

The Charter Foundation

Supporting the Sebastopol Independent Charter School

June 13, 2019

Mr. Brian Millar
Permit Sonoma
2550 Ventura Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: *!UPE14-0090: Sebastopol Charter Crosswalk Construction*

Dear Brian:

I am writing to request an extension of time through October 1, 2019 for Charter Foundation, the developer of the Sebastopol Charter School campus, to comply with its use permit Condition 62 requiring the construction of a new pedestrian crosswalk at Danmar Avenue and Hwy 116.

As you know last year, the Board of Supervisors granted us through June 15, 2019 to complete this crosswalk. At that time we had reached a consensus among Caltrans, the City of Sebastopol and county staff as to the proposed type design for the crosswalk. After months of engineering, we received approval of our crosswalk plans in late December 2018. Since then we've put the plans out to bid and now have two contractors, Northwest Engineering and Staggs Electric, under contract to construct the required improvements.

Ordinarily, with approved plans in hand and an existing Caltrans encroachment permit in place (used to construct the sidewalk and bus stop pad along Hwy 116 north of Mill Station Rd.), we were led to believe that obtaining the necessary rider to that permit would be a simple matter, administratively issued at a cost of less than \$500. As it turns out, the new Caltrans representative assigned to this project raised new questions and issues, to which our engineers and consultants have had to respond. Among those are:

- A request for traffic data for an already approved design exception for the sidewalk ramps proposed. That data has been submitted.
- A previously unknown requirement (to our engineers) for certifications regarding ADA compliance and utility mapping. Our civil engineers have addressed the former, while our traffic engineer addressed the latter.
- Request for "missing" traffic control plan data, which our traffic engineer demonstrated had already been provided.

P.O. Box 1260, Sebastopol, CA 95473 • (707) 824-8430 • TheCharterFoundation.org

The Charter Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation

Attachment 1

- Confirmation from the City of Sebastopol that it would maintain the crosswalk (in Caltrans' right of way) and sidewalks (within city jurisdiction). The City's public works department has confirmed in writing its willingness to assume that responsibility but it failed to use the exact language required by Caltrans and the City still needs to modify its existing maintenance agreement with Caltrans to include this new crosswalk. I'm working with City staff to ensure they do so.

While none of these new issues are complicated, they have been proven exceedingly time consuming to complete because our engineers cannot get Caltrans to respond in a timely, meaningful fashion. Still, we have made and are continuing to make progress. My understanding is that once the City provides a modified maintenance agreement, Caltrans will issue its encroachment rider to allow the construction, after which our contractors will submit that to the City to obtain the latter's encroachment permit (to allow the necessary sidewalk work).

We have to date already spent in excess of \$40,000 in engineering and permit fees alone for this crosswalk project, and we are prepared to spend another \$130,000 for the actual construction. Our construction funding is in place, as are our contractors. We have every intention and strong desire to complete this work before school re-opens for classes on August 22. That said, given our experience with Caltrans and, to a lesser extent, the City, we are asking to extend the timeframe for complying with this condition through the end of September.

In the meanwhile we will, if necessary, continue with maintaining a crossing monitor at the subject intersection and provide school parents with the same written notice required by Condition 62 in the event the crosswalk is not in place by the start of the new school year. I would point out that in the year the school has been open at its new location, there have been no incidents at the Danmar/Hwy 116 intersection (nor along the West County Trail for that matter).

As you know, we have complied with all other requirements of our use permit and recently obtained final certificates of occupancy for the campus itself, evidencing our good faith in moving forward to complete all that is required of us. We would therefore greatly appreciate the County granting us another, limited extension of time complete this final piece of off- site improvement. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bob Haroche !
Vice President !