

2546 Rolling Hills Ct.
Alamo, CA 94507

February 21, 2023

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Watsonville City Council
City of Watsonville
275 Main Street
Suite 400 (4th Floor)
Watsonville, CA 95076

Re: Ceiba College Preparatory Academy Traffic Issues

Members of the Council,

Ceiba charter school is pursuing a zoning amendment. However, Ceiba has been an adverse impact on the neighborhood because of severe traffic impacts, among other things.

Public submittals identified those traffic impacts as a basis for opposing the rezoning during the Planning Commission Meeting last year. The Planning Commission did not approve the rezoning. It appears that thereafter, City Officials determined the traffic impact situation to be legally problematic. As a solution, Watsonville City Officials have directed parents to use Highway 129 as a drop-off and pick-up area to reduce traffic on Locust Street. There is a risk with the City's strategy in this regard insofar as Highway 129 is Caltrans' jurisdiction.

Caltrans may block such dangerous traffic planning. In recognition of this, it appears that City Officials have edited the proposed conditions of approval to merely require Ceiba to apply for a Caltrans encroachment permit to facilitate this.

It also appears that City Officials are attempting to use this ephemeral condition to convince the City Council that a durable, reliable solution has been attained for the traffic problem. That would be an illusion. Consider the possibility that Caltrans may block Highway 129 for drop-off and pick-up after Ceiba's zoning change or a student may be hit.

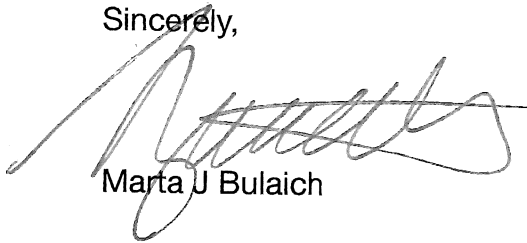
It's quite possible that City Officials would then redirect Ceiba traffic right back to Locust Street as a solution, bringing the problem to where it started.

Council Members should consider all possibilities in assessing the traffic situation and mitigations being proposed.

Traffic Coordinator, Adolfo Gonzalez told neighboring stakeholders to ask Caltrans if the protocol was safe and appropriate.

The question I pose to Council is, "Did City Officials or Ceiba ask Caltrans?" If not, why not?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Marta J Bulaich', written over a horizontal line.

Marta J Bulaich