City of Placerville

Regina O'Connell <roconnell@cityofplacerville.org>

Clay St EIR comments

Michael Saragosa <michael@qs-pa.com> Tue, Oct 27, 2026 at 2:08 PM
To: Regina O'Connell <roconnell@cityofplacerville.org>

Hi Regina, apologies for the late comments. I am traveling. For the City Council:

Dear Council Members:
I remember my first meeting with Cleve the day after I was sworn in as a Council Member and he mentioned the Clay Street project would likely be one of the first projects to come before me as a new Council Member. This was 2018.

Fast forward to late 2026 and the final EIR is finally before this Council. The reality is this issue is over 40 years old when Cottonwood was being developed and more housing was built.

The City has had a commitment to expand the bridge since those developments were first made. Because it was not done decades earlier does not change the necessity of fixing an obsolete bridge.

Ironically, a roundabout would leave the Druid monument where it currently resides but that option was negated by the Measure K proponents when that measure passed.

So the Council can choose to reject the EIR as unfeasible and walk away.

This choice does not take away the City's liability should the bridge fail or an emergency is exacerbated by first responders not being able to traverse the bridge. And to underscore, the bridge will fail...its just a matter of when in its current condition.

This is a tough vote- because there are many voices that believe this project will destroy historic assets. You already are having this conversation with historical standards. I think most of you have acknowledged that a strict adherence to those standards are not really feasible from an economic and a firesafe perspective.

This bridge is no different. What we want in theory vs what is needed and protects the City's financial future is your highest priority. Ultimately you are protecting every taxpayer in our City.

I wish I could be there to make public comments but alas I am in Southern California for a funeral and viewing. I know you will do what's best for City and the residents of Placerville.

Thank you for your service.
Best,
Michael Saragosa

Sent from my Galaxy