



Brianda Negrete

Public Comment - Community Services

From: Mark Wilkinson <mwilkinson@sbtrails.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 4:47 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop | Community Services | April 18, 2023
Attachments: Board-of-Supervisors-Budget-Workshop-04-18-2023.pdf

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To: Clerk of the Board,

I am attaching the Trails Council's letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the April 18th Budget Workshop, specifically the Community Services Department, Parks Division budget.

Regards,



Mark Wilkinson
Executive Director

Santa Barbara County Trails Council
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Trails Council

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April 17, 2023

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Board of Supervisors Budget Workshop | Community Services | April 18, 2023

Honorable Members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Trails Council) is a broad-based trails advocacy group consisting of hikers, runners, equestrians, cyclists, and other trail users. The Trails Council was formed in 1967 to advocate for the planning and construction of new trails and to help organize work parties to maintain existing trails. Over the last 55 years, the Trails Council has worked cooperatively with government agencies on planning, permitting, funding, building, and maintaining trails across Santa Barbara County. We recently partnered with Community Services Department, Parks Division, to complete three major new trails; the Baron Ranch Trail on the Gaviota Coast, the Franklin Trail in Carpinteria, and the Orcutt Hills Trails.

We have worked closely with the leadership and staff in the Community Services Department, Parks Division, for over a decade to make our county a better place to enjoy outdoor recreation. We have seen firsthand the great job they do when taking on new and challenging projects with limited resources. We are continually impressed with their resourcefulness. They're always finding creative ways to keep our parks, trails, and open spaces clean and well-maintained. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work.

We are concerned that

- The Parks Division needs additional recreational planning staff to help with the ongoing Countywide Recreation Master Plan and, more importantly, to implement the Recreation Master Plan recommendations—if not this year, then next year's budget.
- When adopted, there will be a dramatic increase in *Recreational Benefits Projects*, and the Parks Division will need to increase its staff to ensure the success of each project.

We appreciate your consideration for the adverse impact on public health, welfare, and recreation resulting from an underfunded Parks Division.

Sincerely,

Mark Wilkinson
Executive Director
mwilkinson@sbtrails.org