

**PHOENIX
MOUNTAINS
PRESERVATION
COUNCIL, INC.**



1 November 2009
Eric Anderson
MAG Transport Director
302 N. 1st Ave Ste. 300
Phoenix AZ, 85003

Dear Mr. Anderson,

The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council was founded in 1970 with the purpose of preserving the mountains within the boundaries of Phoenix so that these would be set aside as unique wilderness preserves, untouched by development with all their natural beauty intact.

There is currently an issue that threatens the unique pristine livelihood of the mountains in Phoenix, specifically the impending South Mountain Freeway. The current proposed alignment of the freeway severely impinges on the South Mountain itself, where a large valley will have to be blasted out of the mountain to make space for several lanes going in each direction.

The height of the valley needed would be catastrophic to the mountain and its function as a beautiful outdoor preserve that is much loved by thousands of locals and visitors. The proposed alignment will cut across the Main Ridge North, the Main Ridge South and the Alta Ridge and will pass through preserve lands.

The Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council and their membership would like it to be known that we oppose any freeway, parkway or other road alignment that goes through, encroaches upon or constitutes an incursion into the South Mountain Ranges.

The currently planned route for the Freeway will cause hundreds of millions of this \$2 billion project to be used in relocation and mitigation of area homes. Other routes exist that would not require these millions be spent in this manner.

The PMPC would like to make it clear that we are not opposed to the freeway itself. It is recognized that the freeway is an important addition to the road system and will both decrease traffic in other areas and create economic opportunities that the state needs.

South Mountain. We encourage your efforts to find an alternative alignment across land that does not have such dramatic natural beauty, cultural significance and historical interest. We strongly ask you to consider the detrimental effects that the proposed freeway route will incur at South Mountain and take action from your position and responsibility to find another route for the freeway.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susanne Rothwell
President

Letter also sent to:

Dennis Smith, Director of MAG
Eric Anderson, MAG Transport Director
Peggy Neely, MAG Chair
Ed Zuercher, Deputy City Manager
Karen Peters, head of Phoenix government relations
Bob Hazlett, MAG Senior Engineer
Marie Lopez Rogers, MAG Committee Chair and Mayor of Avondale
Sal DiCiccio, District 6 City Councilman
Hal DeKeyser, District 6 Chief of Staff
Thelda Williams, City Councilwoman District 1
Bill Gates, City Councilman District 2
Tom Simplot, City Councilman District 3
Claude Mattox, City Councilman District 4
Michael Nowakowski, City Councilman District 5
Michael Johnson, City Councilman District 7
Felipe Subia, State Transportation Board
Delbert Householder, State Transportation Board Chairman
Phil Gordon, Mayor City of Phoenix
Dale Larsen, Director PHX Parks and Recreation Board
Jim Burke, Deputy Director PHX Parks and Recreation Board
Karen Williams, Parks Development and Planning
Rene Vera, PHX Parks and Recreation Board South Division