



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP
Of The Ventana Chapter
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Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

April 25, 2024

Re: Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10/11
Meeting Date: April 30, 2024
Agenda Item No. 17

The Sierra Club urges the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to adopt all staff recommendations and move forward with Segments 10 and 11 of the Coastal Rail Trail Project.

Sierra Club National Transportation Policies advocate for projects that “provide everyone, including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users, with adequate access to jobs, shopping, services and recreation”, and further state that “Walking, skating/scooters/skateboards, and bicycling are best, along with electronic communications, to reduce vehicle trips. Also important are buses, minibuses, light rail and heavy rail (as corridor trips increase) -all electrified wherever feasible. Rail systems are most effective in stimulating compact development patterns, increasing public transit patronage and reducing motor vehicle use.” Sierra Club support is also in alignment with the California State Transportation Commission, which is prioritizing public mass and active transit projects in order to meet the Climate Action Plan goals for the State of California.

Together, Segments 10 and 11 of the 32-mile Coastal Rail and Trail form a critical connecting portion of the longer 32-mile world class Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Rail Trail, that will connect members of the community and provide safe, equitable, access to over 92 parks and 44 schools as well as dining, shopping, and opportunities for leisure and access to work for pedestrians, cyclists, and wheel chair users. The “Ultimate Trail” ensures more people can feel safe to choose active transportation as an alternative to driving to their events, and more importantly, ensures that passenger rail can be implemented in the future. Providing robust alternatives that provide access to both active and public transit are critical if we are to address both equity and climate change. Segments 10 and 11 of the Coastal Rail Trail connect community members from as far north as Davenport all the way to Aptos, which is an amazing opportunity for the community members who live in this county to get around in a way that is more congenial, safer, cheaper and creates a closer relationship to our natural world.

The Sierra Club supports the staff recommendation to use a portion of the MeasureD-2016 funds, to support construction of Segments 10 and 11, allowing the project to move forward. The Sierra Club is ready to help staff in design and mitigation in order to reduce the number of native trees removed while achieving its critical objective: supporting and encouraging transportation countywide by alternative transportation.

Please approve the entirety of the Staff Recommendations with respect to Segments 10 and 11 of the Coastal Rail Trail.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Guth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Guth

Executive Committee Chair

Santa Cruz Group of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club