

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

#7

From: Jeanne Sparks <jeanne.sparks@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 10:39 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Nelson, Bob; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: SBCAN Letter in support of the Santa Maria River Levee Trail extension, May 17 BOS Agenda Item #7
Attachments: SBCAN Letter SM River Trail Completion.pdf



Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.



May 16, 2022

LATE
DIST

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

We at Santa Barbara County Action Network urge you to support what is called “extension” of the Santa Maria River trail, but really should be called “completion” of the trail since it was envisioned to run the length of the levee from Santa Maria to Guadalupe more than 30 years ago.

When the current segment of the trail was built, the longer segment extending to Guadalupe was left out because farmers objected to it.

That was unfortunate as it cut off the City of Guadalupe and its residents from this vital recreational trail that residents of Santa Maria were able to enjoy. It also kept Santa Maria residents from being able to enjoy the full expanse of the levee and to connect with the community of Guadalupe through a wonderful, safe, scenic route, something which is sorely lacking in North County.

It’s time to right this wrong. It’s time to complete the river levee trail from Santa Maria to Guadalupe.

Completing the levee trail will provide residents of and visitors to the Santa Maria Valley with local access to natural areas. It will provide access to the beach for pedestrians and bicyclists on a path which is free of cars – something currently unavailable to North County residents.

Access to nature is an environmental justice issue, with lower income communities and communities of color often having access to fewer parks, beaches, and trails. Throughout the pandemic, many have come to realize the mental health and developmental benefits for children and adults alike that spending time in nature provides, especially after two years of mostly staying indoors.

Completing this trail would be a great step towards equity in Santa Maria and Guadalupe.

We urge you to complete the trail.

Sincerely,

Ken Hough
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Dick Flacks,
Co-President South
Rebeca Garcia,
Co-President North
Gale McNeeley, *Secretary*
Jonathan Abboud,
Treasurer
Rebecca August
Janet Blevins
Carla Frisk
Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt
Jaime Tinoco

Executive Director

Ken Hough

Associate Director

Jeanne Sparks

Advocacy & Events

Director
Nadia Lee Abushanab

SBCAN

P.O. Box 6174
Santa Maria, CA 93456
805.563.0463
ken@sbcancan.org
www.sbcancan.org
[Facebook.com/SBCANorg](https://www.facebook.com/SBCANorg)