

Phyllis J. Kardos

The Newport School District runs 19 bus routes twice a day, plus special events and extracurricular buses, plus kindergarten and special needs buses and after school programs. There are also buses coming in from other school district for sporting events weekly, plus students driving themselves to and from school and school functions.

These buses travel Highway 2 and Highway 41. This is a very serious transportation issue on both these roads as these buses full of kids will be traveling the same two lane highways the proposed Newport silicon metals smelter trucks and raw materials transports will be traveling. PacWest plans on constructing a road off Highway 2 in order to access its smelter. All buses converged within 3/4 miles of this proposed smelter road. Also the increase in rail traffic should be of major concern do to the rail crossing the buses will be traveling across. My question - how will PacWest provide and ensure safety for our buses and kids due to the increase in PacWest employee vehicles, company trucks, raw materials trucks and all new traffic, including trains, that will occur as a result of this proposed smelter? This is a very serious transportation safety issue.