

Lore Saldana

From: Steven Youngblood [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 12:45 PM
To: Lore Saldana; steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org; apatino@cityofsantamaria.org
Cc: apcd
Subject: Public Comment / Request for Action: Student and Pedestrian Safety Concerns Related to the Stowell Road Warehouse Project

Clerk: Please forward this public comment to the appropriate representatives and staff ahead of the next Community Advisory Council discussion.

Dear SBAPCD Board and Staff,

My name is Steven Youngblood, and I serve as the Head Cross Country Coach and Assistant Track & Field Coach at Allan Hancock College. I have also coached student-athletes at local high schools, including Santa Maria High School, since 2015.

I am writing to express concerns regarding the recently approved warehouse project at 1680 West Stowell Road and the potential impacts that increased truck traffic may have on student, pedestrian, and cyclist safety in the surrounding area.

As part of our training programs, student-athletes regularly run on streets and sidewalks throughout Santa Maria, including routes that directly utilize and cross Stowell Road. These routes are used by college athletes, high school students, recreational runners, cyclists, and community members on a daily basis.

I am concerned that the significant increase in delivery vans and heavy truck traffic associated with this project could create additional safety risks along a corridor that already serves schools, neighborhoods, and active transportation users. In my time coaching locally, I have personally observed instances of large vehicles traveling at unsafe speeds on Stowell Road. Any increase in heavy vehicle traffic warrants careful consideration of its potential impact on pedestrians, runners, cyclists, and students traveling through the area.

I respectfully ask that the Air Pollution Control District continue to evaluate the potential public health impacts associated with warehouse-related vehicle traffic and work with local agencies to encourage measures that reduce emissions while also improving safety for residents. Infrastructure improvements that enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety should be prioritized wherever increased commercial traffic is anticipated.

Santa Maria's students, families, and residents deserve transportation corridors that are safe for everyone who uses them. I appreciate your time and consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Steven Youngblood
Head Cross Country Coach
Allan Hancock College