



Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. Joyce Parks, Safe Routes to School Coordinator
California State Department of Transportation
Division of Local Assistance

Support for Grant Application by Coyle Avenue Elementary School

Dear Ms. Parks,

*WALKS*Sacramento is pleased support the application of Coyle Avenue Elementary School for a Safe Routes to School infrastructure grant. *WALKS*Sacramento supports safer and more walkable communities for all ages, and plays an active role among various Safe Routes to School initiatives around the Sacramento Region. *WALKS*Sacramento has been pleased to offer assistance to Coyle Avenue in organizing walk audits and assessments, as well as technical advice in developing the school's Walking Wednesday encouragement and education program.

Coyle Avenue serves a broad and unique student population, which includes special needs classes of blind, and autistic, children. These are students for whom a safe, walkable school environment is critically important, both in terms of current accessibility and education regarding safely navigating streets as self-sufficient teenagers and adults. The proposed improvements to area sidewalks, safer access into and away from the school, and upgrades to intersections and roads around the school will provide this environment.

The school serves a neighborhood which should be walkable and bikeable for the student population. They face obstacles in terms of narrow sidewalks to and from the school, the lack of proper signal lighting and signage at nearby intersections, and unsafe pick up and drop off conditions at the school itself.

Improving all of these conditions, in combination with the school's education and encouragement programs, will bring many more students to school on foot or bicycle. This will build healthier, more active students, reduce greenhouse emissions and help fight chronic diseases that result from physical inactivity.

Again, we are pleased to offer our support. Please contact me at **916-446-9255** if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Anne Geraghty
Executive Director, *WALKS*Sacramento

cc: Sonja Atkins