

Public Comment

A-21



SANTA BARBARA BICYCLE COALITION / BICI CENTRO

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June 1, 2020

Hon. Gregg Hart, Chair
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Santa Maria Levee Trail Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Hart and Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors:

This letter is to express the support of the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition for your Board's acceptance of the grant of the Coastal Conservancy to provide up to \$40,000 in support of Santa Barbara County's completion of a design and feasibility study for the Santa Maria River Levee Trail. The proposed trail will connect the cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe to the California Coastal Trail and provide safer bicycle access to the California Coast, the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes and to San Luis Obispo destinations for cyclists, pedestrians and disabled members of the community.

We have recently demonstrated our confidence in the interest of Northern Santa Barbara County's residents in bicycling by opening a BiCi Cento bicycle shop and education center in Santa Maria (at 310 Oak Street). But although it is the largest City in our County by population, there are few opportunities available in Santa Maria for family physical activity and relaxation as there are very few dedicated bicycle and pedestrian routes separated from automobile traffic. The addition of the Levee Trail is envisioned in the most recent Regional Active Transportation Plan and the City of Santa Maria's Bikeway Plan, demonstrating the community's commitment to providing better recreational infrastructure to meet its goals of a healthier and more sustainable community. Its eventual construction based upon the planning you will help to facilitate with this funding will provide a great asset to all the people of the region.

A significant portion of our County's Measure A funding has been dedicated to teaching children how to ride a bicycle safely. Making that a wise expenditure requires opportunities

for those youth and their parents to ride, sometimes together but sometimes independently, on trails protected from air and noise pollution and other dangers of motorized vehicles. Our beautiful State has wisely committed itself to increasing community wellness through increases in dedicated biking and walking trails, like the proposed Levee project which will encourage outdoor active recreation by members of our communities who might not otherwise have access to the incredible scenery of our Central Coast. In the era of Covid-19, the availability of bike trails separated from crowds has only become more important to our communities.

Thank you in advance for your careful review of this proposal and, we hope, for your action to approve your staff's recommended action to approve acceptance of this funding for the Santa Maria Levee Project Feasibility Study.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Landecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

David J. Landecker,
Interim Executive Director