

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Tegan Speiser, Senior Transportation Planner

REGARDING: Appointment of Santa Cruz Agricultural Representative to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Pirie and staff recommend that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve appointing Steve Bontadelli as the local agricultural representative from Santa Cruz County to serve on the two-county Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee; and
 2. Forward this recommendation to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments.
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BACKGROUND

Federal appropriations have been secured by US Representative Sam Farr to help link existing trail segments with new segments to form a contiguous Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) along or near the shoreline of both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) was designated to manage and disperse the federal funds for the project. Towards that end, AMBAG convened a two-county steering committee to help develop overall trail policy and to consult with the Transportation Commissions in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties on trail project funding decisions.

DISCUSSION

The RTC has been given the opportunity to recommend three representatives to serve on the MBSST Committee: one representative from the RTC's Bicycle Committee; one representative from the Commission's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC); and one representative from the County's agricultural community. Each of these members may also have an alternate.

At recent RTC meetings, the Commission approved appointing to the MBSST Committee Piet Canin and J. Ben Vernazza as representative and alternate from the RTC's Bike Committee and Mike Molesky and Tom Crain as representative and alternate from the Commission's E&DTAC.

After significant outreach efforts, Commissioner Pirie has found an excellent candidate to represent local agricultural interests on the MBSST Committee, Mr. Steve Bontadelli. A life-long resident of the County and third generation farmer involved in growing, packing and shipping brussel sprouts, Steve is well versed in many aspects of local agriculture. Active with the Farm Bureau for almost two decades, he currently serves on state and local committees addressing water issues, an advisory committee dealing with GMO technology, and on the Board of Directors of the local Farm Bureau's non-profit arm Agri-Culture. Steve's educational background is in business administration and marketing.

Commissioner Pirie and staff recommend that the RTC appointment Steve Bontadelli as the agricultural representative from Santa Cruz County to serve on the MBSST Steering Committee.

SUMMARY

AMBAG has established a two-county steering committee to assist in the development of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. The RTC has made two of its three appointments to the MBSST Steering Committee. Commissioner Pirie and staff recommend the appointment of Steve Bontadelli as the agricultural representative from Santa Cruz County to serve on the MBSST Steering Committee.

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