



friends of the rail trail

The Hub, 224 Walnut Ave., Suite C, CA 95003

Dear Members of the Regional Transportation Commission,

This letter is to express our continued appreciation for your efforts to acquire the rail right of way and to invite you to participate in Rail and Trail Day on May 22nd.

As I am sure you are aware, our original plan to run a train to Watsonville on Rail and Trail day has been derailed by SCARRED- a handful of people who own property next to the tracks in Aptos, who frightened Union Pacific by threatening to lay on the tracks.

Roaring Camp Railroad, who had volunteered to run the trail, steadfastly wanted to provide an opportunity for the people of Santa Cruz to experience a train. Therefore we will be running 'the detour train' from Santa Cruz to Felton and back on May 22nd. The train leaves from the Depot Park in downtown Santa Cruz at 10:30AM and returns at 12P:30PM. Tickets are \$3.00 each way. Many cyclists will take the train up and ride back on Highway Nine. It would be a pleasure to see you on the train or the ride. If you need me to reserve tickets for you, feel free to contact me.

The train ride will be followed, at 2PM, in the Freight Building, with a presentation by some of the foremost experts on Rails with Trails facilities: Mike Jones of Alta Planning and Laura Cohen of the National Rails to Trails Conservancy. Alta Planning recently published the definitive guide to rail with trail facilities through the United States Transportation Department. They will speak on the feasibility of these kinds of facilities and on how the community can become involved in them. We hope that you can make this presentation. If any of you would care to speak a few words in favor of the trail please contact me.

Eric Tierman, a film maker, who recently became famous for winning the 'Move-On video competition', will be shooting a short film with statements from people in favor of the rail trail on the 22nd. If you want to be on the film but can't make that date, please contact me to schedule an appointment.

Micah Posner

Friends of the Rail Trail
People Power