

December 05, 2005

Honorable Mayor and Council  
City of Hermosa Beach  
1315 Valley Drive  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

**RECEIVED**

DEC - 5 2005

**Per.....**

RE: REQUEST TO RETAIN CONSULTANT  
SIGNALIZATION OF PCH AT 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET.

Dear Mayor Tucker and Council:

Council determined in November of 2003 to approve plans submitted by Shook Development to signalize the intersection located on Pacific Coast Hwy at 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Hermosa Beach.

This letter represents a request to authorize and retain an independent consultant concerning this project. A consultant is required to act as a professional advisor and critical planner to review the feasibility, and impact of the proposed modification.

The decision rendered in November of 2003 was without benefit of a governing document such as a municipal plan, feasibility study, or impact review. The recommendation of the Public Works Director lacked critical analysis and is silent concerning the intensification of 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Shook Development's request for signalization, and business presented to council was without NOTICE to the residents. NOTICE of hearing was never served nor were our concerns surveyed.

Essentially, the engineering plans aim to convert 16<sup>th</sup> Street into a traffic artery to service the business corridor on Pacific Coast Hwy. This will trigger the closure of the 16<sup>th</sup> Street artery, east of the highway. It is reasonable to assume, as business continues to expand along Pacific Coast Highway other neighborhoods will also require street closure.

Logistically, the proposed signal is 2 blocks (less than 200 yards) from another major traffic intersection. This constitutes nine (9)-signalized intersections clustered along a 1.3-mile strip of highway.

Prior to any street construction, the existing plans require strategic review by both the city, and Caltrans. The engineering firm (Linscott Law & Greenspan) was retained by the developer to advocate the special interests of the developer; the firm is unconcerned with impact to residential neighborhoods or community. The volume of vehicular traffic the Pavilion intends to generate (per engineering calculations) intensifies traffic along 16<sup>th</sup> Street, resulting in adverse impact to surrounding neighborhoods. Plans identify placement of multiple traffic signals that will direct traffic from Pacific Coast Hwy, eastbound onto 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Calculations erroneously assume 16<sup>th</sup> Street is capable of accommodating 2-way traffic.

No margin of safety exists for pedestrians who are required to walk in the street. Mothers with trepidation are forced to push a child's stroller into oncoming traffic, and the safety of a child walking to school is disregarded. These plans harm neighborhood. Our living environment deserves respect, as do the families, seniors, and individuals with special needs.

As a separate action item: It has come to my attention that the Pavilion has advised and encouraged customers to park on residential side streets and at the adjacent shopping center, where parking is convenient and free of charge. A policy needs to be adopted immediately, to compel the developer, management, tenants, and customers to park inside the Pavilion's designated parking structure.

To conclude, it is ill advised in the absence of strategic planning to proceed with signalization. It is requested to inform Caltrans to pull permits, and halt alterations. Once residents have the benefit of a professional independent analysis by a qualified consultant who will research this proposed project, a public hearing can be conducted. Once issues are identified and resolved, dialogue with Caltrans can resume.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, my contact information is provided below.

Respectfully,



Patricia Egerer

925 15<sup>th</sup> Place  
Hermosa Beach  
(310) 379-2878

cc: City Manager  
cc: Caltrans

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**CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH**  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**DATE:** DECEMBER 7, 2005

**TO:** MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** STEPHEN BURRELL, CITY MANAGER 

**SUBJECT:** INFORMATIONAL - LETTER REGARDING SIGNALIZATION AT PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AT 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET FROM PATRICIA EGERER DATED DECEMBER 5, 2005

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I have attached the staff report for the November 12, 2003 meeting. This was approved at that meeting and staff communicated the approval to CalTrans.

During the last two years, the plans were prepared for the signal installation and the project is awaiting final CalTrans approval before a construction permit is issued.

The question of parking in the Hermosa Pavilion garage will be the subject of a Planning Commission review which will be held in January

November 3, 2003

Honorable Mayor and Members of  
the Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular Meeting of  
November 12, 2003

**PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AND 16<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the request from Shook Development Corporation to upgrade the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and 16<sup>th</sup> Street to be fully signalized.

**Summary:**

Providing traffic signalization at Pacific Coast Highway and 16<sup>th</sup> Street was first discussed many years ago as part of the approval of the hotel, the Hampton Inn, on the east side of the street at this location. At that time, Caltrans was not supportive of adding a signal at this location due to concerns about a signal causing additional traffic delays on Pacific Coast Highway. When the Planning Commission was considering the original application for development of the Hermosa Pavilion Project at 1605-1607 Pacific Coast Highway, it was again discussed. Shook Development was in favor of the new signal but Caltrans was still not inclined to approve of the signal.

Caltrans is now very supportive of a signal at this location to improve the safety of vehicular turning movements and pedestrian access. Caltrans is more receptive to this now because of the recent completion of the traffic signal interconnect project on Pacific Coast Highway, which eliminates the concern regarding additional traffic delays.

Shook Development submitted a letter dated October 7, 2003 (copy attached) requesting the City's support for a new traffic signal at this location. With Council's approval, the applicant will prepare plans for submittal to Caltrans for their review and approval. The applicant has not requested any expenditure of City funds for this project.

**Fiscal Impact:** None anticipated.

Attachment: Letter dated October 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard D. Morgan, P.E.  
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Noted for fiscal impact:

Concur:

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Viki Copeland  
Finance Director

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Stephen R. Burrell  
City Manager