
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

JOHN A. FANTHAM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



AGENDA : JUNE 9. 1998

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ ¹⁵³

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May 28, 1998

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

70 1 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE WILDER RANCH BIKE PATH PROJECT

Members of the Board:

This letter is in response to your Board's request on April 28, 1998, for an update on the Wilder Ranch Bike Path Project. The Department of Public Works has completed 90 percent of the plans and specifications for the project, which has allowed us to initiate environmental review with the County Planning Department and to begin the National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) environmental assessment process. In addition, we have been in correspondence with the City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department and the City Water Department, the State Parks Department, and the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) to discuss numerous design issues and potential revisions on the plans.

To date, the Public Works Department has completed several studies on the project including a reconnaissance level archaeological review, an initial site assessment for hazardous waste and a geotechnical investigation. We are now in the process of retaining a consultant to complete a natural environment study and biological assessment. The assessment is a lengthy process taking upwards of six to eight months for the entire review which includes the preparation of a comprehensive report and review by CALTRANS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services. After this review process is completed, the County expects to receive a Section 7 Permit and NEPA environmental assessment approval. The environmental review process by the County Planning Department will follow the Section 7 Permit and NEPA processes.

Funding for the Wilder Ranch Bike Path Project includes \$354,000 from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program and a proposed \$300,000 State Minor A Grant that is expected to be approved in early June 1998 by the California Transportation Commission. An additional \$30,000 is being proposed in the 1998/99 Capital Improvement

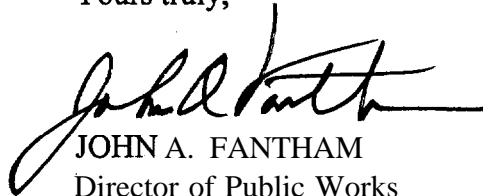
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Program through the Transportation Development Act Program. It is not anticipated that any additional funding will be necessary unless the environmental process is extended or significant design changes are required. Construction of the path project is tentatively scheduled for late summer 1999.

It is therefore recommended that your Board accept this update for the Wilder Ranch Bike Path Project.

Yours truly,

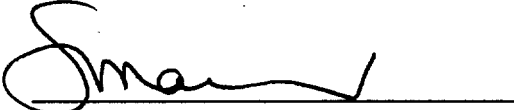


JOHN A. FANTHAM
Director of Public Works

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Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:



County Administrative Officer

copy to: Public Works