



City of Buellton

February 8, 2022

LATE
DIST

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

RE: Countywide Recreation Master Plan Update

Honorable Chair Hartmann and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The City of Buellton would like to commend the County of Santa Barbara for its efforts in developing the Countywide Recreation Master Plan. The proposed use of zoning and other incentives to streamline the permitting of parks and other recreational amenities, along with the comprehensive nature of this plan promises to guide the development of recreational facilities and implementation of recreational programs across the County. In the long term, the Plan should be successful in bringing much needed recreational amenities to unincorporated areas of the County and to cities within the County alike.

One of the essential amenities proposed for inclusion in the Recreation Master Plan is the Santa Ynez River Trail which would link the City of Buellton (from River View Park at its western boundary) with the City of Solvang at Alisal Drive. While the construction of such a trail will have obvious benefits for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, the benefits to be realized by this trail go far beyond recreation.

The construction of the Santa Ynez River Trail would create an attractive path of travel between the two cities that would not require travel on Highway 246, thus replacing trips that would otherwise be contributing to increases in vehicle miles traveled, traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, and traffic hazards faced by pedestrians and cyclists within the cities.

Additionally, the trail itself would serve as a local attraction for those tourists who enjoy walking, running, or riding and who would see the trail as an opportunity to view parts of the area which are inaccessible by motor vehicle. This would serve to enhance the tourism industry throughout the Santa Ynez Valley, and therefore the economic vitality of the myriad businesses that operate here.

The City of Buellton has put considerable time and effort into acquiring rights of way for the construction of the River Trail, and has been working with SBCAG and other agencies to work toward the completion of the necessary right of way acquisition to complete the entirety of the Trail between Buellton and Solvang. We greatly appreciate the energy that Chair Hartmann has devoted to this project and to the resolution of acquiring a few remaining key linkages on the eastern end of the proposed Trail.

Honorable Board of Supervisors
February 8, 2022
Page 2

The City of Buellton supports the goals of the Recreation Master Plan and encourages the proposed expansion of scope of the document and the allocation of resources requested by the Community Services Department. Further, the City of Buellton requests that the Board of Supervisors include the Santa Ynez River Trail in the Master Plan for analysis in the Program EIR. Doing so will provide evidence of the County's support of this project as funds are sought for the Trail's ultimate development. As Mayor of Buellton, I offer whatever assistance I can give to bring this project to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Sierra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Sierra

Mayor