

## LVEDA on Scenic Hwy 247 Designation

**From:** Chuck Bell [<mailto:chuckb@sisp.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** 'Rahhal, Terri'  
**Cc:** 'Betty M'; 'Wiltshire, Molly'; 'Hudson, Tom'  
**Subject:** RE: Senic Hwy 247 Designation

Terri:

It took some time to review the 'Scenic Hwy Guidelines' you sent - and Thanks.

Based on your comment: (our emphasis – underlining) ::*“Please note that the State Scenic Highway program (also attached) requires a proposal for the Scenic Highway designation, with a detailed study of the proposed corridor. Although the County will typically cooperate with a Scenic Highway designation proponent, as it recently did for the Route 66 Scenic Byway proposal, please don't expect the County to initiate and advance the effort. You have a great team in your list of supporters. I suggest that you work together on a designation proposal. County staff is here for cooperation and support as required from your local government agency with jurisdiction”;*

It was our understanding that the 'proponent' (HVCC - along with the supporters/endorsements listed below) had officially made the 'initiating designation proposal' to the County – sent to Tom Hudson – May, 3, 2013. Communication involving Chris Carillo and Tom at that time indicated that Tom was familiar with the scenic program and would proceed with it – ie: “advance the effort” as described in the Guidelines' excerpts below. Betty Munson has a long string of e-mails corroborating the fact that the proposal was certainly within the County system – including correspondence with Caltrans – and between Caltrans and County – as does your e-mail to Betty involving the cell tower – and your 2/10/17 response to my e-mail. **NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE AS AN ADDENDUM TO THIS E-MAIL – SENT SEPARATELY - BETTY'S SUMMATION OF SAID CORRESPONDENCE – ALONG WITH HER ATTACHMENT “247 PRESENTATION ONLINE”.**

So: Looks like we need a better understanding of what has transpired so far – where is this in the process – what has been done lately – did it get lost in the cracks - who does what next? We discussed this with Molly at last night's LV/JVMAC meeting and maybe you can work together on it.

Following are excerpts from the Guidelines which specifies the roles of the “local governing body” (the County). There was a discussion re: the high cost of the visual assessment (also to be done by the County). To eliminate said cost – we are prepared to drive Hwy 247 – do a video with narrative – mile by mile – and submit to the County. I saw no mention of a 200’ distance factor in the State Guidelines – so per your note to Betty re: the cell tower – that must just pertain to the County’s scenic criteria. Correct?

Thanks,

Chuck Bell 760 964 3118

#### GUIDELINE EXCERPTS

intent of the State to assign responsibility for the regulation of land use and development along scenic highways to the appropriate State and local governmental agencies.

This legislation places the Scenic Highway Program under the stewardship of Caltrans.

The legislation further declares the intent of the State to assign responsibility for the regulation of land use and development along scenic highways to the appropriate State and local governmental agencies.

A process for the designation of official State or County Scenic Highways whereby cities

and/or counties (hereafter referred to as local governing bodies) develop and implement a

Corridor Protection Program containing five legislatively required elements, generally

accepted as land use planning standards.

Caltrans evaluates the merits of a

nominated highway on how much of the natural landscape a traveler sees and the extent to which

visual intrusions impact the "scenic corridor."

It is advisable for the local governing body to consult with the Caltrans District Scenic Highway

Coordinator to determine suitability for scenic designation *before* seeking legislative action

Once a state route is in Streets and Highways Code Section 263, it may be nominated for official

designation by the local governing body with jurisdiction over the lands adjacent to the proposed

scenic highway. The application to nominate eligible scenic highways for official designation

requires the preparation of a visual assessment and Scenic Highway Proposal. The proposal must

include a letter of intent from the local governing body, topographic and zoning maps, and a

narrative description of the scenic elements in the corridor that includes a discussion of any visual

intrusions on scenic views

The local governing body must prepare and submit a brief and concise visual assessment

### **Consultation with Caltrans**

The local governing body must discuss and field review the visual assessment of the proposed

scenic highway with the District Scenic Highway Coordinator before proceeding to Step 3.

### **STEP 3**

#### **Scenic Highway Proposal**

**The local governing body must prepare a Scenic Highway Proposal that consists of the following:**

**A. Letter of intent** – The local governing body must submit a current letter of intent to seek official scenic highway designation. When more than one governing body is involved, a joint letter of intent may be submitted. The letter should cite the reason(s) (e.g., scenic protection, tourism) for seeking official scenic highway designation.

**B. Topographic map and map overlay** – A two-part mapping procedure is required to illustrate the visual quality of the proposed scenic highway.

**A topographic map** (USGS or comparable) should show the proposed scenic corridor boundaries and scenic highway limits. The map should show natural features in the landscape such as landforms, water, and vegetative cover.

**C. Zoning map** - A zoning map should delineate the scenic corridor and show existing and allowable land uses.

**D. Narrative** - A complete description of the elements that makes the route scenic, including natural features, structures of historical significance and other scenic resources that are visible from the highway. The narrative should describe the types of visual intrusions such as buildings, unsightly land uses, and noise barriers, and the percentage for minor, moderate, or major intrusions impacting the highway. In addition, provide a description of present zoning and planned zoning changes for lands in the scenic corridor. Include photo-images and other supporting graphics.

Following completion of the Scenic Highway Proposal, the local governing body submits

1 electronic copy and 3 hard copies to the District Scenic Highway Coordinator.

This step requires the local governing body to develop and adopt protection measures in the form of ordinances, zoning, and/or planning policies that apply to the area of land within the scenic corridor

## **263. SCENIC HIGHWAY SYSTEM; ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION**

The state scenic highway system is hereby established and shall be composed of the highways specified in this article. The highways listed in Sections 263.1 to 263.8, inclusive are either eligible for designation as state scenic highways or have been so designated.

### **263.1 THE STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE:**

Routes 28, 35, 38, 52, 53, 62, 74, 75, 76, 89, 96, 97, 127, 150, 151, 154, 156, 158, 161, 173, 197, 199, 203,

209, 221, 236, 239, 243, 247, 254, and 330 in their entirety.

CONTACT: District 8

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**From:** Rahhal, Terri [<mailto:Terri.Rahhal@lus.sbcounty.gov>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 4:34 PM

**To:** Chuck Bell; Supervisor Ramos; Wiltshire, Molly

**Cc:** 'Schooler, Jim'; 'Eddy, Yvette'; 'Obernalte, Jay'; Hudson, Tom; Watkins, Karen; 'Kasinga, Terri L@DOT'; 'Yahya, Haissam S@DOT'; McClain, Melissa; Devereaux, Greg; Smith, Dena; Kim, Gia

**Subject:** RE: Senic Hwy 247 Designation

Chuck,

I am attaching a copy of a previous e-mail exchange on this topic that summarizes the status of potential designation of Hwy 247 as a California State Scenic Highway. The County has taken the first step by verifying compliance of our local regulations with the State Scenic Highway program. This included an update of County regulations through a Development Code amendment that was first reviewed and endorsed by Caltrans, and was subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors. Please note that the State Scenic Highway program (also attached) requires a proposal for the Scenic Highway designation, with a detailed study of the proposed corridor. Although the County will typically cooperate with a Scenic Highway designation proponent, as it recently did for the Route 66 Scenic Byway proposal, please don't expect the County to initiate and advance the effort.

You have a great team in your list of supporters. I suggest that you work together on a designation proposal. County staff is here for cooperation and support as required from your local government agency with jurisdiction.

Terri

**Terri Rahhal, AICP**

Planning Director  
**Land Use Services Department**  
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**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2017 2:20 PM

**To:** Supervisor Ramos <[SupervisorRamos@sbcountry.gov](mailto:SupervisorRamos@sbcountry.gov)>; Wiltshire, Molly  
<[Molly.Wiltshire@bos.sbcountry.gov](mailto:Molly.Wiltshire@bos.sbcountry.gov)>

**Cc:** 'Schooler, Jim' <[Jim.Schooler@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Schooler@sen.ca.gov)>; 'Eddy, Yvette' <[Yvette.Eddy@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Yvette.Eddy@asm.ca.gov)>; 'Oberholte, Jay' <[Jay.Oberholte@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Jay.Oberholte@asm.ca.gov)>; Hudson, Tom <[Tom.Hudson@lus.sbcountry.gov](mailto:Tom.Hudson@lus.sbcountry.gov)>; Rahhal, Terri <[Terri.Rahhal@lus.sbcountry.gov](mailto:Terri.Rahhal@lus.sbcountry.gov)>; Watkins, Karen <[Karen.Watkins@lus.sbcountry.gov](mailto:Karen.Watkins@lus.sbcountry.gov)>; 'Kasinga, Terri L@DOT' <[terri.kasinga@dot.ca.gov](mailto:terri.kasinga@dot.ca.gov)>; 'Yahya, Haissam S@DOT' <[haissam.yahya@dot.ca.gov](mailto:haissam.yahya@dot.ca.gov)>; McClain, Melissa <[Melissa.McClain@bos.sbcountry.gov](mailto:Melissa.McClain@bos.sbcountry.gov)>

**Subject:** Senic Hwy 247 Designation

The organizations listed below have strongly endorsed the State “Scenic Hwy 247” designation. It’s currently a County “Scenic Highway”. The “Scenic 247 Committee” of the Homestead Valley Community Council has been spearheading this for years. Last we heard – both County, Caltrans and our local and State reps. were in ‘strong’ favor and working on it. But nothing seems to be happening yet – even with what seemed to be full support from all involved entities.

With the universal support - and the fact that this entire highway is obviously “scenic” – with especially the stretch from Lucerne Valley to Barstow being one of the last ‘lonely’ roads left in s. Calif. - with nothing but great desert vistas - and maybe the last road in s. Calif. that is eligible – we need to get it done.

2 cell towers were recently constructed on Hwy 247's Old Woman Springs Rd. and Barstow Rd. segments – w/o a notice at least that we can remember – built to look like elevated water tanks (someone's cute idea but still are cell towers that might only fool a few clueless drivers). We need to know the types of projects that would be exempt from said State Scenic designation.

If utility, union and other groups are actively opposing said scenic designation – a potential reason for the County's seemingly reluctance to advance it - let us know – we've been around a long time and cognizant of political realities.

Where is this in the system and who are the current contacts? We're not letting this one get lost in the cracks!

Chuck Bell, Pres. – Lucerne Valley Economic Development Assoc. (LVEDA) - 760 964 3118

## **SUPPORTERS:::**

Homestead Valley Community Council

Morongo Basin Historical Society

Flamingo Heights Community Association

Johnson Valley Improvement Association

Hammerking Productions (King of the Hammers)

Landers Association

Yucca Mesa Improvement Association

Western American Railroad Museum

Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce

Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association

Lucerne Valley Market & Hardware

Lucerne Valley Museum

Route 66 Mother Road Museum

Joshua Tree Gateway Communities Tourism Committee

Points of Interest Promotions

Bill Lembright - Lucerne Valley

Rockhound Field Trip Fanatics!

Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Lucerne Valley-Johnson Valley Municipal Advisory Council

Barstow Chamber of Commerce

Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council

Julie Hackbarth-McIntyre *Mayor. City of Barstow*