



703 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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November 27, 2006

Dear Commissioners,

Please join us on December 14th at 6:30 P.M. at the Jade Street Park Community Center (4400 Jade Street in Capitola) for **“One Ear to the Tracks,”** a symposium on potential rail and trail systems for Santa Cruz County. This event is free and open to the public.

The symposium will be hosted by Friends of the Rail Trail, the Sierra Club, *Santa Cruz Sentinel* editor Tom Honig, People Power, and the Campaign for Sensible Transportation. State Assemblyman John Laird will moderate the discussion, which will feature experts from around the country on rail trails, light rail, and managing freight lines with rail trails.

In addition to your own George Dondero, a panel of extremely knowledgeable guest speakers will take questions from Assemblyman Laird and the audience.

Given that the commissioners have devoted a tremendous effort toward the eventual acquisition of the rail corridor, we would be honored if you would attend this symposium to explore the opportunities and challenges facing our County with regard to future use of the corridor.

Attached is a copy of the flyer publicizing the event. We look forward to your participation on December 14th.

Sincerely,

Micah Posner

“ONE EAR TO THE TRACKS”

A Symposium on Potential Rail and Trail Systems for Santa Cruz County



Train rounds the corner in Southern Santa Cruz County.

PHOTO: MIKE DALBEY

Thursday evening, December 14th
Jade Street Park Community Center
4400 Jade Street, Capitola

6–6:30 pm: Marimba music and socializing

6:30 – 8:45 pm: Speakers and discussion

admission: free (donations welcome)



With worries about global warming, peak oil, and ever-increasing congestion as a backdrop, the time is perfect to discuss options for train and trail systems in Santa Cruz County. Nationally recognized rail and trail experts will participate in a forum moderated by state assemblymember John Laird.

HOSTED BY: People Power, the *Sentinel's* Tom Honig, the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, Friends of the Rail Trail, the Sierra Club, New Leaf Community Markets, the Weiss-Penzias family, and the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

- **Mike Hart**, owner of Sierra Railroad, will address the freight and recreation potential of the corridor.
- **Michael Jones**, principal author of the authoritative guide to rail with trail facilities in the United States, will discuss the feasibility of placing a trail adjacent to the existing rail line.
- **Bill Burgel**, vice president of rail operations of HDR Consulting in Portland, Oregon, will speak on practical application of electric light rail and trolley systems for the Santa Cruz corridor.
- **David Nelson** of the Transportation Research Board will speak on use of light DMU vehicles to provide affordable rail transit service in smaller metropolitan areas.
- **Debbie Hale**, director of Monterey Transportation Commission, will speak on plans to turn Pajaro Station into a rail hub with connections to Caltrain and Amtrak.
- **George Dondero**, director of Santa Cruz Transportation Commission, will speak on efforts to acquire the Union Pacific right of way and begin planning for the Coastal Rail Trail.

For more information, call: 425-0665 or go to: www.peoplepowersc.org