

Mr. Rich Krumholz, Director  
CALTRANS, District 5  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415

Re: Street Trees  
Mission Street in Santa Cruz, California

Mr. Krumholtz,

I am writing you in support of planting street trees and landscaping in the center median of Mission Street (Highway 1) between the intersections of Swift Street and Fair Avenue, in Santa Cruz, California.

This request for support and the existing site condition is consistent with the information contained in Caltrans publication, ***Main Street: Flexibility in Design and Operations***, dated January 2005, which recommends and allows trees and landscape within a raised median/traffic island.

Please consider the following:

1. On May 11, 1999 the Santa Cruz City Council passed a resolution requesting that Caltrans permit the city to landscape the Mission Street median to create a gateway to Santa Cruz at the western entrance of the city.
2. The Mission Street Urban Design Plan "Street Tree Planting Concept" and the cross sections of the west end gateway recommend and depict trees planted in these medians.
3. A landscape plan with scaled drawings for the Mission Street corridor was developed and details the placement and type of tree to be planted in the median between Swift Street and Fair Avenue, as well as on the rest of the corridor.
4. The following photo is from page 13 of the Caltrans publication, *Main Streets: Flexibility in Design & Operations*. This photo shows conditions which are very similar to those in Santa Cruz. During the Mission Street widening project Caltrans installed infrastructure for electrical and water within the medians between Swift Street and Fair Avenue to facilitate the installation of landscape irrigation. Additionally, Caltrans did not install a concrete cap on the median islands to not preclude the ability to easily install future landscaping.



5. The following photo is of the current bleak condition on Mission Street. As noted above the current condition can accommodate landscape enhancements as recommended in the referenced Caltrans publication.



6. The following photo is an example of a similar condition where there is a four lane road within the City of Escalon, where trees were allowed in a median on State Highway 120. This appears to be a wonderful example of Caltrans meeting the needs of the community.



I am hopeful Caltrans can be sensitive to the community expectations and interests in allowing for an appropriate gateway to the City of Santa Cruz from the North Coast. Highway 1 as it travels through Santa Cruz is not a freeway, but a low-speed main street through a commercial and residential district.

Please feel free to contact me at 831.466.2772 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David J. Tanza, AIA CCM  
Principal  
LEED® Accredited Professional

Cc: D. Bulger, Mission Street Pedestrian  
C. Matthews, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz