

## **Alignment Principles**

The following alignment principles, developed for the California Coastal Trail, were also approved by the Steering Committee as guidance for siting and interpreting the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

~ *PROXIMITY*, to the sea. The allure of the Pacific Ocean, and its spectacularly abundant Monterey Bay, distinguishes this route from other destinations. Wherever feasible, the trail should be within sight, sound or scent of the ocean. The visitor will be constantly aware of traveling a "sea trail."

### **(PLEASE NOTE: CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE E&DTAC TO THE ALIGNMENT PRINCIPLE OF CONNECTIVITY ARE PRESENTED IN UNDERLINE/STRIKETHROUGH FORMAT)**

~ *CONNECTIVITY*, to places people want to go. The trail will create multiple opportunities to take travelers of all abilities from a point of origin to a desired destination. Like pearls on a necklace, our State Park units, ports, communities, schools, trailheads, bus stops, visitor attractions, inns, campgrounds, restaurants and rest stops are strung along the perimeter of Monterey Bay, linked by roads, streets and highways. Our challenge is to create non-automotive accessible connections sufficiently appealing to draw travelers out of their cars and provide access to all, regardless of their physical abilities.

~ *INTEGRITY*, as a continuous, non-motorized route. To fulfill its promise as an alternative transportation route, the trail must be continuous. Moreover, without separation from motor traffic the safety, pleasure and character of the trail are compromised. Locating the trail an adequate distance from streets and highways to avoid the sight, sound and smell of vehicular traffic is ideal. Other possibilities for route separation include vertical displacements of gradient, underpasses, vegetative buffer strips, barrier rails and, in some cases, designated time periods for non-motorized uses.

~ *RESPECT*, for natural habitats, cultural and archaeological features, private property, neighborhoods and agricultural operations along the trail route. This trail will be located to maximize resource management options and use of public land, and with respect for the rights of private property owners. Planning for this trail also acknowledges existing trail designations such as the California Coastal Trail and the Monterey Bay Coastal Trail. The trail's identity on maps, signs and brochures should, rather than compete with or obscure existing trail identities, become a concurrent designation wherever appropriate.

~ *FEASIBILITY*, of achieving timely, tangible results with available resources. Practically, both interim (or short-term) and optimal (or long-range) alignments will need to be identified. Tangible results may be achieved most readily in the interim by identifying and connecting existing trail segments and by sharing the road. Eventually, the trail corridor would include all the "strands" including a continuous Class I bikeway as the backbone, complemented by a separate pedestrian path, a beach walk route and a selection of connecting interpretive routes, boardwalks, overlooks, beach access ways and inland connecting links.