

**AGENDA:** May 6, 2004

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director  
**RE:** Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Cooperative Agreement

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the attached Cooperative Agreement between the Regional Transportation Commission, Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County specifying allocation formulas and project development/delivery activities for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail ([Attachment 1](#)).

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**BACKGROUND**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1992. Since that time, there has been interest in linking the coastal trails along the shore into a continuous trail. Congressman Farr has been working to secure funding for planning and implementation activities for the Monterey Bay segment of the Sanctuary Scenic Trail covering Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, and requested that the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) act as the lead. The SCCRTC already has a cooperative working relationship in transportation planning and programming with AMBAG and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC).

The concept for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail is a recreation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay from Wilder Ranch in the County of Santa Cruz to Lovers Point in the City of Pacific Grove.

Santa Cruz County has a related Inter-Agency Sanctuary Task Force established in 1996, and supported by the SCCRTC. The Sanctuary Task Force has placed many interpretative signs along the segment of trail from Wilder Ranch to Seacliff.

**DISCUSSION**

In anticipation of future federal funding opportunities, a Cooperative Agreement among AMBAG, TAMC and the SCCRTC has been developed. A copy is attached (Attachment 1). About \$400,000 in funding is currently included in the House Appropriations Bill for 2004. According to the formula specified in the agreement, AMBAG would receive \$32,000 (8%) for planning coordination and administration of the Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee and liaison with involved agencies. SCCRTC and TAMC would each receive \$184,000 (46%) for administration, planning and construction activities. The Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) provides \$5 million for the trail over the next six years.

According to the attached agreement, the same formula would apply to this and any other allocation of federal funds to the trail over the 6-year funding period. Reimbursable activities include, but are not limited to: project scope development, development of standard trail features and requirements, determination of trail segment locations, conceptual design of trail segments, environmental review and permits, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

The agreement calls for a Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee which will work with the Santa Cruz County Inter-Agency Committee, local agencies and the regional transportation planning agencies on trail designation and funding.

AMBAG approved the Cooperative Agreement at its April 14, 2004 meeting and TAMC is expected to act on the item at its April 28, 2004 meeting. Santa Cruz County Counsel has reviewed and signed the attached agreement.

## **SUMMARY**

The SCCRTC, in conjunction with AMBAG and TAMC, have developed a Cooperative Agreement to provide a framework for funding and planning the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in anticipation of federal funding opportunities.

Attachment 1. Cooperative Agreement among AMBAG, SCCRTC and TAMC  
Regarding Funding and Planning Implementation for the Monterey  
Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail