subject intersection; and

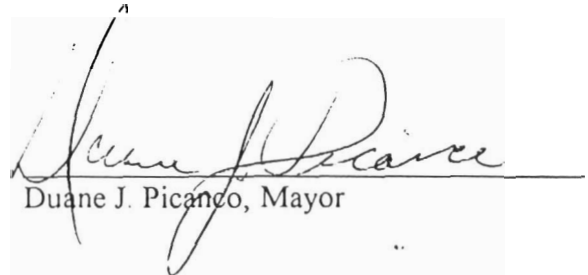
WHEREAS, the amount of time necessary to prepare design plans and obtain official approvals for a traffic signal to be installed at the subject intersection makes it necessary to begin that process without further delay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, that the City of Paso Robles emphatically supports the installation of a traffic control signal at the intersection of Highway 46 East and Buena Vista Drive as soon as physically possible in order to provide enhanced vehicular traffic safety for the present and future students attending the North County Campus of Cuesta College and Kermit King Elementary School, and the needs of present and future residents of the subject area

Resolution No. 98-157

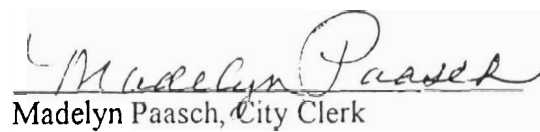
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, this 1st day of September, 1998 by the following vote:

AYES: Baron, Iversen, Macklin, Swanson, and Picanco
NOES: None
ABSENT: None



Duane J. Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:



Madelyn Paasch, City Clerk