

**Excerpts from California Public Utilities Code of Proposition 116 of 1990
which governs funding used for rail line purchase**

99600. This part shall be known as the Clean Air and Transportation Improvement Act of 1990.

99602. For purposes of this part, the following terms have the following meanings, unless expressly stated otherwise:

...

(j) "Rail project" means a commuter passenger rail service project, an intercity passenger rail project, or a rail transit project, and includes exclusive public mass transit guideway projects and the project described in Section 99624.

99613. (a) The commission shall allocate money from the fund in accordance with the allocations specified in Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 99620) to the department, to the Department of Parks and Recreation, and to local agencies as grants for expenditure for the preservation, acquisition, construction, or improvement of any of the following:

- (1) Rights-of-way for rail purposes.
- (2) Rail terminals and stations.
- (3) Rolling stock, including locomotives, passenger cars, and related rail equipment and facilities.
- (4) Grade separations and other improvements along rail rights-of-way for rail purposes.
- (5) Rail maintenance facilities.
- (6) Other capital facilities deemed necessary for a specified rail service, including soundwalls.
- (7) Capital expenditures for the purposes specified in subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIX of the California Constitution.

...

(d) Authorized expenditures listed in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, of subdivision (a) are "rail projects" as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 99602.

99640. Eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000) shall be allocated to the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission for the following:

(a) Intercity passenger rail projects connecting the City of Santa Cruz with the Watsonville Junction.

(b) Other rail projects within Santa Cruz County which facilitate recreational, commuter, intercity and intercounty travel.

From: Murray Fontes [<mailto:murray.fontes@cityofwatsonville.org>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 4:47 PM
To: info@scrtc.org
Cc: Maria Esther Rodriguez
Subject: Trail to Christmas & Rail Trail

RTC Staff,

I wish to comment on Agenda Item #21 in the 06/05/14 SCCRTC Agenda where staff recommends granting a passenger service license to the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway for the operation of the Train to Christmas Town (TTCT) out of Watsonville from 2014 to 2021. I am concerned that the TTCT may conflict with the the portion of Segment 18 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail that the City will be developing in the next few years.

Attached is an aerial photo showing the baserock area installed in 2013 for parking and staging of the TTCT. The staff report says that the TTCT proposes to use the same location. The future trail will be on the same side of the railroad tracks as the parking and staging area. Trail improvements will include installing a 12 foot wide trail that is 10 feet from the center of the existing railroad tracks and placing a 42" tall fence between the trail and the railroad line.

I am confident that these conflicts can be addressed when the trail is developed. I request that the Transportation Commission include language in the TTCT license to be aware of the proposed trail and be prepared to possibly modify the parking and staging areas after the trail is developed.

--
Murray A. Fontes
Principal Engineer
City of Watsonville Public Works & Utilities Department
250 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076
831-768-3117 (office)
831-763-4065 (fax)
murray.fontes@cityofwatsonville.org

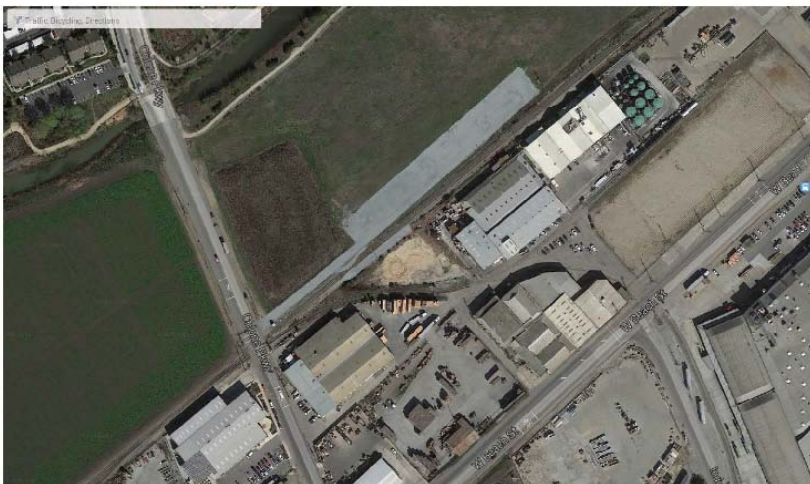


Image by Google, Map data © 2014 Google

From: Peoples, Brian C [<mailto:brian.c.peoples@lmco.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 7:43 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Cc: Zach Friend (BDS022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); patrick.mulhearn@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; Luis Mendez; George Dondero

Subject: Agenda Item 21# Train to Christmas Town - No on plan to 2021

Attached is a comic strip that was in the Santa Cruz Sentinel this weekend related to public opinion of a cost of train. Please include this in general statement.

I request that RTC do not agree to Staff recommendation for the Train to Christmas Town Plan that goes to 2021. This will prevent Santa Cruz County from using the trail in the future.

Brian Peoples

From: Deborah Collins [<mailto:spencerluvsme@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 8:32 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Christmas Train

Dear RTC, Please do not approve the Train to Christmas town ! It is more economical and the community can get more enjoyment and fun access with a walk/bike trail. We are looking forward to this opportunity to get everyone out together all year. Can you imagine? Neighbors out walking and riding their bikes? It's perfect! San Louis Obispo gets high marks in their community because they have wide sidewalks and restaurants with outdoor tables! It's a friendly place where everybody knows your name. This is what we want ! Sincerely, Your Friendly Neighbor Debbie

-----Original Message-----

From: Bonnie Terribilini [mailto:swb_danza4fun@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 8:34 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Christmas Train

DO NOT approve the Train to Christmas Town Plan....it's ridiculous!! Take up the tracks & let's get this trail going for walkers & riders!!!

Bonnie Terribilini,
Elementary Teacher
Rio del Mar Elementary School
Aptos, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff and Linda Young [<mailto:lindazebari@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 8:56 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: train to Christmas Town

The train to Christmas town is ridiculous. I do not know anyone who has been on the train who actually said that it was a fun trip. Whereas, everyone I know would prefer a biking/walking trail be built instead. End the train to Christmas town.

Linda Zebari, Santa Cruz resident.

From: donald@lawofficedonaldschwartz.com [<mailto:donald@lawofficedonaldschwartz.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 8:58 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Trains to Christmastown - Public Comment

There is no Christmastown, that is a deluded fabrication.

There is 150,000 inhabitants of Santa Cruz County who need the trail right of way for their daily use.

And a lot of them vote too.

Donald C. Schwartz, Esq.
Law Offices of Donald C. Schwartz
7960-B Soquel Drive, No. 291
Aptos, CA 95003

From: Jill Heppner [<mailto:jillheppner@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 10:38 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: train to xmas town

Please do not approve the contract extension for Train to Christmas Town if it is going to delay the approval of the rail trail. The rail trail will benefit the entire county for the whole year, while xmas train is a short season and only a few businesses benefit.

Thank you,
Jill Heppner

From: Jesse Cox [<mailto:jesse.cox4@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 11:09 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Do Not Approve the Train to Christmas Town

Please, please, please do not approve the Train to Christmas Town. It really seems like a waste of a wonderful thoroughfare to only be utilized two months out of the year. We've got a great opportunity in this county to put this space to wonderful year-round use. Please do not approve the Train to Christmas Town and please consider the alternative for the current railroad by converting it to a usable trail.

Thank you,

Jesse Cox

From: rocio pepinillo [<mailto:shioll@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:03 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: No in train to Christmas town

I'm an Aptos resident and our community are excited about the project of trail track. We wouldn't like that this project will be gone because the use for train to Christmas Town which will be used only once a year. I vote for NO in the use of train to Christmas Town.

Thanks
Rocio Llontop

From: Scott Russo [mailto:russo_scott@att.net]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:11 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Train to Christmas Town

This is email is being sent for the purpose of stating my opposition to the the train to Christmas Town. Currently the railroad tracks from Aptos to Santa Cruz remain unused for a vast majority of the year and are used for what, I believe, is the sole purpose of the train to Christmas Town. I have lived in Aptos for the 20 years and am a very active member of the community. I am currently raising three kids in this community and the first time I have ever heard mention of the train to Christmas Town came a few months ago while talking to a friend about the rail-to-trail project. Having spoken to many Aptos locals regarding their knowledge of the existence of the train to Christmas Town I have yet to find anyone who was aware of it much less someone who has taken advantage of using it.

In my opinion, keeping railroad tracks for a seasonal train that most of the community knows nothing about is a ridiculous option when the space that these tracks currently consume can be used to house a trail that would provide a safe method of not only clean transportation options for community members but also for safe recreational use for our children as well as our adults.

Thank you for your time in reading this email.

Sincerely,
Scott Russo

From: Sebastian Frey [<mailto:broker@realtyvirtuoso.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:30 AM

To: zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; info@sccrtc.org

Subject: SCCRTC June 5 Meeting & the Train to Christmas Town

Supervisor Friend, SCCRTC -

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the plan to grant an operational license through 2021 to the Train to Christmas Town. I think the county and community will be much better served by accelerating progress on conversion of the rail line to use by pedestrians and bicycles, and granting an operational license of this duration will effectively halt any progress toward that goal for the duration.

The Train to Christmas Town is nice - I took my family both years, and I'll probably go again this year. But the highest + best use of this unique and invaluable asset is not as a rail corridor.

Thanks,

-Seb

-----Original Message-----

From: Spencer Hays [<mailto:spencerhays@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 8:43 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: No Christmas train please

I prefer a trail for bikes instead.

Spencer Hays

From: Rose Wood [<mailto:rosewoodcoach@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 10:01 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org; zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Subject: Please Vote No on granting a license to the Train to Christmas Town through 2021

Good Morning SCCRTC Members and Supervisor Friend,

Although I like the idea of the Christmas Train, I LOVE the idea of a path we can all use to get through and enjoy our town. It would promote fitness, greener choices and community. It would provide something many other towns have that we don't...a bike path!

If we can't have both the train and the path, I would chose the path.

Thank you for listening to your community and making these tough decisions!

Rose Wood

-----Original Message-----

From: Christy Tall [<mailto:talls@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 10:46 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train to Christmas Town license

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to respectfully share my opposition to granting the Train to Christmas Train license through 2021. I am in favor of converting the line to a pedestrian and bicycle path. I feel that would be a much better use of our resources. Thank you.

Christy Tall, Aptos

From: Ray Spinelli [<mailto:RAY@fivecrowns.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 10:48 AM
To: 'info@sccrtc.org'
Subject: Please do not approve train to Christmas town.

Dear SCCRTC,

Please do not approve train to Christmas town, it is a waste of our tax dollars. Please turn tracks into a bike trail; we all could use a little more exercise!

Best regards,

Ray Spinelli

Resident of Aptos, CA

From: Robin Rush [<mailto:robinlr764@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 12:20 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: I oppose granting a license to the Train to Christmas Town

Hello,

I oppose granting a license to the Train to Christmas Town through 2021. I am in favor of converting the rail line into a pedestrian-and-bicycle path and I think granting a license for a annual event and blocking the way for people to use the rail line all year doesnt make sense.

Regards,

Robin Rush

272 Searidge Rd. #C

Aptos, CA 95003

From: Matt Herman [<mailto:matt@wavestaff.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 12:15 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: I am not aboard the Train to Christmas Town

I am an Aptos resident and own a business in the Deer Park Shopping Center in Aptos.

The Train to Christmas Town being allowed to operate until 2021 makes no sense. The community wants a multi-use recreational trail without train tracks.

Matt Herman

President & Executive Recruiter

WaveStaff, Inc. www.wavestaff.com

From: Regina Kelbert [<mailto:gigi123@mac.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 2:09 PM

To: zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Say NO to Train to Christmas Town

Dear Supervisor Friend and SCCRTC,

I am requesting a NO vote regarding the extension of the contract for the Train to Christmas Town. Instead, my family and I are in favor of a Rail Trail from Manresa to Wilder. I believe that a Rail Trail would be a much better use of funds for alternative travel options and tourism dollars for year round benefit in Santa Cruz County. And it would be much more fun!

Sincerely,

Regina Kelbert
Aptos, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Donalyn Allen [<mailto:bafitmama@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:22 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: No on rail

I vote no on the rail! No train for Christmas.

Thanks

From: Contact Request Form [<mailto:admin@sccrtc.org>]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 4:07 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: New submission from Contact Form

Name

Jan Sturtevant

Email

jansturtevant@gmail.com

Subject

Train to Christmas Town license

Your Message

As a long time Santa Cruz county resident, voter, and walker/hiker, I oppose granting a license of any duration for this event.

I am so looking forward to the rails becoming trails!

Sincerely,
Jan

-----Original Message-----

From: Janice DiCiuccio [<mailto:jediciuccio@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 4:37 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: rec trail

Please turn the rail line into a pedestrian, bike trail that can be used by a large portion of the population of the county.

Thank you,

Janice DiCiuccio

512 Cedar St.

Aptos, CA 95003

-----Original Message-----

From: Bart Coddington [<mailto:bikerbart@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 5:37 PM

To: john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; bds031@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; info@sccrtc.org

Cc: 'Bart Coddington'

Subject: Train to Christmastown

Dear RTC and Supervisors,

I took my grandson on the Christmastown train the first year it was open. He had a ball and still talks about it, even though he lives in NC. I had a great deal of fun taking him on the train.

I think extending this operation until 2021 is a good idea. It keeps a real train in front of everyone and reminds folks that there is a rail part to the rail trail. Suggest it start being called Rail with Trail to match what Rails to Trails is calling them.

Regards,

Barton T. Coddington

3025 Arlington Dr

Aptos, CA 95003

From: petepearson4000@comcast.net [<mailto:petepearson4000@comcast.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 6:24 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Christmas Train

Dear SCC RTC. Please consider support of the Christmas Train. This is a "clean" event for our community, as is the Roaring Camp Railroad. This brings families together. Last year we rode the Reno Christmas train and had our three adult children families with our four grandchildren. They loved it! Next season we would hope to bring the kids to the Santa Cruz train and of course, with dinner first which brings more money into our County.

Any failure to support the train now is a further danger to non funding for the rail trail. We as a community need both and can work and ride side by side with rail.

Sincerely;

Nels "Pete" Pearson & Donna Pearson

200 West Cliff Drive#9

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

-----Original Message-----

From: michelle bradley [<mailto:mbsouquel@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 7:50 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Trains to Christmas Town

To Whom it may Concern,

Please do not approve the proposal for Trains to Christmas Town. I am very much in support of the Rail Trail and this future event is in direct opposition of allowing the trail to become a reality. Thank you for your consideration.

Michelle Bradley
Soquel

-----Original Message-----

From: Winifred Frick [<mailto:fredfrick@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 7:53 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail trail

We desperately want a rail trail from Aptos into Santa Cruz. Please consider the great community benefits year round of a rail trail vs the once a year use of the Train to Christmas Town. Please put the rail trail first!

From: cyclechic58@comcast.net [<mailto:cyclechic58@comcast.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 8:01 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Opposition to Train to Christmas Town

Please do not grant this license for Train to Christmas Town!

#1) It's specific to a religious group who celebrate Christmas! ~ not for all! It's setting a precedent for discrimination/segregation.....Creating a tone for favoritism over the creation of usages for all to enjoy! I can't imagine Santa Cruz acting like this!

#2) There has got to be better time spent developing transportation for our communities dealing with traffic congestion, and alternative options that impact a full year vs 3 weeks for a select group of people who celebrate a holiday!

#3) Think about the choices you are making for your/our community! Is there really enough revenue made in the 3 weeks that warrants this license? Will the impact of these 3 weeks be such that we ALL benefit? I think not! Seeing how the train was not fully used prior, how is this going to balance the decision to authorize such license!?

#4) Transportation, planning, and reports on feasibility of usage must be considered.

Be smart! Do what's right for our community at large! DO NOT grant the license for the Train to Christmas Town!

Thank you,
Candi Jackson

From: Susan von Thun [<mailto:susan.vonthun@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 8:41 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Rail trail

Dear Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission,
I am writing to you to urge you to oppose granting a license to the Train to Christmas Town through 2021. Converting the rail line into a pedestrian-and-bicycle path would be a better use of the space. Thousands of people would use a Rec trail like the one in Monterey and I encourage you to help move this project forward. I would love to see a trail that goes from Monterey to Santa Cruz in the future, as would many other Santa Cruz county residents.

Sincerely,
Susan von Thun
Aptos, CA

From: Peter & Jan Stanger [<mailto:pj@rattlebrain.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:31 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Cc: zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Subject: train to christmastown

Dear SCCRTC Boardmembers

I urge you to vote AGAINST extending a contract to the operators of the Train to Christmastown fro the next several years.

The citizens of Santa Cruz County were told that the purchase of the railroad line was for the purpose of developing a transportation corridor. The Train to Christmastown doesn't serve that goal at all. It is simply a way to utilize parts of the rail line for tourist serving companies. That would be alright in itself, if the project didn't thwart the true goal of the rail line purchase: to move everyday citizens safely year-around to their work, homes, and shopping. By committing to provide the extended use of the railroad, it will stop the development of an INEXPENSIVE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN TRAIL.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan that continues to budget for a rail line is too expensive and will take too long to build. The citizens of Santa Cruz County do not wish to wait twenty years and spend millions of dollars to develop a route that must include a rail line in its initial build-out. Please prioritize construction of a bicycle & pedestrian trail from Watsonville to Davenport with completion in the next 5 years. Build the bike & pedestrian trail that'll relieve traffic on the freeway and surface streets without further delay! Build the bike & pedestrian trail that'll make it safe for parents to send their kids to school without the use of a automobile, make it safe for workers to go to work without the use of a automobile, make it safe for shoppers to shop without the use of a automobile.

Without the need to construct a trail that would enable a train to trail along it's route, the bicycle & pedestrian trail would be much less expensive, and could be built much more quickly. For example, section 17a would have 7 million spent on bridges, while a pontoon walk-way (like those found in Neary Lagoon) could allow for bike & pedestrian travel at a fraction of that cost. Other construction techniques and options to lower the cost and speed the construction of a county-long bike & pedestrian trail should be utilized by the SCCRTC.

The current course of constructing Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail has lost what had been my previous enthusiastic support. The Board of the SCCRTC needs to prioritize this project, and build-out the bike & pedestrian element throughout our county first. Leave room to go back later for the rail line. Vote against the Train to Christmastown today, build a usable bike and pedestrian trail now.

Respectfully,
Peter Stanger
19 Escuela Road
La Selva Beach, CA 95076

-----Original Message-----

From: Laura Livingston [<mailto:lauraliv@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:33 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train to Christmas Town

Hello,

I am opposed to granting The Train to Christmas Town any long term license to operate longer a year at a time. Personally, I would never use this train and I would rather see this rail line used solely for activities such as walking and bicycling.

Laura Livingston
Santa Cruz since 1984

From: Andrea Miller [<mailto:kandamiller@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 10:42 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Trail, not rail now.

I live in Seacliff. When my kids were toddlers we tried breaking ground on a play ground in the area. They are almost out of High School, and no play ground yet!

We need a trail now! No rails! It's too expensive and we'd never use it.

We could bike to Capitola, Santa Cruz & Seascape! How truly Awesome it would be!

Please, bring us a trail now, while I still bike. Not years from now, when I'm in a wheel chair.

Best regards,
Andrea Miller
402 Seacliff Drive

From: Denise C Russo [<mailto:denirus@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 12:19 PM
To: Info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train To Christmas Town Contract Extension

Dear SCCRTC,

It was with concern and sadness that I read about the plans to extend the contract for Train to Christmas Town. The loss of the opportunity to convert our current rail to a trail that would serve the people of our county all year long is tragic in this age of obesity and environmental pollution. The SCCRTC has an opportunity to address both of these issues head on with a project that would allow a walking and biking trail from Watsonville to Wilder. I am detailing my concerns below.

1. Obesity. As I am sure you are aware, the nation and our community has an ongoing problem with obesity. More than 1/3 of adults in our nation obese and the estimated medical cost associated with this disease at \$147 billion+, communities need to take a more proactive approach towards prevention and reduction which includes physical activity. In our county, 37.9% of our children are overweight or obese. (1) Childhood overweight and obesity contribute to the development of Type 2 diabetes in children (once an adult disease) and set these children up for a lifetime of weight issues that lead to heart disease, certain forms of cancer, diabetes, sleep apnea, gallbladder disease and more (2). I can cite many statistics regarding physical activity, weight, health, etc if that is necessary and will do so upon request.

2. Environment. "Transportation is the largest single source of pollution in the United States." (3) In our county, there are few opportunities for alternative transportation. In an area with a temperate climate, many days of sunshine, and a community with an interest in health, using a bike should be a viable option. However, I can tell you as a person who has ridden a bike in Santa Cruz County, this is not often a safe alternative. I live in Aptos and bike on rides without bike lanes and with narrow lanes for just cars. I could ride my bike to my job at Cabrillo College, where I am a nutrition professor, but the routes available are not safe as I'd either have to travel under the trestle near the village (narrow and dangerous) or up Spreckles from the flats (also narrow and dangerous). Taking the trestle would be the best option, except there is no trail provided and one must cross over grates (dangerous on thin tires) at a high level with nothing protecting you from a fatal fall except two thin wires. (Have you ever walked or biked over here? I suggest that you do so. It is downright scary!!!) I also work at Seascape Sports Club as a fitness director and to bike there, I must travel down Sumner, where part of that road is quite narrow and curvy. In fact, I sent all three of my kids to Rio Del Mar school. Never were they able to ride their bikes to school because of the lack of bike lane and sidewalk on this very road. And, when they want to walk from our house to the movie theater, I keep my fingers crossed that they aren't hit by a car on Spreckles or that they make it over the high-risen trestle without a fall that would be fatal, or I drive them the short few miles in my car, contributing to pollution and denying the opportunity to use their body for transportation. A rail trail will allow my kids to ride or bike to school and will allow me to commute by bike to either of my jobs, and will also give us foot or bike access to one of our local grocery stores and entertainment venues. And, I am just one person so imagine the larger effect for the entire community.

The SCCRTC is in the unique position of providing the entire county with a trail that would encourage people to get out of cars or to get onto their feet or bikes. Although there are other benefits to the trail beyond those listed here, I believe that you and our local government have an obligation to protect the health and environment of our community. Santa Cruz County already has a holiday train ride available to them. What Santa Cruz County does NOT have is a public access trail from Watsonville to Wilder that benefits the greater community (and also could be appealing to our tourism economy, just as the bike/pedestrian trail is in Monterey). I encourage you to reconsider your plans to extend a contract that serves few people for a very short period of time each year with a similar service already in existence and, instead, think of what best meets the needs of our entire community, serving people from all parts of the county, in a way that protects our environment and our health.

Sincerely,
Denise Calafato Russo, MS RD CGEI
Cabrillo College, Professor of Nutrition
Seascape Sports Club, Group Exercise Director

1. http://www.publichealthadvocacy.org/research/overweightdocs2012/Overweight_Santa%20Cruz%20County%20fact%20sheet.pdf

2. <http://stanfordhospital.org/clinicsmedServices/COE/surgicalServices/generalSurgery/bariatricsurgery/obesity/effects.html>

3. http://www.ucsus.org/clean_vehicles/why-clean-cars/air-pollution-and-health/cars-trucks-air-pollution.html

From: Elrond Lawrence [<mailto:elrondlawrence@att.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 12:42 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Please support Train to Christmas Town

Hello,

I'm writing as a citizen of Monterey County to request that you please support extending the license of Iowa Pacific's "Train to Christmas Town." We've traveled north to ride and photograph the train, and I've seen the large numbers of happy families who have enjoyed this magical experience of riding the rails. We have several friends in the Salinas/Monterey area who would love to see a dinner train come to pass during the spring/summer months. We enjoy plenty of walking trails in our own county; this is a highly unique attraction that preserves the railroad history of the Central Coast. Our teenage daughter worked for the Train to Christmas Town in 2012, and she will never forget the marvelous experience.

Please support Iowa Pacific and we'll be happy to come up and spend tourist dollars in Santa Cruz County.

Thanks for considering,

Elrond Lawrence
Oak Hills, CA (near Prunedale)

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel Gomez [<mailto:d.j.gomez@comcast.net>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 5:54 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train to Christmas town

I have been a long time Aptos Resident and have spoken with many families and friends in the County regarding the train to Christmas Town. I have yet to hear anyone that is in support of it, including myself. We have a great opportunity to make a trail that will benefit our entire community and encourage a healthy lifestyle for all residents. No one wants, needs or desires the train. Please do not vote for approval, only to delay the inevitable, the train won't last. Thanks

Dan Gomez

From: Debbie Friedman [<mailto:deborafriedman@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 9:23 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Fwd: No to contract extension for train

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Debbie Friedman" <deborafriedman@gmail.com>
Date: May 31, 2014 9:18 PM
Subject: No to contract extension for train
To: <info@sccrtc.org>
Cc:

Common sense must dictate your no vote for a "Train to Christmas Town". Millions of dollars spent to support an out of state company for a five week service that competes against an existing, much loved Roaring Camp train, is short sighted. It also prevents County access to the trail for many years to come when your commission should be focused on opening the trail as soon as possible.

Lastly....we are not a "CHRISTMAS TOWN". To be frank, that is a marketing ploy for communities looking for ways to draw tourists that might otherwise not visit their area.

Santa Cruz County is one of the most amazing places in California and beyond. To reduce it to a holiday train, especially when we have one, is insulting.

Vote no. Open the trail immediately for residents and tourists alike, and work on long term rail obligations in a sensible and more methodical manner. You do not need to rush forward with a silly holiday train that reduces our access to the trail for years to come.

Respectfully,
Debbie Friedman

From: Jennifer Balboni [<mailto:jenniferbalboni@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Christmas Town contract extension

Board Members:

I understand this train operates about 5 weeks during the year and pays no rent to RTC. I also understand that it costs about \$120M more to build bike/pedestrian trail **with the railroad** tracks rather than taking the tracks out. I am in favor of alternative transport and in fully funding the bike/hike trail. I am working all day this Thursday or I would attend your meeting so please vote no to contract extension. I think this is in our best interest in Santa Cruz county.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Balboni
Aptos, CA 95003

-----Original Message-----

From: James Danaher [<mailto:danaher@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 7:26 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Christmas Train

Dear RTC---

I'm all in support of the Christmas train. The event will help more people realize we have rails in Santa Cruz, and realize that the rails can be fun and functional.

Thank you,
Jim Danaher

From: Lauren Smith [<mailto:leprice.dvm@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 8:58 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train to Christmas town

Please do not extend the contract for the train to Christmas town because our community needs a path! Bikes and pedestrians need a safe trail to travel by instead!

Lauren Smith, DVM
Veterinarian in Santa Cruz

-----Original Message-----

From: robert pizante [<mailto:rpizante@moreds.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:41 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: bike trail

What a WONDERFUL idea a bike trail from Manresa to Wilder... !

Count me as a long time resident (since 1978) as well as a tax payer (2 homes in Rio Del Mar) who is a VERY strong supporter of this idea !

Robert Pizante
322 Townsend Dr. Aptos, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Kate Alm [<mailto:almusic@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:57 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Christmas Train

To whom it may concern:

I am a Davenport resident, mother and teacher, and I fully support the 'Train to Christmastown" that has run from Santa Cruz towards Davenport in recent years. Please continue to support it, and please note my support at the upcoming meeting of the SCCRTC.

Thank you,
Kate Alm
70 Davenport Avenue
Davenport, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter and Donna Thomas [<mailto:peteranddonna@cruzio.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 9:58 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: YES to train to Christmastown!

I really want to ride this train. I have been waiting til my grandkids were old enough to go and this is the year!

I live in Live Oak and I fully support having the rail line be a functioning line. If this train is a help to achieve that end, I FULLY SUPPORT HAVING THE TRAIN!

Yes, it IS in my backyard and I love it!

Donna Thomas
260 15th Ave,
Santa Cruz, CA

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacquelyn Griffith [<mailto:jkgriffith@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 10:53 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Train to Christmastown

I live approximately 2 miles from the train tracks on the Westside of Santa Cruz at 239 Calvin Place. The train whistle clear up here was deafening and very disturbing again and again and again inside my home with double-pane windows and doors and worst when I opened just a skylight for a little fresh air. I see no reason why the Christmas train needs long, loud blasts.

I want to support the Rail Trail and the Christmas train, but I can only do so if the train blasts can be substantially reduced in duration and loudness. I believe the train company is trying to advertise with those blasts and I strongly object to that.

If the train whistle/blasts can be substantially reduced in duration and decibels, then I support the Christmas train.

Jacquelyn Griffith
239 Calvin Place
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

From: Linda Rosewood [<mailto:lindarosewood@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:05 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Support for the Train to Christmas Town

Hello Commissioners,

I've never rode the Train to Christmas Town, and frankly it seemed cheesy. But my friends with kids loved it. It is the kind of tourist adventure that brings people from out of town to SC at a time when they wouldn't otherwise do so. This sort of off season tourist attraction is exactly what we need more of.

When I heard that people were mounting opposition to it, I knew I needed to write. I live in the Lower Ocean area, and our neighborhood bears more than its share of tourist impact. People who don't have to live with inconvenience caused by tourists and traffic are the first to oppose solutions to it. Passenger rail and the trail need to be our future.

Please listen to points of view which balance the entire community's needs, not a privileged minority.

Linda Rosewood

-----Original Message-----

From: lbeyea@cruzio.com [<mailto:lbeyea@cruzio.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 11:57 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: train to Christmas town and other passenger rail service

I am writing to express my support for continued and growing passenger rail service on the rail line that now belongs to the County.

The train to Christmas town was a great attraction for area families and tourists, and should be continued. Future transit use of the tracks should be developed as quickly as feasible. While electric locomotion would be preferable to conventional diesel engines to cut down on noise (and perhaps also weight), all practical means should be evaluated, including SCMTD buses converted to operate on rails.

There are single-car systems running on tracks in France, Japan and elsewhere that are relatively quiet and efficient - these would be ideal for the rail line in Santa Cruz County.

I've attached an image of two French TER cars linked together - yes they are electric but it gives an idea of a scale appropriate to Santa Cruz County.

Len Beyea

516 Soquel Av. #4

Santa Cruz 95062



From: Elizabeth Ruggles [<mailto:elizabethruggles@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 1:37 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org; Zach.Friend@santacruzcounty.us

Subject: NO Vote on the extension of the Train to Christmas town contract

Dear SCCRTC,

I am requesting a NO vote regarding the extension of the contract for the Train to Christmas Town.

Instead, my family and I are in favor of a Rail-Trail from Watsonville to Wilder. I believe that a Rail Trail

would be a much better use of funds for alternative travel options and tourism dollars for year round benefit in Santa Cruz County.

The SCCRTC is in the unique position of providing the entire county with a trail that would encourage people to get out of cars or to get onto their feet or bikes. I believe that you and our local government have an obligation to protect the health and environment of our community. Santa Cruz County already has a holiday train ride available to them. What Santa Cruz County does NOT have is a public access trail from Watsonville to Wilder that benefits the greater community (and also could be appealing to our tourism economy, just as the bike/pedestrian trail is in Monterey). I encourage you to reconsider your plans to extend a contract that serves few people for a very short period of time each year with a similar service already in existence and, instead, think of what best meets the needs of our entire community, serving people from all parts of the county, in a way that protects our environment and our health.

Best,

Elizabeth Ruggles, RN

From: Sam Griffith [<mailto:samiamwoman@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 2:07 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: No extended Contract for Christmas Train!

Please do not extend the contract for the Christmas Train. Our community would be much better served with a walking/biking trail! I'm a runner, my husband is a runner and we have two children who love to bike and walk as a family. We live in one of the most amazing places on this earth and what better way to enjoy it than with a path that would encourage more people to get outside and exercise!

Sandra Griffith

From: peter wampler [<mailto:naryaklinker@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 3:12 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: ChristmasTown Train

Hi would just like to write in my support for the Christmas train and all other passenger services on the rail line. I think it is great to have these in use and running for members of our community to enjoy. Please continue to support this yearly event. Support for more rail activity would also be appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Peter Wampler

From: nancy connelly [<mailto:justoliveoyl@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 3:14 PM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: no rail on the trail!

Hello Zach and all others concerned,

I vehemently oppose any train service on the rail trail line. I believe the rail should be for pedestrians and cyclists only.

I voice my very strong opposition to the extension of the license for the use of the rail line for the Train to Christmas enterprise. I believe that the rail corridor is an extremely valuable, perhaps the most valuable, piece of property in this county. It has the potential make a huge impact on the eco-tourist experience, reduce traffic congestion, increase property values, get more of our kids outdoors and, most importantly, unify our county in ways that would be unique and powerful - something that I feel Santa Cruz County fails to capitalize on.

All this could happen if the rail element is eliminated and the property becomes a walking, jogging and biking venue. It mainly would serve to make the far more valuable use of the spectacular property as a pedestrian and bicycle venue expensive, much less appealing and useful and somewhat unlikely ever to come to fruition.

I feel it is unfortunate that state funds are tied to a rail service, not only expensive but will serve tourists over locals - and may in fact fail to serve tourists.

This could be one of the most successful and beautiful rail to trail (not rail and trail as it is too narrow, too many crossings, too expensive) sites in this country.

thank you,
nancy connelly

From: Sylvia Patience [<mailto:sylvibo@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:57 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: to John Leopold re: rail line

Dear John,

I support the continued development of rail service in Santa Cruz County and the Train to Christmas Town. I understand there is room for the pedestrian and bike trail as well as the train, which could ultimately provide alternative transportation in the county.

Sylvia Patience

From: David Wright [<mailto:david@davidwright.net>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 6:06 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: letter in support of the Train to Christmas Town

Hello SCCRTC,

Attached please find a letter from SCC Friends of the Rail & Trail in support of a contract with Iowa Pacific and the Train to Christmas Town program.

Regards,

David Wright
SCC Friends of the Rail & Trail



May 30, 2014

John Leopold, Vice-Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Commissioner Leopold,

A future with passenger rail is appealing to many Santa Cruz County residents because it will help alleviate traffic congestion, provide public transit to locals and visitors, and help reduce carbon emissions. And, passenger rail will work well with a coastal rail trail, as shown in the SCCRTC Master Plan. That's why SCC Friends of the Rail & Trail (FORT) urges you to support The Train to Christmas Town as part of a larger plan that will help passenger rail succeed in our community.

Trains are public transportation and public transportation is something we need more of here in traffic-challenged Santa Cruz County. And, the Train to Christmas Town is healthy and fun for families with children. The Iowa Pacific plan makes sense on many levels.

As a community that has shown again and again that we strongly support passenger rail here in Santa Cruz County, we realize that our collective success is closely tied to the success of Iowa Pacific; let's continue to work with Iowa Pacific and the Train to Christmas Town and take another step toward bringing passenger rail to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

David Wright
Chairperson
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail & Trail

c/o Ecology Action, 877 Cedar Street, Suite 240, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.santacruztrail.org

From: Kevin Bell [<mailto:baristabell@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 6:54 PM
To: [Info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)
Subject: ~TRAIN to Xmas! i say 'No' to CONTRACT EXTENTION

Hello RTC,
i say 'No' to the Train to Xmas Town CONTRACT EXTENTION !!

WHY:

It was with concern and sadness that I read about the plans to extend the contract for Train to Christmas Town. The loss of the opportunity to convert our current rail to a trail that would serve the people of our county all year long is tragic in this age of obesity and environmental pollution. The SCCRTC has an opportunity to address both of these issues head on with a project that would allow a walking and biking trail from Watsonville to Wilder.

The other thing I read, about the Train to Christmas town, is that the company didn't pay its bills. Why would they cement in a contract with a company that is not paying their bills?

Thank you for your Consideration

Kevin Bell

From: Ray Burks [<mailto:ray.burks@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 7:33 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Christmas town train

Greetings

I would just like to add my voice to those saying do not renew the Christmas town train and convert the tracks to a bike/pedestrian path that serves the community year round. It would go a long way in helping relieve congestion on the streets and providing cyclists a safe alternative route.

Ray Burks
Mason Street, SC

From: Bill Smallman [<mailto:bill@billsmallman.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 9:06 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Contract with Train to Chirstmas Town

Dear Regional Transportation Commission,

I have become aware that a contract between you and the Iowa Pacific Company to run a Christmas Train event for several weeks each xmas season to the year 2021.

The future of the exact use of the railroad corridor is unknown, so it does not make any sense to engage into an extended contract at this time.

I have submitted repeatedly plans the use this corridor for utilities rather than a train. A cost benefit analysis for the train is being developed which, in my opinion, will not even come close to the benefits of the utility corridor. It is, to put it bluntly, complete nonsense to sign into a fixed contract with small meaningless event which should remain negotiable each year.

Sincerely,

Bill Smallman, P.E.

From: jeremy [<mailto:jcertl@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:06 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Westsiders against Train to Christmas Town

Dear SCCRTC,

I am totally opposed to the Train to Christmas Town. We have lived on the Westside for twenty years and we have never been violated like we were two years ago when the train started going through our community. The noise output of the train is deafening and causes us and our animals great distress. Most of my neighbors feel the same way.

How can you support this? Do you live here?

Jeremy Ertl

From: bkett@ix.netcom.com [<mailto:bkett@ix.netcom.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 11:33 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: rail trail and trains

Dear RTC board members,

I am a 4th generation Watsonville resident who is concerned about future generations ability to use our newly acquired rail corridor. I strongly urge you to allow trains on this corridor along with pedestrian and bicycle usage. Keep our options open for all types of transportation usage on our newly acquired railway corridor. This is important for future generations.

Thank you for listening, Brandon Kett
339 Cutter Lane, Watsonville Ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Dominique Hollister [<mailto:dominiquehollister@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:26 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SCCRTC vote on Train to Christmas Town Operating License

Dear Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission,

I am writing in regards to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) upcoming vote on the Train to Christmas Town's operating license through 2021. I urge you to vote against approval of the operational license and to instead pursue the conversion of the rail corridor into a pedestrian and bike path.

I believe the rail corridor will never be a viable transportation option due to the suburban spread of Santa Cruz County. There are few industries located within walking distances of the rail stops and no other rapid public transportation options (i.e. light rail, express lane busses) to take commuters to their place of work once they arrive at a particular rail station. The Train to Christmas Town is a novelty that has no growth opportunity beyond its current ridership levels. Similar to the Thomas the Tank Engine train and the Boardwalk Christmas Train, the Train to Christmas is enjoyed by those with young children. After one experience there is no need to ride again. Also demographic information shows births in Santa Cruz County are declining so the Train to Christmas ridership will likely decline from its current ridership level over the next few years.

A pedestrian and bike path is a community benefit. Unlike the rail corridor there is no user cost. A pedestrian and bike path promotes exercise and a healthy lifestyle and is actually a more feasible transportation option than a rail corridor. Those who choose to commute by bike can exit the path at whichever point is convenient rather than having to wait for a rail stop and do not have to time their commute around a rail schedule. The number of cyclist in the county is growing and many of our roads are not conducive to motor/cyclist shared ridership. Sumner Avenue in Aptos, between Rio Del Mar Boulevard and Clubhouse Drive, is a good example. The road is narrow and there is no bike path yet it is the only option for cyclist riding from one end of the county to the other.

I request the SCCRTC pursue terminating Iowa Pacific's lease on the rail corridor, work out a settlement with the state for the funds the county accepted for the rail corridor, and work towards converting the rail corridor to a pedestrian and bike path.

Sincerely,
Dominique Hollister
Aptos

-----Original Message-----

From: Frankie Brouwer [<mailto:frankie@ucsc.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 4:39 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train to Christmastown

I really appreciate the Train to Christmastown. Personally, I never took the trip (yet), but I love the fact that we at least have a passenger train for a small part of the year. I would like to see more. We need more choices for public transportation and save bicycle and walking routes. I am not sure what Brian Peoples has against trains. Maybe it is because he works for an aviation firm, and likes planes better.

Thanks for all the good work,

Frankie (avid bicyclist)
Froukje (Frankie) Brouwer
Senior User Analyst Cruzpay

-----Original Message-----

From: Dawni Pappas [<mailto:dawnipappas@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 6:09 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Save the Train to Christmas Town

Hello,

I want to support rail service and ensure that the Train to Christmas Town remains a Santa Cruz tradition.

I love the happiness and joy this attraction brings to our community.
I really like the way the railroad is supporting locals and local businesses.
They are providing a necessary new business to our county and sparking new interest in trains with a family friendly atmosphere.
I rode the train with my family and we loved it and look forward to doing it again this year.
Thank you!
Sincerely,
Dawni Pappas

From: Nicholas Laschkewitsch [<mailto:nicholas@laselva.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 6:37 PM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: I Support the Train to Christmas Town
Importance: High

Hi there,

I worked for the Train to Christmas Town last Christmas in Watsonville as a Videographer/Photographer and it was a joy to be a part of the team. I fully support the event and the manager, Iowa Pacific Holdings, as a whole.

I do not want to see the train go away!

Best wishes,
Nicholas Laschkewitsch

From: bethgiuffre@comcast.net [<mailto:bethgiuffre@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 5:41 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Bike/pedestrian Trail

Hello:

As a community member and mother of three sons, I wanted to write to show my support for a bike/pedestrian trail from Manresa to Wilder Ranch. It makes sense to have this type of transportation. We're tired of the traffic and having to drive everywhere around here. It's much nicer to take our bikes. It's better for the environment. It adds a sense of well-being to our county. Every friend and family member I know wants this. We have been on the Christmas train once, a long time ago. It was cute but overpriced. I'd rather go to a tree lighting with my kids. If the train continues along side a pedestrian/bike path, it seems to me it should be a passenger train. Every great city has a good train system, and even better cities have great bike paths.

All the best,

Beth Giuffre

-----Original Message-----

From: Randall Nacamuli [<mailto:nacamuli@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 6:51 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Xmas Town IP Lease

This is in regards to the IP lease and the Road to Christmas Town.

As a win-win solution, we are suggesting to RTC that in the lease agreement, IP relinquish any rights to the tracks north of Manresa.

This will allow RTC to move forward with the construction of a trail from Manresa to Wilder Ranch.

- Randall Nacamuli

From: Sandy Skezas [<mailto:yinyang@cruzio.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:49 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: xmas train

Please do not extend that awful holiday train. 2 years was more than enough. Its (way too) loud and offensive and competes with local holiday train. Thank you for listening.
Sandy

From: Michael Hollister [<mailto:Michael.Hollister@driscolls.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:58 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: SCCRTC

Dear Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Members,

I am writing in regards to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (SCCRTC) upcoming vote on the Train to Christmas Town's operating license through 2021. I urge you to vote against approval of the operational license and to instead pursue the conversion of the rail corridor into a pedestrian and bike path.

I believe the rail corridor will never be a viable transportation option due to the suburban spread of Santa Cruz County. There are few industries located within walking distances of the rail stops and no other rapid public transportation options (i.e. light rail, express lane busses) to take commuters to their place of work once they arrive at a particular rail station. The Train to Christmas Town is a novelty that has no growth opportunity beyond its current ridership levels. Similar to the Thomas the Tank Engine train and the Boardwalk Christmas Train, the Train to Christmas is enjoyed by those with young children. After one experience there is no need to ride again. Also demographic information shows births in Santa Cruz County are declining so the Train to Christmas ridership will likely decline from its current ridership level over the next few years.

A pedestrian and bike path is a community benefit. Unlike the rail corridor there is no user cost. A pedestrian and bike path promotes exercise and a healthy lifestyle and is actually a more feasible transportation option than a rail corridor. Those who choose to commute by bike can exit the path at whichever point is convenient rather than having to wait for a rail stop and do not have to time their commute around a rail schedule. The number of cyclist in the county is growing and many of our roads are not conducive to motor/cyclist shared ridership. Sumner Avenue in Aptos, between Rio Del Mar Boulevard and Clubhouse Drive, is a good example. The road is narrow and there is no bike path yet it is the only option for cyclist riding from one end of the county to the other.

I request the SCCRTC pursue terminating Iowa Pacific's lease on the rail corridor, work out a settlement with the state for the funds the county accepted for the rail corridor, and work towards converting the rail corridor to a pedestrian and bike path.

Michael & Dominique Hollister

Seascape – Aptos Home Owners & Residence

Thanks,
Michael

From: David Giannini [[mailto: davidgiannini@yahoo.com](mailto:davidgiannini@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:05 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: Item #21 Train to Christmas Town lease.

I am writing to you today to express my disapproval of the renewal of the Train to Christmas Town Lease. Please consider the removal of the tracks north of Manresa. It would be great if there were no tracks at all and the trail was wide and clear the whole way.

Sincerely,

David Giannini

From: Calcagno Mail [[mailto: calcagno@calcagno-mail.net](mailto:calcagno@calcagno-mail.net)] **On Behalf Of** seaire@drcalcagno.com

Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:07 AM

To: info@sccrtc.org

Subject: construction of a trail from Manresa to Wilder Ranch.....

Hello,

We are looking forward to continuing to move towards getting the bike/pedestrian trail from Manresa to Wilder Ranch by 2016. We are local business owners here in the community and have been established since 1987. We are raising our children here and believe in this project for the enhancement of the health and safety of the future generations.

We support this wholeheartedly and expect that many others do also.

Santa Cruz is a unique place that is getting better all of the time.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sue Ellen and James Calcagno

James C. Calcagno, DDS
4100 Portola Drive
Suite #2
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

-----Original Message-----

From: Luli [<mailto:lulicaba@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:25 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Manresa Trail

I vote to get started with the walk/pedestrian trail. We need this kind of trails to exercise safely and future generations will get benefit of it.
The Christmas train is just for few months in December and the trail will be forever to enjoy.
Ana Lopez

From: Keith Venes [<mailto:keithvenes@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 8:28 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: no train to Christmas Town

Hello -

I would much prefer a year-round bike/pedestrian trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz than a very seldom used tourist train.

Please do not extend the lease for the train so that we can have a safe, alternative bike route between the north and south parts of the county.

Thank you,

Keith Venes
(Corralitos)

From: Jessica Evans [<mailto:jesseevansfiddler@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:17 AM
To: info@sccrtc.org
Subject: Train Support

Hi, I live in Santa Cruz with my family. I want to write to express support for rail service, including the Train to Christmas Town. In the big picture, I believe that passenger rail service from Santa Cruz to Gilroy, with stops in between, has the potential to reduce traffic pressure on Highway 1 and to connect with high-speed rail in Gilroy. Both of these would benefit our quality of life here in Santa Cruz,

Sincerely, Jessica Evans
921 Seaside St.
Santa Cruz, CA

From: Paul Braga [<mailto:paulb25@sbcglobal.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 9:56 AM

To: info@scrtc.org

Subject: Bike Path Support

Dear Regional Transportation Commission Staff:

I am writing in regard to the lease agreement with Iowa Pacific as it pertains to utilization of the tracks in Santa Cruz County. As a 3rd generation Santa Cruz County resident, I am completely opposed to any use of the tracks for future train service. The idea of a Christmas Train is laughable and financially irresponsible. I do not know a single person in this town who is interested in riding on the Christmas Train with their family.

I would also like to address the idea of a commuter train operating in Santa Cruz. I do not agree with the notion of a commuter train to solve our transportation challenges. This project is a boondoggle.

I am in support of removing the tracks throughout Santa Cruz County and replacing the corridor with a bike path. A safe bike path is overwhelmingly needed in Santa Cruz. We are a town of cycling enthusiasts and families who want to ride bikes to various destinations throughout town. A bike path (in place of railroad tracks) is a clear answer to our community's strong demand.

Paul Braga

Aptos

S:\RTC\TC2014\TC0614\2014-06-05-Item21-Consolidated-Comments.docx