

Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council  
PO Box 372 Covelo, CA 95428  
"Serving the People of the Greater Round Valley Area"

January 26, 2022

California Transportation Commission  
Mitch Weiss, Executive Director  
1120 N Street MS 52  
Sacramento, CA 95814

ctc@catc.ca.gov

Re: Deferment of Deadlines – Covelo SR 162 Multi-Purpose Trail

Dear Mr. Weiss:

As the Presiding Officer of the Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council, I am writing to request personally, on behalf of the Council, and on behalf of the citizens of Round Valley, that you allow additional time to complete project development for the Covelo SR 162 Multi-Purpose Trail being implemented by the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG). I understand that allowing additional time for the project would require an exception to standard procedures. However, the extreme need for this project and its unique aspects warrants an exception.

There is a very high accident rate along SR 162, with many fatalities. SR 162 is a State highway but also serves as the main street through Covelo. There are many rural residential properties to the north, as well as tribal land and offices, that access the town by means of the highway and there is no public transport. As a result residents frequently have no choice but to walk along the roadway. Since the time that MCOG began the environmental review on this project, at least three more pedestrians have been killed in the project area. Many in the Round Valley community have suffered because there is no safe place to walk through the community. This project will provide a safe alternative to walking in the lanes of traffic on the State highway. The photo below is typical of what folks encounter when walking during daylight hours. Walking this stretch at night is particularly treacherous.

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*The views expressed  
herein are solely those  
of the Round Valley  
Area Municipal  
Advisory Council and  
do not necessarily  
represent the official  
position of Mendocino  
County.*



The Covelo and Round Valley community is a disadvantaged, underserved and underrepresented community. Median income is far below the statewide average. Due to our rural nature and remote location, the community has little access to basic services and our infrastructure needs are often ignored. In addition to the terrible safety problems on our roads, our community has suffered in recent years from crime, fires, and severe pandemic related impacts. The trail project will help address some of the inequity that we have long experienced

Thank you for considering a deferment of deadlines to allow time needed to complete project development. The California Transportation Commission has the power to keep this project moving forward and ultimately save lives. We encourage you to use that power to help our community and to make sure we don't have to see any more roadway memorials like this one:



Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerest regards,

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Charles Sargenti  
Presiding Officer  
Round Valley Area Municipal Advisory Council