

Menlo Oaks District Association

March 1, 2006

Supervisor Richard Gordon
County Government Center:
Hall of Justice & Records
400 County City
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: Coleman Avenue Summary

Dear Supervisor Gordon:

In response to the petition from Carla Dewar, the Menlo Oaks District Association (MODA) Board sought guidance from the neighborhood and with the San Mateo County Department of Public Works and held several meetings on how best to proceed. The purpose of those meetings was to determine what options were available and which actions should be taken if any to improve Coleman Avenue for pedestrians — particularly for parents and children walking and biking to Laurel School.

A considerable investment of time and energy was made by the MODA Board, and from various volunteers and County officials. A special thanks are owed to Neil Cullen of the San Mateo Department of Public Works for attending local meetings, providing a variety of data, and for supporting Menlo Oaks during this process.

The main thrust of this effort was to sort out the Coleman Avenue issues and come to a viable consensus about what the neighborhood wished to do. As a final step, a neighborhood-wide vote was taken on June 7, 2005. The results of the vote were as follows:

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Option</u>
52	No Change at all
1	1. Remove 3' of landscaping special treatment for intersections
1	2. Raised curb 2' planting strip and paved path
1	3. Close Coleman at County Line
1	4. Paved shoulder and limited parking one side
1	5. Class One Bike Path one side
1	6. Close Coleman between Arlington and Berkeley
1	7. Sidewalk both sides
2	Graded shoulder area one side
1	Limit parking minimum clearance
9	A la carte solution ("hanging chad votes")

Of the 183 MODA memberships participating in the election, a total of 104 ballots were received. When the ballots were distributed, we verified the membership status of the person receiving the ballot which guaranteed one vote per household. This also guaranteed the number of ballots cast did not exceed the number of ballots distributed.

The MODA board set up the ballot to be a yes or no choice but if yes, choose one option from nine. Given a list of choices, residents would select their preference. Some of the options listed were provided from Neil Cullen, while others were submitted to MODA from residents for consideration. The option feature created an interesting side effect and some confusion.

RE: Coleman Avenue Summary

March 1, 2006

Page 2

Depending on your point of view, those households that selected a choice from the list of options delivered what looked to be a "no clear consensus" to those that selected a no change position. Conversely, those that voted for no change barely squeaked out a victory against the sum of all those that wanted some form of change.

Finally, the nine multiple choice ballots we collected with a no and yes mark, clearly ignored the instructions printed on the ballot and rendered their vote invalid. The interesting twist is they voted for two or more of the options showing a preference, if any of the yes choices won. An argument was made by a board member to point out that despite the printed rules on the ballot, these ballots still represent a voice.

After 2+ years of neighborhood deliberation, culminating with the neighborhood vote, we have to conclude in great frustration that we can not find a clear consensus on this issue based. As a result, the MODA Board is making no recommendation to the County on this matter. It is our hope that the Coleman residents understand the need for Menlo Oaks residents a place to safely walk their children to and from school. By trimming back over grown hedges and shrubs.

In closing, we wish to warmly thank all of the Coleman homeowners that took the remedial actions which have produced a functional, more accessible and comfortable right-of-way for our little pedestrians. The initiative and response to this matter has been tremendous and is very much appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joel Wilhite". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Joel Wilhite
Former MODA President

CC: Holly Still, MODA President
Neil R. Cullen, Director of Public Works
Commander Bridget Lott, California Highway Patrol