

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2023

Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Director
Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation
2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Subject: Support for pursuing funding through the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Community Infrastructure Program for the Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project

Dear Director O'Brien:

We are writing to express our support for the funding request submitted by Monterey County Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks to the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) for the Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project (Project). Funding of the Project will provide beneficial road improvements for the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett and other motorists that travel Jolon Road.

Jolon Road is a rural, narrow, two-lane road with little to no shoulders, spanning a length of approximately thirty-nine (39) miles and connecting to U.S. Highway 101 in King City and Bradley, California. Jolon Road is the only corridor that serves U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hunter Liggett, connecting 100% of the military and civilian personnel working, living, and training on the installation to goods, services, surrounding residences, U.S. Highway 101, and two recreational lakes. Fort Hunter Liggett is the largest Army Reserve installation, providing a year-round training environment that resembles 20 percent of the world's terrain and provides training to service members from bases across the nation each year.

After many years in use, Jolon Road is in dire need of repair. The current degraded road conditions cause excessive wear and tear on all vehicles utilizing the rural road. The narrow lanes without shoulders pose a safety risk when large military, commercial, and recreational vehicles travel Jolon Road as they occupy a large portion of the road, sometimes encroaching into the on-coming traffic lane making it difficult to safely navigate around these large approaching vehicles without a shoulder. Additionally, vehicles cannot maintain a safe three-foot distance from cyclists utilizing the narrow road, limiting safe active transportation opportunities. The Project will improve safety for all modes of transportation on Jolon Road.

The Project will rehabilitate Jolon Road to improve safety, aesthetics, and function from the entrance of Fort Hunter Liggett (intersection of Mission Road and Jolon Road) south to the U.S. Highway 101 interchange near Bradley (approximately 21.5 miles). The \$14 million in requested DCIP funds will be used for: grinding of old pavement and installation of fabric reinforcement to extend service life; overlay of the existing pavement with a three-inch hot mix asphalt (HMA) layer to improve the rideability and safety; grading and paving to install new or widen existing

paved shoulders to a minimum of six feet to further improve the road safety; and new pavement striping.

The paving and grading improvements made by the Project will extend the service life of Jolon Road and allow for water to move away from the roadway before it can infiltrate into the road's sub-base. Widening the road will provide space for evasive vehicle maneuvers, provide a refuge for vehicles experiencing mechanical problems, and reduce the risk of collisions between motor vehicles, as well as between motor vehicles and bicyclists. Improving Jolon Road, the primary access road to Fort Hunter Liggett, supports the mission of Fort Hunter Liggett and military bases that train at Fort Hunter Liggett, thus enhancing military value.

We fully support the Monterey County application to DCIP for the Jolon Road Safety Improvement Project. Thank you for your full and fair consideration, in accordance with all laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress