

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [Matthew Sundt](#); pearlman.barry@gmail.com
Cc: aptoshistory@yahoo.com; [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: Concerns re: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Determinations of Segment 12 Project Ineligible Historic Resources
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:47:23 PM

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Dear Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission,
I am writing to express my thanks to your Commission for submitting comment regarding cultural and historic resources known to be located within the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Segment 12 project area for the Final EIR. I am concerned that the RTC is seemingly unconvinced of the significance of the Arano House and Rice House, and determinations therein confirm they are ineligible for special protection as cultural and historic resources.

https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/auxlanes-feir-ea-feb-2024-main-doc-a11y_signed.pdf#page=21

I am worried that the RTC has disregarded your Commission's recommendations for including the Arano House and Rice House as eligible historic resources to protect in the course of Project construction. Of further concern is the fact that the RTC recently purchased the land on which those structures are located, and are in the process now of vacating their inhabitants.

Page 171 of the Final EIR acknowledges three eligible properties:
The records search identified three historic properties or previously recorded historical resources within the Area of Potential Effects or the 0.25-mile radius around the Area of Potential Effects:

- Bay View Hotel, 8041 Soquel Drive (Map Reference #10)
- Aptos Village Historic District (multiple addresses)
- Aptos Creek Trestle Footings

Pages 458-459 state confirmation that neither the Arano House nor the Rice House are eligible for special preservation considerations during construction impacts:

The following interested parties were contacted on August 29, 2023:

- Aptos History Museum
- Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission

To date, two responses were received. The first, from the Aptos History Museum, was regarding two archaeological sites (CA-SCR-2/H and CA-SCR-222) and two historic-era properties - Arano House (7996 Soquel Drive) and the Judge Rice House (7992 Soquel Drive). Caltrans responded to the Aptos History Museum on May 15, 2023.

The Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission provided comments on the environmental document, including some comments regarding the Judge Rice House, Jose Arano House, and the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge (36-0011).

*ICF sent letters August 29, 2023 to the Aptos History Museum and the Santa Cruz County Historic Resources Commission describing the results of additional investigations conducted for the Jose Arano House (7996 Soquel Drive) and the Judge Rice House (7992 Soquel Drive). **These results confirmed that the previous evaluations for these properties were correct that neither the Rice House nor the Arano House are eligible for listing on the NRHP or the CRHR.** The letter also noted that the Aptos Creek Bridge is a*

vehicle-bearing concrete bridge that is outside the project APE and therefore will not be affected by the project. No other responses have been received

Furthermore, I continue to be troubled by the RTC's legal action to take more than 50% of the parking area in front of the Bayview Hotel and Trout Gulch Crossing businesses for a pedestrian and bike path, significantly altering the historic context of the Hotel, especially.

I am hopeful that there will indeed be Native American observers present during all earth disturbance within 400' of Archaeological Resources CA-SCR-2/H and CA-SCR-222/H.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner