

May 26, 2016

Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor
State of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Shootings along Interstate 80 and Highway 4 in West and East Contra Costa County have reached crisis proportions. These crimes have resulted in deaths and injuries to not only the intended victims but other innocent highway users. This is of increasing concern to our elected officials and residents who feel as if our communities are under siege and where the use of our local freeways places all of us at unnecessary risk.

These State highways are under the jurisdiction of the California Highway Patrol who have been working with local law enforcement agencies in regard to these crimes. While certainly, we would like to prevent these crimes from occurring, solving these crimes and putting the perpetrators behind bars would also serve as a deterrent. Our freeways have become the place of choice to undertake these murderous activities due to perceived ease of escape and the fact that there are not any surveillance cameras with recording capability to assist in any criminal investigations as the Caltrans network of traffic cameras are only a live feed for purposes of traffic management.

It is imperative that the State identify funding to address this problem and to assist the CHP and their local agency partners in mitigating this grave and growing risk in our local communities. As such, we are asking your support to provide funding to:

- Install surveillance cameras with recording capabilities in the State right-of-way at on-ramps and off-ramps to potentially capture images and the path of travel of the perpetrators of these crimes; and,
- Upgrade the existing Caltrans traffic camera network to enable the capture and limited retention of the images for a sufficient period to be of assistance to law enforcement after a crime has been committed.

We understand there are many competing priorities for State funds, however, the freeway system is the responsibility of the State and we would appreciate your support for funding necessary to help the CHP and local law enforcement to solve these crimes and end the use of our freeways as a battleground.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Butt, Mayor, City of Richmond

Dan Romero, Mayor, City of Hercules

Roy Swearingen, Mayor, City of Pinole

Richard Kinney, Mayor, City of San Pablo

Gregory B. Lyman, Mayor, City of El Cerrito