



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Board of Supervisors
Department No.: 011
Agenda Date: November 4, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann
Contact: Gina Fischer 805-568-2192
SUBJECT: Santa Ynez Regional Trail Connector Study Memorandum of Understanding; Third Supervisorial District

JH on behalf of JH 10/23

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to perform studies of the Santa Ynez Regional Trail Connector (SYRTC); and
- b) Approve Budget Revision No. 0010811 that establishes appropriations of \$381,000 in the General County Programs General Fund for Services and Supplies for an MOU with the Santa Barbara County Association of Government to complete the studies and administer contracts; and
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the scope of work to be performed by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) in exchange for County funding. SBCAG will lead studies for a proposed Santa Ynez River Connector Trail (Figure 1), extending from Buellton

eastward to State Route 154. The work includes collaboration with public agencies, stakeholders, and community members to identify preferred trail alignments, complete 30% design drawings, and prepare materials to support future funding applications. The MOU also includes provisions for optional environmental analysis and advanced design work specific to the Buellton-area segment.

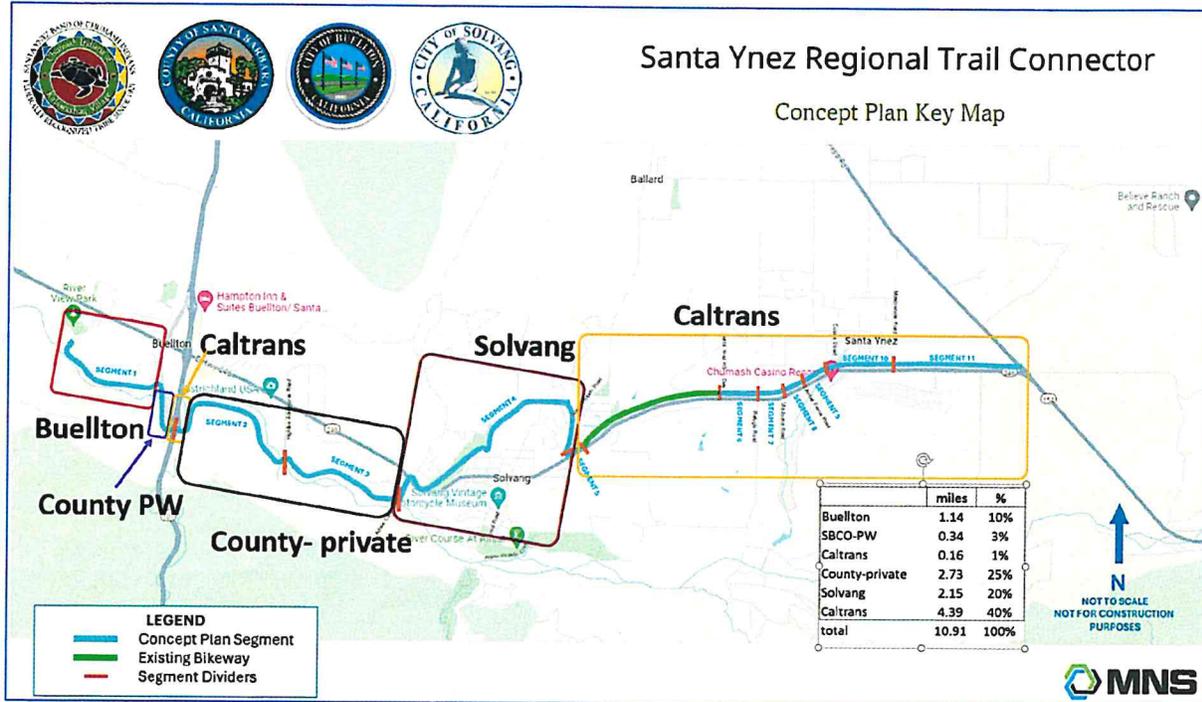


Figure 1: Santa Ynez River Connector Trail

Discussion:

The Santa Ynez Valley Connector Trail study represents a regional, multi-agency collaboration. The proposed trail builds upon existing infrastructure and aligns with several adopted and pending planning efforts, including:

- Buellton General Plan (2005)
- County Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan (2009)
- Regional Active Transportation Plan (2015)
- Santa Ynez Valley Bicycle Master Plan (2019)
- Santa Ynez River Trail Alignment Study (2020)
- County Active Transportation Plan (2023)
- Solvang Active Transportation Plan (2024)
- County Recreation Master Plan (pending)

The overarching goal is to establish a connected, multiuse transportation network that serves all users by linking various trail segments currently under consideration or development.

The City of Buellton has secured funding to design and construct its segment of the trail. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has obtained \$383,016 to support preliminary studies and is actively pursuing an additional \$1.4 million in design funding.

In 2021, the County Board of Supervisors allocated \$2 million for trail development. During the 2024 budget process, \$800,000 of that amount was specifically earmarked for the Santa Ynez River Trail Connector (SYRTC) to support project development and construction. With this action, \$381,000 of the earmarked funds will be committed to completing 30% design plans and conducting environmental studies for the corridor.

Approval of the MOU and associated budget revision will enable SBCAG to proceed with the defined scope of work and advance the regional trail planning effort.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No; recommend approval of Budget Revision Request No. 0010811

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	Total
General Fund	\$381,000	\$381,000
Total		\$381,000

In the FY 2020-21 adopted budget the Board approved a \$2 million set aside for recreational purposes and sustainability initiatives for North County Parks, Trail and Open Space. In the FY 2024-25 adopted budget the Board approved \$800,000 of this set aside to be allocated to the Santa Ynez Valley Regional Connector project. Through discussions with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been reached whereby SBCAG will manage this project as it involves multi-jurisdiction coordination and funding from the City of Buellton, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, the City of Solvang, and the County. This budget revision is necessary as it will appropriate \$381,000 of the \$800,000 set aside to complete 30% of the project design plans and conduct associated environmental studies. The remaining balance of \$419,000 from the approved \$800,000 project allocation will remain as an earmark in the General County Programs General Fund and will be used for future phases of the project.

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute to Brittany Odermann, CEO office:

1. A certified, stamped Minute Order approving these Board Actions
2. Two partially executed duplicate original MOU

One fully executed MOU will be returned upon execution from SBCAG and one fully executed MOU will be returned to remain on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Budget Revision Request No. 0010811

Attachment B – Santa Ynez Regional Trail Connector Study Memorandum of Understanding; Third Supervisorial District

Contact Information:

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