

**Christine Huard-Spencer**

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**From:** natasha salgado <viega113@bell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2013 3:11 PM  
**To:** Cathy Bechtel  
**Subject:** Reject the Mid County Parkway

P-41

Dear Ms. Cathy Bechtel,

I urge you to oppose the Mid County Parkway because of its numerous, significant financial and environmental impacts.

The parkway is unnecessary and will constitute a massive waste of taxpayer money. Existing roads like State Route 74 and the Ramona Expressway already serve the current traffic load; several of these roads are already slated for expansion and could provide a responsible alternative. The project's current cost of \$1.94 to \$2.52 billion will likely balloon as it encounters construction delays and problems due to its significant environmental harm. Approved funding would be far more wisely spent developing sounder alternatives, such as light rail and bus routes.

Property and business owners will directly feel the negative impacts of the parkway. The project's environmental study finds it could displace up to 659 residents, 90 businesses and 350 employees. Up to 102 residential property owners could have their land and homes taken away; eminent domain may be invoked. Farmland will likely be lost, both through direct impacts and through the acceleration of ongoing conversion.

The parkway project poses significant, immitigable impacts to open space and wildlife habitat areas of western Riverside County that can never be replaced. It threatens the San Jacinto Valley, a biodiversity hotspot and globally important bird area. Threatened and endangered species will be harmed -- especially in the San Jacinto Valley-Lake Perris area. Valuable arid-land streams and riparian resources will be lost.

The parkway will encourage sprawl that requires costly public services from cities and Riverside County. It will create a self-fulfilling prophecy of unsustainable growth and real estate speculation. Instead of alleviating anticipated transit distress, it will bring traffic and freeway sprawl into the beautiful and rural area San Jacinto valley.

Sprawl and vehicle emissions are some of the worst contributors of greenhouse gases and climate change. Building this parkway will undermine California's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, undermine public transit by encouraging cars, and run contrary to the sound "Regional Transportation Plan" developed by the Southern California Association of Governments and required by the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008, S.B. 375.

I urge you to choose environmentally, financially sound alternatives for growth and development in western Riverside County and Southern California: Reject the Mid County Parkway.

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CA

P-41-1



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Center for Biological Diversity <[bioactivist@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:bioactivist@biologicaldiversity.org)>

Date: Wed, Apr 3, 2013 at 1:34 PM

Subject: Protect Southern California Wildlife From Runaway Road Building

To: [brian@janewilder.com](mailto:brian@janewilder.com)



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

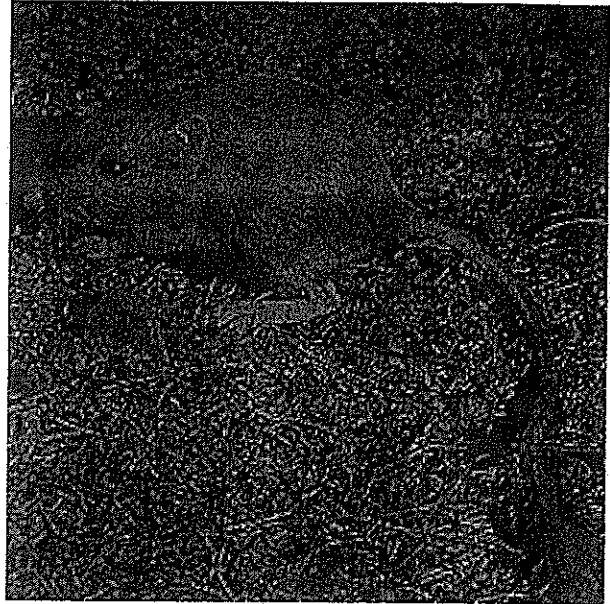
Because life is good.

Dear Brian,

The Mid County Parkway -- a six-lane, \$2 billion highway project slated to cut through environmentally sensitive areas in Southern California -- is wasteful, destructive and unneeded.

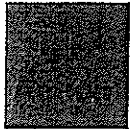
**Please -- take action today to stop this project before it's too late.**

The parkway would carve up habitat for endangered animals like the Stephens kangaroo rat and blaze a concrete path through the San Jacinto Valley -- a global biodiversity hotspot. It would hurt many birds, including bald eagles and burrowing owls. It would encourage urban sprawl and increase greenhouse gas emissions by putting more single-driver cars on the road.



Three other highways -- State Routes 74 and 60, both slated for their own expansions, and the Ramona Expressway -- already serve the area. With a price tag around \$2 billion, the project is a foolish, shortsighted example of pork-barrel politics and waste. Our tax dollars would be far better spent on green transportation alternatives like new rail lines and commuter buses.

**Please speak out now and send a letter to the Riverside County Transportation Commission to stop the Mid County Parkway.**



**[Click here to take action and get more information.](#)**

If you can't open the link, go to [http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=13031](http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=13031).

[Donate now to support the Center's work.](#)

Photo of Stephens Kangaroo rat by T. L. Best, (c) American Society of Mammalogists.

This message was sent to [brian@janewilder.com](mailto:brian@janewilder.com).

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