



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission **March 3, 2005 Meeting Highlights**

Rail Acquisition Activities:

The RTC approved three resolutions. The first was to state that the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right-of-Way Acquisition project is the regions highest priority for reimbursement among projects to receive state funds in fiscal year 2008-09. The second resolution requests a \$10 million reimbursable grant to be paid back by state funds when they become available. The third resolution authorizes the expenditure of funds for insurance coverage to perform the Phase II environmental assessment. In addition, the RTC directed staff to prepare both the Proposition 116 application and a request for proposals for a short-line train operator, and to suspend pursuit of a demonstration train on the branch line.

Transportation Projects in the City of Santa Cruz:

Public Works Department staff from the City of Santa Cruz showed a presentation highlighting transportation projects within the city using funds allocated by the Regional Transportation Commission including bike, pedestrian, landscaping, road rehabilitation and road operational improvements.

Highway 1/17 Interchange Merge Lanes Project:

The Regional Transportation Commission approved an abstract, non-representational design for the 350-foot section of soundwall that can not be landscaped in the Emeline Creek area. This is the final issue to be resolved before the project design is finalized.

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report for Recreational Rail:

The RTC released a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Recreational Rail between Capitola and Aptos with an extension to Seascapes. A revised document was released to take into account information from the Draft Business Plan developed for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and to further clarify noise and traffic impacts. The 60-day comment period ends April 5, 2005 and an evening public hearing will be held on March 17.

Upcoming SCCRTC and Committee Meetings (please call 460-3200 to confirm):

Public Hearing on Draft Recreational Rail EIR

Thursday, March 17, 7:00 pm
Board of Supervisors Chambers
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Meetings of the SCCRTC

Thursday, April 7, 9:00 am
Capitola City Council Chambers
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola

Thursday, May 5, 2005, 9:00 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshops

Thursday, March 17, 9:00 am *
Watsonville City Hall
250 Main Street, Watsonville

Thursday, April 21, 9:00 am
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee

Monday, March 14 7:00 pm
Monday, April 11, 7:00 pm
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transp. Advisory

Tuesday, March 8, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, May 10, 1:30
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory

Thursday, March 17, 1:30 pm
Watsonville City Hall
250 Main Street, Watsonville

Thursday, April 21, 1:30
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

* Also a public hearing at 9:30 am for the Draft Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Report

For more information, visit the SCCRTC web site at www.sccrtc.org or call 460-3200. Some SCCRTC meetings are broadcast by Community TV of Santa Cruz

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