



1.5

CONTINUED  
TO 1-26-99 7:00pm  
meeting

NEIGHBORHOODS, PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA

1231 I STREET  
ROOM 300  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95814-2998

PLANNING DIVISION  
916-264-5381  
FAX 916-264-5328

January 20, 1999

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT:** Closure of Sorento Road

**LOCATION/COUNCIL DISTRICT:** North Natomas, District 1

**RECOMMENDATION:** Planning staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution directing staff to proceed with closure of Sorento Road.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Thomas Pace, Assistant Planner 264-6848  
Steve Pyburn, Associate Engineer 264-7481  
Scot Mende, Senior Planner 264-5894

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:** January 26, 1999 (Afternoon)

**SUMMARY:**

In response to numerous neighborhood requests, staff is requesting that Council provide direction to pursue temporary (and potentially permanent) closure of Sorento Road. Because half of the road is in the unincorporated area (City/County boundary is the center line), County approval will also be required. As a result, this action will direct staff to work with the County. Staff will return to Council for final action before the road is actually closed.

**BACKGROUND:**

Development of North Natomas will require the construction of many streets to provide circulation for the 65,000 residents and 70,000 employees projected for the community at build-out. Currently, the only roads serving a north-south commute from northeast Sacramento County and northwest Placer County through North Natomas are Highway 99, I-5, and the short-cut combination of East Levee Road / Sorento Road. East Levee Road / Sorento Road is a two lane, rural road adjacent to the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal levee. As destinations within North Natomas are constructed, it is possible that an incremental increase in traffic along East Levee Road / Sorento Road may occur until planned north-south streets are constructed.



### **Existing Conditions on Sorento Road**

Sorento Road is a two-lane, "rural," roadway that connects Elkhorn Boulevard (via E. Levee Road) and Del Paso Road. This street varies between 18 and 24 feet wide and has roadside ditches in place of standard curb, gutter and sidewalk. Sorento Road is fronted by about 40 single family homes on lots approximately 1 acre in size.

The street currently serves a volume of 3,300 vehicles per day. Most of this traffic is "pass through" traffic between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road and is not related to the neighborhood along Sorento Road. The speed limit on Sorento Road is posted at 35 mph. However, most (96%) of the vehicles using the roadway exceed the posted speed. The traffic volumes and vehicle speeds noted above are higher than desired and expected for this roadway (minor street with front on residential units). Other traffic problems on Sorento Road, as observed by staff, include: vehicles passing over double yellow lines, failure to stop at STOP signs and large construction vehicles.

### **City Response to Issues Raised for Sorento Road**

The City has responded to complaints about the roadway since (at least) 1983. Over the last 15 years, the City has tried a number of measures to improve traffic conditions, including lowering the speed limit (to 35mph), adding street signs, pavement striping, and increased enforcement. In addition, this neighborhood area is currently eligible for additional improvements through the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP).

### **Statement of the Concern**

Current residents of North Natomas in the Valley View Acres neighborhood, located at the northeast corner of Del Paso Road and Sorento Road, have expressed concerns related to traffic safety and an increase in traffic volume along Sorento Road. Sorento Road is currently used as a short-cut between Elkhorn and Del Paso in and out of North Natomas. In the mid to long term, when additional north-south connections are built, motorists will have alternate routes, other than Sorento, to get in and out of North Natomas. In the short term, the increased traffic along Sorento is of concern to the residents.

**Community Plan Policy** - On page 41, the 1994 North Natomas Community Plan states the following related to Sorento Road:

**Closure of Sorento Road:** Sorento Road may be terminated in the form of a cul-de-sac at the levee when either Truxel Road or Northgate/ National Drive is extended from Del Paso Road to Elkhorn Boulevard to provide the needed north-south connection.

**Solutions to the Concern** -Public Works staff has been working with the Community to develop a traffic calming strategy, to eliminate existing traffic problems, or at least minimize the traffic problems. The Community's number one priority is the closure of Sorento Road. While a number of other improvements have been requested by the Community, it is likely that they would not be needed if the road were closed.

Staff currently plans a two step closure of Sorento Road. The first step would be a "temporary" closure, possibly under a City Manager's permit (per §38.14 of the City Code). The temporary closure would expire one month after the Truxel Road extension is open to traffic. Once Truxel Road is open, staff may request that Sorento Road be closed permanently. Permanent closure will primarily depend on traffic patterns when Truxel Road is open and is contingent upon substantial community support.

It should be noted that all actions that would affect the operation of Sorento Road (including closure) may also require approval by the County Board of Supervisors. The City-County border lies on the

centerline Sorento Road and both agencies have jurisdiction over the roadway. The following actions will likely be required to close the roadway:

1. The City Attorney and County Counsel must agree that legal mechanisms exist to close the roadway, or that such mechanisms can be created, specifically if no part of the roadway is abandoned;
2. Emergency agencies, including the Sacramento Police and Fire Departments, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, the American River Fire District, etc. must agree to the closure;
3. The City Council and County Board of Supervisors must jointly act to close the roadway;
4. Funding for any improvements needed to construct the closure are available.

It should be noted that at this point staff is recommending that Council direct staff to take the steps necessary to close Sorento Road, short of actually closing the road at this time. For the reasons listed above, there is a process (including final approval by Council) which must be completed before the road can actually be closed.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:** None.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:** The Environmental Services Manager has determined that this action is not a "project", under CEQA, and therefore is exempt from environmental review. Appropriate environmental review will be undertaken with any project to actually close Sorento Road.

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:** The proposed action would be consistent with the policies of the General Plan and the North Natomas Community Plan.

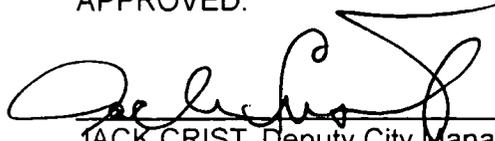
**MBE/WBE:** None.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GARY L. STONEHOUSE  
Planning Director

FOR CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION:  
WILLIAM H. EDGAR  
City Manager

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JACK CRIST, Deputy City Manager  
Neighborhoods, Planning and  
Development Services

Attachments: Attachment 1 Resolution Directing Staff to Pursue Closure of Sorento Road

NOT ADOPTED

# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

## A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE CLOSURE OF THE NORTHERN END OF SORENTO ROAD IN THE NORTH NATOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN AREA

WHEREAS, Sorento Road is located on a City limit line and is in the jurisdictions of both the City and County of Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Sorento Road is a rural road which is currently the only north to south connection between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road in North Natomas west of State Route 99; and

WHEREAS, the unique design and location of Sorento Road make it unsuitable for use as a thoroughfare; and

WHEREAS, residents in the neighborhood of Sorento Road have indicated that the use of Sorento Road as a thoroughfare has had deleterious effects on the surrounding neighborhood and has led to unsafe traffic conditions,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sacramento that:

1. City staff are hereby directed to pursue temporary closure of Sorento Road provided each of the following conditions can be met:
  - a. The City Attorney and County Counsel agree that there is a legal mechanism to effect such closure (or one can be created);
  - b. The City Council and County Board of Supervisors jointly agree to close the road on a temporary basis;
  - c. Temporary closure will expire one (1) month after the opening of Truxel Road between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road, unless permanent closure is approved in accordance with paragraph 2 below;
  - d. Emergency vehicle access shall be provided.

AND

2. Staff is directed to take those actions necessary to effect a permanent closure of Sorento Road when Truxel Road in the City and County of Sacramento provided each of the following conditions can be met:
  - a. The City Attorney and County Counsel agree that there is a legal mechanism to effect such closure (or one can be created);

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. The City Council and County Board of Supervisors jointly agree to close the road on a permanent basis;
- c. There is a substantiated need to close Sorento Road after Truxel Road has been opened between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road;
- d. Concerned public service agencies, including the City's Police and Fire Departments, the County Sheriff and the American River Fire District are satisfied that there is adequate emergency access to the affected area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

---

**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

# RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO DIRECTING STAFF  
TO PURSUE CLOSURE OF THE NORTHERN END OF SORENTO  
ROAD IN THE NORTH NATOMAS COMMUNITY PLAN AREA

WHEREAS, Sorento Road is located on a City limit line and is in the jurisdictions of both the City and County of Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Sorento Road is a rural road which is currently the only north to south connection between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road in North Natomas west of State Route 99; and

WHEREAS, the unique design and location of Sorento Road make it unsuitable for use as a thoroughfare; and

WHEREAS, residents in the neighborhood of Sorento Road have indicated that the use of Sorento Road as a thoroughfare has had deleterious effects on the surrounding neighborhood and has led to unsafe traffic conditions,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sacramento that:

1. City staff are hereby directed to pursue temporary closure of Sorento Road provided each of the following conditions can be met:
  - a. The City Attorney and County Counsel agree that there is a legal mechanism to effect such closure (or one can be created);
  - b. The City Council and County Board of Supervisors jointly agree to close the road on a temporary basis;
  - c. Temporary closure will expire one (1) month after the opening of Truxel Road between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road, unless permanent closure is approved in accordance with paragraph 2 below;
  - d. Emergency vehicle access shall be provided.

AND

2. Staff is directed to take those actions necessary to effect a permanent closure of Sorento Road when Truxel Road in the City and County of Sacramento provided each of the following conditions can be met:
  - a. The City Attorney and County Counsel agree that there is a legal mechanism to effect such closure (or one can be created);

---

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

- b. The City Council and County Board of Supervisors jointly agree to close the road on a permanent basis;
- c. There is a substantiated need to close Sorento Road after Truxel Road has been opened between Elkhorn Boulevard and Del Paso Road;
- d. Concerned public service agencies, including the City's Police and Fire Departments, the County Sheriff and the American River Fire District are satisfied that there is adequate emergency access to the affected area.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_