

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#?

**From:** Rebeca Garcia <rebeca@causenow.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2022 2:46 PM  
**To:** Hartmann, Joan; sbcob  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of SM Levee Trail Expansion  
**Attachments:** 2022 CAUSE Letterhead.pdf



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Hello Supervisor Hartman,

Attached below is a letter in support of SM River Levee Trail Expansion signed by 15 organizations in anticipation of the upcoming vote to approve the Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study.

Thank you,  
Rebeca

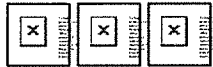


Rebeca Garcia (she/her/ella)  
*Policy Advocate*

(805) 825-6975

120 E. Jones St. Santa Maria, CA 93454

w: [www.causenow.org](http://www.causenow.org) e: [rebeca@causenow.org](mailto:rebeca@causenow.org)





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May 13, 2022

The Honorable Chair Hartmann

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, California

Re: Santa Maria River Levee Trail Study

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the steps the county has taken towards researching the feasibility of expanding the Santa Maria River Levee trail to the City of Guadalupe. As described in this [study](#), the proposed Santa Maria River Levee Trail is a “6.7-mile segment of trail between the City of Guadalupe and the City of Santa Maria. This proposed trail would extend the existing Class I trail along the Santa Maria Levee, which terminates at N. Blosser Road, west towards the City of Guadalupe.”

Our organizations are writing this letter to urge you to vote to approve the expansion. By expanding the river trail the county would provide several benefits to North County including: increasing access to nature in particular to the coast, providing more safe opportunities for recreation to community members, and stimulating the economies of both cities.

Santa Maria and Guadalupe both are in need of more outdoor recreation options, in particular safe hiking/biking trails. Santa Maria ranks ninth of 59 cities in its population group for bicycle vs. motorist collisions, and fourth in the state for these collisions occurring between cyclists under the age of 15 according to the state [Office of Traffic Safety](#) (OTS) latest data. North county is in desperate need of safe trails where community members can walk, run or ride their bikes safely. Also by expanding the existing trail, the county would effectively address the need for an alternative and safer route between Santa Maria and Guadalupe away from State Route 166, a heavily trafficked rural highway.

Expanding this trail would also go a long way towards creating better coastal access for the working class immigrant population of Santa Maria. Although we're surrounded by beaches on the Central Coast there are barriers for people who can't afford a car or obtain a driver's license, this trail would allow families an alternative way to get to enjoy local beaches.

*Policy Advocates*  
**Nidia Bello**  
**Frank Rodriguez**  
**Rebeca Garcia**  
**Sofi Magallon**  
**Maria Navarro**

For the past couple of months, local youth have canvassed the river trail and neighborhoods spreading word of the proposal to expand the riverbed trail. Over 500 Santa Barbara County residents have signed a petition in support of the expansion, demonstrating overwhelming support from local stakeholders. These efforts are continuing throughout the fall and we continue to see excitement build for this proposal.

Our communities deserve access to green spaces, safe transportation routes, and to have their voices heard. We urge you to move forward with the expansion of the river trail and to respect the wishes of your constituents.

Thank you,

**Maricela Morales**, Executive Director of Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, [maricela@causenow.org](mailto:maricela@causenow.org)

**Sigrid Wright**, CEO/Executive Director of Community Environmental Council, [swright@cecmail.org](mailto:swright@cecmail.org)

**Rebecca August**, Director of Advocacy with Los Padres ForestWatch, [rebecca@lpfw.org](mailto:rebecca@lpfw.org)

**Tomás Morales Rebecchi**, Central Coast Organizing Manager with Food and Water Watch, [trebecchi@fwwatch.org](mailto:trebecchi@fwwatch.org)

**Ken Hough**, Executive Director of Santa Barbara County Action Network, [ken@sbcan.org](mailto:ken@sbcan.org)

**Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt**, President of Santa Maria-Lompoc NAACP, [lyonspruitt@msn.com](mailto:lyonspruitt@msn.com)

**Gloria Soto**, Executive Director of Future Leaders of America, [gloria@futureleadersnow.org](mailto:gloria@futureleadersnow.org)

**Kyra Solis**, Community Organizer with Planned Parenthood, [kyra.solis@ppcentralcoast.org](mailto:kyra.solis@ppcentralcoast.org)

**Marline Flores Castillo**, Executive Director of IMPORTA, [info@importasb.org](mailto:info@importasb.org)

**Steering Committee** of Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success, [ccc.undocu@gmail.com](mailto:ccc.undocu@gmail.com)

**Kathy Sharum**, President of Showing Up For Racial Justice Santa Maria, [surjsantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:surjsantamaria@gmail.com)

**Pam Gates**, President of Women's March of Santa Maria Valley, [womensmarchsmv@gmail.com](mailto:womensmarchsmv@gmail.com)

**Thomas Brandberry**, Director of Los Amigos de Guadalupe, [tom@ladguadalupe.org](mailto:tom@ladguadalupe.org)

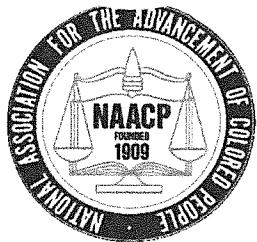
**Samuel Duarte**, Director of Little House by the Park Guadalupe, [duartesam192@gmail.com](mailto:duartesam192@gmail.com)

**Antonio Ramirez**, Guadalupe City Councilmember, [councilmemberramirez@ci.guadalupe.ca.us](mailto:councilmemberramirez@ci.guadalupe.ca.us)



Community  
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BOLD CLIMATE ACTION

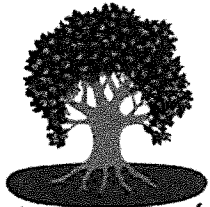


Future  
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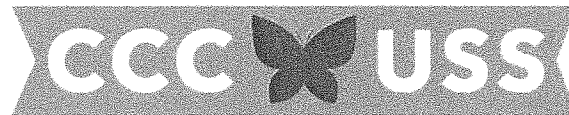


Planned Parenthood Central Coast Action Fund

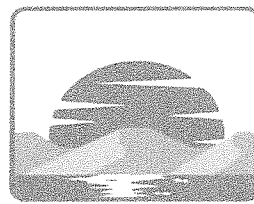
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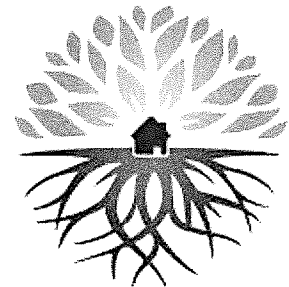
Non-Profit Provider of  
Immigration Services



CENTRAL COAST COALITION for  
UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUCCESS



LOS AMIGOS  
DE GUADALUPE



the little house by the park  
Cedillo Community Center