

Cory Caletti

From: Paul Rodrigues [RED028@co.santa-cruz.ca.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 5:38 PM
To: Cory Caletti
Cc: Betsey Lynberg
Subject: MBNMS Trail MP

Cory,

Thanks for the opportunity to provide a few comments. Over the last few years the Redevelopment Agency has been involved in the development and permit process for numerous coastal projects related to coastal public access. Most recently we have obtained approval from the California Coastal Commission for the Pleasure Point Stabilization and Parkway which has been envisioned as a key element in the County's portion of MBNMS Scenic Trail project and the Agency and the Department of Public Works are currently proceeding with final construction plans.

My concern with the RFP as proposed is that there is no indication, and there has been no discussion with the various local jurisdictions regarding the process for development of the Trail Master Plan and how it will integrate with local ongoing projects. Many of these have gone through an extensive public review and community processes. At this time the RFP indicates that the consultants for the MP would need to consult with various local jurisdictions regarding ongoing efforts, but it is unclear the extent or process expected. Would this be only at the staff level or would the consult need to make presentations to the various elected bodies? It would also be important for the consultants to confer with all the various departments - not just planning and public works.

For example, the RFP under TASK 9 - refers to coordination and processing for work with Santa Cruz County Planning and Public Works Departments but makes no reference to County Redevelopment or Parks who also have significant contributions and responsibilities for implementation of projects. Task 10 item b - refers to solicitation of input from local jurisdictions but also fails to mention any of the above agencies or departments.

In order to prepare a comprehensive proposal it seems that the proposed Trail MP consultants should include some additional tasks. For instance, conducting an inventory of all ongoing efforts underway by local jurisdictions recognizing the need for feasibility assessments which would be dependant on local residents and jurisdictions for input. There may be many issues with regard to how a trail network would be developed through the urbanized areas of the various cities and the County which will need more detailed consideration than what is indicated in the RFP.

It is understood that there is time for the RTC to formulate a detailed scope of work for the Trail MP, should the RFP move forward as prepared, it would be helpful for various agencies to be kept informed as to the nature of the of the network being proposed, as it evolves, and to have the opportunity to provide additional input prior to the finalizing the master plan, especially as it relates to details of the proposed implementation and approval process.

I think that this is a very exciting step in the process of providing public access and understanding of the Monterey Bay and the Marine Sanctuary and we would look forward to the opportunity of working with the RTC and consultants as the Trail Master Plan moves forward.

Paul Rodrigues
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