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Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club - Executive Committee Minutes of the April 10, 2024 Zoom Meeting

1. Greetings/Introductions

Present: Mike Guth, Steve Bakaley, Jerry Busch, Kristen Sandel, Micah Posner, Lani Faulkner, and Jim Danaher.

2. Announcements

Mike will send out a March/April newsletter. Mike announced Ethan is resigning from the ExCom.

3. Changes to the Agenda (None)

4. Minutes

The March 2023 minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's Report

Steve Bakaley gave the Treasurer's report.

6. Coastal Appeal – State Coastal Committee

- a. Mike gave the update. The state committee put in a report regarding Beach Drive. The permit was denied 7-1. In Monterey County, a hotel is planned near a mammal rookery. Construction impacts are large. Many environmental groups are engaged.

7. Transportation Committee report

Rail Trail EIR: The EIR for the rail trail was certified 8 days ago. The 30 day window has started. Consensus in the ExCom was not to object.

A discussion ensued regarding the rail trail. Micah moved that the Club should encourage the Board of Supervisors to approve the project, and that the Club should speak at the next Board of Supervisor's meeting to encourage adoption and moving forward. Mike suggests submitting a letter showing that Santa Cruz is acting in accordance with state policy on rail and bike ways.

Action: Micah informally asked if there was ExCom support for a letter. Kristen, Mike, Steve and Lani agreed that a letter should be sent. Jerry abstained. Micah will consider writing letter.

8. Conservation Committee

- a. Laurel St Bridge Swallow letter follow up

Mike said that the ExCom letter regarding the Laurel Street Bridge, has circulated widely. Mike reports letter went into agenda package for Soquel Creek Board. He said this is an opportunity for SC to take action again. Mike suggests that

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ExCom send a letter to the Soquel Creek Water District staff, and that maybe the letter should be a joint letter with Bird Club. He also proposed setting up a meeting with the contractor and the appropriate parties. Jerry: says water district staff is unlikely to act, but that it would be a good idea to meet with board member, to direct staff to investigate adverse effect of the netting and related construction under the bridge. Micah said the SC should stop netting, and minimize effect of pipeline on the bird population. Mike will start an email chain to see if there is interest in the issue with other groups.