



May 5, 2026

TO: Santa Cruz County Coastal Rail Board

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5. Administration Coordination and License (ACL) Agreement with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission; and Authorize Filings with Surface Transportation Board (STB) for Santa Cruz Coastal Rail to serve as Common Carrier

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT), founded in 2002, has advocated for over 20 years for transforming the 32-mile Coastal Rail Corridor into a both trail and a rail transit system that increases choice, reduces environmental impact, and supports a vital economy.

We support both building the Coastal Rail Trail, and at the same time, preserving the existing rails for future freight and passenger rail service. We support the continued use of the corridor on the existing section between Watsonville and the Harkins Slough Bridge. We also support a trail; and restoration and maintenance of the corridor between Harkins Slough and Santa Cruz for both future freight and for future passenger rail. We do not support removing the tracks in any portion of the corridor to accommodate a trail-only facility.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this item; and look forward to continued progress on moving rail transit forward.

Matt Farrell  
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail

