

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: MAY 9, 2007

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

**BY: JAYANT P. PATEL, ACTING CITY ENGINEER
NATHAN HAMBURGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**

SUBJECT: CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS AT REYES ADOBE ROAD AND LAKE LINDERO DRIVE (YERBA BUENA SCHOOL)

The construction of the new Yerba Buena Elementary School is now complete. The school site is located on west side of the Lindero Canyon channel and has two roadway accesses. One from Lindero Canyon Road near Blackbird Avenue for the City of Westlake and the second from Reyes Adobe Road (extension) for the City of Agoura Hills.

Prior to the construction of the school, Reyes Adobe Road (north of Lake Lindero Drive) had a dormant section about 700 feet long with full street improvements. The improvements included standard curb and gutter on both sides, concrete sidewalk on the east side, and a 64-foot wide paved roadway. An 8-foot wide parkway existed with minimal landscaping and an old masonry block garden wall separating housing in the Peacock Ridge development. In the past, the roadway was closed to regular vehicular traffic, which was diverted to the right or left of this area. It still allowed minor pedestrian traffic of local citizens who walked, jogged, or walked their pets on the paved roadway section.

Engineering staff has been aware of the new school opening and has conducted a variety of traffic studies and scenarios over the past several years. Following the studies, engineering staff recommended waiting until the school opened to measure actual traffic counts and driving behavior so as to put into place the most optimal traffic solution.

The City has worked with the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) and their construction contractor to complete concrete sidewalk construction on the west side of Reyes Adobe Road. It now provides a continuous pedestrian walkway from the new school to Lake Lindero Drive. The opening of the Yerba Buena School required the dormant section of Reyes Adobe Road to be opened for the vehicular traffic, thus, the intersection of Reyes Adobe Road and Lake Lindero Drive acts as an active four-way intersection.

Following the completion of the pedestrian walkway from the school site on the west side of Reyes Adobe Road, a crosswalk was installed by the LVUSD contractor across Reyes Adobe

Road just north of Lake Lindero Drive. Pavement striping has been modified to allow appropriate vehicular movement across the intersection. In addition, ADA compliant access ramps exist on all four corners of the intersection.

To provide a safe environment for young children and other pedestrians alike, additional stop signs (on a temporary basis) were erected on Reyes Adobe Road to make it a four-way stop intersection. Red warning flags are installed to make this change very noticeable for motorists.

City traffic engineers at Willdan Associates have conducted a current traffic warrants study to verify the need for possibly installing permanent stop signs on Reyes Adobe Road. Based on the fact that the school just recently opened on April 30 and actual traffic warrants needed to be conducted over several days, the study results were not available at the time of this report being completed. Staff will provide the City Council with all pertinent information prior to the scheduled meeting of May 9, 2007.

In addition to the traffic studies, staff has also looked into the need for additional crossing guard services near the Yerba Buena School site. The FY 2006-07 budget funds have been fully allocated to the existing crossing guards (\$65,000) adjacent to local schools. Staff will continue to monitor the intersection of Reyes Adobe Road and Lake Lindero Drive and provide the council with a formal recommendation prior to the adoption of the FY 2007-08 Budget.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends the City Council:

- 1) Review this report, including the traffic study report results provided separately; and
- 2) Provide feedback and instruct staff to continue to monitor the area for the remainder of the current school year and bring back a formal recommendation within the next 60 days.