Comments from the Public Regarding Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Received up until 4/14/10 3:30pm
Hello,

Can you tell me how much the State Board of Equalization has valued the Watsonville-Davenport Rail line for property taxes?

How much property tax does U.P. pay to the County?

What non-property tax payments does U.P. make to the County?

Has this data already been made publicly available in any published report, EIR, or other study?

Many thanks,

Rich Persoff
Watsonville
Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

-----Original Message-----
From: Sandra Baron [mailto:sandybar3@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 8:55 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Recommend the rail trail aquisition

Our community will benefit greatly from this. I spend a lot of time on the bike trail from Seaside to Lover's Point (even though I live near Watsonville). The community really uses it, it benefits tourism. Its a no brainer. Please recommend the purchase. There are very few places for families to ride bikes in Santa Cruz county. Nicene Marks gets a lot of use, it gets down right crowded on the weekends.

Thank you,

Sandy Baron
Watsonville, CA

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Patricia Mc Veigh [mailto:pmcveigh@baymoon.com]
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2010 3:45 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail purchase, transportation improvements

Please vote to acquire the rail line. This has been much studied and
often on the verge. Now is the time to go ahead with this project.

My other priorities are use of King Street and a bikeway, allowing
bicyclists to avoid the Mission Street dangerous road.

Another project not on the present agenda is building an overpass from
highway 1 to Cabrillo college going South, and a merge lane going
North. Please look at your plans, and include this in future planning.
The neighborhoods and Park Avenue and Soquel Drive near Cabrillo
College have become dangerous with crowded speeding traffic trying to
get to the college.

Thank you for your work.
Sincerely
Patricia Mc Veigh
pmcveigh@baymoon.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission
for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Gina Bliss [mailto:gbwater@cruzers.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 7:52 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

Dear Commissioners

I live on the West side, near the railroad crossing at Swift St. I frequently ride my bike to the East side, around 41st Avenue. I can do it, but it is a little harrowing because there is a lot of traffic using the same roads.

I recently rode my bike from Natural Bridges to Davenport, and was delighted to discover I could do it. But those cars are speeding by and I feel that my life may be in danger when I ride along Highway 1.

I am 60 now. I hope the rail right of way will be developed into a bikeway. It will be safer for me to get around on my bike.

Thank you very much for your ongoing good work for Santa Cruz county transportation improvements.

Gina Bliss
126 Ladera Drive
Santa Cruz
95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: RJonesPE@aol.com [mailto:RJonesPE@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 31, 2010 7:25 PM
To: Info@scrrtc.org
Cc: rjh12@comcast.net; ellen.pirie@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; tony.campos@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; dene@bustichi.com; kirby@wharf2wharf.com; clane@cl.santa-cruz.ca.us; arivas@cl.watsonville.ca.us; fishsweetheart@netzero.net; mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; mtavantz@cl.watsonville.ca.us; bds030@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; RichKrumholz@dot.ca.gov
Subject: UP Rail Corridor Purchase

SCCRTC, Director and Staff,

I fully expect a recommendation to purchase the deteriorated UP rail corridor but I question how such a decision can be rendered with no Business Plan that addresses at least the following:

1. The affects of taking $10 million of STIP money which could be reprogrammed to help fix the County's ruined infrastructure (i.e., help offset $150 million in deferred repairs) and using it to repay the loan from the California Coastal Conservancy. The study should address the number of lost employment opportunities since $10 million in rail corridor purchase provides no jobs. I realize the $10 million in Proposition 116 money cannot be reprogrammed.

2. The on-going cost of railroad maintenance, repair and replacement. The RTC as the owner will have perpetual responsibility for such things as the steel La Selva Beach trestle which was made marginally serviceable by the UP but continues to deteriorate. It alone has a replacement cost of $5 million. It is just one of dozens of bridges and trestles that will eventually require expensive repair/replacement.

3. The cost of seismic upgrading of the dozens of bridges and trestles if passenger carrying service is intended (as has been stated). This would apply even if recreational service were instituted and certainly would be necessary for any commuter service.

4. The cost of insurance since the County will be responsible for 32 miles of essentially uncontrolled-access trackage. If self-insured, the size of the reserve for this purpose.

5. The cost of added security by the County since access is not controlled.

6. The cost of administration. Owning a railroad is not just the matter of holding the deed. A management organization with field services is required. In this assessment should be the cost incurred in fees and expenses in the pursuit of the purchase (e.g., Attorney Trost's fees)

7. The sources of revenue to pay for all on-going expenses.

8. The lost revenue due to the removal of tax sources currently in place.

9. The financial impact on the County bus service by the potential diversion of funds to meet railroad needs.

10. The financial arrangement between the SCCRTC and the Sierra Railroad.

11. For all of the above there should be worst-case and best-case scenarios rather than just the most optimistic financial picture.

I'm certain there are more issues that should be included in a Business Plan (which was promised by the RTC) but these are the major ones. I find no reference to such a plan in the Agenda for the April 1st meeting. Does such a plan exist and when will it be made available to the public?
On a related matter, if the RTC acquires the UP corridor does it intend to continue the shipment of Hazardous Materials as shown in the attached pictures which were taken last week from my Seacliff backyard? Flammable compressed gas shipments pose a huge threat not only to adjacent residents but to whole neighborhoods in the event of an accident; derailments have happened on this branch line. Has this been included in any hazards and environmental assessments for this purchase?

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Robert Jones
Seacliff

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Joe Martinez [mailto:joemart@pacbell.net]  
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2010 6:28 PM  
To: info@sccrtc.org  
Subject: Rail Corridor Purchase...

Acquisition of the rail corridor is a BAD idea.

I'm sure that given the current financial state of California and the county of Santa Cruz that the funds can be put to better use...our schools. Buying the old rail line will cost tax payers more over the life of the purchase in maintenance than the actual cost of the rail line. The number of cars it removes from the road, Hwy 1, over time given our planned growth is non-existent. The number of trucks that will be forced to use Hwy 1 when the railway is no longer available; because of train services and biking and walking path will increase exponentially. The risk associated with sharing a high usage rail thoroughfare with cyclists and pedestrian traffic has got to be very high as well as the insurance.

Buying the rail line is a BAD idea...

Joe Martinez

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avncue, Santa Cruz CA  95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: mjmaggiolo@sbcglobal.net [mailto:mjmaggiolo@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 7:52 AM
To: info@scrtc.org
Subject: Please stop the rail line purchase madness

Please STOP this madness.

Is there anything that we, the people, might say to you that will make you stop and think about what you are doing with this rail line purchase fiasco? Do you take the time to read various letters to the editor or discussion forums to see what it is a lot of us are saying? Or have you deluded yourselves into believing that because buying the rail line in our county (and part of Monterey County) is a good idea because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity (that is a theme or phrase that pops up quite frequently when you people on the commission talk about it).

So let me ask you this:

If it is such a good idea, ask yourselves the following questions:

1). Why did Southern Pacific discontinue (abandon really) the Suntan Special in 1959?

Answer: Because the company was losing money on it.

2). Why were they losing money on it?

Answer: Because they could not compete with the automobile.

3). What led to this?

Answers: The costs associated with keeping the old South Pacific Coast route open.
The subsequent construction of Lexington Reservoir and Highway 17.

When Amtrak became reality in 1971, why didn't Amtrak hang on to the Del Monte (which provided service between San Francisco and Monterey)?

Answer: They could not compete with Highway 101.

But I have more questions for you.

How will this alleviate traffic congestion here? So far your plans call for a tourist trolley and a Dinner Train to bring in money to float this grand scheme? Both cater mostly to tourism, yet from what I can see, you haven't addressed how to get them here. See my questions above. But to remind you, you cannot hope to have a train service that runs through Gilroy hope to compete with the family car to get people here from out of town. You can't hope to make the same service work for people that commute over the hill either for the same reason.

As for the family car, it won't go away. Only the method of propulsion will change as time goes on.
All in all, this purchase is a bad idea that will not provide the benefits that you truly believe it will.

For the record, I am a property owner in the county. No, my property is not next to the tracks. I DO like trains.

Thank you,

Mike Maggiolo

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060 831 460 3200 831 460 3215 (fax) www.sccrtc.org
From: Patricia Mc Veigh [mailto:pmcveigh@baymoon.com]
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 9:38 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission
Subject: Re: Rail Corridor Purchase Recommendation

Thank you for your work on behalf of this issue. Sorry it has taken so many years and so much manpower to finalize the decision. This property needs to remain in public domain for Santa Cruz County, whether it becomes a light rail or a rail trail. Please keep us informed and let us who live here and love this place help develop it into the world class public coastal access which it deserves.
Pat McVeigh

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>>
Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Drew Lewis [mailto:dudley@cruzio.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2010 12:10 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

I am writing you to support the purchase of the Rail Trail for bicycle and pedestrian use. I think this is essential in creating a sustainable and ecologically sound model for the future. Please support this project.
Thank You,
Drew Lewis
433 Cayuga St.
Santa Cruz, CA

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-28
-----Original Message-----
From: Ethan Amezcu [mailto:eamezcua@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2010 8:13 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Ethan - April 14: Sensible Transportation

Hello,

I am writing to voice my enthusiasm for the upcoming purchase of the rail corridor and the implementation of the "Rail Trail" - I am inspired by the excellent nearby paths that traverse Los Gatos / Campbell / San Jose and Monterey. Most importantly, I believe that adding a rail with trail to Santa Cruz's long list of attractive features should be hailed as a benefit to merchants who will certainly experience the increase in foot-traffic. I am so convinced that this is a sound investment in our County's short and long term accessibility for residents, employees, students and tourists that I am scheduling the April 14 meeting as a high priority item on my calendar.

I look forward to seeing you at the City Council Chambers on April 14 7pm for the Transportation Commission Meeting.
I will pass this date along to my friends and acquaintances so they can also come.

Thanks,
Ethan Amezcu
S Branciforte Ave

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA  95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-29
4/5/10
Dear Regional Transportation Commission:

I note that the RTC is about to purchase the rail corridor which is the first step in the rail-trail project for which an EIR has been partially completed. What is the status of the EIR for the rail trail? I have checked your website and find the draft EIR, but not the final EIR or the Notice of Determination as required by CEQA. I ask because the final EIR must include responses to questions and I don't see responses to questions and since I submitted a number of questions, I would like your response. Please let me know where I can find the final EIR with all questions responded to. Thank you.

Charles Meier
4525 Nova Drive, SC

Address coorespondence to Lansing Publications, 6597 Lansing Ct., Pleasanton, CA 94566-7724
or chasmeier@comcast.net - thank you
4/6/10
Thank you for your update. I just wanted to understand a few details:
1. Which specific dinner and excursion fare are you using for your business plan in Scenario 1?
2. Which specific north coast beaches will the "excursion" ride go to?
3. Where is the itemized list of costs for infrastructure improvements that will be necessary before you can start ridership?
4. What are the specific numbers that the freight operator uses for his "estimates" for this area?
5. How will you prevent the biking activists from riding along this route illegally?
6. What coverage does the $60k liability insurance premium per year provide?
Thank you for providing some clarification on these simple questions.
Libby Huyck
April 7, 2010

SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear SCCRTC,

As a business owner and resident of Santa Cruz I am urging you to move forward, in an expeditious manner, to secure and develop the Rail Trail as a bikeway, walkway and rail line.

As you know this is the only direct path through Santa Cruz County and would be idea for direct transportation of people. Please look what other Cities that have done in the same situation as a model for moving forward.

Thanks for your time.

Best regards,

Karl Heiman
Caffe Pergolesi
418 Cedar St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
4/7/10
Hello,

Thank you for having a staff member courteously help me to open the captioned report. In it, however, I am not able to find answers to the following questions:

1. What is the scenario and direct costs to the county if the SCCRTC formally petitions to abandon Rail Service after milepost 3? Is regular track and structure maintenance required for the abandoned portion of the line?

2. What is the scenario and direct costs to the county if Rail Service is abandoned after milepost 3 and the STB is petitioned to rail-bank the right-of-way? Must there be a formal plan in place to convert the right-of-way into a trail?

3. What portions of the line are owned by UP, and which are merely held as easements? What might be the legal consequences of rail-banking the line - e.g., landowners who gave the UP easements many years ago, or real estate speculators, attempting to recover those easements?

In my view, if the SCCRTC purchases the line, its value to the community for any future use is markedly reduced if the right-of-way is broken by even a single segment reverting to private ownership.

Thank you for your further assistance.

Rich Persoff

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Rich Persoff
To: Regional Transportation Commission
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2010 10:37 AM
Subject: Rail Line Ownership Business and Management Plan Analysis

Hello,

I am not able to find this April 1 document on your site. Please help me.

Thank you

Rich Persoff
Gini Pineda

From:  RJonesPE@aol.com
Sent:  Wednesday, April 07, 2010 10:03 AM
To:  info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Purchase

I have a simple question. Is the RTC going to borrow money, i.e., $10 million, from the California Coastal Conservancy to help buy the UP rail corridor and repay the loan with STIP funds? I'd like an answer this week. Thanks.

Robert Jones
Aptos
From: nick trowbridge [mailto:boop10bella@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 2:00 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail/trail

Board of supervisors Santa Cruz county:

Please approve the purchase of the rail line for use as a commercial and recreational addition to the great county of Santa Cruz.

In the Netherlands some municipalities are experimenting with small personal rail cars for 3 or 4 people rendering 0 pollution. My point is that the future use of the rail facility may be expanded in directions that we only dream of today due to advances in technology.

Dwight Trowbridge  
La Selva Beach, CA

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060  
831 460 3200  
831 460 3215 (fax)  
www.sccrtc.org
From: Andrew Murray [mailto:andrewmurraysc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 07, 2010 4:52 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: My Support for RTC Rail line purchase

I understand there will be a hearing on April 8th at the SCPD to discuss the RTC project that unfortunately I cannot attend. Please accept my comments below as my proxy voice for that hearing.

As a life long, 48 year-old resident of Santa Cruz, I fully support the purchase and development of the Rail/Trail project. Santa Cruz has a vibrant bicycle culture, but is still a difficult and dangerous County to navigate on bicycle, especially for novices and seniors. Our city streets are massively overcrowded with cars. We need to develop safe paths and routes for bicycles that will encourage more bicycle usage among locals. I believe our tourism industry would also benefit as the Rail/Trail would be a great feature to promote to potential visitors. Please pass the necessary legislation to make this opportunity a reality.

Regards,
Andrew Murray
526 Isbel Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*****
Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
April 8, 2010

The Regional Transportation Commission:
1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear RTC,

I live along the tracks in the city of Santa Cruz. I urge you to complete the process and acquire the Union Pacific right of way between Watsonville and the cement plant at Davenport. I think the county can make far better use of this beautiful piece of real estate than the railroad operators have in the past.

Let’s not miss this window of opportunity. There are many things that can be done with this beautiful ribbon of rail once it has been purchased.

I urge you to recommend that the purchase be made. We have talked, met, and studied enough. It is now time to act.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Marsalis
April 8, 2010
The Regional Transportation Commission:
1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear RTC,

I am a homeowner in the city of Santa Cruz. I live very close to the railroad tracks that should have been purchased years ago for the benefit of our county. I urge you to complete your process and support the acquisition of this right of way.

We cannot miss this window of opportunity. There are many things that can be done with this beautiful ribbon of rail.

Please recommend that the purchase be made. Let's not talk about this issue for another thirty years.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Vorce
April 8, 2010

James Earp, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SCCRTC’s Application and Allocation Request for Proposition 116 and STIP Funds for Acquisition and Improvement of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Dear Chair Earp,

As you approach the challenging process of funding California’s many worthy transportation projects, we, the members of Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail Trail (FORT), ask that you give special consideration to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) Uniform Transit Application and allocation request for $10.2 million in Proposition 116 funds and $10 million in STIP funds for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line ROW for corridor preservation, rail line improvements and recreational passenger rail service from Santa Cruz to Davenport.

We believe the following factors help distinguish the Santa Cruz Branch Line purchase as a top CTC priority:

- Prop 116 was voter approved. Santa Cruz County voters strongly supported this proposition and have paid into the fund since 1991.
- Prop 116 funds expire this summer. Once this opportunity has passed it is unlikely this purchase will be possible in the future.
- The Branch Line will provide an alternative to Highway 1 and Soquel Drive, our only North-South transit alternatives.
• Santa Cruz passenger rail will serve as a feeder line to State-wide high-speed rail and qualify for Prop 1A feeder funds.
• Santa Cruz passenger rail will connect to Monterey and help revitalize the impoverished community of Pajaro with a new train station.
• The Rail and trail project has past, current and future funding from federal (Sam Farr) and private sources.
• The rail line will improve the quality of life here with more car-free and scenic walking and biking opportunities for commuters, families and recreational users.
• A 31-mile coastal rail trail helps address health issues such as obesity and carbon emissions. 14 local schools are within a few blocks of our coastal rail line.
• Local passenger rail service was a top vote-getter of a 2007 Transportation Funding Survey of potential capital projects.
• The many eco-tourism benefits of both rail and trail will help support our local, tourism-based economy and increased tourism to the state. A commercial operator, Sierra Pacific, has been contracted for passenger, tourist, and freight service.

Some 70,000 residents live within half a mile of the rail line (126,000 within one mile) and would easily access the rail with trail for biking or walking to work, school, shopping, or exercise. The trail would provide a scenic, car-free, and safe route through major residential, commercial and school areas. The trail would provide daily exercise therefore promoting healthy lifestyles and combating obesity and other diseases associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

As Transportation Commissioners you are facing the opportunity to make history for Santa Cruz County by bringing our coastal rail line into public ownership. For many years, transportation planners have seen the coastal rail line as the nerve center of a fully integrated, multi-modal transportation system that connects trains, buses, cars, bikes, and pedestrians throughout our County. We encourage and support your approval of the SCCRTC funding request for this important, voter-approved project.

Sincerely,

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail Trail

Mark Holcomb, President
The Holcomb Corporation
-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Vorce [mailto:dankaljian@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2010 1:21 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Buy the Tracks

I live close to the Union Pacific right of way. Please buy the 32 miles
of track for the benefit of our county.
The time to act is now. Let's not miss this window of opportunity to
have this beautiful piece of real estate.

bob vorce   318 Everson   98801

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission
for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA  95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Raymond Mendoza [mailto:rmendo@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 8:13 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: The Rail Trail

Hello,

I am just writing to express my support for the purchase of the rail line and its subsequent conversion to a bike and pedestrian trail. My family and I ride our bicycles all over the county as our method of "green" transportation. Please help us by providing more safe, car free routes.

This is a rare opportunity to purchase and re-assign this right of way.

Thank you.

Ray Mendoza

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Sigrid McLaughlin [mailto:sigrid@coincidence.net]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 9:50 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail line purchase

To: the SC County Regional Transportation Commission
Re: rail line purchase
From: sigrid mclaughlin, 445 high st. Santa Cruz, ca 95060

4-9-10

This is just a note to support you in buying the SC branch rail line; it is a great public asset and will bring us many important benefits in the future; please allow nothing to detain you from this purchase.

Sincerely,

Sigrid McLaughlin, PhD

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
To whom it may concern,
please accept this email as a letter of support for the purchase of the Santa Cruz branch rail line right of way between Watsonville & Davenport. I whole heartedly support the purchase & future transportation uses that could include freight rail service, recreational rail service, transit, and pedestrian/bicycle trails.

Regards,

Robin Shaw
511 14th Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: norman wyman [mailto:normanwyman@SBCGlobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 11:58 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject:

I support the purchase of the rail transit line as well as the hike bike trail beside it.

Norm Wyman

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Froukje Brouwer [mailto:frankie@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:02 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Cc: Robert Jan Ridder
Subject: Rail trail and other bicycle friendly initiatives.

Dear Commission,

I am an avid bicyclist, I ride to work almost every day from Live Oak to Natural Bridges (X Delaware). I have been riding along the railtrail (from the harbor to Seabright) before more stones have been dumped on the provisional trail, which makes bicycling on the trail pretty impossible. I now haul my bike over the rail and continue on the road.

My biggest concern is safety, and riding away from the cars makes a big difference. I really enjoy the separate bikepath along the boardwalk, and the provision that has been created at the end of Pacific for bicyclist, with the yellow poles, so cars will pay better attention. I am also awaiting the Arana Gulch bike path with hopeful anticipation. The rail trail would make a difference for me and other bicyclists safety wise, and it might help to get more people to bike while they get into their car right now.

thank you for considering the safety of bicyclist and pedestrians,

Froukje Brouwer

--
Froukje (Frankie) Brouwer
Senior User Analyst Cruzpay
tel: 502 7100

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Jason Cozy [mailto:jcozy@Smithmicro.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:18 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: I support the rail to trail

I live in Watsonville and even though this may not impact me directly on a daily basis. My family and some of my neighbors who bike would love to see this a reality so that we could bike into and through santa cruz on afternoons.

I know you are aware that is would help relieve some congestion on the roads as well. Very cool.

This should be Number one goal for Santa Cruz county for 2010!

Cheers,
Jason-

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Nicole Goebel [mailto:nicole.goebel@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:22 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: In support of Green Line Rail-with-Trail

To the County Transportation Commission,

I am an avid cyclist, an avid commuter, and I believe that pedaling bikes can be a great way to improve quality of life by improving both our health and the environment (through less reliance on vehicles, as well as for pure enjoyment). However I understand why many do not partake in cycling activities. The options for safe cycling are limited and hence the fear of getting hit by a car takes precedence. I believe that the Green Line Rail-with-Trail would be an excellent promoter to get people out on bikes, whether it be for transportation or a fun activity. Let's be part of the movement to get people out on bikes, and make it a safe environment for them to do so.

Sincerely,

Nicole Goebel

--
Nicole Goebel, PhD
Ocean Sciences Department
University of California Santa Cruz
ngoebel@ucsc.edu

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-48
From: Kip Nead [mailto:kip@cabrillo.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:26 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support Purchase of the Rail Corridor

I would like to voice my support for the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor. This is a unique opportunity to purchase and create a multi-use corridor that passes within one mile of almost half our county's residents should not be missed. I urge you not to let this moment slip away. There will be voices that claim now is not the time, budget crisis continue to impact us, that we can't afford it. Those voices are wrong. There will not be another time, and if there is, the price tag will have risen even more. I remember the arguments against a rail line to San Jose in the 1980s that were much the same, and we see today that the right of ways are no longer there, and the price to consider that project today has risen far beyond what we could have imagined thirty years ago. Do not let this opportunity suffer the same fate. Please move forward with the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor. It is in the best interests of the whole community. Our diverse community should not suffer from the tyranny of a overly vocal minority who oppose any sort of public outlay at any time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kip Nead
2605 Willowbrook Lane #42, Aptos, 95003
831-479-5030

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
--- Original Message ---
From: Forest Monsen [mailto:forest.monsen@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:33 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a regular bicycle commuter who enjoys recreational cycling with my family, I support the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor. In addition to other commercial and recreational uses, I believe that the rail corridor would make an excellent pathway for anyone wishing to enjoy the coastline on foot or cycle.

Best,
Forest Monsen
Santa Cruz, CA

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Foster, David [mailto:DFoster@ci.capitola.ca.us]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:49 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: FW: Support for purchase the of rail corridor

Dear Regional Transportation Commissioners:

Thank you for all of your hard work leading us to the purchase of the coastal rail corridor. This purchase opens the door to incalculable opportunities for the development of future transportation alternatives for the County. Please give the final votes needed to make this acquisition dream come true.

Sincerely,

David Foster
118 Miles Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
---Original Message---
From: Batya Kagan [mailto:1chaim@jps.net]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 12:58 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: PLEASE purchase the rail line

Dear Commissioners,

I know that you have been consistently voting in favor of the purchase of the rail line. I, for one, applaud this trajectory and hope at your next meeting, this support continues in the form of a final decision to purchase this line. It is key for our community not only as a potential transportation corridor but also for tourism, for a greater sense of community, and a step in the direction of reducing greenhouse gasses.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Batya Kagan
906 Aloha Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

---

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

----------

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Heather Murphy [mailto:hmurphy@baymoon.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 1:05 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Cc: John Leopold
Subject: Supporting Rail Trail

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to support the acquisition of the rail trail property that will be discussed during your April 14th meeting. This project will help alleviate traffic, improve quality of life for residents and improve tourism in Santa Cruz. Please move forward with acquisition of this purchase.

Thank-you,

Heather Murphy

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Paul Binding [mailto:pbinding@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 1:42 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Cc: pcanin@ecoact.org; Connie Maschan; Courtney Dimpel; Diane Adamson; Jan Stanger; Jennifer Squires; Joanne Brewer; John M. Jeffs; Judy Owens; Kenny Girouard; Leslie; Lex Rau; lezanne.jeffs@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; Lisa Beddow; Lisa Carlton; Parker Santiago; rachellfather@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; RICH LARSON; Sara; stephanie.camacho@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; Sue Casey; tfendorf@davidlyng.com; Tori
Subject: Rail Trail advocacy

Dear Hard-working SCCRTC Committee members,
Thank you for your request for community support.

I am a County mid-manager who bicycle commutes one day out five from my home in Aptos to a County office on Capitola Road above Arana Gulch.
It is a hilly and convoluted 11-mile route among busy traffic.

If the Rail Trail were completed I would use my bicycle instead of my car four days out of five on this safe and level trail.
Think of the reduced traffic on Hwy 1, conserved fuel and improved air quality.

If there was a light-rail commuter train on this route, I would use that in the colder months.

It is win-win. It is healthy and ties communities together. Worth the investment and maintenance.
I visit England often, where I participated in planning for conversion of under-used secondary country rails to trails. The result was a healthier populace and lighter road traffic.

We can do the same. I'm out of town on the 14th but let me know how I can help, please.

Thank you for your efforts, I'm really excited to see this happenning here.

Paul Binding, 53
831-419-4271

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-54
From: Karl Fritzsche [mailto:kfritzsche@eastonbellsports.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 1:45 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SC County Rails to Trails

Dear Sirs,

Please be open to the option of purchasing the 32-mile-long property in order to build the Green Line Rail-with-Trail pedestrian corridor.

Thank you.

Karl Fritzsche
Sr. Product Manager I Easton-Bell Sports
5550 Scotts Valley Drive I Scotts Valley, CA 95066
Office: 831.461.7575 I Cell: 831.239.9933
www.eastonbellsports.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>>

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
---- Original Message ----
From: Victor Aguiar [mailto:victor@ecowat.org]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 2:55 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail Yes

I'd like to register my support for the Rail Trail acquisition and development. The one in San Clemente is great, and this would encourage better transportation options.

Thanks -- Victor Aguiar
Santa Cruz

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Anderson, Virginia [mailto:virginia.anderson@plantronics.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 3:39 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: My support of the Rail Trail

To Whom it May Concern:

I support acquiring this rail in order to address the need for in-county transportation. Let’s get people off of congested Hwy 1 and give them a means of getting to their destination without getting in their car!

Regards,

Virginia Anderson

Virginia Anderson
Senior Manager, Inside Sales
Plantronics, Inc.
831-458-7956 (direct)
virginia.anderson@plantronics.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA  95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Jacquelyn Low [mailto:jl@boonelow.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 4:12 PM
To: info@scrrtc.org
Subject: coastal rail corridor support

I support the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor!
I am an avid cyclist. This will serve our future generations with alternative transportation.

Thanks,
Jacquelyn Low AIA
Boone Low Kathafi Architects, Inc.
831-423-1316
jl@boonelow.com

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.scrrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@scrrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.scrrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Peter Campbell [mailto:pscatctl@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 7:13 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Cc: pcanin@ecoact.org
Subject: Rail Purchase

I fully support the purchase of the Rail corridor. It will be such a wonderful asset to the community for recreation and transportation, and preserving the unique feel of that rail line winding its way through our county. What a bargain for such a large swath of prime real estate.

Peter Campbell
pscatctl@aol.com

******

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Turner [mailto:sharront22@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 7:53 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

Please continue to purchase the green line rail with trail corridor. I have been looking forward to having more bike path access to all over the county, to have a connection like this would be a dream come true for many santa cruz residents whom travel by bicycle. Count my vote ten times because this really needs to happen.

sincerely,

Sharron Turner
SC resident of 28 yrs.,

******

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-60
From: John Steinmetz [mailto:steinstruct@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 8:32 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Please purchase the trail

Please! Please! Purchase the rail line for the rail trail. I believe this is the greatest
opportunity to increase our public lands and recreation opportunities in my entire 27
years in Santa Cruz. The rail trail when functional will help me park my car/construction
truck more often because it will be more viable to transport my self and a few items. to
work. I could also safely and quickly ride my kids to school on that trail.
I am really looking forward to it. These are just two good reasons to build it.
Thank you
John Steinmetz and Family of
1826 Delaware Ave
Santa Cruz

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

*****
Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their
review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the
Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

<<<<<<<<<

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Jeanne Simari [mailto:jeannes@cruzio.com]
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2010 9:39 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail trail

We are complete support of buying the rail/trail

Jeanne Simari
Glenn MacPherson
157 Cabrillo St.
Capitola, Ca. 95010

******

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

<><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><
From: andrea martin [mailto:akm524@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 6:40 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Line Purchase

I am writing in to support the rail line purchase. I am a community member and cyclist who lives within 2 blocks of the rail line. I would like to see this rail line developed with a bike path so that all may use it for safer cross town commuting. I personally would be able to use the rail to commute to work daily if this were developed.

Andrea Martin PT
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Monica Pielage [mailto:mpielage@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 6:58 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: I support the Rail Trail

Dear Transportation Commission:

I hope to make the meeting on Wednesday to show my support but in case my four year old son’s bedtime interferes I want to make sure and at least write in support.

This Rail Trail will be the most positive change you could bring to our beautiful town. Residents like me will use it to ride easily and safely with our families across town. I will be able to allow my boy to ride his two wheel bike from our home in the Seabright area to the Simkins pool with no busy streets or big hills. In a year or two we could make it to Capitola or Wilder Park. I want him to grow up with biking as a more viable form of transportation. In this amazing weather it is a shame to climb in the car because the route feels to dangerous to ride on the road.

Visitors and the City and County businesses will benefit enormously. All across the country Rail Trails are creating their own local economy, including accomodations, bike shops, restaurants. I am planning my next year’s vacation around a rail trail so that we can do a fun, safe bike trip as a family.

I also support a future train service that will allow Santa Cruz to connect to the world in a future not dominated by single passenger vehicles.

This opportunity can not be lost. Please buy the corridor.

Sincerely,
Monica Pielage
117 Darwin St
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Marion Jordan [mailto:marion3@cruzio.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 7:39 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail-trail purchase

To the SCCRTC staff,

As a long time Santa Cruz resident, I wholeheartedly support the purchase of this amazing corridor. I think that it is an asset that can’t be passed up. People will USE it and get out of their cars. People will come visit Santa Cruz to use it and leave their tourist dollars here. Please! Make this deal happen.

Thank you,

Marion Jordan
Santa Cruz

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
---Original Message---
From: nana montgomery [mailto:nana@bluesharkdesign.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 8:05 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Writing to Support the Purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor!

Dear Santa Cruz Co. Regional Transportation Commission,

I am writing to add my support to the proposal to purchase the Coastal Rail Corridor. I am very much in favor of this project and other projects in Santa Cruz County that promote bicycle and other alternatives to fossil fuel combustion engine transportation.

thank you
Nana Montgomery
designer/social worker
--
blue shark design
831/423-6804

http://www.bluesharkdesign.com

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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From: Gary Harrold [mailto:ghaptos@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 9:21 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SUPPORT THE RAIL TRAIL

As a cyclist, a science teacher w/ PVUSD, a plant lover (who isn’t, right?)
kindly support the pedestrian/stroller/skateboard/bicycle friendly
RAIL TRAIL along the railroad tracks connecting Watsonville to Davenport.
Gary Harrold 441 Van Ness Av. SC 95060

******

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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I am writing to encourage and insist that you ACQUIRE THE RAIL CORRIDOR!!!
From: Joyce Malone [mailto:joyce1malone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 10:47 AM
To: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Cc: Democrats - yahoo group
Subject: Santa Cruz County Democrats Support Rail Line Acquisition

Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee Headquarters

740 Front Street, Suite #165

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Central Committee voted on April 8, 2010 to support the purchase of the 32-mile-long rail line corridor from Union Pacific.

We feel that buying this corridor will allow Santa Cruz County to connect with state and national rail systems via light rail, tram or trolley. and help students, commuters, and visitors travel throughout the County as the rail line passes by many schools, state parks businesses and other popular destinations in Davenport, Santa Cruz Capitola, Aptos and Watsonville.

Sincerely,

Joyce Malone, Legislative/Corresponding Secretary, Santa Cruz County Democratic Party

cc: Congressperson Sam Farr, State Senator Joe Simitian, State Assemblymember Bill Monning

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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BUY THE RAIL LINE NOW!!! The delay that has occurred is COMPLETELY inexcusable. I suspect the long-term stalling is to extend staff jobs in spite of jeopardising the acquisition. Fred J Geiger

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Brian Corser [mailto:bcorser@calcentral.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 1:40 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support of the Rail Line Purchase

Hello,
I would like to express my support of the rail line purchase. My family
and I are avid cyclists and believe that this is a once in a lifetime
opportunity to obtain the rail right of way for future public use. The
idea of implementing passenger rail service and a bike and pedestrian
trail through the length of Santa Cruz County is something I have hoped
for for years and will use regularly. Please do not let this chance
pass us by!
Thank you,

Brian, Lydia and Isabel Corser
114 Ladera Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their
review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the
Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Cara Lamb [mailto:ratbert@cruzio.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 7:55 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission
Subject: buying the rail line

I just want to add my support to buying the rail line. This is a fantastic investment in the future of the county's transportation. We may not know every possibility now, but we know it's valuable. Thank you for having the foresight to approve this purchase.

Caroline Lamb

******

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
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Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Michael Geluardi [mailto:geluardi@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 10, 2010 8:38 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Citizen for rail line acquisition

Please register my full support for the acquisition of the rail line from Watsonville to Davenport. It will be great!

-Michael Geluardi
919 Sunlit Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

April 11, 2010

Saskia Lucas
537 Buena Vista Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA, 95060

RE: Rail Corridor Right of Way Purchase

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing as a 20 year resident of Santa Cruz County to voice my whole-hearted support for the purchase of the rail corridor right-of-way. I urge you to vote unanimously in favor of this very important action.

Bringing the rail corridor under public ownership is one of the most significant and visionary investments we can make, which will benefit future generations for years to come. The rail corridor affords many options which will have a tremendous positive effect on our community, including: recreational and fitness opportunities for families and individuals; a tourist attraction; and a safer, more enjoyable and environmentally sustainable way to go places.

Please ensure the decision to purchase the corridor receives your strong and united support. Every friend and contact I have spoken to about the possibility of a rail trail has been 100% supportive. In fact, for them and me, it can't happen soon enough. I urge you to answer this call.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Saskia Lucas
saskia_lucas@yahoo.com
From: Victor Suarez [mailto:vmsuarez@pacbell.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 8:59 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org; info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support for the coastal rail corridor.

Please note that I support the purchase of the coastal rail corridor between Davenport and Watsonville. This is a special opportunity that holds great future potential for recreational and commercial ventures!

Vic Suarez
Freecom, CA

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Laura Livingston [mailto:lauraliv@cruzio.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 10:14 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

I am so very, very excited about this rail purchase!
As a resident for over 25 years, I believe this is one of the best things that Santa Cruz County has ever done!
Thank you for all of your efforts.

Laura Livingston
Laurel Street
Santa Cruz

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Zach Joseph [mailto:zcjoseph@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 11:45 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Line, in support

Santa Cruz County Transportation Commissioner (SCCRTC)
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, Ca., 95060
info@sccrtc.org

Dear Transportation Commissioners,
I am writing you to support your effort to acquire the 32 mile long coastal rail corridor in Santa Cruz County. I urge you to complete the purchase as quickly as possible and begin planning for a rail WITH trail transportation system on the corridor. Given the number of people that live near the corridor, a train and trail system would be a real asset to our community. It would support public safety, eco-tourism, access to services by children and other non-drivers and help to decrease our local contribution to global warming. Purchasing the corridor is fiscally responsible and has been adequately studied over the past 8 years. I don’t see how merely owning the corridor could put the county at risk financially, particularly with the option of leasing out small parcels adjacent to the corridor. If freight or recreation trains use the tracks, they simply need to be charged enough to maintain them. Given that the funds to be used to acquire the line can only be used for transportation and that more than half of them can only be used to support rail transportation in the county, it would be irresponsible NOT to buy the corridor and lose the taxes that we have already paid into this fund.
I support the idea of a rail WITH trail system along the corridor in which a subsidized passenger rail service would co-exist with a bike and pedestrian trail. I view the acquisition of the rail line as the first step towards this system and see no significant public risk in acquiring the corridor and beginning a planning and evaluation process for the project.
Again, please move forward with purchasing this important public resource as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
Zach Joseph
Santa Cruz, CA
zcjoseph@gmail.com

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Phil Kaplan [mailto:kaplanvb@cruzio.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 11:46 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail Purchase

Dear RTC,

We want to express our support for purchase of the Rail Trail since we can not attend the public comment night.

Thank you.

Phil and Susie Kaplan
100 N. Rodeo Gulch Rd #29
Soquel, Ca. 95073

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-78
-----Original Message-----
From: r hart [mailto:vespaschmitt_2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 2:00 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail purchase

Please buy this roughly 32 miles of rail line. I have walked a lot of the line as part of a one day class taught by Sandy Lydon through Cabrillo College. This is a beautiful, scenic part of our County. If we build a trail next to the rail line we will encourage people to experience their own area with a new interest and awareness. Luckily this happened to me, and is a big reason why I strongly support the purchase of the railway.

But let's get to the economic advantage of this rail purchase. Quite a lot of Santa Cruz County's revenue comes from tourism and agriculture. The rail trail would add to the draw bringing people here. People want to get outside and recreate- walking, biking, running etc., things that the rail trail will enhance. Eventually tourist transit to various parts of the County could also be facilitated by more use of the existing railway. Just look at other cities and counties with rail trails. In Seattle there is the Gilman trail. Here the land formerly used as a railway was paved and it is used as a sort of linear park carving its way for miles through a suburban part of the city. People skate, bike, run and walk in enjoyment of the scenic pathway. It works. It is fun. It is an enhancement to the enjoyment of the outdoors.

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
----Original Message-----
From: David Zweig [mailto:david.j.zweig@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 4:05 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

Dear Regional Transportation Commission,

My wife and I moved here from Colorado Springs, CO. That area had an absolutely fantastic rail trail that the County had the foresight to purchase many years ago. No one is going to challenge the virtue of purchasing this very valuable asset 10 years from now ....... guaranteed.

Dave Zweig, CFA

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-80
I wrote a few weeks ago about some questions I had concerning this UP purchase. If Mr. Dondero could please answer these few questions, I would greatly appreciate it.

I did read your opinion page and do commend the SCCRTC for their "exhaustive analysis" of this UP purchase. I have seen communities where a recreation district purchases rails and turn them into bike paths. The people wanted a bike trail, and the government helped them and they got one. But here in Santa Cruz, all the people "think" we are getting a bike trail, but we are getting a rail service only. This SCCRTC has pitched this UP purchase as a recreational bike path. There was an absolute hush in the audience when a few of us mentioned in that March meeting several years ago that there are no plans for a bike trail in this UP purchase. So my question to you is, why not do what everyone wants (and has been duped into thinking) and purchase this only for a bike trail. Do you realize how many tourists would flock to this area just for a bike path like this? The county government would be awash in cash in with all the tourism dollars. When you open the discussion on April 14th, please clarify that this is indeed just a purchase for rail service only. If transparency is one of your goals, then tell us exactly what you plan to do with this rail. Are you really going to transport trash to the Marina (since no other dump sites are in the works)? Which other "trucks" will you remove from the highway with this rail? How much will it cost to widen these 15 foot bridges to allow a bike trail alongside the rail? Can it even be done to begin with?? (I doubt it). Let's hear about this rail service going north. Do these dinner trains start in Santa Cruz and go to Davenport as the end destination? Is there really interest in the sleepy town of Davenport? I imagine not.

But here is a really basic question: do you really feel public ownership of a railroad is better than private? When publicly owned, the county will no longer receive property taxes on the 15 million dollar property. (just a small sum!!) So not only are we losing incredible revenue, we have to pay out money to get it. Then the government (you and me, of course) has to pay for all the expenses and run the business of a railroad. Do you really and truly believe a government can run a business like this better than a private entity? And now we have to assume all the liability for when these avid cyclists tear up the railroad, build a bike trail, and get run over by the train. And this will happen. Or a homeless person will say "this railroad is now mine" so I can sleep here! Wouldn't you rather see a private enterprise assume costs and liabilities so the public doesn't have to do that? You are merely robbing the public by even attempting this ridiculous experiment. I looked at that business plan and just can't believe you really think the numbers are there to support this boondoggle. It is doomed to failure and I'm just sorry that more people don't understand the business side of it better. So can you go through the exact number on April 14th to prove how these numbers will work. I saw this as a losing proposition even with the most optimistic numbers.

I had some very specific questions on my earlier email and am still awaiting a response from your "transparent" team. I will await. But remember to provide details at this meeting because a few of us will not leave that room until we get answers.

Libby Huynck

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: bsiegel [mailto:bsiegel@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 6:31 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject:

To George Dondero:

See attached. More questions to follow.

Barry Siegel
Aptos, CA

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
Rail Trail Op Ed

"Preserving the rail corridor for future transportation purposes has been the primary goal of the RTC's work on this project and the recent closure of the Cemex plant in Davenport makes the potential loss of the corridor even more imminent. It is a rare opportunity for a community such as ours to acquire a continuous transportation corridor like the branch line, and public ownership of this resource provides increased transportation options for future generations."

Why is public ownership of a continuous transportation corridor necessary for future generations when its largest user has gone out of business? What future transportation options did you have in mind?

"The RTC has negotiated terms of sale with the current owner, Union Pacific Railroad. Sierra Northern Railroad is currently leasing the right to operate trains on the line from UP, and is now negotiating an agreement with the RTC to operate freight and excursion passenger service should purchase of the rail line proceed. Sierra Northern has expressed interest in operating recreational rail service between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and they are also interested in rebuilding freight use of the line to serve local businesses and potentially take truck traffic off the highway and local roads. Sierra Northern owns several other successful branch line railroads in California, and they have extensive experience operating freight and passenger service in various communities."

Has the RTC conducted any surveys to determine, what if any, interest the citizens of Santa Cruz county would have in a recreational rail service between Santa Cruz and Davenport? Does Sierra Northern Railroad have the resources to rebuild the freight service (to potentially take truck traffic off of highway and local roads)? Where would the trucks load their freight? Who will load and unload the trains? At 12 mph, why would shippers be enticed to switch to the train? What other freight and passenger service does Sierra operate? Are they profitable? Are they subsidized?

"Every effort has been made to make documents associated with this process available to the public prior to the RTC's final decision. The documentation for most of this work is now available to the public on the RTC Web site at www.sccrtc.org or on a CD available through the RTC office by calling 460-3200."

The only financial document that I could find was: Agenda dated April 1, 2010 which cited business plans, revenue projections, liquidation estimates, and maintenance initial and sustaining costs, none of which were detailed. For example, in 2009, it was estimated that $5.9 Million would be needed for improvements to bridges and other structures and a sustaining cost of $370K per year. Which bridges, what structure? What sort of work?

"It is also vitally important that the RTC fully consider the economics of the branch line. To this end, the RTC worked to develop a business plan so the RTC members and the public could understand the economic component necessary to sustain the line for both the operator and the RTC. The RTC has worked hard to provide information so that expectations regarding the purchase of the branch line are realistic and achievable. To ensure that all of the essential economic components were fully considered and that the analysis reflected the changing economic climate, such as the Cemex closure, business plans were produced in 2004, 2008 and 2010."
So where is the business plan?
From: Mike Lowe [mailto:mlowe@eastonbellsports.com]  
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 8:49 PM  
To: info@sccrtc.org  
Subject: Rails to Trails Support

I strongly encourage supporting Rails to Trails.

As an avid cyclist and daily bike commuter for the last 17 years, I support this initiative passionately.

Santa Cruz roads are too tight, congested and dangerous to get from one side of town to the other.

Having a safe path free from cars would be safer for everyone.

Thanks for supporting this!

Mike Lowe

Mike Lowe | Vice President of R&D | Easton – Bell Sports, Inc.  
5550 Scotts Valley Drive | Scotts Valley, CA 95066  
Office: 831-461-7596  
mlowe@eastonbellsports.com

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.  
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

<<<<<<<<<

Cathy Judd  
Administrative Assistant II  
SCCRTC  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060  
cjudd@sccrtc.org  
831 460 3206  
831 460 3215 (fax)  
www.sccrtc.org

7-95
TO: SCCRTC
FROM: Mr. & Mrs. Chris Falco
SUBJECT: Acquisition of the Union Pacific Railway

We must respectfully submit our strong opposition to this insane idea of spending millions of dollars on the acquisition of this falling down, rotting rail line. We have personally walked along miles of the track and across the 100 year old wooden trestles and, after seeing their condition, we would never risk that again. It doesn’t take a civil engineer to conclude the entire the structure is in very dangerous condition. We are positive that your members of the Board have never taken the time or energy to personally assess the line’s condition themselves.

The whole line is a positively predictable future source of endless personal law suits against the County as citizens injure themselves on this sliver of decaying infrastructure. It will also cost the taxpayers millions of dollars to upgrade the Line to minimum safety standards and who knows how much, on a yearly basis, to maintain it. To sum it up...the idea is a colossal, potential financial disaster.

This whole rail-way thing is an obviously silly and irresponsible idea. Our fear, and belief is that this irrefutable fact will never be realized by the naive Board Members of the SCCRTC. If the purchase goes through, it will go down in the history of Santa Cruz County as the biggest blunder of the century.

God save us...since we doubt that the Board Members will have the sense to....

C. Falco
Christopher Falco
-----Original Message-----
From: hngreenfield@cruzio.com [mailto:hngreenfield@cruzio.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 10:43 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support for Rail Trail Purchase

Dear Commission;

As a cyclist and resident of Rio Del Mar, I support the proposed purchase of the existing rail line. I ride many times a year to Santa Cruz and back via surface roads and would appreciate a dedicated trail for cyclists and pedestrians that could provide a safer experience for all. Over the 16 years I have lived here I have seen the speed of cars increase through our neighborhoods and sometimes indifference by motorists to those using alternative transportation; walking, skating or cycling. Designated bike lanes have helped a great deal, though.

In the early '60's I saw the rail line into downtown Los Gatos get paved over or built upon from outside of downtown all in the interest of car travel and not in the interest of a light rail line.

It would be a shame to see the Union Pacific corridor through the heart of Santa Cruz County get paved over and lost for any viable future use.

Respectfully,

Herb Greenfield

*****

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Linda Wilshusen [mailto:k-j-w@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 11:38 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Letter for April 14th RTC Public Hearing

Please accept the attached letter as public comment for the 4/14/10 RTC Public Hearing re the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition. (I’m sorry I can’t present it in person on Wed. – I’m still home recovering from hip replacement surgery - left one this time!). Thank you very much! - Linda

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Cathy Judd
Administrative Assistant II
SCCRTC
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
cjudd@sccrtc.org
831 460 3206
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
April 12, 2010

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support for Acquisition of Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Dear Members of the Commission:

I'm sure it will come as no surprise that your former Executive Director strongly supports your current Director's recommendation to purchase the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. Thank you very much to the Commission and to the RTC staff and consultants for your perseverance and hard work toward ensuring public confidence in the decision to approve this significant enhancement to our regional transportation system.

Since the possibility of acquiring the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line first arose in 1990 with the drafting of Proposition 116, it has been clear to me that having this corridor under public ownership would go a long way toward achieving the goal of a robust, flexible, and sustainable transportation system in Santa Cruz County. Not only does the rail corridor offer scenic vistas of our lovely county in many varied locations (views of the Monterey Bay from the north coast and mid-county, bird watching along the sloughs in south county, views from trestles, views of parks, beaches, and boats), but as the first major transportation corridor in the county, it traverses our three older cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola, and Watsonville, as well as Aptos Village and Live Oak; nearly all of our state and local beaches between Davenport and Manresa; numerous local attractions, recreational and scientific facilities; most major industrial areas in the county; and, in Pajaro, connects our county with the main California coast rail line. Over a quarter of the county's population lives within walking distance of this rail corridor.

This propitious location of the corridor provides a wealth of options for future transportation uses, including public transportation via the use of trams, visitor-serving and special event train service, pedestrian and bicycle paths adjacent to the rail line in numerous locations, and continuation of freight rail service. All of these possible future transportation uses will support and
enhance our local economy, in particular for those businesses which are
dependent on short distance in-county commuting, for those which can achieve
cost savings by shifting freight from truck transport to train, and for the
transport, recreation, and visitor-serving economic sectors.

Similar to the challenges of the past two decades, when this important project
was able to slowly move forward despite minority opposition, public ownership
of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line will no doubt present many challenges as
the full range of transportation opportunities it offers unfolds over time. As
you face these challenges and opportunities, I hope you will invite the input
and support of so many of us in the community who are thoroughly excited by
the anticipated adventure of resurrecting an underutilized travel corridor and
transforming it into something that can serve our families, businesses,
neighborhoods, and unique Central Coast environment into the future.

Amidst an otherwise dismal era for our state and country, this project shines
with hope. The inevitable naysayers will turn this juxtaposition on its head as
justification for doing nothing – but doing nothing inevitably gets us nowhere.

So, thank you for your “YES” vote for this great project. And thank you for
your dedication and commitment to serving the public and its hope for a secure
and sustainable future.

Sincerely,

[Linda Wilshusen]

Linda Wilshusen
SCCRTC Executive Director 1985-2004
From: Mary Alsip [mailto:alsip@cityofsantacruz.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:49 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Writing in support of purchase

Just a quick note to add my voice regarding my unwavering 10 year support of the rail/trail purchase.

Please put me in the support column.

And thanks for all the work that you have done in this regard.

Mary

Mary T. Alsip
212 Linden St.
Santa Cruz, CA  95062
Cell 566 8930

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA  95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Mark F Massoud [mailto:mmassoud@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:27 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail

Dear County Transportation Commission:

I write to support the purchase and completion of the Green Line Rail Trail. It will connect Santa Cruz residents and schools with other rail systems and allow for a dedicated multi-use trail, encouraging sustainable transportation and a continued commitment to environmental respect in this county.

Best regards,

Dr. Mark Fathi Massoud
Assistant Professor
Department of Politics
UC Santa Cruz

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Anne Birch [mailto:annebirch212@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 6:57 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support purchase of rail line

SC County Transportation Commission -

re: Public Hearing on April 14th, 2010

Please complete the purchase of the 32-mile rail line and build a dedicated multi-use trail alongside a train, tram or trolley rail system.

Thank you, Anne Birch

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Michele Hooks [mailto:mommyhooks@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 9:00 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: The Rail-Trail

To The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

The rail-trail? Yes, yes, yes!!! Don't hesitate. Just do it!!!
I live on the Westside and both of my children attend Monarch Community School at the corner of Water and Branciforte. I would love to bike them to school but I don't feel comfortable riding on the roads next to cars with my kids. If the rail-trail were there, it would be the perfect car-free and safe cross-town route for us.

Something I rarely hear mentioned in the rail-trail debate (thanks to the consistently negative bias of the Sentinel's rail-trail articles) is the idea that a scenic, coastal rail-trail will be a great tourist draw and a boon to the local economy, especially if the ultimate goal of a Santa Cruz to Monterey coastal bike trail is achieved. My family has traveled to Monterey for the sole purpose of biking on their coastal bike trail. While there, we spent money in their shops and restaurants. People would do the same if we build the rail-trail here.

Sure, building the rail-trail is expensive, but let's have some vision. Think less cars, less pollution, more exercise for our residents and more tourist dollars spent here in Santa Cruz. The end result? A greener Santa Cruz, a healthier population and a boost to our economy.

The rail-trail will be a well-used corridor for recreational bikers and bike commuters. The chance to create this trail is an amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Let's not squander this opportunity. Build it for our kids and build it for the future. If you build it, they will come.
Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,

Michele Goodwin-Hooks, N.D.
928 Seaside St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
mommyhooks@hotmail.com
(831) 566-6011

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Clare Choate [mailto:clarechoate@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 10:09 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SUPPORT FOR RAIL TRAIL

HI
MY NAME IS CLARE CHOATE
I LIVE CLOSE TO THIS CORRIDOR AND AM LOOK FORWARD TO USING IT TO RIDE TO WORK INTO SANTA CRUZ FROM APOTOS.
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES USING IT.
WHAT A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASING TOURISM, FITNESS AND FAMILY TOGETHERNESS LET ALONE THE GREEN FACTOR.
LET S GO FOR IT..
IT WILL BE ONE OF THE BEST THINGS WE EVER DID FOR SANTA CRUZ RESIDENTS.
SINCERELY.
CLARE CHOATE

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
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Gini Pireda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
Charles L. Dixon  
524 #B Ocean View Avenue  
Santa Cruz, California 95062  
(831) 426-3689  
wilda@cruzio.com  
4/10/10

SCCRTC  
1523 Pacific Ave.  
Santa Cruz, CA, 95060

Dear RTC

Please buy the rail line, we are the last county to not have spent this money.

The benefits in alternative transportation, lifestyle, access to nature are myriad.

Rail trails throughout the country are smashing successes.

(sung to the tune of I want my MTV)  
I want my, I want my, I want my Rail Trail Now.

Sincerely,

Charlie Dixon
From: schar f. [mailto:schar_is@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:04 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SCCRTC Rail Trail LESSONS LEARNED

YOU ARE PLACING THE TAXPayers OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AT RISK FOR FUTURE LAW SUITS IF YOU APPROVE THIS PLAN.

NOTE THE LESSON BELOW FROM THE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION.

THIS PLAN PROMISES SHARED PATHS WHEN THERE IS NO SPACE FOR A SEPARATE PATH ALONG MOST OF THE 32 MILES OF TRACK, NOR WOULD A PATH, BIKE OR HIKE, BE ALLOWED ON A RAILBED NOR ON ANY OF THE OLD NARROW TRESTLES.

STOP PROMISING A PLAN WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE.

FROM:

Dept. of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration - 'Rails-with-Trails' LESSON

"Being on rail property is a very dangerous pastime which can and does result in injury and loss of life. Juries have and will continue to award multi-million dollar settlements to the families of those who have been hurt or killed while on railroad property despite all good efforts to protect and warn."

s.f. Capitola, ca.

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
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From: Nineneone@aol.com [mailto:Nineneone@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:22 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail purchase

I am totally against the purchase....There is no way to count on the state....We cannot afford this at this time....

Thank you for your time...

Carol Carucci 211 Gault St. #101
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: heliotrope360-political@yahoo.com [mailto:heliotrope360-political@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:23 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support Acquisition of Rail Line

Dear Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express my support for acquiring the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way for preservation and future transportation uses. I believe this could be a major transportation corridor in our county for freight, tourists, and commuters as well as an important recreation resource with a rail trail. Our county is in dire need of a north-south transportation alternative to Highway 1. I agree with Executive Director Dondero's recommendations on the purchase.

Sincerely,

Dan Chen
240 Walk Circle
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Helena Ivatt [mailto:HIvatt@SelectQuote.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:05 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Railtrail

Dear Members of the Transportation Commission,

Please approve the money for the rail trail. I believe that this is
time sensitive & that we will lose the money if it is not used soon.
This is a wonderful project and would allow people to traverse the
whole city from end to end without having to use a car.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Helena Ivatt

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission
for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Ron Burke [mailto:ronburke@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:08 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Santa Cruz Co Rail Line Acquisition

To Whom it may concern,

Please log my public position on the purchase of the Santa Cruz County rail line acquisition as an absolute yes.

This acquisition is one of the most critical moves our county may make in planning for its transportation future. Aside from the prospects of a rail trail, this corridor will eventually provide freight and commuter usage most efficiently as it once performed, lessening our dependency on the sole driver automobile.

Ron Burke
Planning Commissioner
City of Capitola

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<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From: Catherine O'Kelly [mailto:catherinesv@cruzio.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:21 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: RAIL/TRAIL ISSUE: In defense of trains

Dear Commissioners,

When you consider this major purchase, please insist on a mandate that will INCLUDE trains. I fear that many of those who want this deal to go through, ultimately want the trains to just go away. [How did those homes in Aptos get permission to built ten feet from the rail line, anyway?]

Although RAIL - TRAIL sounds like an oxymoron to me, there are those who deem it to be safe. What will protect the walkers from the proximity of the moving trains? Who will be responsible for maintenance of the trestles, and the railway itself at all the street crossings?

As someone who has very fond memories of the Suntan Special, I would hope that whether or not the rail line is purchased, there would be a revival of the Suntan Special, which we took from San Jose to the Boardwalk via Pajaro/Watsonville. A brass band welcomed us! Now, we don't even have a SHUTTLE service to the beach and boardwalk.

I would hope that the CEMEX cement plant re-opens! It is extremely pure sand that they extract there, and we may not need cement NOW, but wait 'til the next earthquake when all the bridges have to be re-built. It would be foolish to abandon that plant. Industry should be encouraged, rather than DIScouraged. The train line is essential to the plant's operation.

Again, please keep the TRAIN in the mix, folks!

Thanks for listening,

Catherine O'Kelly
P. O. Box 66802
Scotts Valley, CA 95067

County resident since 1977

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
Greetings,
I am writing this email to voice my support for the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor. It is a rare opportunity to provide a multiuse connection for the county. It has the potential to reduce automobile use and seems like a natural solution to get people out of their gasoline powered vehicles. As a related benefit I think it would attract additional tourists and people seeking recreation to such a scenic area and thereby improve the local economy. I am a resident of Scotts Valley but I do most of my hiking and cycling within a few miles of the old rail corridor. Hopefully the commission will the Commission will also find this purchase in the best interests of the County.

Roger Kern
Sen Mech Eng (Bradley Mobility)
roger.kern@BAESystems.com
408 269 0820

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Steve Ornellas [mailto:steveo@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 11:48 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail! Yes!!

Dear Sirs,

Please do all you can to make this trail happen. I have been a bicycle commuter to UCSC for over 25 years. The benefits of this trail will far outweigh the growing pains required to make it viable.
I applaud your vision of the future!!! Keep up the good work, I look forward to walking and riding on this trail with my grandchildren.....

Steve Ornellas
Physical and Biological Sciences Wood Shop
UC Santa Cruz
1156 High St
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: PEGGY TART [mailto:peggytart@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 11:59 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Proposed Rail Line Acquisition

I have a phobia about being in enclosed spaces with angry or highly opinionated people and am, therefore, unable to attend the meetings our government officials have about items that affect my life. And most of these government agencies, such as yours, do not have on-line "surveys" that allow people such as myself to make our opinions known. Because of this, I believe approximately 250 people "run" the city of Santa Cruz and not many more than that make all decisions for Santa Cruz County. But in the case of the proposed rail line acquisition, I want my "vote" to matter also so I am writing to you and stating that I oppose this purchase as I believe Santa Cruz County and the cities within it cannot afford the long-term and increasing costs to maintain whatever happens within this corridor in the next 30 years. Please share my "vote" with those who will make this decision.

Peggy Hathcock Tartaglino
peggytart@sbcglobal.net
142 Hollywood Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: alana@cruzio.com [mailto:alana@cruzio.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 12:15 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject:

To the transportation commission,

I am writing this letter to say that I am a voter who very strongly believes that we should acquire the rail line to open up transportation possibilities which will be more healthy for our environment and population.

Please do whatever you can to make this acquisition happen.

Thank you very much, Alan Voegtlen -Santa Cruz High teacher

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: filbates@aol.com [mailto:filbates@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 2:27 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail trail acquisition

Members of the Commission:

As a Santa Cruz County native, I strongly urge you to abandon the proposed acquisition of the rail trail. Your organization has no experience in an acquisition of this nature, or in the ownership, operation and maintenance of such assets. Cost, risk, and value estimates, while doubtless made in good faith, can be no better than guesses. If the experienced professionals in the field (the current owners) want to be sellers, then perhaps we inexperienced citizens should not want to be buyers.

The often repeated arguments that the money is not really coming from us, but rather already-designated funds from other public entities, is offensive. It is the taxpayers' money. Most of it would become part of California's general fund, if not spent on local projects approved by local innocents who think they have no skin in the game. Public funds are scarce and precious. Can any member of the Commission honestly say that there are not a myriad of more worthy uses to which these funds can be put.

The expenditure of any further public funds on this cause is disrespectful of all those who look to public funds - and therefore to their fellow citizens - for help in meeting their basic and fundamental needs.

Phil Bates
260 Meadow Court
Aptos, CA 95003
831-685-3757

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-107
From: bonnyhawley@gmail.com [mailto:bonnyhawley@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Bonny Hawley
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 2:41 PM
To: info
Subject: rail corridor acquisition support letter

Attached please find a letter of support from the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks.

thanks,
Bonny

Bonny Hawley, Executive Director
Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
831-429-1840
144 School Street (next to the Santa Cruz Mission Adobe State Historic Park)
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.ThatsMyPark.org

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
April 7, 2010

Randy Johnson, Chair
Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: SUPPORT FOR SANTA CRUZ BRANCH RAIL CORRIDOR PURCHASE

Dear Chair Johnson and Commission Members:

The board of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) has voted unanimously to support purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor. I’m writing on their behalf to urge your commission to move forward with this important acquisition.

As the local non-profit supporter of coastal Santa Cruz County State Parks, Friends is enthusiastic about public ownership of this vital transportation corridor. From Coast Dairies to Sunset State Beach, all but one of our coastal state parks and beaches are within 1/2 mile of the rail corridor, with most being 1/4 mile or less from the tracks. In fact, the rail line touches five state park properties.

In the case of Coast Dairies, on the north coast, public ownership of the rail corridor would help facilitate public access to those state beaches.

We look forward to the day when the rail corridor is an active part of the local transportation network, giving locals and visitors alike the ability to easily hike and bike between the entire network of local state parks.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonny Hawley, Executive Director
Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

7-109
-----Original Message-----
From: Patty & David [mailto:smileyrgr@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:38 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail line purchase

Hello; we have lived in Santa Cruz County since 1982. I have had to
commute to work in Oakland since that move. I am always wondering why
one can take a train from London England to Paris France but cannot
take a train from Santa Cruz California to Oakland California! I
support the purchase of the rail line for many reasons; 1) the property
will never be cheaper, 2) this is the only opportunity to buy this real
estate--once we lose this chance it will never come again 3) rail and
trail are the highest and best use of the land for the community 4)
Most of the objections have been mitigated by other rail trail
properties in other areas, 5) this trail will tie together this county
in many ways that we don't even know of now.

Successful examples of rail trails are nearby in many park agencies:
the Iron Horse trail that runs from Sunol to Walnut Creek; operated by
East Bay Regional Park District is one example. Our state parks are
loaded with trails that used to be old railroad lines; Forest of Nicene
Marks. Another kind of example is where there is a trail next to a
water course; Alameda Creek trail runs from the hills above Niles to
the bay at Fremont. Also the trail from Lexington to Los Gatos
percolation ponds is quite popular.

I think the most important goal for now is to get the land. Once we own
it; the discussion of how to manage and operate this will continue.
Knowing this community's diversity; this will take time and many forms!
Sincerely, Patty Walker

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission
for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

\[-1\]
From: Howard Sosbee [mailto:howard@sosbee.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 6:48 PM
To: info General
Subject: Rail Trail

(If there is to be public input at the May meeting or hearing regarding the acquisition of the UP rail line, I would like to submit the following statement. I would appear and present it in person except that my leg is in a cast until mid-May.)

The SCCRTC's initiative to purchase the Union Pacific rail line should be hailed as the most momentous and forward-looking action taken by any agency of this County in its history. The voices raised in opposition have all been based on misinformation and ignorance, giving no thought to the potential for a truly superb public transportation system serving vastly more of the County's citizens than would ever be possible without this purchase. This potential is possible because of a renewed interest by many other municipalities (whose experience we can share) in the tried-and-true original public transit, the lowly trolley car. Lightweight trolleys, capable of many passenger stops, combined with revised bus routes covering the major arterials which intersect the rail line, can bring public transit within walking distance of the vast bulk of the county's population. Safety is not a concern with trolleys as it is with trains and light rail. Infrastructure requirements are minimal, unlike either trains or light rail. The purchase price is covered by funds already dedicated to this purpose. Capital costs for electrification and rolling stock can be covered through public-private partnerships, or a public stock offering if necessary. Operating costs for track maintenance is already apparently covered by contract with the freight/excursion operator, and labor costs for motormen and conductors can be covered by fare box revenue without any need to raid the budget of the bus system. This is all possible. There is nothing to prevent Santa Cruz from moving quickly toward a really terrific public transit system.

Howard F. Sosbee
1400 Weston Ridge Road
Scotts Valley CA, 95066
831, 335, 8401
howard@sosbee.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.
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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: totoandme@aol.com [mailto:totoandme@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:52 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Oppose purchase of rail corridor in Santa Cruz County

I am writing to oppose the purchase of the rail corridor. In these tough economic times we cannot afford to take on this huge financial unknown. Those of us in the private sector have had to make severe cutbacks. I don’t think that message has sunk in with the public sector. The message is clear: We cannot afford this purchase. We can’t afford to maintain it. We can’t afford to support it.

Darcy Horton
510 El Salto Dr.
Capitola, CA 95010

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
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Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Gina Bliss [mailto:gbwater@cruzers.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:30 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail purchase

Dear Santa Cruz County Transportation Committee

Please excuse me if I have written to you before on this topic. It is important to me, and I may not be able to attend the public meeting Wednesday evening.

I long for a bike path along the rail right of way. It would be much safer for me as an older bicyclist than always sharing the road with cars and trucks. It would be so much more pleasant to ride without the anxiety of being struck by a vehicle approaching from behind, a vehicle that I can hear but not see.

I know you, and many others, have worked for years on this issue. Thank you.

I think our community will benefit hugely from rail trail for bicyclists.

Sincerely
Gina Bliss
126 Ladera Drive
Santa Cruz, CA

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
April 14, 2010

Randy Johnson, Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support for SCCRTC’s Acquisition and Improvement of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Dear Chair Johnson,

As Mayor of the City of Watsonville, I support the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission’s efforts to purchase and improve the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. Acquisition and improvement of this 120-year old 32-mile coastal rail corridor has been a community priority for decades and will help to provide multimodal solutions to significant transportation problems in the central coast region. In addition to preserving the rail corridor, the SCCRTC will implement recreational passenger rail service between Santa Cruz and Davenport, include the right-of-way in a trail planning effort for rails with trails segments where feasible, and improve structures and rail facilities to facilitate existing and future rail service.

This underutilized right-of-way offers a unique opportunity to provide vastly improved access to all primary destinations in Santa Cruz County including the downtowns of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville; urban, residential and industrial zones; schools and colleges; and much of Santa Cruz County’s 29 miles of beaches, state parks and other visitor attractions fronting on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The projects envisioned for this right-of-way will help to address local transportation challenges by increasing the use of an existing underutilized transportation resource. In addition, the projects would enhance economic activity associated with the local tourism industry, a key sector of the local economy which has suffered recently due to economic conditions beyond local control.

As the State works to reduce green house gases and develop a world class rail infrastructure, including high speed rail, it becomes increasingly important to preserve existing rail corridors such as the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. It could one day be part of the State’s network of rail infrastructure that moves people and goods with greater energy efficiency and lower emissions. If not preserved now, recreating such a corridor in the future would be a prohibitive expense.

Thank you for your efforts to improve transportation alternatives in Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Luis A. Alejo
Mayor

cc: Watsonville City Council
From: Christi Voennell [mailto:christi@coho.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 7:14 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support for Rail-with-Trail

Dear Transportation Commissioners,

I support your effort to purchase the Santa Cruz County Rail Corridor in Santa Cruz County. Please act soon to purchase the rail and include the trail alongside the rail. I live on the Westside and for many years bike/bus commuted to 41st Avenue. It felt dangerous to be traveling with cars the entire way and I had to carry my bike at the harbor stairs. I love the idea of having a safe way to commute across town to work, beaches and shopping that is car free and safe for my family.

The funds for the line need to support transportation, and this is a perfect project to improve our community. I urge you to purchase the rail line as the first step towards a rail-trail system.

Please move forward with the purchase of this public transportation option as soon as possible.

Warmly,

Christi Voennell

854 Western Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

christi@coho.org

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Molly Ording [mailto:mollyording1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 8:49 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: YES To Purchasing the Rail Corridor!

Hello All! I have attended many of your meetings in past years. I will be unable to attend this
evening but please consider and count on our complete support for the acquisition of the rail
corridor. This is, and will be, an invaluable and irreplaceable public land &
transportation opportunity & asset for future generations. We are completely comfortable with
some of the future unknowns with regard to the use and/or operators of this critical corridor. We
feel that bringing this strip of precious land into the public domain outweighs any near term
restraints. This resource will hopefully become a wonderful resource for us, our children and our
grand-children. And, if it doesn't materialize into the near term hoped-for manifestations, there
really is NO harm in the land just being "there" for us..or the public..for it to be be part of our
community heritage.

Please proceed with the acquisition with strength, determination and commitment.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Ording
218 Monterey Avenue
Capitola, Ca. 95010
831/475-7284

(Please feel free to forward this to appropriate decision makers!)
From: Ashley French [mailto:Ashley.French@sunopta.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 9:03 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Costal Rail Corridor -Rail Trail - In Support

Hello SCCRTC,

Thank you for considering the purchase of the Coastal Rail Corridor. I am writing this letter in support of the purchase and the construction of the Rail Trail. My husband and I live on the far Westside near Western/Natural Bridges. We very much enjoy riding our bicycles around town and visiting friends and relatives in Capitola. Unfortunately, the ride through Mission Street and past the Boardwalk/SeaBright Area is very dangerous. The tragedies of the Mission Street losses and other accidents still weigh heavy on our hearts. Please proceed with the purchase of the Rail Line, create the multi-use trail with safe bike routes and additional alternative transportation services along the coastal corridor. Thank you.

Best regards,
Ashley French

Ashley French
Consumer Products Quality Assurance Manager

SunOpta Consumer Products Solutions
335 Spreckels Drive, Suite F, Aptos, CA 95003

SunOpta Inc. (STKL - NASDAQ, SOY - TSX)
A Healthy Products Company
T: (831) 685-6506 ext.347
F: (831) 685-6850
C: (831) 454-6227
E: ashley.french@sunopta.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review. Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gin Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Kyrrrha Sevco [mailto:ksevco@ecoact.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 9:17 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Acquisition

Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission, I highly recommend that
the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) acquire the Santa Cruz
Branch Rail Line (Branch Line) from Union Pacific (UP).

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Ecology Action of Santa Cruz
Achieving Community and Environmental
Excellence through Partnership and Innovation

Kyrrrha Sevco
211 River Street
PO Box 1188
Santa Cruz, CA 95061-1188
831.426.5925 ext. 109
831.425.1404 Fax
www.ecoact.org

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Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission
for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on
the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org


7-118
From: Kyrsha Sevco [mailto:ksevco@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 9:24 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Purchase the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line!

Regional Transportation Commission,

I am unable to attend the meeting this evening but would like to send the following note.

As a resident of Santa Cruz and a regular bike commuter, I recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission acquire the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Union Pacific, preserving the rail corridor for future transportation purposes. Please don't wait any longer.

Thanks
Kyrsha Sevco
41 Grandview Street #1305
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-458-1956

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: Sarah [mailto:scout14@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 10:36 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: We support the purchase of the rail!

Dear SCCRTC-

We writing to show our support for the rail and trail. Although we cannot attend the meeting tonight, we are strong supporters of the purchasing the rail for future recreational and transportation use. We are avid cyclists and believe this would provide better and safer access to cyclists through Santa Cruz. Riding the streets in Santa Cruz is not safe. The roads are in poor shape and lack dedicated bike lanes. Purchasing the rail also provides an opportunity for future light rail or trolley service that would create alternates means of reaching destinations throughout Santa Cruz. We live near Seabright Beach and are plagued with traffic/parking problems during the summer seasons. Giving people an opportunity to take the rail rather than drive and park to the beach and SC Boardwalk, would reduce traffic and congestion around the beach areas and residential neighborhoods.

Please submit our support for the rail and trail!!

Sarah and William Steiger

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Russell Weisz [mailto:rweisz@hytrust.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 12:49 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Support for the rail corridor purchase

We support the rail corridor purchase. It's an excellent opportunity and will benefit the community. Please follow the recommendation to purchase.

Russell Weisz, Judith Carey
319 Laguna St.
Santa Cruz 95060
831-458-1374
rweisz@hytrust.com, judycare@cruzio.com

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: John Coha [mailto:coha@soe.ucsc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 12:52 PM
To: info@scrcrtc.org
Subject: Rail Trail meeting

Dear SCCRTC folks,

Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in the public response to the purchase of the Rail Trail in Santa Cruz County. I believe this is one of the times we can have a really positive effect on transportation and recreation in Santa Cruz County. I am wholeheartedly FOR going ahead with the purchase. I really appreciate all the hard work the SCCRTC has done to make this purchase possible.

I would also like to mention a couple of things that are usually not brought up in discussions that have been ongoing in various forums. Please do not be swayed by the argument that there is not a big enough population base in Santa Cruz County to support rail based transit. Remember, rail based transit was once a reality in Santa Cruz. This was back when the population of Santa Cruz was a fraction of what it is today. We would likely still have a rail based transit system had it not been forced out by automobile interests who made the unreasonable demand that the streetcar companies had to pave the streets so automobiles would not be inconvenienced by the tracks. Of course, the streetcar companies could not afford to do this, so they went out of business.

The second point I would like to emphasize is please do not pay too much attention to the people who bought houses next to the train tracks and are now complaining about trains actually using the tracks that were there way before their houses were even built. They made a choice when they bought their house, and probably paid less, too. Their lack of foresight should be a warning about their critical thinking abilities.

Thank you again for your consideration of my opinions,

John Coha
209 Mountain Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200 831 460 3215 (fax) www.sccrtc.org

7-12
Thank you for inviting written public comment before the May 6 RTC meeting. I am assuming this is the correct address to us, as it wasn’t stated in the email.

I am very enthusiastic about the Rail Acquisition. First, my understanding is that if it isn’t done now, then we loose the funding. In these tough times, it will be wise to take the money because it is likely to return. Second, I lived in Mountain View during its controversy over building the Stevens Creek Trail www.stevenscreektrail. that goes through Mountain View. The NIMBY’s were loud and threw FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) around. 10 years later, the trail is seen as a strong asset to the community and the same people who put up such a stink are now benefiting from higher property values as it’s considered desirable to live near the trail. "For sale" descriptions often include a reference to the trail. The trail has brought together the city and provides much needed non-vehicle access to Shoreline Park and downtown. The creek bed was an enticing place for mischief before the constant pedestrian and bicycle traffic that came with public access. With the cement plant closing, UP is likely, without the purchase, to reduce maintenance or abandon the line, which will then become a public nuisance. Talk about NIMBY. I believe the choice is neglect or a public gem.

Neal Savage
4650 Opal Street, Capitola
2 blocks from my backyard

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
-----Original Message-----
From: Peter Haworth [mailto:pete@haworths.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 1:21 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Acquisition

I am unable to attend the public hearing tonight but want to express my opinions about this project.

I'll start by saying that allowing the public 3-4 weeks to digest the hundreds if not thousands of pages that you recently published on your web site, covering the 10 year history of this project is nothing short of ridiculous. I have no interest in being told that there is a June deadline to meet for funding. The commission has known of that deadline for years and chose to leave it's recommendation to the last minute. If I were among the many paranoid conspiracy theorists that abound in this county, I'd say this was done on purpose but I'm not so I'll just blame it on extremely poor planning.

This project should not be allowed to go forward. The costs are not well understood for the future and any notion of the county being involved in running a railway, even if through a third party, is nonsense. It is my sincere hope that some responsible group in the county files a last minute lawsuit that prevents you from meeting the application deadline. After all, that's we're faced with on regular occasions from groups such as People Power and Campaign for Sensible Transportation.

Vote against this project.

Pete Haworth

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.

Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

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Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org

7-124
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 1:55 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail Line

To whom it may concern:
We live in Davenport, we are a household of three, and we believe our quality of life would be substantially improved with the proposed rail trail along the former Union Pacific rails. Riding on the coast highway is very dangerous, especially on weekends. With the trail we would be confident in the safety of riding to town. We are very much looking forward to riding to Santa Cruz and points between here and Santa Cruz. Please support the rail trail.
The Alms
(please advise if you need any more information - thank you, Kate Alm

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz CA 95060
831 460 3200
831 460 3215 (fax)
www.sccrtc.org
From: amy penfield [mailto: yarmi74@netscape.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 3:05 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: RE: Rail Line Acquisition

To Whom it May Concern,

I support the RTC’s negotiations to acquire the rail line from Pajaro to Davenport. This is a significant step in the right direction toward more sustainable transportation in our area—much more so than widening a small section of Highway 1.

I look forward to the long-awaited benefits of improved public transportation, as well as the bicycle trail for commuting and recreation, that this project will provide.

Sincerely,

Amy Penfield
Santa Cruz, CA

Thank you for your comments. They will be forwarded to the Commission for their review.
Please visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org for information on the Commission and its activities.

Thank you again.

Gini Pineda, Administrative Assistant III
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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