

## **Appendix E**

## Section 4(f) Concurrence Letter

---



January 10, 2023  
Santa Cruz County Parks  
ATTN: Jeff Gaffney, Parks Director  
979 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

**SUBJECT: SCCRTC Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive to and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12, Section 4(f) Concurrence Request**

Dear Mr. Gaffney:

As you know, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) and the County of Santa Cruz is proposing to widen auxiliary lanes along State Route 1 (SR 1), accommodate bus-on-shoulder (BOS) operations between the Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive Interchanges and construct Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 (Project). The Project is subject to federal environmental review requirements because Caltrans and SCCRTC are using federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Accordingly, Project documentation is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Caltrans (on behalf of FHWA) is the lead agency under NEPA.

As part of the federal environmental compliance process under NEPA, Caltrans is required to prepare documentation required by Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. Caltrans has determined that the project would not trigger the provisions of Section 4(f) because the project meets the exception contained in 23 CFR 74.13 (g). As specified in 23 CFR 774.13 (g), transportation enhancement projects and mitigation activities qualify for an exception where:

- 1) The use of the Section 4(f) property is solely for the purpose of preserving or enhancing an activity, feature, or attribute that qualifies the property for Section 4(f) protection; and
- 2) The official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource agrees in writing to paragraph (g)(1) of this section.

The Project meets the above exception for the following reasons:

- The proposed trail connection to Aptos Village Park Road at Aptos Village County Park would allow for an integrated trail network and allow park users to access the coastal rail trail.

- The provisions of Section 4(f) would not apply because the proposed connection to County Park would not result in parkland being converted to a transportation use.

As discussed in the virtual meeting on August 8, 2022; SCCRTC and the Santa Cruz County Parks staff agreed to enter into an operation, use and maintenance agreement at a later date. There will be no transfer of property/ownership between the two entities. SCCRTC is committed to collaborating with the Santa Cruz County Parks on design and enhancements at this location. Please see Exhibit 1 for conceptual plans for trail connection with Aptos Village County Park.

As indicated above, your agreement with paragraph (g)(1) is necessary as part of the Project documentation. Please indicate your concurrence that the Project meets the exception contained in 23 CFR 774.13 (g) for the reasons stated above by signing below.

  
Jeff Gaffney (Jan 16, 2023 10:47 PST)

Jeff Gaffney, Director of Parks

01/16/2023

Date

The signed copy will automatically be provided to both parties. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me at (831) 247-4887 or [schristensen@sccrtc.org](mailto:schristensen@sccrtc.org).

Sincerely,



Sarah E. Christensen. P.E.

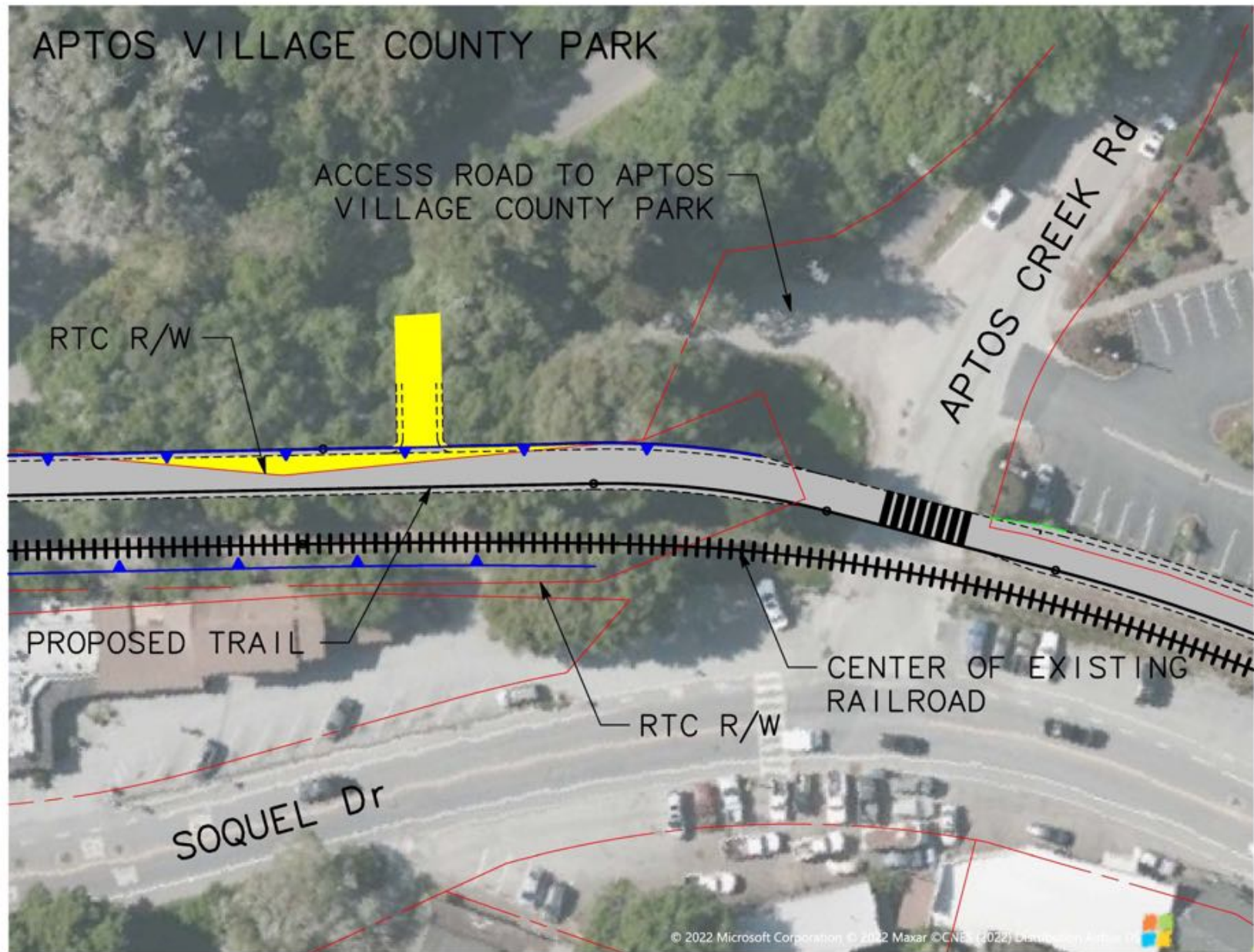
Project Manager

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Cc: Matt Machado, Director, County of Santa Cruz Public Works

Exhibit 1: Proposed connection to Aptos Village County Park





NO SCALE

- PROPOSED TRAIL WITHIN RTC R/W
- PROPOSED TRAIL WITHIN COUNTY PARK R/W

**SCCRTC COASTAL RAIL TRAIL - TRAIL SEGMENT 12**

**AT-GRADE TRAIL CONNECTION TO APTOS VILLAGE COUNTY PARK**

**SCCRTC**

**MARK THOMAS**

JULY 2022

# SCCRTC 4(f) letter\_0112023

Final Audit Report

2023-01-16

Created:	2023-01-10 (Pacific Standard Time)
By:	Sarah Christensen (schristensen@sccrtc.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAr7x7IBG4SnDkN6uKr1aLYEDAnYrqy-rm

## "SCCRTC 4(f) letter\_0112023" History

-  Document created by Sarah Christensen (schristensen@sccrtc.org)  
2023-01-10 - 10:37:14 AM PST
-  Document emailed to Jeff Gaffney (jeff.gaffney@santacruzcounty.us) for signature  
2023-01-10 - 10:37:44 AM PST
-  Email viewed by Jeff Gaffney (jeff.gaffney@santacruzcounty.us)  
2023-01-16 - 10:46:22 AM PST
-  Document e-signed by Jeff Gaffney (jeff.gaffney@santacruzcounty.us)  
Signature Date: 2023-01-16 - 10:47:51 AM PST - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2023-01-16 - 10:47:51 AM PST



Powered by  
Adobe  
Acrobat Sign