

**Comment to draft EIR for Moraga Canyon Sports Fields
Traffic/Pedestrian Safety**

August 9, 2010

We who live in the neighborhood off Moraga Avenue don't let our children cross the road here on foot or on bike. We know that traveling on Moraga Avenue is not safe for our children and we are trying to convey that to the consultants, to City Council and City staff (who will bear the liability of pedestrian injury if they approve this project), and mostly to the Piedmont parents who do not live in our neighborhood and are possibly not aware of the dangers posed here.

Following are some issues regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety which should be taken up in the final EIR.

1. The accident report only covers the area from Highland to Maxwellton on Moraga. There have been a number of serious accidents (roll-overs) just east of Maxwellton on Moraga that happened in Oakland immediately east of the project. No accident information for the portion of Moraga in Oakland has been in the Traffic Study or the draft EIR. **Accident data should be considered for Moraga Avenue east of the project site even though it is in Oakland; it is too close to disregard.**

2. The accident rates for Moraga Avenue was supplied in the EIR for the years 2004 through 2009. The accidents reported by the Piedmont Police Department for 2010 on Moraga are as follows:

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT - Moraga Avenue - Calendar Year to date 8-2-10

Date	Report #	Location	Vehicle Code
3/4/2010	10-1598	Moraga/Highland Ave	V/FO 22107VC
4/23/2010	10-2893	Moraga/Monte Ave	V/V 22517VC
6/9/2010	10-4066	Moraga/Highland Ave	V/PV 22107VC
7/18/2010	10-5098	Moraga/Monticello Ave	V/PV 22107VC
7/22/2010	10-5197	Moraga/Mesa Ave	V/V 22107VC

In addition to this, there are accidents that are not cited. For example, according to my own observation and the following reported in the Piedmont Post police beat,

“Thursday, June 3....9:17 a.m. Moraga Ave. and Maxwellton Rd. Patrol Officer reported a tree sticking out into the roadway, apparent car accident. Several trees damaged. Request for Public Works. No report taken.”

You will note that 4 of the 5 accidents reported in 2010 by the police (or 5 of 6 if you include the above where no report was taken), were due to the ‘inability to maintain a direct course of travel’ (Vehicle Code 22107), which is better known as ‘bad driver behavior’. This is drivers going too fast, losing control of their cars, driving off the road and hitting things. **I know many residents have testified that this is a dangerous road, doesn't this data prove the fact? Is this where we want our children crossing the road?**

3. It is interesting to note that there are more accidents occurring at Highland and Moraga than any other location. This is the only intersection on Moraga between Pleasant Valley Road up through to Oakland. It is the first stop encountered going west on Moraga. **Could it be possible those accidents could be transferred to Red Rock Road if there is a pedestrian crossing there, making it the first stop encountered when traveling down the grade of Maxwellton? I think that needs to be considered.**

Joannie Semiteköl
9 Abbott Way, Piedmont