

**Brianda Negrete**

General Public Comment

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**From:** alex@pujo.net  
**Sent:** Monday, September 19, 2022 9:37 AM  
**To:** 'Meredith Hendricks'; 'Alison Petro'; malvarado@lacumbrewater.com;  
office@lacumbrewater.com  
**Cc:** sbcob  
**Subject:** MUP preferred alignment  
**Attachments:** MUP Preferred Alignment.docx



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Please see attached letter regarding the Modoc Multi-Use Path.

Thank you.

Alex Pujo  
2425 Chapala Street  
Santa Barbara  
(805) 637-7384

Date: September 18, 2022

To: Meredith Hendricks, [mhendricks@sblandtrust.org](mailto:mhendricks@sblandtrust.org)  
Alison Petro, [apetro@sblandtrust.org](mailto:apetro@sblandtrust.org)  
Mike Alvarado, [malvarado@lacumbrewater.com](mailto:malvarado@lacumbrewater.com),  
[office@lacumbrewater.com](mailto:office@lacumbrewater.com)

Cc: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org)

Re: Modoc Multi-Use Path – Preferred Alignment

From: Alex Pujo, AIA. [alex@pujo.net](mailto:alex@pujo.net)

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2022 SEP 19 P 3:41

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I encourage you to support 'Alignment B' for the proposed Modoc Multi-Use Path (MUP), the preferred alternative outlined in the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared by the County. Support by the Land Trust and La Cumbre Water will facilitate construction of this very important bicycle and pedestrian connection while protecting the long row of majestic Canary Island Date Palms adjacent to the Modoc Preserve.

The Modoc MUP will connect two existing multi-use paths and become part of an expanding network of safe, off-the-road facilities spanning from UCSB to Carpinteria, and beyond. This vision is part of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) Regional Plan and is listed in the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan. More importantly, the goal of a safe, integrated system of bicycle and pedestrian paths protected from traffic is broadly shared by an overwhelming majority of Santa Barbara County residents regardless of age, ethnicity, wealth, background or party affiliation.

Currently, Modoc Road has discontinuous sidewalks and unprotected bike lanes on a roadway with speeds of 35 to 45 mph, raising serious concerns for children, the elderly, those who cannot drive and other vulnerable users. Considering that most vehicles go 5 to 10 miles over posted limits... would you let your children ride their bicycles on Modoc?

The MND analyzed two feasible alignments for this multi-use path. Alignment A is completely within the right-of-way with the path adjacent to the existing roadway. Although numerous eucalyptus trees south of Alignment A would remain and "provide a park-like visual setting", this layout would result in the removal of 29 of the 47 Canary Island palms that constitute the salient visual element of the Modoc Road corridor.

As stewards of the Modoc Preserve, I ask you to consider the visual impact that vegetation removal on adjacent land will have on the Preserve itself. The loss of the Canary Island palms will impact not only users of the roadway and MUP but visitors of

the Preserve as well. On the other hand, Alignment B would require the removal of some trees, mostly Eucalyptus, but none of the Canary Island palms.

The MND outlines extensive restoration and mitigation plans for both alignments to the point that "impacts to the visual character of Modoc Road would be minor and considered less than significant". However, Alignment B will provide a much stronger visual and physical separation between the MUP and the roadway, thus enhancing the quality of the path's experience.

I offer these comments as a private citizen and not as a current member of the South County Board of Architectural Review (SBAR). In my professional career I have served on multiple bodies and ad hoc committees that evaluate the aesthetics of highway projects and right-of-way improvements, including Santa Barbara's Architectural Board of Review (ABR) and Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC), and the County's Highway 101 Design Review Team (DRT). Thank you for your consideration.