

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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January 31, 2005

Kem Akol, Bicycle Committee Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-5415

RECEIVED
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
JAN 31 2005

Dear Mr. Akol:

WILDER RANCH STATE PARK BICYCLE PATH SIGNAGE

This is in response to your letter dated May 20, 2004 requesting additional bike path signage on Highway 1 near Wilder Ranch State Park (Wilder). We sent an interim reply last June pending a review of the area. Please accept my apology for our delay in responding with the results of our review.

The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the State Parks Department (Parks) jointly conducted a review of the location that resulted in the decision that bicyclists riding southbound on Highway 1 should be encouraged to remain on the designated bicycle route on the highway, instead of using the Wilder path as an alternate route. Caltrans and Parks agreed that installing alternate route signage in that area is not in the public's best interest.

Highway 1 is a designated bicycle route through the area between Western Drive and Wilder. Accessing the Wilder path from the southbound Highway 1 designated bicycle route requires cyclists to dismount and push their bikes through a livestock barrier. Further, the park road used by cyclists to access the path is often congested with vehicles, pedestrians, horses, and mountain bike riders during peak use periods.

Thank you for contacting us with your request for bicycle signage in the Wilder area. We appreciate your bicycle committee's continuing involvement to maintain bicycling safety. Should you have further questions or comments, please contact Christian Engelmann, Investigation Coordinator, at (805) 549-3239.

Sincerely,


R. GREGG ALBRIGHT
District Director

c: Tom Bolich, Public Works Director
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Joe Conners, Supervisor
Department of State Parks, Wilder Ranch
Pajaro Sector Office
144 School Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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