

RESOLUTION NO. 46-17

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of June 15, 2017
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A
CONTRACT WITH RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC., FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES TO
PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
THE NORTH COAST RAIL TRAIL PROJECT

WHEREAS, in October, 2012, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
became the owner of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Rail Line) right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, the RTC is charged with implementing the Santa Cruz County portion
of the 2-county Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network;

WHEREAS, in November, 2013, the RTC adopted an award-winning MBSST
Master Plan that defines the alignment and development of the Santa Cruz County's
50-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail system, and certified a programmatic
Environmental Impact Report;

WHEREAS, the spine of the trail will be built within the 32-mile RTC-owned
railroad right-of-way from Davenport to Pajaro;

WHEREAS, in January and August, 2015, the RTC authorized the submittal and
acceptance of a Federal Lands Access Program grant and a California Coastal
Conservancy grant for a North Coast Rail Trail project from Wilder Ranch to
approximately 5 miles up-coast, with matching funding from the Land Trust of
Santa Cruz County;

WHEREAS, in May, 2016, the RTC dedicated funding and approved working with
private funding partners to finance the expansion of the project scope to Davenport
so that a total of 7.5 miles of the trail would be built in addition to 2 parking lots
and access from a third parking lot to the future trail;

WHEREAS, through the Federal Lands Access Program, the Federal Highway
Administration's Central Federal Lands Division is the lead agency responsible for
design, environmental clearance and construction of the project;

WHEREAS, in April, 2017, the RTC determined that it would conduct a full
environmental impact report (EIR) and take the lead in completing this work as well
as an economic analysis of the north coast project area in order to meet Measure D
requirements after which CFL would complete the NEPA process and move toward
final implementation; and

WHEREAS, in June, 2017, the RTC approved Measure D funding allocations for
the additional environmental compliance work needed;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION THAT:

1. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc., for an amount up to \$262,183 to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the North Coast Rail Trail project; and
2. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and execute amendments to this agreement provided that the amendments are consistent with the RTC's approved budget and work program.
3. The Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with the second highest ranked consultant team, in the event that negotiations with the highest rank consultant are unsuccessful.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

Cynthia Chase, Vice-Chair

George Dondero, Secretary

Distribution: RTC Fiscal, RTC and Consultant Project Managers