

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROBERT M. SPRINKLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR - TRAFFIC
ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS
SUBJECT: KELSEY KNOLLS EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS GATE
PROPOSED OPENING

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Council, by resolution, approve the opening of the Emergency Vehicle Access (EVA) Gate on Kelsey Knolls between Altruria Drive and Baldwin Way to through traffic to evaluate traffic impacts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On March 9, 2018, neighborhood representatives of the Kelsey Knolls area provided a petition to Transportation and Public Works requesting that the EVA gate on Kelsey Knolls be removed. The petition included 49 signatures representing 33 properties (Attachment 1).

On April 18, 2018, residents on Baldwin Way provided a petition including 7 signatures representing 3 properties seeking to keep the gate permanently closed (Attachment 6) or to at least evaluate traffic by opening the gate on a temporary basis.

Transportation and Public Works contacted Santa Rosa Police Department and the Santa Rosa Fire Department to inquire if there were any concerns with the gate removal. Both departments confirmed they do not have issues with the gate removal.

BACKGROUND

This location and access was a concern for the residents during the development of the area, and now again with the recent fire event.

In 1996, with the construction of Nielsen Ranch subdivision, an EVA road was constructed as a second point of access from Kelsey Knolls to Altruria Drive. Plans with

KELSEY KNOLLS EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCESS GATE PROPOSED REMOVAL
PAGE 2 OF 4

City File number 1996-0011 illustrate this road was constructed only to EVA standards and an EVA gate was placed just west of Private Street "A".

In 2001, plans for 900 & 950 Altruria Drive at Kelsey Knolls – The Lakes of Fountaingrove were submitted to the City (City File number 2003-0086). These plans show the section of Kelsey Knolls that had been an EVA road, being constructed to a minor street standard. This development project went to Council for approval on appeal from the Planning Commission and in the minutes several residents requested the EVA gate remain closed with the construction of the residential road. Residents were concerned through traffic would increase with the Kelsey Knolls street connection being formalized to Altruria Drive. The City Traffic Engineer stated that maintaining the gate would create Baldwin Way/Kelsey Knolls as a large cul-de-sac and recommended having as many connections as possible to the subdivision. The City Council acted to retain the gate and that the action would not require additional environmental review. (Attachment 2; Item 11.4).

According to Planning and Economic Department staff, this section of Kelsey Knolls was originally intended to be opened with The Lakes of Fountaingrove development, but due to public interest, the gate remained in place and was memorialized on the plans.

In 2005, the City Engineer signed plans with City File number 2005-0047 Fountain View Unit 4 plans which also shows the existing gate to remain on Kelsey Knolls.

On March 9, 2018 the City received a letter and petition from several residents requesting the EVA gate on Kelsey Knolls be removed. Their letter stated that they feel the gate is an impediment for the neighborhood in the event of an emergency and strongly believe the gate should be removed. The petition was signed by 49 residents representing 33 properties.

A letter was drafted to the neighborhood (Attachment 4) that would be most affected by circulation changes relating to the proposed gate removal and feedback was requested from the residents.

On April 18, 2018 the City received a petition from residents on Baldwin Way stating concerns regarding the opening on Kelsey Knolls to through traffic. They stated that when the gate was opened in the past, the volume on Baldwin Way increased significantly. Additionally, they stated that The Boulders development had promised the gate would not be opened. Their petition requests to temporarily open the gate in an effort to study how traffic patterns may change.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

In 2001, the approval for The Lakes at Fountaingrove went to the City Council for approval. This item was approved with Resolution 25001 and explicitly stated to maintain the existing EVA gate (Attachment 2; Item 4 d & e of Resolution 25001). This

was at the request of the residents because of their concern with the potential for increased traffic on Baldwin Way.

ANALYSIS

1. Kelsey Knolls is constructed to Minor Street standards on the approach to the gate in both directions. (Attachment 3)
2. Transportation and Public Works, Fire Department and the Police Department have no objections to the gate removal.
3. A letter was sent to residents in the area that were on the original petition and to those who would be most affected by projected traffic increases (Attachment 4) with the gate removal.
4. This letter resulted in 4 telephone calls by residents in support of the gate removal and 3 telephone calls by residents requesting the gate remain in place.
5. As of April 19, 2018, 4 properties opposed the gate removal, and 36 properties requested the removal.
6. Baseline traffic counts were collected on Baldwin Way the week of April 16, 2018 in order to compare future counts with the gate opened.
7. In order to determine the potential effect of the gate removal, the gate may be temporarily opened in conjunction with appropriate signing and markings for a signal lane access. Following 3-4 month evaluation period of the gate being opened and travel patterns normalized, counts can be taken to determine the traffic impact on Baldwin Way.
8. Following the evaluation period, the item would return to City Council for a final determination as to whether the gate would remain closed or removed from the street.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action will impact the General Fund with a cost to appropriately sign and mark the signal lane access as a temporary basis of approximately \$2000 during evaluation period. This would be completed using existing appropriations in the Field Services budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This is a Class 1 Exemption for an existing facility. The original environmental document for The Lakes of Fountaingrove included Kelsey Knolls as a completed minor street without a gate.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

On March 26, 2018, Transportation and Public Works sent a letter to those on the petition and to residents that may potentially see an increase in traffic due to the opening of the Kelsey Knolls. We requested feedback on this proposal by April 19, 2018 and stated the proposed Council date for this item to encourage resident attendance.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Letter and petition received from residents requesting gate removal
- Attachment 2 - City Council minutes and Resolution 25001
- Attachment 3 - Photo of EVA gate on Kelsey Knolls
- Attachment 4 - Letter from City to residents
- Attachment 5 – Location Map
- Attachment 6 – Petition from residents opposing gate removal
- Resolution

CONTACT

Robert Sprinkle, Deputy Director - Traffic Engineering
rsprinkle@srcity.org (707) 543-3817