

# Lack of Rancho road improvements comes under scrutiny

By Nick Baptista / The Valley Springs News / April 26, 2024

Frustration with upcoming plans to resurface and pave roads in the Rancho Calaveras subdivision were expressed Tuesday by District 5 Supervisor Benjamin Stopper.

Stopper, whose district includes the subdivision, expressed his dissatisfaction with the latest road improvement list provided by Public Works Director Robert Pachinger.

Property owners within the subdivision pay a special assessment for road improvements.

Stopper was critical of the final road improvements list.

“This is not what we sat down and talked about,” Stopper said.

Part of the earlier discussion was to consolidate road improvement projects within the subdivision to reduce the costs of moving equipment around and getting more pavement done, he added.

He also questioned how Senate Bill 1 funding was being used within his district. Calaveras County in fiscal year 2024-25 is receiving \$3.7 million in state funding for road improvements through SB1.

Plans for that money include improvements this year on Main Street in Jenny Lind and Hartvickson Lane and Baldwin Street next year.

Stopper mentioned that Calaveras County Water District projects could interfere with road improvement work on Hartvickson and Baldwin. Pachinger said the target is for CCWD to complete its work by next year.

Stopper questioned what happens to the funding allocated for those roads if they are not completed next year.

Pachinger assured Stopper those funds roll over to the following year.

“They don’t get moved to anywhere else,” Pachinger said.

“Those roads have been here since I was on the board (beginning of 2019) waiting for these types of projects being done while other districts get roads done,” Stopper said.

Except for work on Garner Place and Kirby Street, “nothing gets done in District 5 while continuing year-in and year-out other SB1 funds get spent in other districts.”

Pachinger said he would provide an accounting of how the money was spent in District 5 and Stopper asked for that information to go back the past six years for every district.

Following the exchange between Stopper and Pachinger, the board passed the public works items on the agenda by a unanimous vote.

In addition, the board on its consent agenda adopted plans and specifications for construction of the Valley Springs School Safety Improvements Project around Valley Springs Elementary School and authorized public works to solicit formal construction bids for that project.