

# White-line fever

## Dispute ends as county paints safety stripes in Rio del Mar

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**RIO DEL MAR** — The lines have been drawn on Clubhouse Drive, but the battle may be over.

On Monday, without notice, the county Public Works Department quietly painted safety stripes down the length of the windy road.

Thus, perhaps, a long-standing dispute has been laid to rest.

"I simply feel betrayed," said Vince Casey, a member of the Rio del Mar Improvement Association, at the Board of Supervisors' meeting Tuesday during oral communications.

"It's a breach of faith — kind of an arrogant thing to do," blasted Bob Curtiss.

"I urge you to make public works obliterate them," said association president Mel Deerwester.

What can the group do about it?

"Probably nothing," said Deerwester, later. "We can't go out and paint them black."

Second District Supervisor Robley Levy said the stripes were authorized by the board three years ago, so when the county was painting other stripes in that area, the crew painted Clubhouse Drive as well.

She maintains they will help delineate the roadway and won't prevent people from parking in front of their home.

"I still support the people on the issue of parking restrictions," said Levy.

"In fact, they'll be parking where they've always parked," she said, adding she won't support installing no-parking signs on the road. "Where there are trees on the property, people have always parked a distance away."

The improvement association has led the fight against striping for nearly two years, ever since supervisors approved them at a cost of \$2,000.

For the duration of the controversy, Bob Garcia, an association spokesman, insisted on calling the stripes "bike lanes."

However, Levy campaigned vigorously to let people know the lines don't fit the legal definition of bike lanes.

The semantic difference didn't appear to matter one whit to youngsters, who were seen riding their bikes in the lanes on Tuesday afternoon.

In separate polls last fall, the homeowners' group came up with substantial opposition to the stripes, while Levy found residents leaning in favor.

The association sent out 878 questionnaires, asking if residents would support striping "which, if accomplished, would deprive the residents of those streets from parking in front of their home ..."

Only 76 people responded, with 62 against.

Levy's poll went out with a letter, explaining that parking wouldn't be prohibited. Her survey went to 460 residents of Clubhouse Drive and its environs, with 120 responses. Of those, 66 favored striping, 51 opposed and three were undecided.