



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
ALAN WEAVER, DIRECTOR

August 3, 2006

Residents of Vagedes Avenue
Fresno, CA

Subject: Vagedes Avenue Paving and Curb Concerns

Supervisor Anderson passed your letter on to me and asked that I look into the issue and respond back to you. I have reviewed your concerns with our staff and visited the site to view the pavement. During my site visit I did notice areas where vehicles had stopped and turned the steering wheels causing abrasion and/or displacement of some of the new paving. I also noticed locations where vehicles had apparently braked a little abruptly and displaced some of the paving. However, due to the slow curing characteristics of the material, all of these areas would be expected to heal with traffic during the coming weeks.

You are correct that the material used is a relatively fine graded slow cure pavement commonly referred to as "Cold Mix". Further, you are correct that Cold Mix has a number of uses such as trench patching and temporary overlays on distressed pavements. What you may not be aware of is that the County of Fresno has been using Cold Mix asphaltic concrete for over 35 years as a maintenance strategy with excellent results. The asphalt binder material (SC 3000) used since 1998 has been a Slow Curing (SC) Cutback Asphalt typically consisting of an asphalt cement which has been liquefied by blending with a petroleum solvent. Prior to 1998 a Medium Curing (MC) Cutback Asphalt was used however; it was banned from the State of California due to air quality and environmental concerns.

The SC 3000 material used by the County meets or exceeds the requirements of the California Department of Transportation Standard Specifications; Section 93 "Liquid Asphalts". The gradation of the aggregates varies because of the need of meeting traffic requirements and the availability of aggregate material in any geographical location.

Cold mix asphaltic concrete is at this time a very cost effective and convenient maintenance strategy for repairing and rehabilitating some of the approximately 3,600 miles of road the County is responsible for. It lowers fumes, emissions, energy consumption, and it provides rapid turn-over to traffic. Some concerns with cold mixes are the potential for tracking, variable curing time and deformation when vehicles make sharp turning movements on a recently paved road. These concerns are also present with other road maintenance strategies such as slurry seal, chip seal, or even hot mix asphalt overlays.

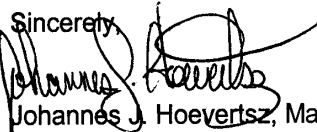
Residents of Vagedes Avenue
August 3, 2006
Page 2

As you are probably aware, funding for road maintenance in California is very short. The annual cost of repairing and maintaining the County's road system far exceeds the availability of funding. Consequently, the County must employ cost effective maintenance strategies. On low volume roads with relatively light traffic, cold mix asphaltic concrete is a very cost effective and durable solution for pavement restoration. If the County did not employ the cold mix strategy, it would fall further behind in maintaining the County's road system at an acceptable level.

In regards to the curbs on your street, per County Policy No. B-2805, the responsibility for repair costs of curbs is an obligation of the owners of the abutting property. There are numerous locations on your street and in your neighborhood where front yard trees have displaced and damaged the curbs. Due to the number of damaged areas, if the property owners would like to form an assessment district, and, as the repair of these curbs is the financial responsibility of the property owners, the County would be able to assist with the repair of the curbs. If this is of interest to you and your neighbors, please contact me at 262-4840 and we can meet with you and your neighbors to work out the details.

If you have any questions regarding the information on this letter please feel free to call our office at (559) 262-4840.

Sincerely,



Johannes J. Hoevertsz, Manager
Maintenance and Operations

cc Susan Anderson, Supervisor District 2
Alan Weaver, Director of Public Works and Planning
Frank Fowler, Deputy Director of Public Works & Planning