

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
725 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 427-4863 FAX (831) 427-4877
www.coastal.ca.gov

Th5

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT (SANTA CRUZ) DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the

October Meeting of the California Coastal Commission

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 14, 2010

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties
FROM: Charles Lester, Central Coast District Deputy Director
SUBJECT: *Deputy Director's Report*

Following is a listing for the waivers, emergency permits, immaterial amendments and extensions issued by the Central Coast District Office for the October 14, 2010 Coastal Commission hearing. Copies of the applicable items are attached for your review. Each item includes a listing of the applicants involved, a description of the proposed development, and a project location.

Pursuant to the Commission's direction and adopted procedures, appropriate notice materials were sent to all applicants for posting at the project site. Additionally, these items have been posted at the District office and are available for public review and comment.

This report may also contain additional correspondence and/or any additional staff memorandum concerning the items to be heard on today's agenda for the Central Coast District.

REGULAR WAIVERS

1. 3-10-049-W Stanford University (Pacific Grove, Monterey County)

DE MINIMIS WAIVERS

1. 3-10-046-W City of Pacific Grove (Pacific Grove, Monterey County)
2. 3-10-050-W Santa Cruz County Public Works Department (Aptos, Santa Cruz County)

IMMATERIAL AMENDMENTS

1. 3-05-059-A1 Stanley W. Pletz (Pacific Grove, Monterey County)

EXTENSION - IMMATERIAL

1. A-3-SLO-07-041-E1 Brent Richissin (Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County)

TOTAL OF 5 ITEMS

DETAIL OF ATTACHED MATERIALS

REPORT OF REGULAR WAIVERS

The Executive Director has determined that the following developments do not require a coastal development permit pursuant to Section 13250(c) and/or Section 13253(c) of the California Code of Regulations.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Project Location</i>
3-10-049-W Stanford University	Routine exterior clay tile roof maintenance and repairs to copper gutter system at the Jacques Loeb Laboratory at Hopkins Marine Station.	120 Ocean View Boulevard (Hopkins Marine Station), Pacific Grove (Monterey County)

REPORT OF DE MINIMIS WAIVERS

The Executive Director has determined that the following developments do not require a coastal development permit pursuant to Section 30624.7 of the California Coastal Act of 1976.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Project Location</i>
3-10-046-W City Of Pacific Grove	Install 15' x 40' wide safety netting between the municipal golf course driving range and the existing Coast Guard housing and structures to protect residents from errant golf balls..	77 Asilomar Avenue, Pacific Grove (Monterey County)
3-10-050-W Santa Cruz County Public Works Department	Expose an existing underground sewer pipeline lying under beach sand within at New Brighton State Beach/Potbelly Beach at the downcoast edge of the City of Capitola by digging two approximately 30 x 30-foot holes in two locations in order to evaluate the geotechnical parameters for excavating and removing the pipeline and related manholes/development along the beach as part of an ongoing larger project rerouting sewage transmission to inland locations and off of the beach.	New Brighton State Beach & Potbelly Beach, Aptos (Santa Cruz County)

REPORT OF IMMATERIAL AMENDMENTS

The Executive Director has determined that there are no changes in circumstances affecting the conformity of the subject development with the California Coastal Act of 1976. No objections to this determination have been received at this office. Therefore, the Executive Director grants the requested Immaterial Amendment, subject to the same conditions, if any, approved by the Commission.

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Project Description</i>	<i>Project Location</i>
3-05-059-A1 Stanley W. Pletz	Amend to change language of Special Condition No. 11.	1721 Sunset Drive (Asilomar Dunes), Pacific Grove (Monterey County)

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER**

Date: September 30, 2010
To: All Interested Parties
From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Manager 
Mike Watson, Coastal Planner 
Subject: Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 3-10-049-W
Applicants: Stanford University

Proposed Development

Removal and replacement of clay tile roofing materials at the Loeb Laboratory, Hopkins Marine Station 120 Ocean View Boulevard in the City of Pacific Grove. Project also includes replacement of aging gutter and downspouts.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13253 of the California Code of Regulations, and based on project plans and information submitted by the applicant(s) regarding the proposed development, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a CDP for the following reasons:

The existing clay tile roof, copper rain gutters, and downspouts are in very poor condition and thus a total roof replacement is necessary to avoid significant water damage to the existing laboratory. The project includes replacement of the existing clay tiles with new clay tiles that match the original tile manufacturer pattern, color, and exposure. Similarly, the copper rain gutters and downspouts will be replaced in-kind. Staging of materials and waste receptacles will occur within the interior of the site. Best management practices are proposed to ensure that all waste materials are appropriately contained and disposed of each day to ensure that the site remains clean and debris does not migrate onto nearby shoreline areas. In sum, the proposed project will retain the existing visual aesthetic of the Loeb Laboratory and will not otherwise have any adverse impact on coastal resources or public access to the shoreline.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on Thursday, October 14, 2010, in Oceanside. If three Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Mike Watson in the Central Coast District office.



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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER**

Date: September 30, 2010
To: All Interested Parties
From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Manager *DCAR*
Mike Watson, Coastal Planner *MW*
Subject: Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 3-10-046-W
Applicants: City of Pacific Grove

Proposed Development

Installation of safety netting (15' x 40') at the southern end of the City's municipal golf course driving range immediately adjacent to Coast Guard housing at 77 Asilomar Avenue in the City of Pacific Grove, Monterey County. Project also includes planting of six native Monterey pine trees to aid in protecting residences from golf ball strikes.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13238 of the California Code of Regulations, and based on project plans and information submitted by the applicant(s) regarding the proposed development, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a CDP for the following reasons:

The proposed development is needed to protect the existing Coast Guard housing structures, as well as the persons residing on site, from errant golf balls. Fencing will be installed immediately adjacent to existing wood perimeter fence to minimize disturbance to surrounding area. Netting will be dark green or black in color to reduce visibility. The Monterey pine trees are naturally occurring in the Asilomar planning area and will be taken from local stock. The project is located near Asilomar Avenue approximately one-quarter mile away from the shoreline and thus will not obstruct any public views or access to the shoreline. Accordingly, the proposed project is consistent with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on Thursday, October 14, 2010, in Oceanside. If four Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Mike Watson in the Central Coast District office.



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER

Date: October 6, 2010
To: All Interested Parties
From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Manager *DC*
Daniel Robinson, Coastal Planner
Subject: Coastal Development Permit (CDP) Waiver 3-10-050-W
Applicant: Santa Cruz County Sanitation District

Proposed Development

Expose an existing underground sewer pipeline lying under beach sand within at New Brighton State Beach/Potbelly Beach at the downcoast edge of the City of Capitola by digging two approximately 30 x 30-foot holes in two locations in order to evaluate the geotechnical parameters for excavating and removing the pipeline and related manholes/development along the beach as part of an ongoing larger project rerouting sewage transmission to inland locations and off of the beach.

Executive Director's Waiver Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13238 of the California Code of Regulations, and based on project plans and information submitted by the applicant(s) regarding the proposed development, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission hereby waives the requirement for a CDP for the following reasons:

The project will develop information necessary to evaluate the feasibility of removing the sewer pipeline and related development from the beach environment after the sewer transmission function is moved inland as part of the larger project, and thus will facilitate decision making relative to the ultimate disposition of the to be abandoned beach pipelines and related development. The work would be confined to a relatively small sandy beach area, and would take place in two, four-hour intervals on two consecutive days. The applicant has incorporated typical Commission BMPs for work located within the beach environment (e.g., minimum footprint and disruption, rubber-tired vehicles transiting as high as possible on the beach, avoidance of ocean waters and intertidal areas, construction material and equipment storage off the beach, continuous beach access provided around the construction area, restoration/clean-up of beach area and all beach access points following completion, etc.). In short, the proposed project will provide important information necessary for upcoming coastal permit decisions related to the beach pipeline, has been designed to avoid and minimize potential coastal resource impacts, and is consistent with Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

This waiver is not valid until the waiver has been reported to the Coastal Commission. This waiver is proposed to be reported to the Commission on October 14, 2010, in Oceanside. If four Commissioners object to this waiver at that time, then the application shall be processed as a regular CDP application.



NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT WAIVER

CDP Waiver 3-10-050-W (Santa Cruz County Sanitation District Test Excavations)

Page 2

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Daniel Robinson in the Central Coast District office.



California Coastal Commission

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT AMENDMENT**

Date: September 30, 2010
To: All Interested Parties
From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Manager
Mike Watson, Coastal Planner 
Subject: Proposed Amendment to Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 3-05-059
Applicants: Stanley Pletz

Original CDP Approval

CDP 3-05-059 was approved by the Coastal Commission on January 11, 2006, and provided for the construction of a single-family residence with attached two-car garage, driveway, walkway, and sand dune restoration at 1721 Sunset Drive in the Asilomar Dunes of the City of Pacific Grove, Monterey County.

Proposed CDP Amendment

Due to the presence of listed plant species on portions of the site, CDP 3-05-059 was conditioned for the Applicant to obtain a California Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) take permit prior to construction. CDP 3-05-059 would be amended to change the timing associated with special condition 11 to allow construction that does not result in the take of any listed species to commence prior to final issuance of a take permit by DF&G. The Commission's reference number for this proposed amendment is 3-05-059-A1.

Executive Director's Immateriality Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13166(b) of the California Code of Regulations, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission has determined that the proposed CDP amendment is immaterial for the following reasons:

The CDP recognizes that some dune habitat and some listed species would be removed to allow for the approved residential development. In this respect, CDP 3-05-059 is not dissimilar from other coastal permits that the Commission has approved historically in this Asilomar Dunes area. The intent of Special Condition 11 was to ensure that the Applicant obtained all required DF&G authorizations prior to any take of listed species. However, the timing of the condition was identified broadly as "Prior to Construction." The Applicant requests a change that more directly references the intent of the condition so that the Applicant could pursue other CDP 3-05-059 development that doesn't result in such take. The Applicant would still be required to obtain a take permit before take (and DF&G is finalizing said take permit currently), but would be allowed to otherwise proceed with development that did not result in take under the CDP. The proposed change more accurately reflects the intent in terms of Special Condition 11, and thus the proposed amendment is consistent with the Commission's original approval and will not otherwise impact coastal resources or public access to the shoreline in ways not already recognized by CDP 3-05-059.



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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT EXTENSION**

Date: September 30, 2010
To: All Interested Parties
From: Dan Carl, Central Coast District Manager *DCM*
Jonathan Bishop, Coastal Planner *JB*
Subject: Proposed Extension to Coastal Development Permit (CDP) A-3-SLO-07-041
Applicant: Brent Richissin

Original CDP Approval

CDP A-3-SLO-07-041 was approved by the Coastal Commission on October 15, 2008, and provided for the construction of a single-family residence located at 2737 Austin Ct., in the unincorporated coastal community of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County.

Proposed CDP Extension

The expiration date of CDP A-3-SLO-07-041 would be extended by one year to October 15, 2011. The Commission's reference number for this proposed extension is A-3-SLO-07-041-E1.

Executive Director's Changed Circumstances Determination

Pursuant to Title 14, Section 13169 of the California Code of Regulations, the Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission has determined that there are no changed circumstances affecting the approved development's consistency with the certified San Luis Obispo County Local Coastal Program and/or Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, as applicable.

Coastal Commission Review Procedure

The Executive Director's determination and any written objections to it will be reported to the Commission on Thursday, October 14, 2010, in San Diego. If three Commissioners object to the Executive Director's changed circumstances determination at that time, then the extension shall be denied and the development shall be set for a full hearing of the Commission.

If you have any questions about the proposal or wish to register an objection, please contact Jonathan Bishop in the Central Coast District office.



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October 11, 2010

To: Commissioners and Interested Parties

From: Charles Lester, Senior Deputy Director, Central Coast District

Re: Additional Information for Commission Meeting Thursday, October 14, 2010

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
Th7a, A-3-SLO-10-016	State Parks & Rec	Correspondence	1
Th7b, A-3-MRB-10-047	Dynegy	Correspondence	3
Th8a, 3-09-068	City of Santa Cruz	Staff Report Addendum	5
		Ex Parte Communications	7
		Correspondence	57

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Fitzhugh Ranch

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Walter & Judith Fitzhugh
2650 Eton Rd.
Cambria CA. 93428-4102

Phone 805-927-8353
Fax 805-927-3090
Email fitzhughranch@att.net

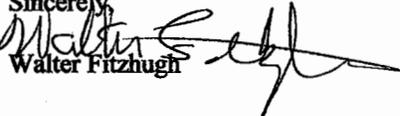
California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Dist. Office
725 Front St., Suite 300
Santa Cruz CA. 95060

California Coastal Commission Commissioners
Jonathan Bishop
Coastal Program Analyst
Subject Permit # A-3-SLO-10-016

I oppose the construction of 16-parking spaces with out safe guards that the entrance to the Schneider Family property will not be blocked at any time. That handicapped parking be provided as per the American Disability Act as well as handicapped access to the Harmony Headlands State Park. There needs to be sanitary facilities provided as much of this area drains into Villa Creek which is a steelhead creek and we must not add additional population to it, the sanitary facilities need to be the same as is required at any public gathering place with both gender and handicapped facilities with hand washing available. A trash collection container needs to be in place for people using the Harmony Headlands State Park to deposit their trash rather than leave it behind. These requested requirements are the same as would be required of anyone that wants to put an event or gathering on their property so why should the State Parks System be treated any different than others that would want to the same type of venture?

If the requirement that I have set forth can't be met than I oppose the approval of the permit A-3-SLO-10-016 as submitted by the Cal. State Parks Dept.

Sincerely,


Walter Fitzhugh

Th Fa

Jonathan Bishop

From: Fran Gibson [fragibson@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2010 9:00 AM
To: Jonathan Bishop; Dan Carl
Cc: Lee Otter; Charles Lester
Subject: Harmony Headlands State Park Appeal and the Harmony Headlands Trailhead for the CCT (October CCC Oceanside)

Appeal No. A-3-SLO-10-016 (State Parks and Recreation, San Luis Obispo Co.) Appeal by Dennis Schneider, Sharon Harris, Sharyn Schrick, Denise Emmick McLaughlan, and Sandra Emmick Bowman of San Luis Obispo County decision granting permit with conditions to California Department of Parks and Recreation to install parking area and related development along Highway One (including signs, information kiosk, bridge rails, and iron ranger fee collection tube) supporting use of Harmony Headlands State Park, between Cayucos and Cambria along the Harmony Coast in unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. (JB-SC)

Jonathan and Dan -- when the presentation of this project is made to the Commission please consider highlighting this trailhead is vital to the future of the California Coastal Trail on the Harmony Coast. I could find no mention of the CCT in your staff report. We have no designated segments or alignment currently on this part of the SLO coastline which remains vastly underserved in coastal access opportunities and CCT advocates statewide commend these improvements to this trailhead for our state's future CCT alignment on the Harmony Coast. This project improves public parking which improves coastal access to the sole public access point for eleven miles on our coast between Cambria and Estero Bluffs State Park. The trailhead is a major facility for the CCT and improves access for the coastal bluffs. I support the staff recommendation to find no substantial issue and hope Commissioners are reminded in your presentation this is a vital CCT amenity for the people of California. Thank you both for all you do to champion the central coast for the people of our great state. We are in the best business on earth! Gratefully -- Fran Gibson (League for Coastal Protection) [510.647.9903 and 510.910.6797]

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OCT 11 2010
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th 7b

Dynegy Morro Bay, LLC
1290 Embarcadero
Morro Bay CA 93442



October 7, 2010

Madeline Cavalieri
Coastal Planner
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
mcavalieri@coastal.ca.gov
(831) 427-4863

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OCT 11 2010

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COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Rob Livick, PE/PLS
Public Services Director/City Engineer
City of Morro Bay
955 Shasta Avenue
Morro Bay, CA 93442
rlivick@morro-bay.ca.us
Phone: (805) 772-6261 Fax: (805) 772-6268

Subject: Coastal Development Permit CPO-290, Dynegy Morro Bay LLC

Ms. Madeline Cavalieri and Mr. Rob Livick:

On May 3, 2010, the City of Morro Bay issued a Coastal Development Permit (CPO-290) to Dynegy Morro Bay LLC to relocate well No. 3 at 1290 Embarcadero, Morro Bay, California. The well relocation project was completed in mid-September and was undergoing final testing as required by the San Luis Obispo County Health Department, when on September 16, 2010, I received a call from Rob Livick, the Public Services Director/City Engineer, informing me that the California Coastal Commission (CCC) had appealed the well relocation permit (Commission Appeal No. A-3-MRB-10-047). During the week of September 20th, I received my copy of the CCC's appeal and a copy of the Appeal Staff Report Substantial Issue Determination Only describing the basis of the appeal. During this same week, I was also informed that it would be a violation of the Coastal Act if the relocated pump was used in any fashion prior to resolution of the CCC appeal. The CCC scheduled this appeal to be heard by the Commission at the October 14th CCC meeting in Oceanside, California.

Due to the Coastal Commission's subsequent appeal alleging the work to be "unpermitted development", Dynegy Morro Bay LLC requests that the CDP CPO-290 be withdrawn and the appeal removed from the Commission's October 14, 2010 meeting agenda. We anticipate re-submitting an application for relocation of the well after addressing the questions and concerns raised by the Coastal Commission.

Sincerely,



Steve Goschke
Dynegy Morro Bay LLC
1290 Embarcadero
Morro Bay California 93442

cc: Kathleen Wold, City of Morro Bay
Steve Goschke, President Morro Bay Mutual Water Company
Jerry Timiraos, Vice President Morro Bay Mutual Water Company
Erica Keith, Treasurer Morro Bay Mutual Water Company
Tom Lott, Secretary Morro Bay Mutual Water Company

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Th8a

Prepared October 11, 2010 (for October 14, 2010 hearing)

To: Commissioners and Interested Persons
From: Dan Carl, District Manager *DCM*
 Susan Craig, Coastal Planner *scraig*
Subject: STAFF REPORT ADDENDUM for Th8a
 CDP Application Number 3-09-068 (Arana Gulch Master Plan)

The purpose of this addendum is to modify the staff recommendation for the above-referenced item to ensure that the Commission is properly reimbursed for expenses incurred in processing the subject CDP application. Specifically, the staff report is modified to add the following finding and special condition:

Add new Section B.2.F on page 67 of the staff report as follows:

F. Liability for Costs and Attorneys' Fees

The Commission recognizes that the proposed project has long been controversial and the subject of much debate, particularly in the local community where a variety of differing opinions abound. Given this context, there remains a possibility that the Commission's approval of the project will be litigated. Toward that end, Coastal Act Section 30620(c)(1) authorizes the Commission to require applicants to reimburse the Commission for expenses incurred in processing CDP applications. Thus, the Commission is authorized to require reimbursement for expenses incurred in defending its action on the pending CDP application in the event that the Commission's action is challenged by a party other than the Applicant. Therefore, consistent with Section 30620(c), the Commission imposes Special Condition 7 requiring reimbursement for any costs and attorneys' fees that the Commission incurs in connection with the defense of any action brought by a party other than the Applicant challenging the approval or issuance of this permit, the interpretation and/or enforcement of permit conditions, or any other matter related to this permit.

Add new Special Condition 7 on page 74 of the staff report as follows:

- 7. Liability for Costs and Attorneys' Fees.** The Permittee shall reimburse the Coastal Commission in full for all Coastal Commission costs and attorneys' fees (including but not limited to such costs/fees that are: (1) charged by the Office of the Attorney General; and (2) required by a court) that the Coastal Commission incurs in connection with the defense of any action brought by a party other than the Permittee against the Coastal Commission, its officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns challenging the approval or issuance of this permit, the interpretation and/or enforcement of permit conditions, or any other matter related to this permit. The Permittee shall reimburse the Coastal Commission within 60 days of being informed by the Executive Director of the amount of such costs/fees. The Coastal Commission retains complete authority to conduct and direct the defense of any such action against the Coastal Commission.



California Coastal Commission

3-09-068 (Arana Gulch Master Plan) stfprt addendum 10.14.2010 hrg.doc

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE
OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of project, LCP, etc.: Th. 8.a. Application No. 3-09-068
Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz,
Santa Cruz County

Date and time of receipt of communication: 9/30/10, 1:20 p.m.

Location of communication: Corner of Front and River Streets in
the City of Santa Cruz, CA

Type of communication: Chance Encounter

Person(s) initiating communication: Cynthia Mathews

Person(s) receiving communication: Mark Stone

Detailed substantive description of content of communication:
(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

Ms. Mathews approached me on the street asking about the issue of Arana Gulch that is on the Commission's agenda in two weeks. She said that she knew I had met with city staff and received technical information. She asked me if I know how important the project is to them and if I needed any additional information to make a decision. She also asked if they could provide any political cover for me. I said that I understood her position on the project and I declined the offers of additional information and political cover.

Date: 9/30/10 Signature of Commissioner: Mark Stone

If the communication was provided at the same time to staff as it was provided to a Commissioner, the communication is not ex parte and this form does not need to be filled out.

If communication occurred within seven or more days in advance of the Commission hearing on the item that was the subject of the communication, complete this form and transmit it to the Executive Director within seven days of the communication. If it is reasonable to believe that the completed form will not arrive by U.S. mail at the Commission's main office prior to the commencement of the meeting, other means of delivery should be used; such as facsimile, overnight mail, or personal delivery by the Commissioner to the Executive Director at the meeting prior to the time that the hearing on the matter commences.

If communication occurred within seven days of the hearing, complete this form, provide the information orally on the record of the proceeding and provide the Executive Director with a copy of any written material that was part of the communication.

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE
OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of project, LCP, etc.: Th. 8.a. Application No. 3-09-068
Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz,
Santa Cruz County

Date and time of receipt of communication: Various

Location of communication: E-mails Received

Type of communication: E-mails

Person(s) initiating communication: Various

Person(s) receiving communication: Mark Stone

Detailed substantive description of content of communication:
(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

See attached e-mails

Date: 10/5/10 Signature of Commissioner: Mark Stone

If the communication was provided at the same time to staff as it was provided to a Commissioner, the communication is not ex parte and this form does not need to be filled out.

If communication occurred within seven or more days in advance of the Commission hearing on the item that was the subject of the communication, complete this form and transmit it to the Executive Director within seven days of the communication. If it is reasonable to believe that the completed form will not arrive by U.S. mail at the Commission's main office prior to the commencement of the meeting, other means of delivery should be used; such as facsimile, overnight mail, or personal delivery by the Commissioner to the Executive Director at the meeting prior to the time that the hearing on the matter commences.

If communication occurred within seven days of the hearing, complete this form, provide the information orally on the record of the proceeding and provide the Executive Director with a copy of any written material that was part of the communication.

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE
OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of project, LCP, etc.: Th. 8.a. Application No. 3-09-068
Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz,
Santa Cruz County

Date and time of receipt of communication: Various

Location of communication: Correspondence Received

Type of communication: E-mails and Letters

Person(s) initiating communication: Various

Person(s) receiving communication: Mark Stone

Detailed substantive description of content of communication:
(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

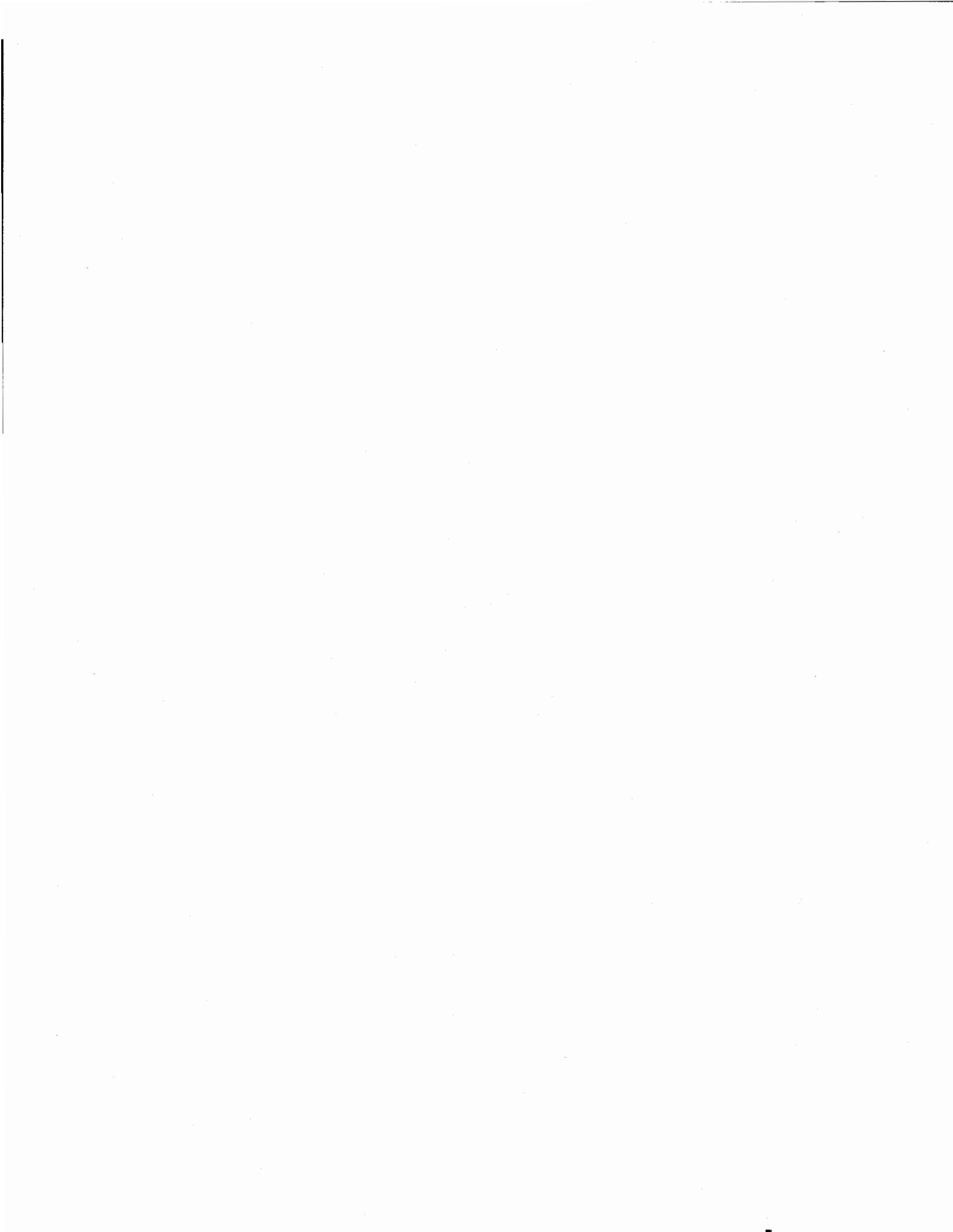
See attached e-mails

Date: 10/6/10 Signature of Commissioner: *Mark Stone*

If the communication was provided at the same time to staff as it was provided to a Commissioner, the communication is not ex parte and this form does not need to be filled out.

If communication occurred within seven or more days in advance of the Commission hearing on the item that was the subject of the communication, complete this form and transmit it to the Executive Director within seven days of the communication. If it is reasonable to believe that the completed form will not arrive by U.S. mail at the Commission's main office prior to the commencement of the meeting, other means of delivery should be used; such as facsimile, overnight mail, or personal delivery by the Commissioner to the Executive Director at the meeting prior to the time that the hearing on the matter commences.

If communication occurred within seven days of the hearing, complete this form, provide the information orally on the record of the proceeding and provide the Executive Director with a copy of any written material that was part of the communication.



Supervisor Mark. W. Stone
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

CC: Dan Carl, District Manager
10/7/10

Dear Commissioner Stone:

I am a longtime member of the Sierra Club, and I want to brief you on some aspects of the Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group, particularly as it relates to the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

The Group arguably does not have a position on the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan (AGMP). The Group's Executive Committee has not taken a position on Arana Gulch since 1995, a time when the City was just beginning to discuss alternative routes for pedestrian/bike/handicapped trails, and no one was working on a Master Plan for Arana Gulch. The Arana Gulch Master Plan did not exist until 2006. There has never been an Executive Committee vote on the Master Plan.

Furthermore, the few on the Executive Committee who claim to speak for the Sierra Club on this matter have never allowed the Group membership to vote on this issue. In my estimation, a majority of the Group's members would support the Arana Gulch Master Plan on environmental grounds. I note that at the May Coastal Commission meeting, 17 people spoke during oral communications in favor of the AGMP (only 2 opposed), and at least 8 of the 17 were current Sierra Club members.

Sierra Club National has not signed on with those claiming the Sierra Club opposes the AGMP. In 2006 there were those in the Executive Committee who loudly announced that the Sierra Club would join the lawsuit against the AGMP. In order for that to happen the Santa Cruz Group would have had to submit a "New Matter Form" to Sierra Club National. Approval of this submission would have allowed the Group to be one of the litigants in the suit. Responding to my query as to the validity of the assertion that Sierra Club National denied the Group's request to being a party in the Arana Gulch suit, a member of the Executive Committee responded "No validity. They were never asked." Why this turn around on Group's commitment to being party to the suit against AGMP?

It is also noteworthy that Sierra Club National has excellent policies on the importance of bicycle transportation and other alternative transportation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and emphasizes the importance of providing infrastructure

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for alternative transportation.

The makeup of the local Group's Executive Committee could very well change in this December's Executive Committee election. At the Group's September meeting Paul Elerick, member of the Executive Committee and its nominating committee, announced the names of 8 potential candidates for the Executive Committee election. Among those names were Paul Schoellhamer, Keresha Durham, and David Casterson – all champions of the environmental benefits of bicycle transportation and other forms of alternative transportation. There might be bicycle-friendly petition candidates as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Dixon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Dixon".

Charles Dixon
524 #B Ocean View Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Supervisor Mark. W. Stone
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
CC: Dan Carl, District Manager, California Coastal Commission

Dear Supervisor Stone,
I am writing to urge you to follow staff recommendations and support the approval of the revised Arana Gulch Master Plan at the upcoming Coastal Commission meeting.

As the Central Coast district representative to the commission you have a particular obligation to our community to weigh both the environmental and social benefits of this project and champion the staff recommendations to gain approval of the project as conditioned.

The expert analysis contained in the Coastal Commission Staff Report speaks for itself. The US Fish and Wildlife Services stated that they are *"pleased that the currently proposed project further reduces impacts to Santa Cruz tarplant habitat compared to the project that was reviewed and evaluated [earlier]"*. (pp. 41-42)

Further, the alternative alignment as proposed by the CNPS, while well intentioned, has shown to be a very bad option by every available metric. The latest staff report summarizes by stating: *"the CNPS alternative would have significant impacts to visually and environmentally sensitive resources and would result in a much greater need for landform alteration than the City's proposed east-west trail alignment."* (p. 55)

The primary objections from those opposing the AGMP has centered on the use of a path for both transportation and interpretive purposes as grounds for a claim against being "resource dependant" or as setting a bad precedent for future projects involving trails in ESHA environments. Both of these claims have been addressed and disproved by staff in their report. Specifically, the reports states *"It is clear that the nature of the proposed trails provides for both types of uses, i.e. the more reflective, natural interpretive experience, as well as the use of the paved paths as a through non-automobile transportation alternative. These two uses are not mutually exclusive and other Commission-approved projects that have trail components in ESHA provide access to both types of users (e.g., the Sand City and City of Monterey paved paths in dune habitat)." (pp. 66-67)*

Perhaps the strongest arguments in support of the AGMP are to consider the "big picture" issues of environmental sustainability and stewardship. The staff report stated *"the proposed project will provide options for a variety of types of recreational and interpretive uses in Arana Gulch, and will also provide a safer non-automobile alternative transportation option for those who wish to move from one side of Arana Gulch to the other between the City and the County. As such, the proposed project will reduce vehicle miles traveled and energy consumption, and by extension address issues associated with global climate change. Therefore, the Commission finds the proposed project consistent with Coastal Act Section 30253."* (p. 67)

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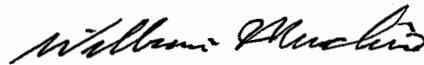
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Accepting the recommendations of the Coastal Commission's Staff and supporting the AGMP is the right thing to do for the environment and for our Community. This project has become a turning point for a large and diverse group of people that were brought together by collective interests and a common vision to develop a community resource in an environmentally responsible way. It will provide educational and recreational benefits to users ranging from pre-school children to the elderly and disabled.

There is a lot of potential goodwill to be had from compromise and supporting the vision of progressive eco-urbanism. It is time to reject the tired polemics and obstructionist tactics of our local environmental "fundamentalists".

Please put your full support behind the AGMP.
Respectfully,



William Menchine

William Menchine
116 Otis Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
menchine@cruzio.com

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SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

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October 7, 2010

Supervisor Mark Stone
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Supervisor Stone,

As a resident of Santa Cruz County, I'm writing to you on behalf of the Arana Gulch Master Plan, which was recently updated by the City of Santa Cruz. I've been following this project for at least a couple of years, and I'm convinced this updated plan is the best effort put out by the city thus far, and, among other things, it will help ensure the survival of the native Tarplant at this location.

For background, I have a degree in Environmental Resource Management and Planning, so I've had the opportunity to work on many projects similar to this one over the years, and two projects in particular come to mind. One was a project in Florida that involved access into environmentally sensitive wetlands that contained endangered and protected plant species - including pitcher plants and wild orchids. The other project involved access through a riparian habitat near Davis, California. In the latter project, we had to be concerned about two protected species as well - Swainson's Hawks, and a species of beetle unique to California's Central Valley.

As with the Arana Gulch project, all of the protected plant and animal species in the respective projects detailed above were seriously at risk prior to the development and implementation of a management plan. Unlawful encroachment was prevalent, and pedestrians would frequently stray from established paths, which resulted in plants being trampled, leading to denudation and subsequent erosion during the rainy season. These are the same problems that Arana Gulch is experiencing now. After the access management plans were adopted, plants and animals in the target areas enjoyed better protection than they had in decades. Protective fencing was erected and, invasive encroachment by pedestrians virtually disappeared, and the native plants and animals are now protected for generations to come.

I would like to respectfully request your support in voting without delay for approval of the Arana Gulch Master Plan submitted by the City of Santa Cruz when the California Coastal Commission Convenes at it's meeting in Oceanside next week. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at bustostimothy@gmail.com, or by phone at 831.239.6686.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Regards,



Timothy M. Bustos, Sr.
2-2625 East Cliff Drive, #11
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

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OCT 11 2010

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XC: California Coastal Commission

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Pat Dellin [patinsantacruz@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 11:00 AM

To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Cc: Susan Craig

Subject: support Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Commissioner Stone,

I strongly support the proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan for its close attention to environmental, educational and access issues.

Arana Gulch is my neighborhood greenbelt and I look forward to sharing this great community resource with people of limited mobility.

I hope you will take a strong leadership role in approving the Plan at this week's meeting of the California Coastal Commission.

Thank you,
Pat Dellin
resident of eastside Santa Cruz

October 06, 2010

Mark Stone
District 5 Supervisor
Santa Cruz County
FAX 831.454.3262

RE: ARANA GULCH MULTI-USE PATH

Dear Mr. Stone:

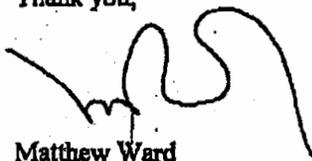
I am writing to express my support for the City of Santa Cruz's request to develop a multi-use path through the Arana Gulch Open Space.

In 1971 I came to Santa Cruz with my bicycle, and have been using it as my primary mode of transportation ever since. The City's proposal will provide an important link for bike commuters who are currently forced to use the main traffic arteries (Capitola Road/Soquel Avenue, and Murray/Eaton) between the City, and the Live Oak area. At this time bike commuters do use the Arana Gulch via the dirt trails that connect the Upper Santa Cruz Harbor with Hagemann Avenue. This works fine when the weather is dry, however during the rainy season the trails deteriorate and become all but impassable for my little folding bike.

As a lifelong environmentalist I can appreciate the determined effort by the opponents of the trail, to further the cause of the endangered tarplant, which flourished when the property was a dairy farm. Their opposition to the path has resulted in a modification to the City's plan, which will require pasture fencing, and grazing in the "Open Space". While this seems a little over the top to me, if that's what it takes to win approval of the multi-use trail, then I'll go with it.

I urge you to support the City's plan. Bicycle commuters, and the tarplant, can share the Open Space. The City's plan will enhance the survival of both.

Thank you,



Matthew Ward
328 Harrison Avenue
Santa Cruz 95062

Th8a

Mark Stone

From: john behrens [johnbehrens95060@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Mark Stone

Dear Commissioner Stone, Just thinking about what a positive improvement the Santa Cruz City Master Plan for the Arana Gulch area will be for the majority of the community and for visitors to this area. It will also probably be the last realistic choice to help protect and actively work on preserve the Tar Plant habitat and the associated Marine Terrace habitat. Your vote in favor of this project is very important and i hope that you are inclined to support this project. I hope tht you can get back to me to let me know of your support for this well planned and practical project. Thank you, John Behrens (johnbehrens95060@yahoo.com)

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: judymarsalis@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 10:22 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Please vote for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

This is a valuable safety corridor for children and adults who walk or ride bikes, as it will connect the east and west sides of santa cruz...at present, the city owns Arana Gulch, maintaining it as open space...if the city had not purchased it, developers would have done so, and then where would the endangered tar plant be?

Even at 67 I bike all over the county to do my errands, please make it easier while saving the environment FOR ALL not just the close neighbors!

Judy Marsalis
318 Everson Dr
Santa Cruz
95060

Susan Craig

From: Matt Farrell [mateo@cruzio.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 10:35 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Matt Farrell; Susan Craig
Subject: Please Support City's Proposal for Arana Gulch Bike Path

I plead for your support of the City's proposal for a mixed use bike path through Arana Gulch. Commission staff has taken the time to evaluate the California Native Plant Society's and exercising its professional role as staff in support of the Coastal Act determined that the City of Santa Cruz proposal has less overall adverse impacts than the alternative proposed by the California Native Plant Society.

I had a chance the other day to see a picture of what will happen to Downtown Santa Cruz by 2050 if we don't take direct and continuous action to change our patterns of travel and consumption. If things continue as they are, virtually of Downtown Santa Cruz will be under water. This image was very disturbing to me and brought back memories of the Loma Prieta earthquake and how our failure to move forward on seismic retrofitting of unreinforced masonry structures resulted in three fatalities and the loss of an irreplaceable historic district.

Please demonstrate leadership and courage and do the right thing. Support a plan and proposal which will protect the Arana Gulch, the tar plant, and provide access to the citizens of the City and County. I want to remind you that our dear friend Mardi Wormhoudt supported this proposed path and that she was a comrade of yours in protecting environmental values throughout the county and region. I also think it was very telling, because Mardi wasn't much of a bicyclist herself. She knew it was the right thing to do.

The best way to teach stewardship for our environment is to encourage people to act and move in tune with nature. Whether that is swimming the English Channel or running an ultra marathon or riding from Santa Cruz to Watsonville on bicycle using the available network of bicycle lanes and paths doesn't make a difference. These behaviors encourage harmony with nature. They provide ownership to open space and ensure that there will be stewards after us to watch over and protect it.

Matt Farrell

Susan Craig

From: Cory Caletti [cory@caletticycles.com]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 9:46 AM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: John Caletti; Susan Craig
Subject: support for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

Hello Coastal Commissioner Stone:

As a resident and voter in the Santa Cruz County supervisorial district you represent, I urge you to please support the Arana Gulch Master Plan as submitted by the City of Santa Cruz.

The project has an astonishing amount of public support with only a handful of vocal opponents. The Arana Gulch Master Plan project would provide innumerable benefits to natural habitat preservation, open space access, as well as a critical multi-use path for bicyclists, pedestrian, seniors and people with disabilities. Not approving the plan, or further delaying approval, would be a blow to our community after a needlessly long and expensive battle. Please act in accordance with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of your constituents.

Regards,

Corina (aka Cory) Caletti
218 Brookside Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Paul Schoellhamer [paulschoel@msn.com]**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 7:59 AM**To:** mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us**Cc:** Susan Craig**Subject:** Arana Gulch Master Plan

October 8, 2010

Supervisor Mark Stone

701 Ocean Street, Room 500

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mr. Stone,

At the March hearing of the Coastal Commission, you marched to a different drummer. Everybody else either supported the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan as fully compliant with the Coastal Act, or opposed it with the argument that it was not resource-dependent (which boiled down to the claim that although the proposed Multi-Use Trail served an interpretive function, it also served a transportation function, and that was somehow disqualifying). You, however, took a different position, that the proposed Master Plan met the legal requirement of being resource dependent, but not the requirement that it not significantly disrupt habitat values.

So you've already taken a firm position in favor of the Master Plan with respect to the resource-dependent requirement. The remaining question is the no-significant-disruption requirement, and what the further study you successfully argued for found on that issue.

Your concern on no-significant-disruption was that the Multi-Use Trail might act as a biological barrier for the tarplant, or in other words would create habitat fragmentation. The study that was completed at your request, however, found that the Trail would not function as a biological barrier. As noted in the report recently issued by the Commission staff, "In terms of habitat fragmentation, although the City's proposed path alignment will go through the meadow (but not through identified historic tarplant areas), it will not lead to significant adverse fragmentation impacts." (pp 7-8) The staff further concludes "...the facts specific to tarplant habitat indicate that such habitat fragmentation is not a significant concern in this case." (p. 8)

These are specifically the conclusions of Dr. John Dixon, senior ecologist for the Coastal Commission and one of the most respected environmentalists and scientists in the state.

There is also practical evidence of the accuracy of these scientific conclusions, and that practical evidence is located right here in Santa Cruz County. Watsonville Airport has seen a spectacular revival of Santa Cruz tarplant. Forty years ago, there was almost none on the airfield, and what there was was only in one place. In recent years the tarplant count at the Airport has fluctuated between 400,000 and 27 million, depending on annual weather conditions (per the Elkhorn Slough Foundation). It now covers a large portion of the airfield. And it has readily crossed runways and taxiways. These are not mere 8 foot wide pedestrian and bike paths -- the secondary runway is 100 feet wide and 4000 feet long, and the main runway is 150 feet wide and 4500 feet long. Tarplant has readily crossed these vast paved areas, and often seems to prefer areas of the airfield along both sides of the runways and taxiways. Casual observation suggests that the pavement may facilitate dispersal of the tarplant seed, in that the wind can readily move the seed along a flat, smooth surface, but cannot move it along rough and grassy areas.

Paved runways 100 feet wide and 150 feet wide are not functioning as a biological barrier to the tarplant at Watsonville Airport. I think you can accept the scientific judgement of Dr. John Dixon that 8 feet of pavement will not function as a biological barrier at Arana Gulch.

I am a Santa Cruz County resident and a member of the Sierra Club, and I urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan, as recommended by the Commission staff.

Yours truly,

Paul Schoellhamer

cc: S. Craig

Th 8a

Hal Anjo, MPA, DPA
226 Fern Drive
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Ph. 831.236.3475
Fax 831.338.8322
Email: HalAnjo@comcast.net

October 3, 2010

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
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Supervisor Mark Stone
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St # 500A
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4069

Dear Supervisor Stone,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Santa Cruz proposal for an accessible path through the lower section of Arana Gulch. I serve as one of your appointees to the Seniors Commission and I am also a member of the Regional Transportation Commission's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory group. Both of these groups represent many who have ambulatory limitations and have recommended approval of the City of Santa Cruz proposal, and both groups are on record as endorsing the City's proposal. However, I want to be clear that I do not at this time speak for either group.

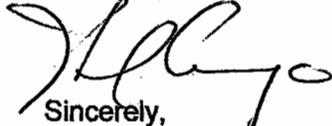
The City's proposal is a reasonable and limited modification which will have minimal impact on the better part of the open space and has potential for increasing the quality of life for a significant part of the community. I am also aware of the fact that similar modifications in Monterey County have been previously approved by the Coastal Commission.

As I understand, the Arana Gulch plan will provide a paved path with adjusted elevations for persons who have problems with mobility or stamina but will also serve as alternative route for cyclists and pedestrians. The path is located in a section of Arana Gulch that minimizes impact on the overall area and at the same time allows all to enjoy access to the open space. Various documents indicate that the impact of the paved path is at best minimal and will prevent erosion and runoff all the while providing a stable surface for walking, wheelchairs and bicycles.

CNPS is concerned that the variety of tar plant that is found in Arana Gulch will be threatened by increased access to the area. The recently issued report by the Coastal Commission staff, however, very thoroughly makes the case that the tarplant is now in decline because it needs more aggressive management of non-native grasses (which the staff calls the tarplant's "last best option"), and that the way to get that more aggressive management is to approve the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Sound public policy must focus on the need to consider the needs and demands of all stakeholders. This is not and should not be regarded as a zero sum game. The City's proposed Master Plan is the best option both for the tarplant and for public access, including access for persons with mobility or stamina limitations.

I sincerely hope that you will vote to permit the Arana Gulch plan to proceed.



Sincerely,
Dr. Hal Anjo

cc: All Commissioners
Dan Carl

From the desk of Trician Comings

Re: the Santa Cruz Arana Gulch
Master Plan with Multi-use trails

Dear Mark Stone,

The time has come for you to represent the (nine-to-one) majority of your constituents. Please urge your fellow Commissioners to vote FOR this plan on October 14th.

Those of us who live in the area KNOW that alot of the vocal minority opposing this plan are not REALLY concerned about the tarplant. They are just desperate to keep this nearby open space for themselves (and their dogs). They are just hiding behind the "Environmental" banner.

Well bet if some tarplant sprouted in their back yards, they'd quickly spray it with Round-up.

You would be surprised how many Sierra Club members SUPPORT this plan as it now stands.

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CENTRAL COAST AREA

After 15 years, it's time to open up Arana Gulch so all kinds of people with various mobilities can access the area from ALL sides.

You know all the good reasons to support this. Now go and do the right thing for Santa Cruz!

Sincerely,

Triclan Comings

cc: Dan Carl

San California Coastal Commission
for more from the
budget

Triclan Comings
316 S. Brancliffe Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 427-9548

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CENTRAL COAST AREA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CALIFORNIA

Susan Craig

From: Charles Lester
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 2:08 PM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Dan Carl
Subject: FW: meeting

FYI

Charles Lester
Senior Deputy Director

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Ph: 831-427-4863 Fax: 831-427-4877
www.coastal.ca.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanessa Miller
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 1:48 PM
To: Charles Lester; Dan Carl; Jeff Staben
Subject: FW: meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Wan [mailto:lwan22350@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 1:18 PM
To: Vanessa Miller
Subject: FW: meeting

Ex-parte Arana Gulch

-----Original Message-----

From: Sara Wan [mailto:lwan22350@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 1:17 PM
To: 'Juliana Rebagliati'
Subject: RE: meeting

Can you provide me with some information?
1- How much will the entire project cost
2- Can you break down how much for the paved paths and bridge vs how much for the unpaved trails, initial restoration parts of the project?
3- I am assuming transportation funds are available for the paver paths and bridge. Where will the funds come from for the rest? Staff report mentions the sale of a property, is that the only source of funding?

Thanks

Sara

-----Original Message-----

From: Juliana Rebagliati [mailto:jrebagliati@cityofsantacruz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:50 PM
To: Sara Wan
Subject: RE: meeting

Thanks. I can't imagine how hectic your schedule is. We'll try for Wed. Shall Steve and I just come up at the end of the meeting (if early enough) and introduce ourselves?

From: Sara Wan [lwan22350@aol.com]

Th8a

Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:44 PM
To: Juliana Rebagliati
Subject: RE: meeting

It will have to be after the meeting on Wednesday. My scheduled phone calls are almost back to back from now till I leave.

-----Original Message-----

From: Juliana Rebagliati [mailto:jrebagliati@cityofsantacruz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:40 PM
To: Sara Wan
Subject: RE: meeting

I see. If it's OK we can try for your first suggestion. If you finish early enough on Wed. maybe we can have a few minutes. Or we could work out a phone call sometime between now and then - Monday maybe. We are flexible at your convenience.

thanks again.

Juliana

From: Sara Wan [lwan22350@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:17 PM
To: Juliana Rebagliati
Subject: RE: meeting

Tuesday is the day I use to get to Oceanside. There is absolutely no way I can meet with anyone on that day.

From: Juliana Rebagliati [mailto:jrebagliati@cityofsantacruz.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 7:00 PM
To: Sara Wan
Cc: Steve Hammack
Subject: RE: meeting

Ms. Wan,

Thank you so much for your consideration. Steve Hammack, our Parks Superintendent, and I will be in the LA area on Tuesday, October 12, and thought we might be able to meet someplace close to you on that day. We are available in the afternoon, at your convenience.

We appreciate the opportunity.

Juliana

Note: My new email address is
jrebagliati@cityofsantacruz.com<mailto:jrebagliati@cityofsantacruz.com>

Juliana Rebagliati
Director of Planning and Community Development
City of Santa Cruz
831.420.5103

From: Sara Wan [mailto:lwan22350@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 6:54 PM
To: Juliana Rebagliati
Subject: meeting

Juliana,

I understand that the City of Santa Cruz would like to meet with me. Right now I don't see how I can. The agenda is loaded and I have so many appointments I am not certain how I can fit them all in. If the Wednesday meeting ends at a reasonable time I can meet with people right after the end of the meeting.

Let me know if this is okay.

Th 8a

Susan Craig

From: daveterra@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:50 AM
To: mark stone
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Sent via email and USPS

October 7, 2010

Supervisor Mark Stone
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Supervisor Stone:

I write this letter to urge your support for the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan. As a long-time and active member of our city and former resident of a town in your nearby supervisorial district, I ask that you carefully consider the community's broad-based project support as well as the increased public access and environmental protections of this project in making your decision as a member of the California Coastal Commission. I urge your support the Arana Gulch Master Plan for the following reasons.

First, in regards to environmental protections, the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan has been revised to make clear that the tarplant management program will cover nearly the entire grassland area, that the trail surface as well as base material will be permeable, and that additional existing trails that cause habitat or erosion problems will be closed and restored. And the completed study ordered by the Commission has clearly shown that the City's revised plan is environmentally superior to any other plans.

Second, in regards to improved public access, the City's revised plan would create the first wheelchair-accessible trails in any of the City's four greenbelt parks as well as provide access to the Harbor and nearby beaches. This is a wonderful improvement which serves seniors and persons with disabilities who would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit this open space.

Third, as the parent of young children I am especially supportive of programs which serve our community's youth. The City's revised Plan would create educational opportunities, such as interpretive displays for students, teachers as well as the general public, to learn about the habitat of this space. It's important that we engage residents and especially young people in efforts to learn about and protect our coastal environment.

Finally, and of particular importance because of their objective viewpoint, the Commission's professional staff has concluded that the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan meets all the requirements of the Coastal Act and is consistent with Commission precedents.

10/7/2010

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For the reasons stated above I respectfully request you to carefully consider the Commission's professional staff analysis and broad-based community support and vote to approve the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan at the California Coastal Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on October 14, 2010.

Cordially,
David Terrazas
Santa Cruz, CA

cc: California Coastal Commission
Attn: Susan Craig
725 Front St, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Monica Pielage [mpielage@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 9:56 AM

To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Cc: Susan Craig

Subject: I support Arana Gulch

Dear Sir/Madam:

I support the Arana Gulch Master Plan and improved public access to the open space as well as a safer east/west bike route for myself and my 4 year old son.

Please approve the plan.

Sincerely,

Monica Pielage
117 Darwin St
Santa Cruz CA 95062

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Colleen Brokaw [colleenb@ebold.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 4:43 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Please support Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Mark Stone,

I wish I could come in person to Oceanside to let you know how much I and my friends support the City of Santa Cruz's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan! I and my friends have used Arana Gulch many times, both as bicyclists and as walkers, and feel the plan would be beneficial to all of Santa Cruz.

Some of my friends worked long and hard on this plan, and I know them to have been thoughtful, smart, honest, and thorough in this, as in all their endeavors.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN FOR CITY OF SANTA CRUZ - AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE CENTRAL COAST!!

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Colleen Brokaw, Esq.
2630 Mattison Ln
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
831-535-2997

Susan Craig

From: Kathleen Rose [kathoo@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:42 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Mr. Stone,
I am a resident of Santa Cruz County and a longtime member of the Sierra Club, and I urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan, as recommended by the Coastal Commission staff.

As the Commission staff makes clear in its recently issued report, the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan meets all the Coastal Act requirements, is the best option for the habitat, is the best option for the tarplant, is the best option for public access and accessibility for the mobility-impaired, and would provide an excellent opportunity to educate people about the habitat and the importance of preserving it. There is no valid reason to oppose this Plan. I urge your support.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Rose

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Kirby Fosgate [kirbyfosgate@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 11:55 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Mr. Stone First, I would like to introduce myself; My name is Kirby Fosgate, and I am a Santa Cruz City resident and a retired State Park Ranger and the Trails Coordinator for the Santa Cruz District State Parks for over 25 years. I worked over the years on numerous State Park trail projects in Santa Cruz, and surrounding counties.

I respectfully ask you to support the proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan at the California Coastal Commission meeting in Oceanside on October 14th. I will be driving the 12 hour round trip distance to attend the meeting to encourage you and the Commission to approve this well thought out plan to protect and maintain the natural resources of Arana Gulch while allowing people to safely visit the open space.

Thank you for consideration

Kirby Fosgate
Santa Cruz

Tn8a

Susan Craig

From: bkett@ix.netcom.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 5:32 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Arana Gulch Plan

Dear Mr. Stone,

I met you about 2 1/2 years ago at a Santa Cruz Land trust luncheon at Diane Porter Cooley's ranch east of Watsonville. The whole group went for a walk through her ranch lands including supervisor Pirie. I am a 4th generation Santa Cruz County citizen (my greatgrandparents came here in the 1860's), and I feel very strongly about land preservation in this wonderful county that we live in.

I am writing to urge you to take a stand on the Arana Gulch city plan by supporting it. The not-in-my-back-yard(NIMBY) folks have dragged this on long enough. Santa Cruz needs people to get out of their cars and walk or cycle to get around town. The crossing through Arana Gulch gives access to people to a unique place, and at the same time helps preserve the endangered tar plant. This plan promotes health to all county residents, by allowing a safe crossing through town in a non-motorized fashion. Your support will be a positive action for the benefit of future generations of Santa Cruz County citizens.

Thank you for listening, Brandon Kett
39 Cutter Dr.
Watsonville, 95076

Susan Craig

From: Sonda Beal [scbeal@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 11:07 AM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com

Dear Mr. Stone:

During the time the Arana Gulch Bike and Interpretive Trail has been on the agenda, I have been advocating for the city's proposal for a trail -- which has been years in the making and will be a great asset to the community. Thus, I urge you to vote in favor of the city's proposal at the October 14 meeting.

Sincerely,
Sonda Beal

Susan Craig

From: Bruce Sawhill [bksawhill@cnsr.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Stone Mark
Cc: Sawhill Bruce; Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

> Hi Mark;
>
> One of these days we'll actually meet up! I hope you're swimming in
> the meantime.
>
> I know you're busy with the Coastal Commission meeting coming up.
> Even though FORT's forte is rails/trails and we don't have any
> official opinion on Arana Gulch, I believe that due diligence has been
> served by the CC staff and that it is a good project and that it
> should proceed. Even if there were a bike trail along the rail line
> across the Harbor, it would still be a good idea because there are few
> other options available.
>
> Have you ever read the book by Bill McKibben, "The End of Nature"?
> It says we have become so disconnected with the natural world that we
> are not even aware of how we affect it.
>
> In that vein, things like national parks exist because people want
> them to exist and they want to visit them. Arana Gulch is a little
> piece of nature, and having it seen by more people in a low impact way
> would serve the appreciation of nature and our role in it to greater
> effect. A democracy is a popularity contest, and people vote with
> their feet.
>
> Cheers,
>
> Bruce Sawhill
> Chair, FORT

DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Name or description of project:

Application No. 3-09-068 (City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co.) Application of City of Santa Cruz to implement Arana Gulch Master Plan for 67.7-ac. City-owned greenbelt property and to construct connecting trail segments outside of greenbelt area. Project includes management and restoration of habitat areas; improvements to existing trail system, including paved multi-use path (some over existing trails, some new); construction of new bridge over Hagemann Gulch; interpretive displays and trail signage; installation of fencing, including to allow limited cattle grazing, at Arana Gulch just inland of the Santa Cruz Harbor in Santa Cruz County. (SC-SC)

Date and time of receipt of communication:

October 4, 2010 at 10:15 am

Location of communication:

Call

Type of communication:

Telephone call

Person(s) in attendance at time of communication:

Juliana Rebagliati, Steve Hammack, Don Lane, Anne Blemker

Person(s) receiving communication:

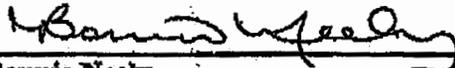
Bonnie Neely

Detailed substantive description of the content of communication:

(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

I received a briefing from the project representatives in which they provided an update on the City of Santa Cruz's efforts to respond to concerns raised at the hearing in March 2010. They emphasized that the City's proposal is a comprehensive habitat management plan intended to protect sensitive tarplant habitat, while also providing valuable recreational and transportation benefits. They explained how they have continued to work with Commission staff to evaluate alternative proposals and modify certain aspects of the proposal as suggested. The City is in agreement with the staff recommendation and special conditions.

Date: October 4, 2010



Bonnie Neely

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dion Farquhar - SBC [dnfarquhar@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 3:28 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: micah@peoplepowersc.org; Susan Craig; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com; Marsh Leicester; Dion Farquhar
Subject: Support Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Public Supervisor Mark Stone,

We are writing to urge you to vote to support the Arana Gulch Master Plan, which includes the City's proposed multi-use trail that is accessible to bikes, pedestrians, and wheelchairs. Connecting Broadway and Brommer would vastly encourage commuting by bike as well as recreational use of the paths.

We believe that public access to Arana Gulch, from the east (Live Oak) and from the west (eastside Santa Cruz), as well as public access through Arana Gulch to the Harbor and the beaches will not only reduce car traffic, but also encourage biking and walking, as well as invite the wheelchair community to use these paths.

In short, we support the access it will offer the mobility-impaired as well as people like us (and our teenage children) who would bicycle more if there were a SAFE way to get around that was car-free. We would like to use alternative methods to auto and bus transportation for both ecological reasons as well as health and exercise benefits.

Please add your voice to those already supporting the Arana Gulch Plan.

Thank you!

Best regards,

Dion Farquhar, Ph. D.

Marsh Leicester, Ph.D
(People Power Members and Voters)

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: geri lieby [glieby@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:39 AM
To: Susan Craig; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Fwd: Arana Gulch

----- Forwarded message -----

From: geri lieby <glieby@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 5, 2010 at 8:35 AM
Subject: Arana Gulch
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Dear Mark Stone,

Please support the city's plan for Arana Gulch. I'm a diehard environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast. I look deeply at proposals that will impact our open spaces. The city plan best protects the tarplant and the open space as a whole while ensuring that its uniqueness can be enjoyed by not only the physically fit but by those with disabilities and or other mobility issues such as wheelchair and stroller dependency.

Please, don't block this chance for another environmental gem in Santa Cruz.

Thank You,

Geri Lieby

Mark Stone

From: Jean Brocklebank [jeanbean@baymoon.com]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 8:11 PM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: Steve Hammack
Subject: ARANA GULCH: Goats 4 Hire

Dear Mark ~

Do you recall last March, when we walked in Arana Gulch and we spoke of using simple 19th century technology? And I remarked that a Volkswagen will often work just as well as a Cadillac...but cost less?

Why can't we do this (below) in Arana Gulch, instead of the industrial fencing project designed by the City in its revised Master Plan application? Friends of Arana Gulch has been suggesting the City try goats for over 10 years.

Sincerely,
Jean Brocklebank

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_16250845

Pasatiempo launches Operation Landscape Goat to help with restoration work By KIMBERLY WHITE
 - Santa Cruz Sentinel
 Posted: 10/04/2010 05:32:54 PM PDT

SANTA CRUZ - The bearded brigade assembles at the canyon's rim and casts their collective gaze below, surveying the steep and rugged terrain through slitted eyes before committing to a line of attack.

Nearly 200 goats were deployed to the back nine at Pasatiempo Golf Club last week, using their cloven hooves to traverse the surrounding canyons in an operation dubbed Landscape Goat.

The cloven-hoofed calvary is expected to be stationed at the 18-hole championship course for 6-10 weeks, spending their days grazing in areas so overgrown with weeds, vines and plants that neither man nor machine can tackle.

"I've been looking at old photographs (from the 1920s and 1930s) of the property over the past two-and-a-half, almost three years that I've been here, and the ruggedness of this area, especially on the back nine, was pretty extreme ... The goal is to get back to that," said Paul Chojnacky, the golf course's superintendent.

He added that in the short time the goats have been grazing, they've cut down so much of the overgrowth that the individual peaks on the hills now can be seen as they once stood in those historical pictures.

In previous years, several members of the maintenance crew would go down into the canyons to clear out pampas grass and invasive species, but they could only cut so far into the formidable terrain. Whatever material they could clear out would have to be hauled up out of the canyon and put into big brush piles, and another company would then have to be hired to cut it into chips. No matter how hard the crews worked, Chojnacky said, everything would just

grow back each spring, "so it almost looked like we hadn't done any work there at all. It was a rather frustrating schedule."

After pondering the situation, he discovered Brush Goats 4 Hire and contracted the company.

"You can already see in less than a week what they've done, and it would take us months to remove all that material and then having to haul it off," he said. "Plus, we'd have to go down there and spray chemicals, and we don't want to have to do that, either."

The goats belong to Ian Newsam and Lorraine Argo, a husband-and-wife team that operates Brush Goats 4 Hire, a 3-year-old company based out of Buellton. In addition to the roughly 170 goats, they also brought along two Anatolian shepherd dogs - code named Killer 1 and Killer 2 - to guard their charges from the predations of mountain lions and coyotes.

The goats - which Newsam said eat between 5 and 10 percent of their body weight each day - now are contained in an approximately two-acre area lined by a solar-powered electric fence, whose 10,000 volts also serve as a deterrent to any predators.

Pasatiempo is touting the goats as an environmentally friendly alternative to hiring a traditional maintenance crew, since they eliminate the need for chain saws, chippers and other heavy equipment that produce damage as well as noise. As well, Newsam said, the goats will be able to completely eradicate some species of vines in the canyons, thereby reducing the need to spray harmful chemicals that can irritate golfers and maintenance crews alike.

"There's a place for machinery and there's a place for man, but once you get on hillsides and areas that are a little bit dangerous for people - these guys are amazingly agile - then that's where we can come in to help out," Newsam said.

Th8a

Mark Stone

From: Amy Harrington [amyrosa@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 10:15 PM
To: Mark Stone
Subject: Support Arana Gulch

Dear Supervisor Stone,

I am writing as a 30yr+ resident of the east side of Santa Cruz to voice my support for the pathway in Arana Gulch to provide a safer way for us to get around Santa Cruz. When my mom was alive and in a wheel chair there were so few places I could take her near my house that had wheel chair access. We all want to enjoy Santa Cruz and as we age we need more paths which we can all enjoy. Thanks for all you do for Santa Cruz County to make this such a special place to live

Amy Harrington
831 818-9076

Th8a

Mark Stone

From: Drew Lewis [dudley@cruzio.com]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 11:08 PM
To: Mark Stone
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

I strongly urge you to support the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Sincerely,
Drew Lewis
433 Cayuga St.
Santa Cruz.

Th8a

Mark Stone

From: eric grodberg [ericgrodberg@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:19 AM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Arana Gulch Plan

Dear Supervisor Stone,

I am a long time resident of the City of Santa Cruz. I support the City's proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan. Though not an expert myself, I agree with the Coastal Commission's professional staff's assessment that the City's Plan would result in numerous benefits - including an improved environment for the tar plant.

Please take the advantage of the extensive study on this issue by seasoned professionals and approve the plan as recommended by your own staff.

Sincerely,

-Eric Grodberg

Th 8a

Mark Stone

From: geri lieby [g lieby@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:35 AM
To: Mark Stone
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Mark Stone,

Please support the city's plan for Arana Gulch. I'm a diehard environmentalist and outdoor enthusiast. I look deeply at proposals that will impact our open spaces. The city plan best protects the tarplant and the open space as a whole while ensuring that its uniqueness can be enjoyed by not only the physically fit but by those with disabilities and or other mobility issues such as wheelchair and stroller dependency.

Please, don't block this chance for another environmental gem in Santa Cruz.

Thank You,

Geri Lieby

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Peter [beckmann@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:21 AM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; Susan Craig; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Arana Gulch Coastal Commission Meeting

Dear Mark,

I am writing to you to encourage you to support the passage of the Arana Gulch Plan. This is a project, where the public benefits far outweigh all the critics' objections. Countless hours of public agency staff and volunteer commissioners have brought the project to this point of (almost) completion. I myself have dealt with the issue in many meetings during my eight years as a Santa Cruz City Transportation Commissioner, and many years later we are still in debate. The main objection from (mostly NIMBY) critics has been the health of the tarplant. However, even the Coastal Commission's own biologist, as many others in the past, supports the plan, because it will *help* the tarplant to thrive.

Thanks for representing your community's interests -

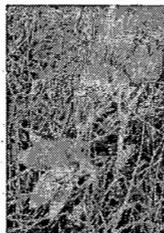
Peter

--

A simple rule for investing:

Be fearful when others are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful.

(Warren Buffet, October 17th, 2008)



Peter Beckmann

1019 - 3rd Street #6 (Up-stairs on the right)

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Home: 831-426-3610

Cabin: 831-687-0190 (with solar-powered answering machine!)

Work: 831-423-9242 x22

Cellular phone

Website

Facebook

Th8a

Mark Stone

From: Michael Levy [levysantacruz@gmail.com] on behalf of Michael Levy [mlevy@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: editorial@santacruzsentinel.com; scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Yes on the Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Mr. Stone and Coastal Commission members:

According the Coastal Commission's biologist, the tarplant is in serious danger if something is not done soon. The Arana Gulch Master Plan, although not perfect, will do a good job of protecting the tarplant and addressing its needs. City staff has put many hours of work into the plan, and who knows when they will be able to do that again?

This is one case where the perfect is clearly the enemy of the good. Please vote to approve the plan.

Sincerely,
Michael Levy

—
Michael Levy
225 Prospect Hts.
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
831-427-9916

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE
OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of project, LCP, etc.: Th. 8.a. Application No. 3-09-068
Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz,
Santa Cruz County

Date and time of receipt of communication: 10/4/10, 9:30 a.m.

Location of communication: Letter Received

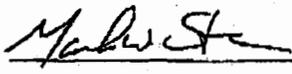
Type of communication: Letter

Person(s) initiating communication: see attached

Person(s) receiving communication: Mark Stone

Detailed substantive description of content of communication:
(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

See attached letter

Date: 10/4/10 Signature of Commissioner: 

If the communication was provided at the same time to staff as it was provided to a Commissioner, the communication is not ex parte and this form does not need to be filled out.

If communication occurred within seven or more days in advance of the Commission hearing on the item that was the subject of the communication, complete this form and transmit it to the Executive Director within seven days of the communication. If it is reasonable to believe that the completed form will not arrive by U.S. mail at the Commission's main office prior to the commencement of the meeting, other means of delivery should be used; such as facsimile, overnight mail, or personal delivery by the Commissioner to the Executive Director at the meeting prior to the time that the hearing on the matter commences.

If communication occurred within seven days of the hearing, complete this form, provide the information orally on the record of the proceeding and provide the Executive Director with a copy of any written material that was part of the communication.

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Brian Corser [bcorser@calcentral.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:00 PM
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Support of SC City Plan for Arana Gulch

Dear Mr. Stone,

I would like to encourage you support the Santa Cruz City Plan for public access to Arana Gulch. As I understand it the Commission's professional staff has already concluded that the City's proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan meets all the requirements of the Coastal Act.

Thank you,

Brian Corser
114 Ladera Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th 8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:26 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: Sara Wan ex-parte

From: Vanessa Miller
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Charles Lester; Dan Carl; Jeff Staben
Subject: FW: Funding

From: Sara Wan [mailto:lwan22350@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 7:26 PM
To: Vanessa Miller
Subject: FW: Funding

Ex-parte- Arana Gulch

From: Christophe Schneiter [mailto:cschneiter@cityofsantacruz.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 3:55 PM
To: 'lwan22350@aol.com'
Cc: Juliana Rebagliati
Subject: Funding

Commissioner Wan,

Community Development Director Juliana Rebagliati passed on your request for additional information related to the cost and funding of the Arana Gulch Master Plan. The total cost of construction is estimated at \$3.6 million in 2008 dollars, which is considered high at this time. The multi-use and bridge construction cost is \$3,470,000 and the cost site furnishings, interpretive displays, fencing, etc. is \$130,000. Additional hard costs for mitigation are included in the above cost estimates, such as erosion control, temporary fencing, etc. The federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) grants and other funding will pay for all the physical improvements, mitigations and monitoring for up to 3 years. That includes the components of the adaptive management plan such as tar plant restoration activities, such as grazing, mowing, biological monitoring. This is not intended to replace the City's current adaptive management costs. TE activities are federally funded, community-based projects that improve the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation system.

In addition the City has state environmental enhancement grants in process that will also be used for implementing the master plan. Local funding is from the sale of excess property adjacent to Arana Gulch, redevelopment funds and development impact fees for alternative transportation. It is our practice to maximize state and federal grant

10/11/2010

53

funding for the initial implementation and 3-year mitigation and monitoring program, so that more local funding is available for the adaptive management plan to restore the Santa Cruz Tarplant and coastal prairie habitat. A successful example of this practice and our ability to follow through is the successful restoration and ongoing management of Neary Lagoon.

The excess property, valued at over \$1.0 million, is the former right-of-way outside of Arana Gulch that was acquired in the 1950's and 1960's for the abandoned Broadway-Brommer road connection. Only a strip of right-of-way will remain for the west entrance trail to the bridge, precluding a future road across Arana Gulch. As directed by the City Council, the revenue will be placed in the City's property sale trust fund, where the funds will be drawn upon for ongoing adaptive management plan implementation and monitoring.

I hope that I have adequately responded to your questions. Feel free to contact me anytime via email or phone if you would like to discuss this further.

Chris Schneider
 Assistant Director/City Engineer
 City of Santa Cruz
 cschneider@cityofsantacruz.com
 831-420-5422 office
 831-212-6051 cell

1 1a.

2 Total cost of construction is \$3.6 million in 2008 dollars. Funds are from the federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) program, of which \$2.7 million has been dedicated to the multipurpose trail and mitigation. An additional \$1.35 million is being considered by State granting agencies. Local funds will also be used, which includes sale of excess property* (see below), Redevelopment Agency funds and Traffic Impact Fees for alternative transportation. Obviously it is our intent to maximize grant funding and use as little local money as possible for construction.

3. Outside costs of the adaptive management plan (not including staff time) are TE grant eligible for 3 years, estimated at under \$20,000 per year. After 3 years, mitigation will be funded from the sale of excess property to the west of Arana Gulch (Part of the Bible Church parking lot and the properties south of there, off of Frederick Street). The property was conservatively appraised at over \$1.0 million. \$420,000 of this is slated for a local match to the federal grants, leaving approximately \$600,000 for mitigation over the long term. Funds for the sale of property are deposited in the City's trust fund, where it can be drawn upon for operating expenses related to the management plan.

4. The above cost estimates are based on the past plan. Staff has not had the opportunity to fully evaluate the cost implications of the conditions of approval.

*

Chris J. Schneiter
Assistant Director/City Engineer
cschneiter@cityofsantacruz.com
831-420-5422



October 5, 2010
Dan Carl
District Manager
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Dear Mr. Carl and Coastal Commissioners,

Ecology Action of Santa Cruz, a non-profit environmental consultancy since 1970, would like to re-assert its support for the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan with the multi-use interpretive trail. In our letter of March 8, 2010 to the Coastal Commissioner we expressed our support for the City's plan with a caveat. That exception was the lack of an identified funding source for the City's ongoing Arana Gulch natural resource management plan. Fortunately, the City has addressed this issue by identifying a specific and ongoing funding source for their natural resource management plan for Arana Gulch through the sale of public property near Arana Gulch and from the City's operating budget.

Ecology Action is also satisfied to see other master plan improvements including use of permeable materials for the interpretive trail, elimination of several dirt paths and a better articulated grazing plan to restore and maintain the tarplant. The proposed Arana Gulch multi-use path would significantly improve access for pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled to this coastal area designated as a greenbelt. Non-motorized access to this coastal area will greatly enhance Santa Cruz residents and visitors ability to better understand, appreciate, and enjoy the natural resources of this special land.

Given these improvements to the City's plan, Ecology Action offers its wholehearted support for this environmentally worthy project. Thank you for your consideration in approving the City's master plan with multi-use trail for Arana Gulch. It will be a welcome improvement to California's coastal area.

Sincerely,

Virginia Johnson
Executive Director

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

3-09-068

Th8a

The
again

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please vote against the Arana Gulch Master Plan! This is just going to be road. There is no reason to destroy one of the only open spaces left when there are other noninvasive alternatives, which would be able to give the bike people what they are pushing for. Once you take away this beautiful open space, it can never recover. There are other places for bike paths but there are only limited spaces for endangered species and natural habitat.

Thank you for your immediate attention

Sincerely,

Dee Knutle
161 Hagemann St
Santa Cruz, CA
95062

RECEIVED
OCT 11 2010
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

RESPRESENTATIVE FORM
LETTER RECEIVED FROM 16
SEPARATE INDIVIDUALS

Th Ba

Dan Carl

From: Elene Johas Teener [elene@johasteener.com]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Coastal Commissioners:

To put this comment in perspective. I visit Arana Gulch several times each week. I ride my bike to a biweekly meeting through the Gulch every week I work. The picture of the couple in the paper strolling through the area is my husband, myself and our dog. My sons and I pick blackberries their every summer and we have had several Easter Egg hunts, tree climbing lessons, and hide and go seek adventures. My sons are now preteen and teenage they ride their bikes to friends houses and walk in the Gulch with peers.

Our family does not understand why this open space which is a destination would be turned into a pass through. There are many designer parks in town and they have their use. But true open space is rare. The Gulch is like nature art, there is the availability to have a sense of freedom from the conformity of perfect paths and designed uses. The imagination is allowed freedom to exist.

It seems to me that the new politically correct 'green advocacy' is bike transportation and the lobbying of this group. But I bike through the Gulch frequently as do many. There are a lot of routes. There is no way more people will ride if the Gulch is a pass through. But we will lose an open space with invasive paths.

Additionally I am against spending all that money. What are the priorities of this community and why is this minority pushing for spending it. My family and I and everyone I have ever talked to walking the Gulch is against the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Please think hard in this economy in times such as this, when development and growth have squeezed the life out of us. Leave this space alone we love it just as it is.

Elene Johas Teener
23 Acacia Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831 4251805

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:13 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

From: McDaniFer@aol.com [mailto:McDaniFer@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 11:20 AM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Hello-

As a homeowner and resident of Santa Cruz County for almost 24 years, I have recently discovered Arana Gulch!...How have I "missed" this gem?..Well, life happens and opportunities do not always permit us the "freebies" others take for granted!...In a nutshell, after living in a State Park residence for 17 years and then moving back into our house on the Eastside, I was thrilled to be involved with nature and its beauty once again. There are so many issues to this plea from so many involved. However, to paraphrase the old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"...that is my request.

Sincerely,
Karen Poret
206 Pacheco Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

60 10/11/2010

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch open Space

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

From: kellyr0ss@comcast.net [mailto:kellyr0ss@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 4:25 PM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch open Space

Kelly Ross
18515 Main Blvd
Los Gatos, CA 95033 (Santa Cruz County)

Dear Coastal Commissioners;

I use the Arana Gulch open space quite often. Please add my name to the people who would like to keep the area as is. I'm sure others have expressed all the reasons for this request, mine is simply that there are so few natural spaces left on the coast it is a shame to reduce what little open space there is.

Thank you

Kelly Ross

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:16 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce [mailto:bnlarsen@cruzio.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Hello,
I'm writing as a bicyclist and a nature lover who lives near the Gulch. I don't think we need interpretive signs in our greenbelt areas, and we surely don't need the bike bridge and path through the center of this preserve. There is a path and stairway to the Yacht Harbor right now that goes through Frederick St. Park that serves the cross town bicycle community. It could be made more user friendly for a fraction of the bike bridge cost, and would not impact the unique coastal bluff environment that makes Arana worth preserving.
Let's keep the open spaces open. Upgrade the trails so that the handicapped have easier access, but leave the rest "natural". With some creative management, the tarplant will return.
Thank You,
Bruce Larsen

42

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:17 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

From: Public [mailto:public@danielsfriedman.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2010 3:54 PM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Coastal Commission:

For over 10 years, a highly organized group of bicyclists (People Power) have flexed their political muscle to persuade the Santa Cruz City Council to build a bike road over Arana Gulch for them. When they started their campaign long ago, there was never a mention of people with disabilities. In response to resistance to their plan, they suddenly became avid disability rights proponents. Naturally, they enlisted people with disabilities to advocate for the bike road they wanted. Tellingly, no plan to accommodate people with disabilities in Arana Gulch is acceptable to them unless it includes the paved bike road that they covet.

There are already several viable east-west bike routes through Santa Cruz complete with dedicated bike lanes. At the urging of this same bike group, a bike lane with major road modifications was done a few years back on Soquel Ave. which is located just 2 blocks from Arana Gulch!

We hope the Coastal Commission will see through the attempts of this bicycle group to use people with disabilities as a front for their agenda of having yet another east-west bike route built especially for them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Friedman
Vinnie Hansen
1011 Bostwick Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

10/11/2010

63

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

-----Original Message-----

From: Michele Franzella [mailto:mafranzella@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2010 6:46 PM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Coastal Commission,

I'm very disappointed to learn that my favorite place to run is soon to be paved over with a cement path. The fact that a perfectly natural dirt field bothers people enough that a government organization is willing to spend millions of dollars to change it, simply baffles me. Myself and many other local Santa Cruz citizens seem to enjoy Arana Gulch just fine the way it is, and would really prefer if you found a better use for these unspent millions of dollars that are about to be used to fix something that isn't broken.

Sincerely,
Michele Franzella
408 Trevethan Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA. 95062

64

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:18 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch project...

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

From: Rich Dandolo [mailto:rdandolo@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 6:54 AM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch project...

Dear Coastal Commission Decision Maker,

Just wanted you to know that I am very much opposed to the changes that are planned for Arana Gulch. There is nothing wrong with the way it is now, in it's natural state, and I'm very surprised that you can't find something better to do with the extra millions of dollars you have in your budget. How many miles of sidewalk do we already have in Santa Cruz? Do we really have to put another one through this open space also?

I know you're going to do whatever you want to do, but I just needed to let you know a lot of people enjoy that area just the way it is, and don't appreciate having it "upgraded" to your specifications.

Sincerely,

Rich Dandolo
Santa Cruz Suspension & Accessories
408 Treveltham Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-460-9434
<http://www.santacruzsuspension.com/index.html>

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Th8a

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Application No. 3-09-068, Item No. Th8a

Debbie Bulger, opposed to project

October 4, 2010

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please protect the California Coast and enforce the Coastal Act. I urge you to approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan WITHOUT THE NON-RESOURCE DEPENDENT BROADWAY-BROMMER PAVED PATH.

The City of Santa Cruz has a responsibility to restore the degraded habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant. Restoration of the habitat must be their first priority.

Interpretive trails

There are many opportunities for interpretive trails on the Arana Gulch Greenbelt property. The best interpretative trail would be a loop, not a point to point trail the primary purpose of which is transportation.

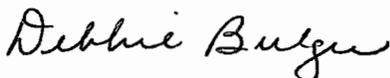
It is possible to build an ADA-compliant interpretive trail on this Greenbelt property without significantly damaging environmentally sensitive habitat. The fact that the City continues its campaign to build a transportation corridor while claiming that this point-to-point paved route is resource dependent, is a black mark on the reputation of the City.

Funding from transportation monies

The transportation purpose of the Broadway-Brommer connection is evident by its primary source of funds: A transportation grant.

I am disappointed to see that after the March 2010 Coastal Commission meeting, the City did not in good faith investigate alternative alignments for the bike connection nor design a true interpretive trail, but instead continued to push for unnecessary destruction of habitat of an endangered species.

Sincerely,



Debbie Bulger
1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

66

Th8a

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Application No. 3-09-068, Item No. Th8a

Richard Stover, opposed to project

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

In coordination with the International Year of Biodiversity, a recently published comprehensive analysis of the world's plants finds that 1 in 5 species are under threat of extinction and the primary cause is human-induced habitat loss. Habitat loss and the threat of extinction of the Federally listed Santa Cruz tarplant is the major issue in the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Let us not be a party to extinction. Instead let's do the very best we can for the endangered tarplant.

The California Native Plant Society has been working tirelessly to use the best science to create the best possible restoration plan for the tarplant. Despite CNPS's efforts, the City of Santa Cruz continues to push a bicycle transportation project through the heart of the tarplant habitat. That is certainly not the very best we can do.

The City has failed to work cooperatively with CNPS to identify the best possible restoration plan. That is obviously not the very best we can do.

The City claims the bicycle path is really an interpretive trail. A quick glance at all of the letters received by the Coastal Commission shows that the vast majority identify the City's project for what it is - a commuter bike route. It is not resource dependent, and the City's claims to the contrary are not supported by the facts or anybody's expectations. The City isn't trying to do the very best for the endangered tarplant.

Especially in this Year of Biodiversity why must human exploitation take priority over endangered species protection?

**Please reject the bike path proposal of the City of Santa Cruz.
Approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan with the deletion of the east-west Creek View bike route.**

As a further measure to insure the best possible tarplant restoration add one more condition of approval: **require that the CNPS be represented on the Adaptive Management Working Group.** This would help to insure that the City efforts do not back slide even farther from the best we can do.

Sincerely,
Richard Stover 10/6/10
Richard Stover
1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th8a

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Agenda Item# - Th8a
Application # 3-09-068
Position - Against

Wes & Katie Musitelli
216 Harbor Dr.
Santa Cruz, Calif. 95062

To: Members of California Coastal Commission
Subject: Opposition to Arana Gulch Master Plan.
Via Fax (831) 427-4877

Although we are bicycle and open space advocates we feel that the master plan for Arana Gulch is flawed and should be modified to delete the construction of a bridge over Hagemann Gulch. Access to this open space can be accomplished through the feeder streets near Parkway or from Brommer St. A bicycle path and ramp could be built at the Fredrick St. Park and connect with Brommer through the Yacht Harbor Parking Lot. A second alternative for the bicycle trail is connecting with the Rail Trail and Rt. of Way that was just approved for purchase.

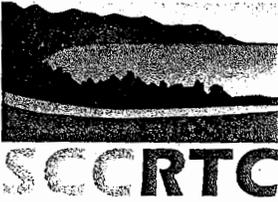
We ask that the Coastal Commission send this item back to the City for modification and review with regard to building the Bridge or bridges necessary to cross this area. The goal can be achieved by less invasive and expensive measures. The Rail Trail or Fredrick St. access will accomplish the same goals.

Thanks for your consideration.

Wes & Katie

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Th8a



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911 • (831) 460-3200 FAX (831) 460-3215 EMAIL info@sccrtc.org

October 8, 2010

Bonnie Neely, Chair
California Coastal Commission
725 Front St, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Chair Neely:

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff, per numerous action directions from the board, remains in steadfast support of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan and urges you to approve the City of Santa Cruz and the County of Santa Cruz's permit request at the upcoming meeting of the Coastal Commission. The City of Santa Cruz and Coastal Commission staff have completed their due diligence work in examining natural habitat management options, as well as multi-use path alternatives, and crafting a Master Plan that provides a multitude of benefits for a wide range of users, as well as environmental protections.

The RTC has long supported the proposed multi-use trail system in the greenbelt between Broadway and Brommer Streets included in the Arana Gulch Master Plan. The paths provide safe access for all including bicyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities and coastal access enthusiasts. The RTC's two citizen advisory committees, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Committee, are among the many entities in our region that have taken positions of support for this project.

Following the Coastal Commission's request for reconsideration of the Arana Gulch Master Plan at its Spring meeting, several enhancements have been added that further strengthen the plan. The trail management program would cover nearly the entire grassland area, the trail surface and base material will be permeable, and existing trails that cause habitat or erosion problems will be closed and restored. In addition, the value of providing access for mobility impaired individuals (seniors and persons with disabilities) cannot be understated as the City's revised Plan would create the first wheelchair-accessible trails in any of the City's four greenbelt parks.

The Arana Gulch Park Master Plan supports several of the *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan's* Goals and Policies, including policies to increase bicycle and pedestrian use and reduce vehicle miles traveled, fill gaps in the transportation system, support development of multi-use paths, and increase safety.

Please accept the following comments for your consideration:

- On January 14, 2010 the RTC programmed \$1.1 million of the region's share of federal Transportation Enhancement funds for the project. This was in addition to the \$1.8 million previously allocated to this project over a period spanning many years. The RTC has preserved funding for this project even though transportation funding is very limited because of its importance to the region.

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

www.sccrtc.org

MEMBER AGENCIES Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Caltrans

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- RTC staff strongly supports the bicycle/pedestrian paths proposed in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. These proposed multi-use trails will help fill critical gaps in the regional network of low greenhouse gas emission mobility options such as bicycle and pedestrian choices. Providing a complete and convenient regional bicycle and pedestrian network increases the opportunity and attractiveness of bicycle and pedestrian trips. Bicycle/pedestrian facilities have positive, cumulative environmental impacts. Our community's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by promoting alternative transportation would be greatly aided by this project.
- This project also provides "universal access" by enabling all people, including young, old and disabled persons who may have diminished perceptual or ambulatory abilities, to travel safely in ecological habitats and to destinations served by our public streets and pathway systems.
- We fully support ADA accessibility to wheelchair users that would be provided by the Arana Gulch multi-use path. Of all four greenbelts in Santa Cruz County, only this project would construct trails that allow access for people using mobility devices. The semi-permeable trail would greatly improve access to the coastal zone for persons with disabilities.
- The Arana Gulch Master Plan trail system is consistent with the concepts for the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) Network which includes interpretive elements as well as transportation elements and recreation elements. The RTC is expected to undertake a Master Plan and Environmental Review process for the MBSST this spring.

The Arana Gulch Master Plan meets the Coastal Commission's goal of improving access to the coastal zone and we strongly encourage you to support this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 831-460-3200.

Sincerely,


George Dondero
Executive Director

cc: RTC
RTC Bicycle Committee
RTC E & D TAC Committee
City of Santa Cruz Public Works – Chris Schneider
Coastal Commission Staff – Susan Craig

Th8a

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Ste. 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Attn: Dan Carl

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to you to urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan and support the staff's recommendation.

We have been following this project for many years and believe the time is right to support this project and allow it to move forward. Our family has been living in Santa Cruz for 15 years and we are raising our family here. The City's plan will allow us and other members of the public to enjoy Arana Gulch while ensuring that the area's unique natural resources will be protected. This plan is in fact the only insurance that the natural resources in Arana Gulch will be preserved.

Arana Gulch is a precious coastal resource that needs a protection plan. And as a publicly owned coastal open space, the public has a right to enjoy it. The City's revised plan makes both possible in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Please support the plan.

Thank you,



Rachel Dann and Simon Black
331 Walnut Ave
Santa Cruz CA
95060

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
central coast district office
725 front street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

ITEM No Th8a
PERMIT No 3-09-068
Nathan Lawrence
OPPOSED

Th8a

I'm writing this letter for the asphalt people, you know, their main concern is getting from point A to point B as quick as their wheels will take them.

It is also for the dirt folks. They, for the most part of their often busy lives, avoid streets and roads and enjoy strolling on trails and paths just breathing in the fragrance of grass, flowers, and even earth. Unfortunately at times, these two groups come in conflict.

Recently, it's happening at Arana Gulch.

The "asphalt's" want to cut a paved road through the Gulch. To save maybe twenty minutes going from point A to B.

The "Dirts" would like to to save an hour out of their lives just digging the scene.

Well, the conflict is historic. Teddy Rosevelt and John Muir when trying to establish our National Parks, saw this same scenario with those who valued Nature for itself and those who would put expediency as higher priority.

So I hold this truth to be self evident that keeping asphalt out of our green belts is a very human value.

Nathan Lawrence
1855 17th Ave
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062
(831) 475-6489

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

10/7/10

Th8a

ITEM # Th8A
3-09-08
FRANK SCHMIT
EVE EGAN
OPPOSED

DEAR COASTAL COMMISSION,

WE LIVE ON 17th AVE. AND RIDE OUR BIKES DOWNTOWN THROUGH THE HARBOR, USING THE STAIRS TO ROLL OUR BIKES BACK AND FORTH TO THE PATH AT FREDERICK ST. PARK.

WE ALSO LOVE AND CHERISH THE ARANA OPEN SPACE WHERE WE WALK OUR DOGS DAILY.

IT SEEMS LIKE OVERKILL TO US TO TEAR UP THAT WONDERFUL WILD AREA WHEN WE ALREADY HAVE A WAY THROUGH FREDERICK ST. PARK.

WE ENVISION A RAMP SWITCHBACK CONSTRUCTION REPLACING THE STAIRS AT THE PARK-HARBOR LINK WHICH WOULD MAKE CYCLING A LOT EASIER THROUGH THERE AND WOULD ALSO BE GOOD FOR THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH STROLLERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO GET DOWN ALONG THE HARBOR FROM THE PARK.

IT WOULD ALSO COST A LOT LESS.

THANKS,



FRANK SCHMIT



EVE EGAN

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CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th 8a

HUGH AND CHRIS MCISAAC
809 ISBEL COURT
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060



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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

October 1, 2009

Hugh and Chris McIsaac
809 Isbel Crt.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

The Coastal Commission

Re: Ariana Gulch Plan, Support

Dear Commissioners,

We support the plan to upgrade the Ariana Gulch with walking trails and other improvements.

This unique, beautiful, undeveloped land would benefit from these walking trails and other additions increasing accessibility as outlined in the current plan before you. The available funding will be well spent and provide years of enjoyment for our generation and generations to follow.

Currently, the land is relatively unused. Fortunately, we have this pristine piece of the undeveloped land which has not been turned into housing and other uses limiting public access. Since funding is available, it would be foolish to let this valuable resource go to waste. We know you will do the right thing and vote to approve this project.

Very truly yours,

Hugh and Chris McIsaac
Hugh and Chris McIsaac,

HMCI:fs

PHONE: (831) 427-3219

hmcisaac@igc.org

74

Th8c

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

FAX

To: California Coastal Commission

Fax Phone No. 427-4877

From: Hugh & Chris McIsaac

Subject: Ariana Bulch - Approve

No. Pages: 2

Date: 10/2/10

This transmission is confidential and is meant for the person named above. If this fax is received in error, please destroy it. The sender may be reached at (831) 427-3219

Comments: Approve the Plan !!

Th8a

Public Comment to the California Coastal Commission
Oct 4, 2010

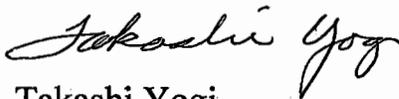
CDP 3-09-068 Item Th8a
Takashi Yogi
in favor

I have reviewed the CCC staff report on the Arana Gulch Master Plan and concur with the recommendations of the report to approve the revised application. I am a resident of Santa Cruz and attended the March 11 meeting of the CCC. I agree with the report that the proposed plan meets the requirement for being resource dependent. I appreciate the point that additional benefits provided by the plan (namely transportation) do not negate the fulfillment of resource dependency. The precedent of the Seaside/Monterey multi-use path shows that habitat protection, education, and transportation can coexist.

I see the plan as compatible with the long-term objective of the Commission to plan for a sustainable future.

I am concerned about ensuring access for people with disabilities. For this group, the area is presently inaccessible. Therefore for this group, the plan is clearly resource dependent; they would not be able to access the resources without an ADA path.

I am concerned with the fate of the tarplant. It is clear to me that doing nothing will result in extinction. I think the revised plan has carefully studied all impacts of the path and is the best approach for ensuring the survival of the tarplant.



Takashi Yogi
1940 17th Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
yogi@cruzio.com

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

Th8a

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast District Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Opposed

Agenda number: **Th8a**
Application number: **3-09-068 Arana Gulch Master Plan**

I live one quarter mile from Arana Gulch (for 29 years) and I am a frequent walker and bicyclist in Arana Gulch. I am strongly opposed to paved paths and fencing in Arana Gulch. While I appreciate efforts that would deter homeless people from living in Arana Gulch I do not support fencing or paved paths.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Fenn

Marilyn Fenn
408 Park Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

10-07-10

SUPPORT:
ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN

ThBa

TO: SUPERVISOR MARK STONE
701 OCEAN ST - ROOM 500
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

FROM: CAROLYN GREENE
115 PASSED BALLENNA
ARTOS, CA 95003

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN & MULTI-USE TRAIL

I REGRET THAT I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION MEETING ON OCTOBER 14TH IN OCEANSIDE, AS I DID WHEN IT WAS HELD IN SANTA CRUZ.

I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THE REVISED ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN. THIS PLAN NOT ONLY PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT, THE TIDE PLANT AND SURROUNDING HABITAT; IT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THIS AREA FOR WALKERS, CYCLISTS AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS. IT CREATES AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR SCHOOL GROUPS AND OTHERS LIVING IN NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS.

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN OF 84 YEARS. I ENJOY THE SAFETY OF WALKING MANY OF OUR BEACHES. THIS PLACE SHOULD SERVE AS A DESTINATION POINT FOR MANY OF THE ELDERLY SEEKING A SAFE PLACE OF SOLACE AND BEAUTY WITHIN AN URBAN SETTING.

PLEASE VOTE FOR THE PASSAGE OF THIS PLAN.

CC: SUSAN CRAIG - CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION



Thursday October 7, 2010

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OCT 11 2010

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Ms. Susan Craig
725 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th8a
AARP California T 1-866-448-3615
Pasadena Office F 626-583-8500
200 S. Los Robles Ave. TTY 1-877-434-7598
Suite 400 www.aarp.org/ca
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Item Th7a, Application 3-09-068-Master Plan for Arana Gulch, Broadway-Brommer – Pedestrian-Bicycle Path

We recently received correspondence from our AARP California members in Santa Cruz concerning an Arana Gulch Project. They are concerned:

- That continued delays in the project have deprived seniors and those with disabilities from access to public property that is enjoyed by other member of the community.
- About an alternate plan recently proposed that would impede use by seniors and those with disabilities due to path lengths and steepened slopes
- That a small but powerful group that desire to maintain their vision of the property seems to have trumped overwhelming analysis of the project's goal of protecting and preserving while making the land accessible for the enjoyment and health of a wider group of residents.

Neither AARP nor AARP California maintains specific principles that encompass the totality of issues you must consider on this project. . However, AARP does maintain strong livable community principles which guide out advocacy. These include:

- Engaging residents in community planning and decision making
- Creating safe, walkable communities which foster aging in place and promote a strong sense of place
- Supportive features and services designs that enhance the ability of residents with diverse needs to remain independent and actively engaged in community life.

Based on our review of recent reports, including that of your staff, the very strong views of our members which live in the Arana Gulch Area and our livable communities principles we recommend you favorably consider and sanction the Arana Gulch Project.

Sincerely,

David Pacheco
AARP California State President

Tom Porter
AARP California, Snr. State Director

Sacramento Office
T 1-866-448-3615
F 916-446-2223
TTY 1-877-434-7598

San Francisco Office
T 1-866-448-3615
F 415-986-3467

Th8a

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OCT 11 2010

**CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA**

Jim Warner
215 Trescony St
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

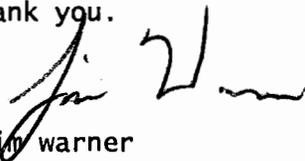
8 October 2010

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office 725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

I support proceeding with the Santa Cruz City plan to add a path through the Arana Gulch parcel.

I believe the tar plant will be better with this project than without it. I believe that the plan fully addresses conservation and that it has significant public recreation and health benefits.

Thank you.



-jim warner

ThBa

Judy Warner
215 Trescony Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

October 6, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Attention: Dan Carl

Dear Commissioners:

I support the Arana Gulch Master Plan and hope you will approve it when it comes to you next Thursday. Like many residents, I've been following the fate of Arana Gulch for years and appreciate the city's revised plan that addresses the Coastal Commission's earlier concerns.

In Santa Cruz, we're proud and protective of our open spaces, and we want this unique, 68-acre greenbelt to include coastal access, habitat protection, and an interpretive program to help young and old alike learn about and enjoy the area.

The plan before you provides for superior stewardship of Arana Gulch.

Sincerely,



Judy Warner
City Planning Commissioner
Former General Plan Advisory Committee Member

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Dear Coastal Commissioners!

Please vote NO! on the
Broadway - Bromar Bike Path

This is going to be a
road! No Bridge - no Cement
paths, and no Lights! We
already have a Park 100 yards
away! Keep this
one of few open spaces
left a beautiful, untouched
one! We do not need
this path!

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Please Vote No!

128 Forest Av
SC Calif 95062

Thank you

Garrett McPoy
G.M.P.

Th8a

Dan Carl
c/o California Coastal Commission
725 Front St.
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

Dear Mr. Carl,

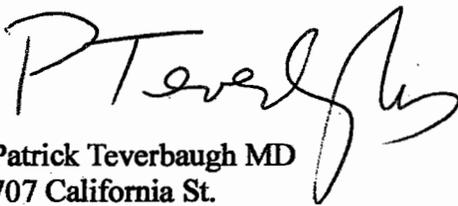
Please make this letter a part of the official record pertaining to the Revised Arana Gulch Plan.

I strongly support a bike and wheelchair accessible path through the Arana Gulch. I bicycle to work and do my errands by bicycle every day. I try to avoid busy Soquel Avenue because it feels so dangerous and the car exhaust is so strong. A completed path through Arana Gulch would be a safe corridor from the Westside where I live to 41st Av. Please vote to approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan and its multi-use trails.

Arana Gulch is a valuable green space in our town, but it is in danger of becoming a dusty vacant lot if not preserved by some type of Park agency. Mountain bikes and irresponsible pet owners have carved a myriad of dusty paths through the Gulch, destroying its natural flora and eroding the soil.

I've been watching the Ken Burns documentary about the formation of our National Parks. He pointed out the the natural beauty of these lands would have been destroyed by the exploitation of others if the government did not come in and preserve them. It is the same with Arana Gulch. A well kept bike path and regular maintenance by a Parks Service will preserve the Arana Gulch and still provide a safe passage for bicycles and pedestrians from one side of town to another. It will encourage more bicycling and walking and reduce traffic on other roads.

Thank you for considering this idea,



Patrick Teverbaugh MD
707 California St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
pteverba@juno.com

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OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

ThBa

Madelyn McCaul
123 Liberty Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

October 7, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Ste. 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Attention: Dan Carl

Re: Arana Gulch

As the mother of a disabled son, I am looking forward to the day when we are able to visit this wonderful part of the Santa Cruz greenbelt. We've fought hard over the years not only to create and maintain our greenbelt but also to ensure that at least some of these protected areas would be available to our citizens who are not able to hike normally in more challenging terrain.

Please follow the will of the citizens of Santa Cruz, especially those who will be most impacted if this space is forbidden to them, and make Arana Gulch the park we have worked for.

Thank you,

Madelyn McCaul

Madelyn McCaul

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COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Thba

10/8/10

To Whom It May Concern:

I am primarily a bike commuter and am writing to strongly urge you to vote against the Arana Gulch paved trail.

It appears that there are other alternatives that allow a bike path without paving our only eastside open space, such as a path down from Fredrick Street Park. The Rail Trail will be a much better alternative, providing a path through town that will be useful for many commutes. The Broadway path bisecting the park will only help a small percentage of bike commutes, not alleviating the main eastside problems of the intersections of Soquel and Branciforte, and Soquel and Seabright. Broadway is also dangerous, with cars and bikes sharing little space between these intersections and downtown.

There is a difference between an open space and a park. An open space is a natural preserve in a city, a vestige of a time when more land was available for the public to experience. I presently walk and ride my bike through Arana Gulch quite often. It is presently enjoyed by many groups including hikers, bikes, kids, dog walkers, etc, and very harmoniously. It is a very fragile habitat for many animals. We have lots of parks with manicured lawns and fences but so few open spaces.

The Rail Trail will alleviate these problems by getting bikes OFF of the road and you will not ruin a rare open space in our beautiful town.

Please vote with the red tailed hawks, vote against this poorly conceived plan that once done can never be undone.

Sincerely yours,

Andria Gordon
Santa Cruz

207 Point
SC CA
95062

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2010/10/10
Villalobos



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

*protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and imperiled species through
science, education, policy, and environmental law*

via electronic and US mail

Th8a

October 8, 2010

Mr. Dan Carl
Ms. Susan Craig
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
dcarl@coastal.ca.gov
scraig@coastal.ca.gov

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Re: Item Th8a, Application 3-09-068 – Arana Gulch Master Plan

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (“Center”) on the City of Santa Cruz’s Master Plan for Arana Gulch (the “Project”). The Center urges the California Coastal Commission (“Commission”) to reject the Project as proposed until the non resource-dependent, east-west paved multi-use path through the meadow and Hagemann Gulch is removed, or reconfigured to avoid significant disruption of endangered species habitat values.

The Center applauds the City’s efforts to develop the Arana Gulch Habitat Management Plan in accordance with the “Management Program for the Santa Cruz Tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*) Population at Arana Gulch.” The Center also appreciates the City’s modifications to the Master Plan that reduce impacts on endangered Santa Cruz tarplant habitat. However, the Project as proposed will still result in significant destruction of endangered tarplant habitat. The Commission acknowledges that the east-west paved path will “cover a portion of the habitat area with pavement” and create “disruption of habitat values.” California Coastal Commission. 2010. Coastal Development Permit Application 3-09-068. Arana Gulch Management Plan at 44-45. (“CDP Application”).

The Commission should not approve a project with such significant impacts on tarplant habitat within the Arana Gulch Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (“ESHA”). Because the east-west paved path is not resource-dependent, and because it will cause significant disruption of habitat values, the Commission should not approve the Project until a less destructive alternative is proposed and favored by the City; one which accomplishes the City’s goal of improving the Arana Gulch trail system for users with various mobility methods while still protecting endangered tarplant habitat.

Arizona • California • Nevada • New Mexico • Alaska • Oregon • Illinois • Minnesota • Vermont • Washington, DC

Jonathan Evans, Staff Attorney
351 California St., Ste. 600 • San Francisco, CA 94104
tel: (415) 436-9682 x 318 fax: (415) 436.9683 email: jevans@biologicaldiversity.org
www.BiologicalDiversity.org

The Endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant in Arana Gulch

The Santa Cruz tarplant is listed as “endangered” by the State of California under the California Endangered Species Act, and “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act. As an endangered species, the state of California has determined that the Santa Cruz tarplant “is in serious danger of becoming extinct.” CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2062. The legal designation of endangered is supported by the dire factual circumstances of the few remaining Santa Cruz tarplant populations. Arana Gulch is a crucial critical habitat unit for the Santa Cruz tarplant. The Arana Gulch critical habitat unit is one of two populations in close proximity that are lowest in elevation in the northern Monterey bay area and, thus, closest to the moderating climactic influence of the Pacific Ocean.¹ Arana Gulch also has the third largest standing native population of tarplants, which contributes significantly to the seed bank reserve for the species and is large enough to support management activities that are necessary to maintain the population at the site.²

Active management for tarplant populations is a crucial component of maintaining the population, and the Center supports the City’s extensive plans for implementing such management. However, active management of the tarplant population does not negate significant negative impacts on other portions of the habitat caused by a paved multi-use trail through the middle of the meadow. As the Commission acknowledges, in addition to the historical areas of tarplant populations (Areas A-D), “the rest of the meadow area provides appropriate physical habitat for coastal prairie and tarplant” and as such “the whole of the meadow [is arguably] considered tarplant habitat.”³ This fact makes it all the more important that the Commission reject the Project as currently proposed, since there will be significant tarplant habitat destruction due to bisection of the meadow by a paved multi-use path, thus further limiting the area in which tarplants could potentially thrive.

The Commission Must Not Approve Projects in EHSAs that 1.) Result in Significant Disruption of Habitat Values and 2.) Are Non-Resource-Dependent

The Coastal Act prohibits “any significant disruption of habitat values” in “environmentally sensitive habitat areas.” PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). Despite the significant impacts to the Arana Gulch ESHA from the paved multi-use path, the Commission has recommended approval of the Project and erroneously asserted that, contrary to the Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”), no significant disruption of habitat would result from the Project.⁴ The Commission cannot selectively adopt portions of the EIR while rejecting other portions of the EIR where convenient.

The Draft EIR for the Arana Gulch Master Plan recognizes that the expanded trail system, including the east-west paved multi-use path, would result in a significant and

1 USFWS 2008 BiOp (1-8-07-F-46).

2 USFWS 2008 BiOp (1-8-07-F-46).

3 CDP Application at 28.

4 CDP Application at 45.

unavoidable impact to the Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat.⁵ In analyzing the impacts to the Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat, the EIR recognized that that impacts from the Project's trail components "would remain significant and unavoidable because it cannot be fully ensured that all tarplant habitat would be protected."⁶ The City has some recognition of the importance of avoiding tarplant habitat, as the location of the proposed paved Arana Meadow Trail was modified to avoid historic tarplant area C, and further modified to minimize damage to tarplant habitat by being situated over existing hard packed trails.⁷ The City likewise here, should recognize that the east-west paved multi-use path through the middle of the meadow, an area where there is not currently even a hard packed trail, will result in significant destruction of tarplant habitat. A "net enhancement of tarplant habitat values"⁸ due to tarplant management and other trail removal does not negate this significant habitat destruction. The disruption and destruction of habitat must be recognized by the Commission, and pursuant to PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a), should not be approved by the Commission.

The Coastal Act also prohibits non-resource-dependent uses within an ESHA. PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). In other words "only uses dependent on those (ESHA) resources shall be allowed." PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). The Center supports the City's efforts to "maximize opportunities to educate, inform, and inspire" users of the Arana Gulch trail system and "provide an interpretative path system... for users for whom access to this area is currently unavailable."⁹ However, the current location of the paved east-west path is not a condition precedent to accomplishing these goals. The City's position – that in order to enable access to such resources, a paved, multi-use path *in this particular location* must be built – is tantamount to permitting a road within a wetland ESHA as long as interpretive signage describing the filled wetlands is displayed at a roadside stop, or permitting the development of an educational institution within an ESHA as long as that institution includes some educational discussion of the resources that were destroyed to permit its development.

This type of justification must be flatly rejected. Interpretive uses can be facilitated for persons with all mobility levels without this particular transportation-oriented path. For instance, visitor platforms adjacent to Arana Gulch, or boardwalks to facilitate wheelchair accessibility while limiting surface disturbance. Even if the City finds that other proposed alternatives are not satisfactory¹⁰, due to gradient complications or other factors, it is still incumbent upon the City to develop alternatives for path systems that accomplish the City's goals, without destroying habitat for species protected under the federal and state endangered species acts. Likewise, it is

⁵ City of Santa Cruz 2006, Arana Gulch Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-43.

⁶ City of Santa Cruz 2006, Arana Gulch Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-44. The DEIR made this determination because the Project would result in significant impacts to the environmentally sensitive tarplant habitat due to the following: "routing of trail segments through historic Santa Cruz tarplant habitat" resulting in "a direct loss of habitat for the species"; "[c]onstruction of trails... [that] would result in permanent loss of tarplant habitat within the width of the trail"; disturbance of additional tarplant habitat outside the trail footprint by pedestrians and bicyclists; and indirect effects of construction such as deposition of fill, altered hydrology, or the introduction of weeds. Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-42 to 43.

⁷ CDP Application at 33, 43.

⁸ CDP Application at 45.

⁹ CDP Application at 43, 53.

¹⁰ See CDP Application at 53-55 for a discussion of the California Native Plant Society alternative, which the City disfavored.

incumbent upon the Commission to not approve the Project until the City has done so.¹¹ Instead of permitting the destruction and adverse modification of tarplant habitat, the Commission should stipulate that the City adopt one of the many feasible alternatives, or develop new alternatives. The Commission's obligations to adopt reasonable and prudent alternatives to the adverse modification of critical habitat cannot be disregarded.

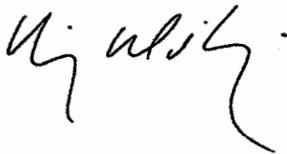
Conclusion

The Center strongly urges the Commission to follow the requirements of the Coastal Act and not approve the Project as currently proposed. The Commission must not approve a project such as this, which is not resource-dependant, and which will result in significant disruption of endangered tarplant habitat values. PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). There are many feasible and reasonable alternatives to avoid the significant impacts engendered by the east-west paved multi-use path on the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat. The Commission should not approve the Project until the City's properly protects and enhances endangered species habitat within the ESHA, while implementing its goals to improve the Arana Gulch trail system for users with various mobility methods, increase educational and informational opportunities, and facilitate east west bicycle commute options.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Evans
Center for Biological Diversity



Nicole DiCamillo
Law Clerk

¹¹ The state legislature has declared that "stage agencies should not approve projects as proposed which would... result in the adverse modification of habitat essential for the continued existence of the species, if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available" that would conserve the species essential habitat. CAL. FISH AND GAME CODE § 2053.

Th8a



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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October 7, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

ATTN: Dan Carl

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan and approve the staff's recommendations.

I am currently serving my second term as Santa Cruz County Third District Supervisor. My district includes portions of Arana Gulch as well as the City of Santa Cruz and the entire North Coast to the San Mateo County border. I am in strong support of this updated plan and believe that the enhanced management plan has addressed all of the Commission's concerns. The revised plan represents the very best option for this property as it balances coastal access and provides an interpretive program for this unique area while primarily providing a tool to protect and enhance the sensitive habitats of this open space.

In addition, the vast majority of my constituents who have contacted me regarding this project also strongly support the City's revised plan. In fact, there have been few issues in my experience as an elected official where there has been this much unanimity of support for a project in Santa Cruz.

Again, I ask that you support the City's revised Master Plan for Arana Gulch and allow this important project to move forward.

Thank you for your service and dedication to preserving our coast and natural resources.

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Sincerely,

NEAL COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

NC:ted

1100F3

10/8/2010

Neil Conner
136 S Park Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not approve the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan. At its heart, it is a transportation project through an ESHA that is non-resource dependent, and is therefore a violation of the Coastal Act. Approval of this project would set a bad precedent that would significantly weaken protection of other ESHAs throughout the state of California for years to come.

The city has been deliberately deceptive in its primary argument that the funding required for the preservation of the Santa Cruz tarplant is dependent upon implementation of the Broadway-Brommer bike path (see Funding Myths. Jean Brocklebank, FOAG. Letter to the Santa Cruz City Council dated April 11, 2010. <http://members.cruzio.com/~arana/articles/myths.html>) . I am appalled at the City's multiple deceptions (funding myths, interpretive trail, etc.) and I hope you are as well.

A bike path through Arana Gulch is not the panacea People Power would have you believe. It would sit idle most of the time, being utilized by just a small fraction of bicycle commuters; worse, it would ultimately be abandoned by most of *that* tiny contingent in favor of the much more functional rail-trail (that is all but certain to be built). In it's wake would be an irrevocable scar on the last undeveloped plot of land on the east side of Santa Cruz, and possibly the demise of the Santa Cruz tarplant as well.

Please don't allow this boondoggle to be built. I urge you to vote NO.

Sincerely,



Neil Conner

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OCT 11 2010
CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 10:48 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch

Thoa

-----Original Message-----

From: Elene Johas Teener [mailto:elene@johasteener.com]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Coastal Commissioners:

To put this comment in perspective. I visit Arana Gulch several times each week. I ride my bike to a biweekly meeting through the Gulch every week I work. The picture of the couple in the paper strolling through the area is my husband, myself and our dog. My sons and I pick blackberries their every summer and we have had several Easter Egg hunts, tree climbing lessons, and hide and go seek adventures. My sons are now preteen and teenage they ride their bikes to friends houses and walk in the Gulch with peers.

Our family does not understand why this open space which is a destination would be turned into a pass through. There are many designer parks in town and they have their use. But true open space is rare. The Gulch is like nature art, there is the availability to have a sense of freedom from the conformity of perfect paths and designed uses. The imagination is allowed freedom to exist.

It seems to me that the new politically correct 'green advocacy' is bike transportation and the lobbying of this group. But I bike through the Gulch frequently as do many. There are a lot of routes. There is no way more people will ride if the Gulch is a pass through. But we will lose an open space with invasive paths.

Additionally I am against spending all that money. What are the priorities of this community and why is this minority pushing for spending it. My family and I and everyone I have ever talked to walking the Gulch is against the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Please think hard in this economy in times such as this, when development and growth have squeezed the life out of us. Leave this space alone we love it just as it is.

Elene Johas Teener
23 Acacia Way
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831 4251805

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 9:11 AM
To: Susan Craig
Cc: Diana Chapman
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Thsa

From: Marilyn Fenn [mailto:marifenn@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 8:09 PM
To: Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

My letter is in the mail tomorrow but in case I'm too late, please note that although I appreciate your efforts, I am strongly opposed to paving and fencing in Arana Gulch. Lets smooth out that path and Keep It Dirt!!!!

sincerely,

Marilyn Fenn
408 Park Way, SC 95062
walker, biker, dirt lover

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OCT 07 2010

October, 7, 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREAAgenda Item No: Th8a
Permit Number: 3-09-068
CNPS Opposes the ProjectDan Carl, District Director
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Revised Arana Gulch Master Plan, Permit Number 3-09-068, October 14, 2010

Dear Staff and Commissioners:

At the March 2010 Coastal Commission hearing, Commissioners requested the City of Santa Cruz consider alternatives that could meet the project objectives while avoiding environmental impacts identified by many experts testifying before the Commission.

At the March hearing the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) displayed a conceptual alternative depicted by an unsurveyed line on a map. The CNPS alternative skirted the periphery of the endangered tarplant habitat to avoid bisecting the habitat of the federally and state listed tarplant.

After the March meeting the City of Santa Cruz did not consult or collaborate with CNPS. Instead, the City interpreted the conceptual plan as literal, hired a GIS consultant to survey the conceptual alignment, and proceeded to discredit what they are calling the "CNPS alternative."

When CNPS asked to view the publicly-funded GIS data (not the consultant's report, just the data points), the City refused to provide the data. CNPS did not have the resources to conduct its own GIS survey. Thus no detailed CNPS alternative was ever developed or evaluated by the City or CNPS.

The result is that the City created a straw man alternative which they then proceeded to discredit. If CNPS had had the GIS data, the conceptual route could have been properly evaluated and adjusted to eliminate the extensive grading (and resultant cost and environmental degradation) attacked by the City in its report.

The revised plan submitted by the City does not meet the scientific and environmental standards of CNPS.

- The revised City plan still routes a paved trail through the middle of Arana Gulch tarplant grassland instead of going around the habitat as CNPS recommends.
- The City attacks the conceptual CNPS alternative for traversing some areas of common native grasses (*Danthonia*, *Nassella*), yet the City's revised plan has a paved, multi-use trail which traverses the more fragile and much more rare habitat for the endangered tarplant.
- Although the City's Master Plan contains an unpaved walking path (Coastal Prairie Loop Trail) on essentially the same route as the conceptual multi-use CNPS trail, the City attacks this alignment in its report stating that this alignment would be subject to

erosion and meander. The Coastal Prairie Loop Trail would be subject to the same impacts of erosion and meander, (indeed probably greater impacts as it would be unpaved) as a multi-use paved path replacing the Canyon Trail and the Creek View Trails which bisect the habitat.

- Routing a multi-use trail along the more southerly Coastal Prairie Loop Trail alignment would provide a superior experience for interpretation of the coast, harbor and gulch areas, affording better views and an overlook of the coast, especially for visitors in wheelchairs.

CNPS urges the California Coastal Commissioners to reject the City's revised Master Plan that ignores best practices of a science-based reserve design. This plan fragments the meadow and introduces long-term edge effects into the center of the tarplant management area. The project as proposed is still a non-resource dependent transportation project. The EIR admits that there is a significant impact to the habitat from the project.

The California Coastal Act gives paramount protection to ESHA, preventing any non-resource-dependent development. Access to this greenbelt for all—those in wheelchairs, pedestrians, bicyclists, dog walkers, elders, and children—can be provided with much less impact to the coastal prairie remnant.

It is regrettable that the City chose not to collaborate with CNPS in developing its revised plan. CNPS is still willing to work with the City to develop a route that achieves the City's objectives and follows best scientific practices for protecting endangered tarplant habitat.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Vince Cheap for the CNPS Conservation Committee, Santa Cruz County Chapter

4160 Jade St. #112

Capitola, CA 95010 (831) 477-1660

October 7, 2010

Th8a

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Ste. 300
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060

Dear Commission Members,

I urge you to approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan that will be on your calendar October 14 when you meet in Oceanside.

This plan has been recommended by your staff which has done the research to determine that it meets the requirements of the Coastal Commission and would be an improvement to the park land in the city of Santa Cruz. The plan has been 15 years in the making and has broad community support. It will improve and restore the habitat for the federally and state protected tarplant. As it is the land is much degraded with trails everywhere and the tarplant population very much diminished.

On a personal note, I find myself discouraged with the non-function of our government bodies and I know this feeling is shared by many members of the public. A small minority of people can impede the public process for years and drain the community of resources and prevent positive actions such as the improvement of Arana Gulch for the benefit of all, including the native flora and fauna.

I urge you to do the right thing for the community and the land itself and approve the plan as presented by the city of Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Carol Fuller
513 Olive St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Susan Craig

From: Robert Vorce [bobvorce@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 10:42 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: arana gulch pathway

Thea

Please make the pathway across arana gulch a reality. I'm seventy and utilize a bike for transportation. Getting from Broadway to Brommer with safety would be wonderful for the entire community. Please hurry, I'm old.

Bob Vorce
318 Everson 95060

98

Thba

Susan Craig

From: Lee Overbeck [leever11@hotmail.com]**Sent:** Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:04 PM**To:** Susan Craig**Subject:** Arana Gulch

A bike trail across Arana Gulch is long over due. this is to the point of being ridiculous. There are bike trails all over the U.S. through sensitive habitat, I know I have ridden many of them. With proper design we can ensure the endangered habitat is not damaged.

Secondly this bike trail will provide a direct route across town connecting lightly traveled streets and avoid more heavily traveled roads. Many people will opt to bike rather than drive if the bike route is more direct and safe, and more people will ride for recreation. I ride a bike frequently in Santa Cruz but never ride on such a heavily traveled road as Soquel and rarely on Murray. The Arana Gulch trail would eliminate the previous mentioned roads and provide safer access across town.

Third, Arana Gulch in its present status is only enjoyed by mountain bikers and the homeless. A paved bike path would open it up for all especially the handicapped.

Incidentally I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 10 years and do not support their opposition to the bike trail.

I strongly urge you to support the Arana Gulch bike path.

Lee Overbeck
Ben Lomond

Thoba

Susan Craig

From: Judy Warner [judy.warner@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:45 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

Judy Warner
215 Trescony Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

October 6, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Attention: Dan Carl

Dear Commissioners:

I support the Arana Gulch Master Plan and hope you will approve it when it comes to you next Thursday. Like many residents, I've been following the fate of Arana Gulch for years and appreciate the city's revised plan that addresses the Coastal Commission's earlier concerns.

In Santa Cruz, we're proud and protective of our open spaces, and we want this unique, 68-acre greenbelt to include coastal access, habitat protection, and an interpretive program to help young and old alike learn about and enjoy the area.

The plan before you provides for superior stewardship of Arana Gulch.

Sincerely,

Judy Warner
City Planning Commissioner
Former General Plan Advisory Committee Member

Susan Craig

From: Michael Becker [cruzfire@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 9:12 AM

To: Susan Craig

Subject: Please approve Arana Gulch Master Plan

Th8a

Dear California Coastal Commission,

I am writing to encourage you all to please approve the City of Santa Cruz's updated Arana Gulch Master Plan.

My wife and I enjoy walks through the area and believe that the revised plan provides for a perfect balance that will both protect the beautiful and rich environment and will allow visitors to the Gulch enhanced enjoyment long into the future.

Thank you,

Michael Becker
Santa Cruz, CA

Th8a

10 October 2010

California Coastal Commission
725 front Street, #300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Application No. 3-09-068 by City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz Port District

Dear Commissioners:

Friends of Arana Gulch (FOAG) has been engaged with Arana Gulch as its volunteer caretakers for over fifteen years. We are listed in the City's first 1997 tarplant management plan as one of two volunteer groups to assist with its restoration plans. We walk our talk and were helping City Parks & Recreation staff as recently as this August.

We have also been a consistent opponent of the City's proposed east west bicycle connection route through the greenbelt ESHA, especially from 2002, the year that the entire greenbelt was designated by USFWS as "critical habitat" for the Santa Cruz tarplant (Holocarpa macredenia). We have an extensive historical library of documentation (1995 - 2010) of all aspects of the application for a development permit now before you.

FOAG asks that the Coastal Commission vote to deny the City's application as submitted. We recommend that the Commission, instead, encourage the City to return with a Master Plan that 1) does not violate the Coastal Act, 2) does not harm endangered species habitat, 3) contains designs for real interpretive trails and 4) contains effective environmental management of the Arana Gulch greenbelt property. This can be accomplished by removing the Broadway-Brommer (B-B) bicycle cross town connection project that just happens to go through the greenbelt from the otherwise excellent Draft 2006 Master Plan.

Our recommendation is based on the following facts:

1. Transportation elements (Broadway-Brommer) contained within the Master Plan, are not "resource dependent." The project application is therefore a violation of Sec. 30240 of the Coastal Act.
2. The hard-surface paving and shoulders of the transportation elements will create "significant disruption of habitat values." The route through ESHA in the greenbelt will consist of two bridges over two creeks, one of which is critical habitat for steelhead and tidewater goby, a paved 8' wide route (with 2' shoulders) that will cause "significant and unavoidable damage" (EIR) to an ESHA which is critical habitat of an endangered species, and will impact a riparian setback area. The project also includes paving a second north-south 8' wide route that intersects the east-west route, thus trifurcating a CA Fish & Game "high priority habitat" for the state and federally listed Santa Cruz Tarplant. The project application is therefore a violation of Sec. 30240 of the Coastal Act.

(continue to page 2)

3. In a May 10, 2010 Memorandum from the City of Santa Cruz to the CA Dept. of Fish & Game (CDFG), the City stated that "If all historical tarplant areas are avoided, CDFG probably will not have issues with the project." However, in its July 15th reply to the City, CDFG said "that statement is not true." CDFG reiterated that its 1997 MOU with the City established that the entire greenbelt grassland area is critical habitat for the SC tarplant. The CDFG also reiterated its concerns about habitat fragmentation and edge effects of the proposed transportation elements of the Master Plan on critical habitat of the endangered SC tarplant. (Exhibit M of staff report; July 15, 2010 email to the City of Santa Cruz and to John Dixon, CCC staff).

4. There are three, not one, endangered species at risk by the transportation elements of the Master Plan. Restoration of the tidal reach of Arana Creek to enlarge and/or raise the culverts that were improperly installed 30 years ago could restore steelhead trout and tidewater goby habitat. However, if allowed, the B-B steel span bridge over the Arana Creek culverts will likely foreclose such a restoration project. Although this major project is in the initial stages of design (City of Santa Cruz and Port District) and will require its own Coastal permit, it is "beyond the scope of this Master Plan..." (p. 36 of AGMP).

In fact, none of the impacts of the B-B project on Arana Creek, or on the tidal reach and the creek's eastern bank, or on the rest of the watershed continuing up the steep hill all the way to 7th Avenue have been analyzed in either the 1999 EIR, the 2006 Draft Master Plan or the July 2010 revised application from the City. These major impacts should have been included in the original application. Due to their absence, they were missed entirely by the Commission at the March 2010 hearing.

5. Despite repeated claims by City staff, funding for tarplant recovery and management is in no way tied to the transportation elements of the Master Plan. The City's reference to funding refers only to mitigation of damage to the habitat caused by the proposed paving. No paving, no damage. As stated by City staff at the March 2010 CCC hearing, the source of tarplant restoration funds will be the sale of excess city property, an action not linked to approval of B-B. In point of fact, tarplant management has been ongoing since 1997, beginning with a Memorandum of Understanding with the CDFG and financed by development fees paid to the City. According to Parks & Recreation staff, about \$10,00 per year has been spent at Arana Gulch.

6. This greenbelt is presently used by city and county residents for a natural area/wildlife experience. It is already accessible from two entrances, one on a public street with bus access a block away, one from the upper harbor. Both entrances have ample parking, including handicapped parking spaces. Both entrances are accessible from all directions (north-, south-, east- and west-sides of the City and County). Minor modifications to existing entrances and to existing trails will facilitate access and use for mobility challenged visitors.

Please deny approval of the transportation element of this application.

Sincerely,
Michael Lewis and Jean Brocklebank
on behalf of Friends of Arana Gulch

Susan Craig

From: Jim Lewis [lewis@chemistry.ucsc.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Endorsement for City of Santa Cruz plan.

Th8a

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I write to urge your adoption of the City of Santa Cruz plan for Arana Gulch. I believe that the City has thought through the possible impacts and arrived at the best approaches. When I visited it was clear that this area offers significant coastal access which could be impeded by adjoining parcel owners. Only a democratic public entity has freedom from conflict of interest to decide what the best plan is for an area like this.

Sincerely,

James W. Lewis

lewis@chemistry.ucsc.edu

Research Chemist

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Phone (831) 459-4007

University of California at Santa Cruz

FAX (831) 459-2935

1156 High Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95064

UCSC is "committed to promoting and protecting an environment that values and supports every person in an atmosphere of civility, honesty, cooperation, professionalism and fairness." Denise D. Denton

The opinions expressed are those of the author and should not be assumed to be those of UCSC or its Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Title and affiliation are given solely for the purpose of identification.

Th8a

October 8, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Santa Cruz District Office
725 Front St.
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060
Attn: Ms. Susan Craig

RE: Re: Application No. 3-09-068, Arana Gulch Master Plan, City of Santa Cruz

Hearing date: 10/14/2010 – Agenda Item No. Th 8a

Dear Commissioners,

The 8 ft. wide, paved, multi-use pathway proposed to serve Arana Gulch ESHA's pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, strollers, dogs on leash and disabled persons with walkers, links two surface streets (Broadway, in the City of Santa Cruz with Brommer, in the county) on opposite sides of the ESHA property and can not be found consistent with sec. 30240 of the Coastal Act.

CCC staff, by citing the presence of interpretive signage to be installed along the paved, multi-use trail, claims that "resource dependence" is thus achieved. Additionally, staff claims that "...it is likewise intended to provide a much richer interpretive experience of the Arana Gulch area for a much wider spectrum of the general public than is currently the case." At the same time staff tries to downplay the motive force of the bikeway's cross-town connectivity which has been the primary goal for many years prior to the creation of this master plan. Extensive public testimony at the March meeting of the CCC demonstrates that the overwhelming desire for a Broadway-Brommer bicycle connection is anything but "elusive".

This interpretation of sec. 30240 is not supported by logic or any of the "Trail/Multi-Use Path Examples Within Sensitive Habitat Areas" cited by staff. Logically, if a finding of "resource dependence" requires nothing more than the placement of interpretive signage along a travel route, with no consideration given to the change in intensity of use or the degree of habitat degradation, then one could justify any number and size of transportation projects through ESHA. In line with this, cited examples of other paved pathways through ESHA consistently respect the existing levels of intrusion and intensity of use in order to preserve the nature experience while protecting the sensitive habitat. Where pre-existing intensity of use levels demand, it is consistent with sec. 30240 to provide facilities which take into account the needs of public safety while preserving habitat values. Such is the case with

the Morro Bay Harborwalk. To provide for safe movement of visitors, both motorized and non-motorized,

from the harbor to Morro Rock, the existing paved vehicle roadway was realigned through the dune habitat while the pre-existing, paved roadway was converted to a 12 ft. wide, two-way bikeway. Pedestrians were then provided with their own 8 ft. wide boardwalk, parallel to the bikeway. Compared to this example one can see that the multi-use trail envisioned for Arana Gulch attempts to justify its higher level of intensity of use (connecting two crosstown arterials) while not providing the infrastructure to safely handle the increased traffic. Staff suggests that some observers may find the multi-use path too narrow to safely handle the number and variety of users proposed. In fact, the design criteria for class I bikeways excerpted from the Highway Design and Traffic Standards manual

of the California Dept. of Transportation states in sec. 1003.1 that: "Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways

Code describes Class I bikeways as serving 'the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians'. However, experience has shown that if significant pedestrian use is anticipated, separate facilities for pedestrians are necessary to minimize conflicts. Dual use by pedestrians and bicycles is undesirable, and the two should be separated wherever possible." Subsection (1) Widths, goes on to state: "The minimum paved width for a two-way bike path shall be 8 ft." and "Where heavy bicycle volumes are anticipated and/or significant pedestrian traffic is expected, the paved width of a two-way path should be greater than 8 feet, preferably 12 ft or more." Staff's response to those who question the adequacy of the proposed 8 ft. Multi-Use path is:

"...an 8-foot path width is a reasonable width to allow two-way use, including when pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, strollers, leashed dogs, and others are all using the path in question. In fact, some might argue that a wider path width is necessary to avoid potential user conflicts along the paved path segments, and that 8 feet is too narrow in this respect. In this case, the Commission finds that the proposed 8-foot-wide paved path width strikes a reasonable balance, and will allow adequate path utility while avoiding enough coverage as to avoid a significant disruption of habitat values."

As a response to this contention by staff I quote the Highway Design Manual further: Sec. 1003.5 Multipurpose Trails, "If multipurpose trails are primarily to serve bicycle travel, they should be developed in accordance with standards for Class I bikeways. In general, multipurpose trails are not recommended as high speed transportation facilities for bicyclists because of conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians. Whenever possible, separate bicycle and pedestrian paths should be provided. If this is not feasible, additional width, signing and pavement markings should be used to minimize conflicts." Clearly the design experts would not share staff's confidence in the adequacy of this project to serve its stated purpose.

The City of Santa Cruz is not unfamiliar with the concept of protecting and enhancing the access needs of its greenbelt visitors. The Pogonip area provides protection for its lower intensity pedestrian users by prohibiting bicyclists from using the 8 to 10 ft. wide Spring/Rincon trail. Likewise, the Neary Lagoon nature area does not allow bicyclists on the boardwalks crossing the lagoon. High season utilization of the multi-use pathway along W. Cliff Dr. on Santa Cruz' westside frequently causes bicyclists to divert to the roadway in order to avoid user conflicts with pedestrians, dogs on leash, strollers, etc. All of these examples present with physical limitations on the ability to widen the trails in order to achieve adequacy for their levels of intensity of use.

In the case of Arana Gulch, the limitations would be less physical than administrative. Section 30420 requires that habitat disruption be minimized when building in ESHA. Trying to meet the safety requirements cited in the design manual would require at least a 12 ft. wide paved trail with 4 ft of shoulder for a total 16 ft. width. This, as staff concedes, would clearly be at odds with the requirements of sec. 30240.

To conclude, staff has been left with a conundrum. In order to meet the consistency requirements of sec. 30240 and sec. 30210 while implementing the transportation element embedded in this master plan, for a 67 acre ESHA which they admit is currently "...a highly used public access area.", they must downsize a multiuse trail to avoid significant disruption of habitat values while simultaneously providing a size that will meet the safety needs of the broad spectrum of anticipated users. This does not appear to be possible. Since it has been established that access is not now deficient, the rationale which supports this drive to introduce a large population of bicycle commuters to the protected area loses its legitimacy. And, since none of the cited examples of pathways in ESHA share the same dynamics as the Arana Gulch transportation element, approval would set a precedent that handicaps sec. 30240's ability to protect ESHA in the future. I urge the commissioners to reject this transportation element of the Arana Gulch master plan while approving the tarplant restoration element that is so long overdue. The many problematic concerns raised by this transportation element within

the master plan have held up the Tarplant restoration process long enough. Re-design and construction of the drainage culverts that channel flows from Arana Creek underneath paved areas of the upper harbor needs to be done before any paved trail ramp is considered at that location. Endangered Steelhead Trout and Tidewater Goby populations continue to be threatened by the damage to their habitat caused by scouring and headcut of the creek banks. I recommend the Commission deny this master plan application. Please urge the City to return with a master plan that doesn't violate the Coastal Act and that contains an effective environmental management plan for the endangered Tarplant.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grant Weseman Santa Cruz, CA.

Susan Craig

From: Patti [paj999@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 10:06 AM
To: Dan Carl; Susan Craig
Cc: paj999@yahoo.com
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan: AGAINST

Agenda Item #Th8a
Permit number 3-09-068
Arana Gulch
Patti Jazanoski
AGAINST

October 9, 2010

Patti Jazanoski
105 Hagemann Avenue,
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not approve the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan. It would pave a bikepath through environmentally sensitive habitat, and build a project through an ESHA that is non-resource dependent. This is a violation of the Coastal Act. For years, the Coastal Commission staff has recommended alternative bikepaths that have less environmental impact.

The City of Santa Cruz admits that they cannot mitigate the environmental damage.

This project is not needed. It was proposed and developed as an east-west bicycling corridor. Since the initial proposal, three other nearby cycling routes have been completed or begun:

- 1) Bike lanes have already been added to nearby Soquel Avenue,
 - 2) The State of California has allocated funds to retrofit the nearby Murray Street bridge, including adding cycling lanes, and
 - 3) The County of Santa Cruz has approved the purchase of the nearby Rail Trail
- We don't need a fourth east-west cycling corridor if it will destroy environmentally sensitive habitat.

Because a fourth cycling corridor is hard to justify, advocates for the project have since reframed it as one that will provide wheelchair access. However the project was not changed. The goal of improving wheelchair access can be accomplished without damaging an ESHA.

This proposed project is not resource dependent. The project is not needed and the cost to the environment is too high. I urge you to vote NO on the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan and its flawed bikepath project.

Sincerely,

Patti Jazanowski



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911 • (831) 460-3200 FAX (831) 460-3215 EMAIL info@sccrtc.org

October 8, 2010

Bonnie Neely, Chair
California Coastal Commission
725 Front St, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

ThBa

RE: Support for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Chair Neely:

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) staff, per numerous action directions from the board, remains in steadfast support of the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan and urges you to approve the City of Santa Cruz and the County of Santa Cruz's permit request at the upcoming meeting of the Coastal Commission. The City of Santa Cruz and Coastal Commission staff have completed their due diligence work in examining natural habitat management options, as well as multi-use path alternatives, and crafting a Master Plan that provides a multitude of benefits for a wide range of users, as well as environmental protections.

The RTC has long supported the proposed multi-use trail system in the greenbelt between Broadway and Brommer Streets included in the Arana Gulch Master Plan. The paths provide safe access for all including bicyclists, pedestrians, people with disabilities and coastal access enthusiasts. The RTC's two citizen advisory committees, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Committee, are among the many entities in our region that have taken positions of support for this project.

Following the Coastal Commission's request for reconsideration of the Arana Gulch Master Plan at its Spring meeting, several enhancements have been added that further strengthen the plan. The tarplant management program would cover nearly the entire grassland area, the trail surface and base material will be permeable, and existing trails that cause habitat or erosion problems will be closed and restored. In addition, the value of providing access for mobility impaired individuals (seniors and persons with disabilities) cannot be understated as the City's revised Plan would create the first wheelchair-accessible trails in any of the City's four greenbelt parks.

The Arana Gulch Park Master Plan supports several of the *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan's* Goals and Policies, including policies to increase bicycle and pedestrian use and reduce vehicle miles traveled, fill gaps in the transportation system, support development of multi-use paths, and increase safety.

Please accept the following comments for your consideration:

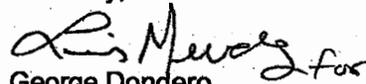
- On January 14, 2010 the RTC programmed \$1.1 million of the region's share of federal Transportation Enhancement funds for the project. This was in addition to the \$1.8 million previously allocated to this project over a period spanning many years. The RTC has preserved funding for this project even though transportation funding is very limited because of its importance to the region.

- RTC staff strongly supports the bicycle/pedestrian paths proposed in the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan. These proposed multi-use trails will help fill critical gaps in the regional network of low greenhouse gas emission mobility options such as bicycle and pedestrian choices. Providing a complete and convenient regional bicycle and pedestrian network increases the opportunity and attractiveness of bicycle and pedestrian trips. Bicycle/pedestrian facilities have positive, cumulative environmental impacts. Our community's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by promoting alternative transportation would be greatly aided by this project.
- This project also provides "universal access" by enabling all people, including young, old and disabled persons who may have diminished perceptual or ambulatory abilities, to travel safely in ecological habitats and to destinations served by our public streets and pathway systems.
- We fully support ADA accessibility to wheelchair users that would be provided by the Arana Gulch multi-use path. Of all four greenbelts in Santa Cruz County, only this project would construct trails that allow access for people using mobility devices. The semi-permeable trail would greatly improve access to the coastal zone for persons with disabilities.
- The Arana Gulch Master Plan trail system is consistent with the concepts for the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) Network which includes interpretive elements as well as transportation elements and recreation elements. The RTC is expected to undertake a Master Plan and Environmental Review process for the MBSST this spring.

The Arana Gulch Master Plan meets the Coastal Commission's goal of improving access to the coastal zone and we strongly encourage you to support this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 831-460-3200.

Sincerely,


George Dondero
Executive Director

cc: RTC
RTC Bicycle Committee
RTC E & D TAC Committee
City of Santa Cruz Public Works – Chris Schneider
Coastal Commission Staff – Susan Craig

Susan Craig

From: David Foster [davidfoster118@live.com]

Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 3:01 PM

To: Susan Craig

Subject: Support for Arana Gulch improvements

Th8a

Dear members of the California Coastal Commission:

I have lived in Santa Cruz County for fifty-two years. I am an avid hiker/walker of the Santa Cruz area parks and green belts and grew up hiking the area with my parents who are still living in the area. Both of my parents (now 84 and 88 years old) still like to get out into the natural areas and to enjoy the trees and the grasslands. Unfortunately, they both now use walkers to get around and may soon be transitioning to wheelchairs. Currently there are no wheelchair or walker-accessible trails in any of the Santa Cruz area greenbelt parks. Please help to bring Arana Gulch up to the accessibility standards that are so important for the growing population of seniors and persons with disabilities.

Thank you for your careful review of this important habitat accessibility/improvement project,

Sincerely,

David Foster
Santa Cruz City Planning Commissioner
118 Miles Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
davidfoster118@live.com

Susan Craig

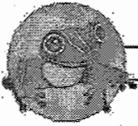
From: Holly Sadoff [hlsadoff@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 7:30 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

Th8a

Dear Coastal Commission Member,

I am writing to support the Arana Gulch Park. Please make this a park for all to enjoy.
Thank You.

Holly Sadoff
Santa Cruz



CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

*protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and imperiled species through
science, education, policy, and environmental law*

Th8a

via electronic and US mail

October 8, 2010

Mr. Dan Carl
Ms. Susan Craig
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
dcarl@coastal.ca.gov
sraig@coastal.ca.gov

Re: Item Th8a, Application 3-09-068 – Arana Gulch Master Plan

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (“Center”) on the City of Santa Cruz’s Master Plan for Arana Gulch (the “Project”). The Center urges the California Coastal Commission (“Commission”) to reject the Project as proposed until the non resource-dependent, east-west paved multi-use path through the meadow and Hagemann Gulch is removed, or reconfigured to avoid significant disruption of endangered species habitat values.

The Center applauds the City’s efforts to develop the Arana Gulch Habitat Management Plan in accordance with the “Management Program for the Santa Cruz Tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*) Population at Arana Gulch.” The Center also appreciates the City’s modifications to the Master Plan that reduce impacts on endangered Santa Cruz tarplant habitat. However, the Project as proposed will still result in significant destruction of endangered tarplant habitat. The Commission acknowledges that the east-west paved path will “cover a portion of the habitat area with pavement” and create “disruption of habitat values.” California Coastal Commission. 2010. Coastal Development Permit Application 3-09-068. Arana Gulch Management Plan at 44-45. (“CDP Application”).

The Commission should not approve a project with such significant impacts on tarplant habitat within the Arana Gulch Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (“ESHA”). Because the east-west paved path is not resource-dependent, and because it will cause significant disruption of habitat values, the Commission should not approve the Project until a less destructive alternative is proposed and favored by the City; one which accomplishes the City’s goal of improving the Arana Gulch trail system for users with various mobility methods while still protecting endangered tarplant habitat.

Arizona • California • Nevada • New Mexico • Alaska • Oregon • Illinois • Minnesota • Vermont • Washington, DC

The Endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant in Arana Gulch

The Santa Cruz tarplant is listed as “endangered” by the State of California under the California Endangered Species Act, and “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act. As an endangered species, the state of California has determined that the Santa Cruz tarplant “is in serious danger of becoming extinct.” CAL. FISH & GAME CODE § 2062. The legal designation of endangered is supported by the dire factual circumstances of the few remaining Santa Cruz tarplant populations. Arana Gulch is a crucial critical habitat unit for the Santa Cruz tarplant. The Arana Gulch critical habitat unit is one of two populations in close proximity that are lowest in elevation in the northern Monterey bay area and, thus, closest to the moderating climactic influence of the Pacific Ocean.¹ Arana Gulch also has the third largest standing native population of tarplants, which contributes significantly to the seed bank reserve for the species and is large enough to support management activities that are necessary to maintain the population at the site.²

Active management for tarplant populations is a crucial component of maintaining the population, and the Center supports the City’s extensive plans for implementing such management. However, active management of the tarplant population does not negate significant negative impacts on other portions of the habitat caused by a paved multi-use trail through the middle of the meadow. As the Commission acknowledges, in addition to the historical areas of tarplant populations (Areas A-D), “the rest of the meadow area provides appropriate physical habitat for coastal prairie and tarplant” and as such “the whole of the meadow [is arguably] considered tarplant habitat.”³ This fact makes it all the more important that the Commission reject the Project as currently proposed, since there will be significant tarplant habitat destruction due to bisection of the meadow by a paved multi-use path, thus further limiting the area in which tarplants could potentially thrive.

The Commission Must Not Approve Projects in EHSAs that 1.) Result in Significant Disruption of Habitat Values and 2.) Are Non-Resource-Dependent

The Coastal Act prohibits “any significant disruption of habitat values” in “environmentally sensitive habitat areas.” PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). Despite the significant impacts to the Arana Gulch ESHA from the paved multi-use path, the Commission has recommended approval of the Project and erroneously asserted that, contrary to the Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”), no significant disruption of habitat would result from the Project.⁴ The Commission cannot selectively adopt portions of the EIR while rejecting other portions of the EIR where convenient.

The Draft EIR for the Arana Gulch Master Plan recognizes that the expanded trail system, including the east-west paved multi-use path, would result in a significant and

1 USFWS 2008 BiOp (1-8-07-F-46).

2 USFWS 2008 BiOp (1-8-07-F-46).

3 CDP Application at 28.

4 CDP Application at 45.

unavoidable impact to the Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat.⁵ In analyzing the impacts to the Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat, the EIR recognized that that impacts from the Project's trail components "would remain significant and unavoidable because it cannot be fully ensured that all tarplant habitat would be protected."⁶ The City has some recognition of the importance of avoiding tarplant habitat, as the location of the proposed paved Arana Meadow Trail was modified to avoid historic tarplant area C, and further modified to minimize damage to tarplant habitat by being situated over existing hard packed trails.⁷ The City likewise here, should recognize that the east-west paved multi-use path through the middle of the meadow, an area where there is not currently even a hard packed trail, will result in significant destruction of tarplant habitat. A "net enhancement of tarplant habitat values"⁸ due to tarplant management and other trail removal does not negate this significant habitat destruction. The disruption and destruction of habitat must be recognized by the Commission, and pursuant to PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a), should not be approved by the Commission.

The Coastal Act also prohibits non-resource-dependent uses within an ESHA. PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). In other words "only uses dependent on those (ESHA) resources shall be allowed." PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). The Center supports the City's efforts to "maximize opportunities to educate, inform, and inspire" users of the Arana Gulch trail system and "provide an interpretative path system...for users for whom access to this area is currently unavailable."⁹ However, the current location of the paved east-west path is not a condition precedent to accomplishing these goals. The City's position – that in order to enable access to such resources, a paved, multi-use path *in this particular location* must be built – is tantamount to permitting a road within a wetland ESHA as long as interpretive signage describing the filled wetlands is displayed at a roadside stop, or permitting the development of an educational institution within an ESHA as long as that institution includes some educational discussion of the resources that were destroyed to permit its development.

This type of justification must be flatly rejected. Interpretive uses can be facilitated for persons with all mobility levels without this particular transportation-oriented path. For instance, visitor platforms adjacent to Arana Gulch, or boardwalks to facilitate wheelchair accessibility while limiting surface disturbance. Even if the City finds that other proposed alternatives are not satisfactory¹⁰, due to gradient complications or other factors, it is still incumbent upon the City to develop alternatives for path systems that accomplish the City's goals, without destroying habitat for species protected under the federal and state endangered species acts. Likewise, it is

⁵ City of Santa Cruz 2006, Arana Gulch Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-43.

⁶ City of Santa Cruz 2006, Arana Gulch Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-44. The DEIR made this determination because the Project would result in significant impacts to the environmentally sensitive tarplant habitat due to the following: "routing of trail segments through historic Santa Cruz tarplant habitat" resulting in "a direct loss of habitat for the species"; "[c]onstruction of trails... [that] would result in permanent loss of tarplant habitat within the width of the trail"; disturbance of additional tarplant habitat outside the trail footprint by pedestrians and bicyclists; and indirect effects of construction such as deposition of fill, altered hydrology, or the introduction of weeds. Master Plan DEIR at 4.2-42 to 43.

⁷ CDP Application at 33, 43.

⁸ CDP Application at 45.

⁹ CDP Application at 43, 53.

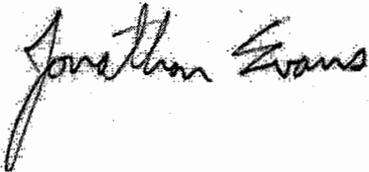
¹⁰ See CDP Application at 53-55 for a discussion of the California Native Plant Society alternative, which the City disfavored.

incumbent upon the Commission to not approve the Project until the City has done so.¹¹ Instead of permitting the destruction and adverse modification of tarplant habitat, the Commission should stipulate that the City adopt one of the many feasible alternatives, or develop new alternatives. The Commission's obligations to adopt reasonable and prudent alternatives to the adverse modification of critical habitat cannot be disregarded.

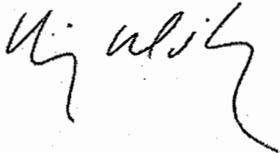
Conclusion

The Center strongly urges the Commission to follow the requirements of the Coastal Act and not approve the Project as currently proposed. The Commission must not approve a project such as this, which is not resource-dependant, and which will result in significant disruption of endangered tarplant habitat values. PUB. RES. CODE § 30240(a). There are many feasible and reasonable alternatives to avoid the significant impacts engendered by the east-west paved multi-use path on the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant and its habitat. The Commission should not approve the Project until the City's properly protects and enhances endangered species habitat within the ESHA, while implementing its goals to improve the Arana Gulch trail system for users with various mobility methods, increase educational and informational opportunities, and facilitate east west bicycle commute options.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Evans
Center for Biological Diversity



Nicole DiCamillo
Law Clerk

¹¹ The state legislature has declared that "stage agencies should not approve projects as proposed which would... result in the adverse modification of habitat essential for the continued existence of the species, if there are reasonable and prudent alternatives available" that would conserve the species essential habitat. CAL. FISH AND GAME CODE § 2053.

Susan Craig

From: Rich Dandolo [rdandolo@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 7:06 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch project....

Th8a

Dear Coastal Commision decision maker,

I'm pretty sure that your organization is going to go ahead and do, whatever you want to do with Arana Gulch, regardless of what the people who actually enjoy that area have to say about it. No doubt there are two sides to every issue and I'm sure there are plenty of "do-gooders" out there who would like to see nothing more than a big sidewalk going through our little open space area there.

My wife and I enjoy Arana Gulch just the way it is, as do many, many others we see out there when we visit ... fences, signs and pavement, no thanks. Can't you find something else to spend those extra millions of dollars on that seem to have in your budget?

Sincerely,

Rich Dandolo
Santa Cruz Suspension & Accessories
408 Trevethan Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831-460-9434
<http://www.santacruzsuspension.com/index.html>

Susan Craig

From: Kit Birskovich [kitb@baymoon.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 9:01 PM
To: Dan Carl; Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan: AGAINST
[This text was also sent as a hard copy through US mail]

Th8a

Agenda Item #Th8a

Arana Gulch

Kit Birskovich

AGAINST

October 8, 2010

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not approve the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan as long as it contains plans for the "Broadway/Brommer bike path" through this unique coastal prairie. It is blatantly a transportation project through ESHA dressed up to look like "an interpretive trail."

The City of Santa Cruz's insistence on this project has continued throughout a decade of its pronounced neglect in caring for Santa Cruz Tarplant habitat. Occasional gestural mowings occurred, with little other attention to management; tarplant numbers have plummeted toward zero (in fact, no plants were found this season). At the same time, the city insists its "Tarplant Management" is directly tied to the receipt of money promised through the Transportation Department for the bikepath, which it most definitely is not.

This project is NOT ALLOWED by law, violating the California Coastal Act. Further, the City of Santa Cruz should be admonished for its mismanagement and instructed to make real and effective effort to provide appropriate stewardship of Arana Gulch, the Santa Cruz tarplant, and its Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area.

Sincerely,

Kit Birskovich

528 Windham Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Susan Craig

From: Tim Ledwith [tledwith@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 5:07 PM
To: Dan Carl; Susan Craig
Subject: Please deny 3-09-068 Arana Gulch

Thba

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please do not approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan. This plan changes the Arana Gulch open space into a transportation corridor. It violates the intent of the acquisition of the open space, and sets a dangerous precedent for all other open spaces (greenbelts, preserves) in Santa Cruz.

No amount of modifications to the plan can change the fact that this is a transportation project masquerading as a preservation project. The City Council is trying to address their previous lack of action regarding the preservation the threatened species by misapplying transportation grant monies.

There are several other well-known alternatives for locating a cross-town bike path. All are cheaper. There are no other alternatives for preserving endangered species within this island of nature inside of city boundaries.

Equally as important, the conversion of open space to a transportation corridor removes a critical buffer from urbanity. The citizens of Santa Cruz wisely recognized that a healthy society provides citizens with access to nature, away from the demands and challenges of urban environments. The access enables renewal, lowering of tensions, and a peaceful balance against the pressures of urban life. The people of the eastside of Santa Cruz lose that access, just to satisfy a well-connected bicycle/transportation lobby.

I am fine with providing access to disabled people. I am fine with providing paved paths (permeated asphalt) that steer people away from the endangered plants. My opposition is not opposition to increased access and use of the greenbelt. My opposition is solely to the east-west transportation corridor connector (currently positioned as a bicycle path).

Please do not approve a plan that contains an east-west bicycle transportation connector.

I have lived in Santa Cruz for 38 years. This is my home, I have raised a family here, and I care about this community. Please don't let the current funding shortages for local government be used as an excuse to tap transportation monies, with the result of the loss of a greenbelt. Once it happens here, the same lobbyists will apply the same pressure, to introduce transportation corridors across Pogonip and to the Moore Creek Preserve (near Western Drive).

thank you,

Tim Ledwith
 246 Marnell Ave
 Santa Cruz.

10/11/2010

125

Susan Craig

From: Bruce Flatow [bruceflatow@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 1:10 PM

To: Dan Carl

Cc: Susan Craig

Subject: Arana Gulch

Th8a

I wanted to let you know I strongly oppose any further development in Arana Gulch. Please don't pave it. We don't want it and we don't need it for so many reasons. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Bruce Flatow

114 Mentel Ave

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Susan Craig

From: Jesse Nickell [jnickell@BarrySwensonBuilder.com]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 4:53 PM
To: Dan Carl; Susan Craig
Cc: Juliana Rebagliati
Subject: support of Arana Gulch Master Plan application

Th8a

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Ste 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Fax: (831) 427-4877

Re: Santa Cruz Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Dan Carl and Coastal Commissioners:

The long term vision for the abovementioned project is about getting more people to use the green belt. This project is all about green belt access and saving the Tar plant. The revised plan by the City of Santa Cruz, represents the very best options for this property. It balances Coastal Access, providing an Interpretive program for this beautiful area and it is a great way to protect a sensitive habitat open area.

I want to communicate my support for the approval of the Arana Gulch Master Plan application that is before you. I believe the enhanced management plan addresses all the Coastal Commission's concerns and unlocks access for all; additionally, it will provide revitalization the tar plant area. I think it will be a catalyst for more public use and to educate people visiting this green belt area.

With regards to the proposed revised Master plan, I would strongly urge you to support the current design. The green belt deserves better. We need to recognize and allow certain access to these green belts as it is an important way of life for the Santa Cruz Community.

Your vote will send an important message to our local community. I look forward to your support of Arana Gulch Master Plan application in its current form.

Jesse L. Nickell III
Santa Cruz Resident

Jesse L. Nickell III
119 Clinton St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
(831) 475-7100 ext. 113
(831) 901-1572 Cell
(831) 475-4544 Fax

10/11/2010

127

Susan Craig

From: Michele Franzella [mafranzella@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 8:42 AM
To: Susan Craig

Thga

I am writing to to let you know I am very against paving a bike trail in Arana Gulch. I enjoy running to the Yacht Harbor through the dirt trails of Arana Gulch.

I love having the field the way it is and would hate to see fences put around it. I know there are much better places to spend all that money, I can't believe this is even an option. I really hope actions towards fencing in Arana Gulch stop!!!

Thank you,
Michele Franzella
408 Trevethan Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Th9a

AGWA Arana Gulch Watershed Alliance

345 Lake Ave., Suite E, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 (831) 475-2379

rjhaver@pacbell.net

www.aranagulch.org

October 6, 2010

California Coastal Commission
Att: Dan Carl, District Manager
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Support letter for the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan

I am writing in support of the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan. The Arana Gulch Watershed Alliance (AGWA) is primarily focused on water quality issues in Arana. Arana Gulch Creek has long carried unnaturally heavy loads of sediment, accompanied by other urban runoff pollutants. Over the past ten years AGWA has been working successfully with landowners in the upper watershed to repair erosion sites and improve fish passage.

In order for us to do more (specifically to restore and clean-up the sediment problems in the Arana Gulch Greenbelt) we need to have final approval of the Master Plan so that we can get available state and federal funding for those high priority restoration projects. The creek can't get cleaner until the Master Plan receives final approval. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberta J. Haver".

Roberta Haver, Watershed Coordinator
Arana Gulch Watershed Alliance

Cc:
Mike Ferry, Associate Planner
City of Santa Cruz
809 Center Street, Room 206
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Richard & Andrea Criswell

422 Harbor Drive
Santa Cruz CA. 95060
831-423-8758
Richcris@hotmail.com

Th8a

October 6, 2010

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street
Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

California Coastal Commissioners & Staff
RE: Arana Gulch Master Plan, City of Santa Cruz
Meeting 10-14-10 Item # TH8a
Oceanside City Council Chambers

Dear Coastal Commission Members,
We are against this plan. Very simply put no bridge over Hagemann Gulch.

This plan although it can help Arana Park, is a good way for the City of Santa Cruz to try to get what it has wanted for 40 years. An east / west connection, between the city and county. Why else is the only MONEY set aside for this project coming from transportation funds?

We could go on and on with reasons for our opinion, but have already stated them in previous letters to you.

How can you sacrifice one sensitive habitat, Hagemann Gulch, with a Bridge and removal of trees etc. for another sensitive habitat, Arana Gulch?

Thank You,

Richard & Andrea Criswell

COASTAL COMMISSION

Susan Craig

Th8a

From: Heather Babcock, CPA [hbabcock@cruzio.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

Coastal Commission,

I would like to encourage you to approve the City of Santa Cruz's updated Arana Gulch Master Plan. It is time to get this plan off the back burner and headed towards reality.

This revised plan addresses all of the Coastal Commission's issues and provides for management of Arana Gulch's acres of open space, habitat, and unique resources. The plan will protect sensitive areas while allowing our citizens to enjoy them. This open space will be a valuable resource for all to enjoy.

Please make a vote to move this plan forward.

Sincerely,

Heather Babcock
city resident

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

309-0
The
again

Th 8a

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Keep the Aruna Gulch open space as it is. The Gulch is home to an abundance of natural habitat. If you destroy this safe haven the wild birds, plants and animals will disappear. At some point in our future this spaces will be gone. Take to heart what this irreversible project will do!

Sincerely,

Birgit Wilke-Meyer

Birgit Wilke-Meyer
409 Prospect Heights
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

3-09-06
Th 8a
again

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Stop the road that is being portrayed as a safe way to protect the tar plant! The "bridge" will go right through a beautiful untouched creek where so many birds and animals live. The open space was meant to be just that. Please keep this space for our children to enjoy nature and a place where the animals can truly call home.

Th8a



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069
(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

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ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

NEAL COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

October 7, 2010

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

California Coastal Commission
Central Coast Office
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

ATTN: Dan Carl

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan and approve the staff's recommendations.

I am currently serving my second term as Santa Cruz County Third District Supervisor. My district includes portions of Arana Gulch as well as the City of Santa Cruz and the entire North Coast to the San Mateo County border. I am in strong support of this updated plan and believe that the enhanced management plan has addressed all of the Commission's concerns. The revised plan represents the very best option for this property as it balances coastal access and provides an interpretive program for this unique area while primarily providing a tool to protect and enhance the sensitive habitats of this open space.

In addition, the vast majority of my constituents who have contacted me regarding this project also strongly support the City's revised plan. In fact, there have been few issues in my experience as an elected official where there has been this much unanimity of support for a project in Santa Cruz.

Again, I ask that you support the City's revised Master Plan for Arana Gulch and allow this important project to move forward.

Thank you for your service and dedication to preserving our coast and natural resources.

Sincerely,

NEAL COONERTY, Supervisor
Third District

NC:ted

1100F3

Thba

Susan Craig

From: Shioban Ranklin [shiobanranklin@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 3:27 PM

To: Susan Craig

Subject: Arana Gulch accessibility

Dear Mr. Craig,

I would like to take some time to voice my approval of the current updated Arana Gulch revisions made by city staff.

This is a great space that should be utilized by all for all sorts of family and community activities, and accessibility should be made available to do so.

Please consider this a letter, as an expression for you to do the same.

Thank you,

Shioban Ranklin

Santa Cruz mom

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dee Kenville [ndwoods@cruzio.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Dan Carl
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Against Arana Gulch Bike Path

Dear Sir,

I have lived on Hagemann Ave near Arana Gulch since 1976. I have enjoyed the Gulch immensely over the years. I also have seen wildlife come and go due to human intrusion.

We once had a thriving population of nesting ducks above the upper harbor on the wetlands....no more.

We had a thriving population of owls...no more.

We still have red tail hawks, red shoulder hawks and various other birds in our gulch. We have coyotes and Blue Herons.

However, over the years I have seen these populations decrease when the old house was torn down and the cows taken out. Then the populations gradually started to come back many many years later in just the last couple of years. Once the equipment is brought in and the increased human population brought in from the accessibility of the bike path, these wildlife populations may never recover.

I beg of you to consider denying the bike path through this lovely natural area. We have no other green belt area like this on the east side!

I am an avid biker. I have spent 12 years commuting by bike to work! I ride all over this county....but I have never needed a bike path thru arana gulch! Please help us protect it.

And if the city is looking to find ways to spend this 4.5 million, I have asked for years for speed bumps on my street to no avail. They say there is no money for them....

Thank you!

Dee Kenville
161 Hagemann Ave
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831 331-3931

TO: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION
REGARDING: ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN

07 October 2010

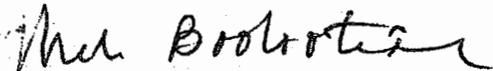
Th8a

Dear California Coastal Commission members,

I would like to voice my support for the Santa Cruz City master plan for Arana Gulch. I believe it addresses all the issues that have been raised by the Coastal Commission, and it provides a sustainable and appropriate plan for the management of Arana Gulch, one which will protect the sensitive areas and habitats, while allowing people to fully enjoy the green space.

Please approve the plan.

Thank you,



Mark Boolootian
24 Hanover Court
Santa Cruz, CA

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Th 8a

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY GROUP

-----Of The Ventana Chapter-----
P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 phone (831) 426-4453
www.ventana.org e-mail: scscrg@cruzio.com

RECEIVED October 6, 2010

OCT 07 2010

California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Re: Application No. 3-09-068, Arana Gulch Master Plan, City of Santa Cruz
Hearing date: 10/14/2010 – Agenda Item No. Th 8a

Dear Commission Members:

We have examined the Commission's staff report on this application and want to submit the following comments as an addition to the comments previously expressed in our letter to you dated February 22, 2010

The staff has framed the issue incorrectly when it states in its Report (page 2) that:

The main issue raised by the proposed project is addressing potential conflicts between protecting environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHAs) and providing public access because all of the Arana Gulch greenbelt area is ESHA.

The staff has created an artificial conflict between two issues that are entirely independent of each other and, therefore, should be examined independently. We support enhancing protection for the ESHA, and we support providing public access to the ESHA, but not through it. The real issue is whether public access should be provided in the form of a transportation project that bisects the ESHA primarily for the purpose of providing a bike throughway to connect parts of the City that are outside the ESHA.

The fact that the bikeway through the ESHA is a transportation project is confirmed by the plan to fund the project with regional transportation funds. It should also be clear that these transportation funds could be applied to alternative routes outside the ESHA. (see attached RTC Executive Director, Mr. Dondero, e-mail of 2 April 2010 in response to public inquiry). Construction of the bike throughway and its funding are not in the least dependent on the ESHA and the proposed improvements to its habitat. The addition of a few interpretive and educational signs to the bikeway are a ridiculously paltry attempt to camouflage a transportation project into a resource-dependent development.

Although the Commission's staff has indicated that the Commission has approved projects where a transportation project and ESHA protection were comingled, we found none that were comparable to the Arana Gulch case; none were projects that so clearly bisected an ESHA unnecessarily, and none were so clearly separable, i.e. each could be carried out to meet its full objectives independently of the other, as in the Arana Gulch case.

We support the implementation of the ESHA enhancements mentioned in the revised submission; they can and should be carried out independently of the bike throughway. However, the transportation project should be examined by itself, and, in light of the restrictions of Sec. 30240 of the Coastal Act, it should be denied.

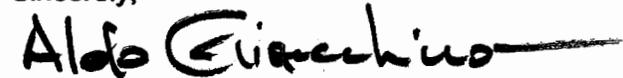
"...to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth."

Printed on Recycled Paper



For all of these reasons, we strongly urge that you sever the bikeway project from the Master Plan, reject the Bikeway Project and approve the rest of the Master Plan. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Aldo Giacchino, Chair
Sierra Club—Santa Cruz County Group

Attachment: e-mail dated 2 April, 2010 from RTC Executive Director, G Dondero

From: "George Dondero" <gdondero@scrtc.org>
Date: Fri, 2 Apr 2010 11:41:10 -0700
To: "Jean Brocklebank" <jeanbean@baymoon.com>
Cc: "John Leopold" <john.leopold@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>, <neal.coonerty@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>, "Luis Mendez" <lmendez@scrtc.org>
Subject: RE: Funding and AG management - resending

Dear Ms. Brocklebank:

In response to your question,

"Will the SCCRTC answer this question about whether or not funding for the Broadway-Brommer project can or cannot be applied to another alternative alignment, either within or outside of the Arana Gulch ESHA?"

The funding currently programmed by the RTC for the Broadway-Brommer project could be applied to an alignment alternative to the current one.

However, if the scope of the project were to change to the extent that the benefit/cost of the project were to significantly diminish (i.e.: the transportation needs would not be met as effectively), then the RTC could determine to reconsider the project for funding with new staff recommendations based upon the new conditions of the project. The RTC would then vote to 1) retain the funding, 2) re-program part or all of the existing funds to other projects, or 3) de-program the project.

Without knowing exactly what new alignment(s) are to be proposed by the City, we cannot know if such an alignment would be reconsidered by the RTC for funding. If you should have any other questions regarding RTC funding on the project, please feel free to contact me.

George Dondero

Th8a

To fax # 831-427-4877

Holly Marcelino Tyler
PO Box 66643
Scotts Valley, CA 95067

October 7, 2010

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OCT 07 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

California Coastal Commission
Dan Carl, District Manager
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: City of Santa Cruz - Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

I write to urge your support for the City of Santa Cruz's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan (AGMP), to be considered at your October meeting.

Reasons to support the AGMP:

To ensure protection of the tarplant, the mitigation efforts provided in the plan are necessary. Otherwise, the plant is as much as doomed.

Larger scale bicycle and pedestrian projects, very similar in nature to this one, in ESHA areas, have already been approved by your Commission.

Our county has very little in the way of greenbelt area access for the mobility impaired - this project would provide some.

The Coastal Commission is charged with promoting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The pedestrian and bicycle elements of this project do just that.

The plan provides for needed educational amenities in Arana Gulch that currently are lacking.

There is broad based community support for this project: Letters to the Commission are 9-1 in favor.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Holly M. Tyler

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Sharon Saldavia [sharonna@cruzio.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:43 AM
To: Dan Carl
Cc: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch, Santa Cruz

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to deny approval for the City of Santa Cruz's planned "Broadway-Brommer transportation project" through the Arana Gulch open space and ESHA. Please incorporate the arguments presented by the Friends of Arana Gulch in 1) its response to your staff report, and 2) its "Restoration Alternative with Interpretive Trails" presented at the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Dept. meeting on April 7, 2010. Those documents reflect my views.

I was one of the many community members who attended your public hearing in Santa Cruz earlier this year. I am sorry that citizens who support this ESHA won't be able to address you in Oceanside, but remember, we are all still here and passionate about Arana Gulch!

The City has not made any real substantive changes in its new proposal, and I urge you to deny approval now for the same reasons you did in March. Arguments have been made that this transportation project is good for the environment and good for parts of the Santa Cruz community. The fact is that, while these goals are laudable, it is not the role of the Coastal Commission to solve these social problems. This proposed project is not resource dependent; the ESHA can be preserved efficiently without a transportation project.

Thank you very much for your time. Best Wishes, Sharon Saldavia



Thursday October 7, 2010

Mr. Dan Carl
 Ms. Susan Craig
 California Coastal Commission
 725 Front Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Item Th7a, Application 3-09-068-Master Plan for Arana Gulch, Broadway-Brommer – Pedestrian-Bicycle Path

We recently received correspondence from our AARP California members in Santa Cruz concerning an Arana Gulch Project. They are concerned:

- That continued delays in the project have deprived seniors and those with disabilities from access to public property that is enjoyed by other member of the community.
- About an alternate plan recently proposed that would impede use by seniors and those with disabilities due to path lengths and steepened slopes
- That a small but powerful group that desire to maintain their vision of the property seems to have trumped overwhelming analysis of the project's goal of protecting and preserving while making the land accessible for the enjoyment and health of a wider group of residents.

Neither AARP nor AARP California maintains specific principles that encompass the totality of issues you must consider on this project. . However, AARP does maintain strong livable community principles which guide out advocacy. These include:

- Engaging residents in community planning and decision making
- Creating safe, walkable communities which foster aging in place and promote a strong sense of place
- Supportive features and services designs that enhance the ability of residents with diverse needs to remain independent and actively engaged in community life.

Based on our review of recent reports, including that of your staff, the very strong views of our members which live in the Arana Gulch Area and our livable communities principles we recommend you favorably consider and sanction the Arana Gulch Project.

Sincerely,

David Pacheco
 AARP California State President

Tom Porter
 AARP California, Snr. State Director

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Debbie Bulger [dfbulger@cruzio.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:19 PM
To: Susan Craig; Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Application No. 3-09-068, Item No. Th8a

Debbie Bulger, opposed to project

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

Please protect the California Coast and enforce the Coastal Act. I urge you to approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan **WITHOUT THE NON-RESOURCE DEPENDENT BROADWAY-BROMMER PAVED PATH.**

The City of Santa Cruz has a responsibility to restore the degraded habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz tarplant. Restoration of the habitat must be their first priority.

Interpretive trails

There are many opportunities for interpretive trails on the Arana Gulch Greenbelt property. The best interpretative trail would be a loop, not a point to point trail, the primary purpose of which is transportation.

It is possible to build an ADA-compliant interpretive trail on this Greenbelt property without significantly damaging environmentally sensitive habitat. The fact that the City continues its campaign to build a transportation corridor while claiming that this point-to-point paved route is resource dependent, is a black mark on the reputation of the City.

Funding from transportation monies

The transportation purpose of the Broadway-Brommer connection is evident by its primary source of funds: A transportation grant.

I am disappointed to see that after the March 2010 Coastal Commission meeting, the City did not in good faith investigate alternative alignments for the bike connection nor design a true interpretive trail, but instead continued to push for unnecessary destruction of habitat of an endangered species.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bulger
1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Richard Stover [rjs@skyhighway.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:27 PM
To: Susan Craig; Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Application No. 3-09-068, Item No. Th8a

Richard Stover, opposed to project

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

In coordination with the International Year of Biodiversity, a recently published comprehensive analysis of the world's plants finds that 1 in 5 species are under threat of extinction and the primary cause is human-induced habitat loss. Habitat loss and the threat of extinction of the Federally listed Santa Cruz tarplant is the major issue in the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Let us not be a party to extinction. Instead let's do the very best we can for the endangered tarplant.

The California Native Plant Society has been working tirelessly to use the best science to create the best possible restoration plan for the tarplant. Despite CNPS's efforts, the City of Santa Cruz continues to push a bicycle transportation project through the heart of the tarplant habitat. That is certainly not the very best we can do.

The City has failed to work cooperatively with CNPS to identify the best possible restoration plan. That is obviously not the very best we can do.

The City claims the bicycle path is really an interpretive trail. A quick glance at all of the letters received by the Coastal Commission shows that the vast majority identify the City's project for what it is - a commuter bike route. It is not resource dependent, and the City's claims to the contrary are not supported by the facts or anybody's expectations. The City isn't trying to do the very best for the endangered tarplant.

Especially in this Year of Biodiversity why must human exploitation take priority over endangered species protection?

Please reject the bike path proposal of the City of Santa Cruz. Approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan with the deletion of the east-west Creek View bike route.

As a further measure to insure the best possible tarplant restoration add one more condition of approval: **require that the CNPS be represented on the Adaptive Management Working Group.** This would help to insure that the City efforts do not back slide even farther from the best we can do.

Sincerely,

Richard Stover
1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

10/6/2010

143

Susan Craig

Th8a

From: Melissa Cline [melissa.s.cline@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:15 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Please support the Arana Gulch project

Hello,

I am a Santa Cruz resident, and am urging you to support the proposed Arana Gulch multi-use trails and Broadway-Brommer bridge. As someone who commutes within Santa Cruz by bicycle, I am eager to see this transportation corridor, finally connecting eastside Santa Cruz and Live Oak! If this route is put in place, more people will be able to travel by bike more easily, and will leave their cars at home. Plus, this plan would open up a section of our greenspace to wheelchairs, giving our seniors and disabled residents an opportunity to get out into nature. Local support strongly favors this plan, with 9 out of 10 letters written supporting it. Please give it your own support!

Thank you,

Melissa Cline
160 Belmont St
Santa Cruz

Susan Craig

Th8a

From: Richard Stover [rjs@skyhighway.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:27 PM
To: Susan Craig; Dan Carl
Subject: Arana Gulch

Application No. 3-09-068, Item No. Th8a

Richard Stover, opposed to project

Dear Coastal Commissioners,

In coordination with the International Year of Biodiversity, a recently published comprehensive analysis of the world's plants finds that 1 in 5 species are under threat of extinction and the primary cause is human-induced habitat loss. Habitat loss and the threat of extinction of the Federally listed Santa Cruz tarplant is the major issue in the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Let us not be a party to extinction. Instead let's do the very best we can for the endangered tarplant.

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The City has failed to work cooperatively with CNPS to identify the best possible restoration plan. That is obviously not the very best we can do.

The City claims the bicycle path is really an interpretive trail. A quick glance at all of the letters received by the Coastal Commission shows that the vast majority identify the City's project for what it is - a commuter bike route. It is not resource dependent, and the City's claims to the contrary are not supported by the facts or anybody's expectations. The City isn't trying to do the very best for the endangered tarplant.

Especially in this Year of Biodiversity why must human exploitation take priority over endangered species protection?

Please reject the bike path proposal of the City of Santa Cruz. Approve the Arana Gulch Master Plan with the deletion of the east-west Creek View bike route.

As a further measure to insure the best possible tarplant restoration add one more condition of approval: **require that the CNPS be represented on the Adaptive Management Working Group.** This would help to insure that the City efforts do not back slide even farther from the best we can do.

Sincerely,

Richard Stover
 1603 King Street
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

10/6/2010

145

Thoba

Susan Craig

From: David Zweig [david.j.zweig@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Fwd: Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail
Date: Wed, 06 Oct 2010 09:20:09 -0700
From: David Zweig <david.j.zweig@gmail.com>
To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
CC: scraig@coastalca.gov

Dear Mr. Stone,

Please vote in favor of the City's recommendation to **APPROVE THE ARANA GULCH MULTI-USE TRAIL.**

1) Soquel avenue and Murray are not good options for bicycle traffic. I have lived in Live Oak and East Side Santa Cruz for 7 years and as an avid cyclist have been inhibited by a lack of good bike-able routes between Live Oak and downtown Santa Cruz. This one small trail will make all the difference in the world in getting across town.

2) The current Arana Gulch is a series of muddy trails and trenches. This is the craziest part of this whole controversy. Arana Gulch as it exists today is a series of eroded foot trails with people going wherever they want and trampling whatever they want. A multi-use trail will concentrate the foot and wheel traffic to a non-erosive surface. Get people off the muddy dirt trails and onto asphalt or decomposed granite. Save Arana Gulch by doing the right thing. A trail is the best thing for the gulch's plant habitat.

I know this is a difficult decision. Thank you in advance for your YES vote on the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail,

Dave Zweig

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Dan Carl
 Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 9:59 AM
 To: Susan Craig
 Subject: FW: AGMP permit #3-09-068

From: Ron Pomerantz [mailto:RonForCouncil@cruzio.com]
 Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 8:26 PM
 To: mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us
 Cc: Dan Carl
 Subject: AGMP permit #3-09-068

October 5, 2010

Supervisor Mark. W. Stone
 Board of Supervisors
 701 Ocean Street, Room 500
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Mark

I write you today to strongly request your vote in favor of the Arana Gulch Master Plan (AGMP) and its multi-use path as presented on the upcoming Coastal Commission agenda on October 16th.

As a candidate for Santa Cruz City Council I have been going door to door. When I discuss that I am in favor of the Arana Gulch Master Plan I get roughly a 9 to 1 favorable response, which is similar to the ratio in favor as noted in the Coastal Commission's March staff report. Mark, please note the wishes of your constituency. Not only is this project overwhelmingly popular, but the environmental benefits of a funded tarplant management plan, greenhouse gas reductions, green jobs for the Construction and Building Trades, and access and interpretive use for young, elderly, and wheelchair bound, make this project of critical importance.

I believe that the Coastal Act demands a yes vote on AGMP. I think that Peter Douglas would agree. We'll see what he says at Oceanside.

Your local Coastal Commission staff, this region's experts on the Coastal Act, had this to say in their staff report:

"The Commission has a long history of approving interpretive public access trails and pathways in ESHA as resource-dependent developments. In this case, the proposed project not only includes trails of this nature, but it will also result in the improvement of habitat resources in Arana Gulch as part of the proposed project. In other words, this project goes beyond many other interpretive trail projects approved by the Commission in the past to not only provide the interpretive trail itself, but to also provide for significant habitat restoration and enhancement as part of the project." (p. 4)

"...the proposed project represents an appropriate resource-dependent development in ESHA that will not result in a significant disruption of habitat values. ...the proposed project should result in overall habitat enhancement for the special resources at Arana Gulch coincident with interpretive access

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enhancement in the same area, including allowing more and different user groups to experience such resources effectively and appropriately. The proposed project is consistent with Coastal Act Section 30240 and the other cited resource protection policies of the Coastal Act." (p. 50)

"In conclusion, staff, including the Commission's senior ecologist and the Commission's hydrogeologist, have further reviewed the City's now revised project as well as new data and information developed in the time since the March hearing, and staff is convinced that the City's proposed project, as conditioned, represents the best possible outcome under the Coastal Act with respect to this project." (p. 8)

This project has has been studied and scrutinized to the Nth degree for nearly 15 years, as well as successfully weathering repeated court challenges. Please, no more delays. Your affirmative vote for the AGMP is essential.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Pomerantz
215 Gharkey Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

CC: Dan Carl
California Coastal Commission
725 Front Street, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: michael nellany [mnellany@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 12:00 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch comments

Dear Commissioner Craig,

Here are some thoughts on the Arana Gulch project. I hope I can express myself well and in a manner that is not reactionary or overly confrontational. I'm concerned by the development that I see as grossly inappropriate. I have used the Arana Gulch as both a byway for my bike and as green space to enjoy with my dogs. While I was initially in support of the path as a very useful cycle way, the more I read about the plan the more it seemed like overkill. I envisioned a simple gravel path that would allow easy access via bike through the area. When I discovered it was to include a paved path with light I was appalled.

I think we need to preserve what few wild green spaces we have. Untouched beauty of this type is so rare. My wife's high school students call Arana Gulch "Little Africa" because it is so wild and beautiful. They are so rarely exposed to nature and this space affords them the opportunity to experience something their concrete world does not. Concrete and noise have encroached so completely that we have to take a real stand to say 'no' to the constant infringements that threaten our solitude.

I am a librarian and I have seen how badly we need a quiet place to read, study or just hang out. Cell phones have invaded every corner of our lives. I make the same argument at the library that I would make for Arana Gulch; Preserve what places we have for reflection and tranquility. Everyone needs a retreat from the pressure of the modern world. Arana Gulch is just one small place that afford the community the peace we deserve. Please consider voting NOT in support of the Arana Gulch plan.

While I think we need to support cyclists and safe travel, this plan is so overblown that it threatens something that should be inviolable. I believe some alternative bike routes have been suggested and these seems to me really practical.. The Frederick street park seems an ideal thoroughfare that could be easily and cheaply accommodated to meet our needs.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Nellany

10/6/2010

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Th8a

Susan Craig

From: charles paulden [yogacharles@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 12:09 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Agenda Item #8a, Oppose

Oppose
Application No. 3-09-068 (City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co.) Thursday, October 14 Agenda Item #8a

While I appreciate the local Coastal staffs, efforts to provide Coastal Access, I think that this project will do more harm than good.

I recommend that the City return to a Green Belt Plan that provides more of a natural environment and less paving and other man made elements.

As pointed out by Staff, this small open area is in a highly developed part of the County. The natural relief of looking across an undivided Coastal prairie is a great benefit to the many people who can access it now.

There are many Parks with sidewalks near to this last bit of undeveloped space.

Interpretive signs could be added at the two existing access points.

The existing trails could be left, rather than removed. Their loss will restrict access to the various points of interest.

There are a number of cross County connections very close to this open nature park. The funding source, that seems to be driving this project, can be better spent for the County Coastal Trail, along the rail line. This trail will be 1 block from Brommer, one of the connecting points this project is pushing. \$5 million will go a long way in the creation of this Coastal Trail.

The undeveloped open space is a Coastal Resource that is highly valued by many members of our community and visitors to the coast. Relief from Urban development is a great resource, which this project will adversely affect.

While I oppose this transportation project, masked as an interpretive trail, other options, that would be less damaging, are preferable to this one recommended by Coastal Staff. The proposals that do not bisect the field, with a paved, 12 ft, high speed bike road are better than this project. Non-paved surfaces, which go along the edge of the park, will add vista points to the Harbor and the sea. The Retaining wall, with an exit to the Harbor, will be less harmful than the proposed bike road through the center of the open space.

Please reject this transportation project through ESHA and preserve this precious undeveloped Coastal Resource

Thank you
Charles Paulden

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Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Jean Brocklebank [jeanbean@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:30 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: ARANA GULCH: Goats 4 Hire

Why can't we do this (below) in Arana Gulch, instead of the industrial fencing project designed by the City in its revised Master Plan application?
Friends of Arana Gulch has been suggesting the City try goats for over 10 years.

Sincerely,
Jean Brocklebank

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_16250845

Pasatiempo launches Operation Landscape Goat to help with restoration work By Kimberly White - Santa Cruz Sentinel 10/04/2010

SANTA CRUZ - The bearded brigade assembles at the canyon's rim and casts their collective gaze below, surveying the steep and rugged terrain through slitted eyes before committing to a line of attack.

Nearly 200 goats were deployed to the back nine at Pasatiempo Golf Club last week, using their cloven hooves to traverse the surrounding canyons in an operation dubbed Landscape Goat.

The cloven-hoofed calvary is expected to be stationed at the 18-hole championship course for 6-10 weeks, spending their days grazing in areas so overgrown with weeds, vines and plants that neither man nor machine can tackle.

"I've been looking at old photographs (from the 1920s and 1930s) of the property over the past two-and-a-half, almost three years that I've been here, and the ruggedness of this area, especially on the back nine, was pretty extreme ... The goal is to get back to that," said Paul Chojnacky, the golf course's superintendent.

He added that in the short time the goats have been grazing, they've cut down so much of the overgrowth that the individual peaks on the hills now can be seen as they once stood in those historical pictures.

In previous years, several members of the maintenance crew would go down into the canyons to clear out pampas grass and invasive species, but they could only cut so far into the formidable terrain. Whatever material they could clear out would have to be hauled up out of the canyon and put into big brush piles, and another company would then have to be hired to cut it into chips. No matter how hard the crews worked, Chojnacky said, everything would just grow back each spring, "so it almost looked like we hadn't done any work there at all. It was a rather frustrating schedule."

After pondering the situation, he discovered Brush Goats 4 Hire and contracted the company.

"You can already see in less than a week what they've done, and it would take us months to remove all that material and then having to haul it off," he said. "Plus, we'd have to go down there and spray chemicals, and we don't want to have to do that, either."

The goats belong to Ian Newsam and Lorraine Argo, a husband-and-wife team that operates Brush Goats 4 Hire, a 3-year-old company based out of Buellton. In addition to the roughly 170 goats, they also brought along two Anatolian shepherd dogs - code named Killer 1 and Killer 2 - to guard their charges from the predations of mountain lions and coyotes.

The goats - which Newsam said eat between 5 and 10 percent of their body weight each day -

now are contained in an approximately two-acre area lined by a solar-powered electric fence, whose 10,000 volts also serve as a deterrent to any predators.

Pasatiempo is touting the goats as an environmentally friendly alternative to hiring a traditional maintenance crew, since they eliminate the need for chain saws, chippers and other heavy equipment that produce damage as well as noise. As well, Newsam said, the goats will be able to completely eradicate some species of vines in the canyons, thereby reducing the need to spray harmful chemicals that can irritate golfers and maintenance crews alike.

"There's a place for machinery and there's a place for man, but once you get on hillsides and areas that are a little bit dangerous for people - these guys are amazingly agile - then that's where we can come in to help out," Newsam said.

Th8a

Susan Craig**From:** Terrence Willett [terrence.willett@calcentral.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 2:47 PM**To:** Dan Carl; Susan Craig**Subject:** Arana Gulch Broadway Brommer Bridge Project

To the California Coastal Commission:

This letter is in opposition to the construction of a bicycle bridge and path through the Arana Gulch Greenbelt as it would significantly impact the threatened Santa Cruz Tarweed (*Holocarpha macradenia*). The minor changes the City of Santa Cruz had made to the plan since the last hearing appear to be minor and in my opinion do not adequately address the impact to the Tarweed.

I have been a regular bicycle commuter in Santa Cruz County for over 20 years and currently live near Arana Gulch and can attest that there are several viable alternative bicycle routes to the proposed Broadway-Brommer route that do not impact a threatened species in a rare and sensitive coastal prairie habitat.

There is a major road (Soquel Avenue) with a designated bicycle lane that runs to the north of the gulch. Several major improvements to this route have been implemented over the last few decades including most recently a dedicated bike path at the intersection of Soquel Avenue and Capitola Road at the north east boundary of the greenbelt.

A rider can also travel through the Santa Cruz Harbor, which provides a route between Soquel Avenue and Murray Street. Some riders also carry our bikes up a set of stairs that lead to Frederick Street Park and Broadway Avenue that connects to downtown. The harbor routes do involve steep hills or stairs but are used as routes by some though not all cyclists.

A third route around Arana Gulch is the road to the south of the gulch (Murray Street), which runs parallel to a set of railroad tracks that span the County.

I feel the preservation of the threatened Santa Cruz Tarweed outweighs the possible benefits of the Broadway-Brommer connection through Arana Gulch and ask that the gulch's coastal prairie habitat be protected.

Sincerely,

Terrence Willett
1305 Dougmar Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

10/5/2010

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Susan Craig

From: Jack Bowers [jbowerspiano@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 3:39 PM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch Access Plan

Th8a

Mark Stone
California Coastal Commission

Mark-

I strongly support the Arana Gulch Access Plan as recommended for approval by the Coastal Commission. As a Seabright neighborhood residence and a senior, it will contribute greatly to open space access for myself and my neighbors, as well as protect a beautiful and unique piece of Santa Cruz openspace.

Thank you for your work,

Jack Bowers
422 Windsor St.
Santa Cruz

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10/5/2010

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Marsea [marsea@got.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

Why, why why does EVERY piece of land HAVE to be urbanized in some way. Arana Gulch is this little treasure we have. A place where plants and animals can have a refuge and people can visit without disturbing. We don't need to put a bike highway through it. There is an equally wonderful alternative with the Rail Trail idea, as well as the recent revisions to the surrounding bike lanes that make it easier for bike commuters to get around.

The County of Santa Cruz should reconsider its support of the Broadway-Brommer project portion of the AG Master Plan. The County could encourage the City to withdraw its current application to the Coastal Commission and to re-submit a revised application for its Master Plan without the specific Broadway-Brommer transportation project. The Coastal Commission should JUST SAY NO!

Marsea Marcus
Santa Cruz, CA

Th8a

Susan Craig

From: Marsea [marsea@got.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Susan Craig
Subject: Arana Gulch

Why, why why does EVERY piece of land HAVE to be urbanized in some way. Arana Gulch is this little treasure we have. A place where plants and animals can have a refuge and people can visit without disturbing. We don't need to put a bike highway through it. There is an equally wonderful alternative with the Rail Trail idea, as well as the recent revisions to the surrounding bike lanes that make it easier for bike commuters to get around.

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Marsea Marcus
Santa Cruz, CA

150 10/5/2010

Th8a

800 Brommer St. #80
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
27 September 2010

Dear Dan Carl,

Future accidents will be prevented with the creation of a multi-use trail through Arana Gulch, allowing safe passage from east to west Santa Cruz and vice versa. Because no such trail exists, accidents and even fatalities occur. Last Friday, a senior couple riding a tandem bicycle, was struck by a flat bed truck on Murray Street, pitching them to the pavement. Traffic was blocked while the woman, who was knocked unconscious, was flown to a trauma center. Unfortunately, neither bicyclist was wearing a helmet; fortunately, the woman is expected to recover. Two years ago, however, another bicyclist, Lucien Gregg, was killed not far from Friday's accident, when a delivery truck struck and killed him as he traveled west on Murray Street, only to have the truck hit him when it turned into a side street.

How many accidents and fatalities will it take for the Coastal Commissioners to realize the desperate need for a safety corridor between the east and west sides of town? If the couple on a tandem, as well as Mr. Gregg, had access to a nearby off-road corridor to travel, their stories would not need to be told. Opponents of this multi-use/safety corridor cite the need for preserving the endangered tar plant. Their argument is well founded, but empty compared to the need to protect human lives.

Santa Cruz citizens need as many safe off road corridors as possible. The environment needs cleaner air due to lower carbon emissions as people leave their cars at home to walk or ride the Arana Gulch multi-use path for daily errands. I live in a Live Oak senior community near the access to Arana Gulch. Some of my neighbors, who already walk for exercise, say they look forward to an off road link to the Seabright area to run errands as well as for exercise. (New Leaf Grocery and Wells Fargo will open for business soon just down the street from the Broadway exit of the proposed path.)

It is well and good to argue for the health of an endangered California native, the tar plant. But flesh and blood California citizens of Santa Cruz are more important. Their lives depend upon safe off-road trails like the Arana Gulch multi-use path. Please make this multi-use path a reality.

Sincerely,

Grace Voss
Grace Voss

RECEIVED

SEP 29 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th8a

Dan Carl

From: Jan Landry [jan@mindfulnessprograms.com]

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 1:49 PM

To: Dan Carl

Subject: Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet

I am writing to urge you to allow Arana Gulch to remain as is, the beauty, the wildness, is a rare and precious commodity, please don't take it away. Please take to heart, the words below of Gerard Manley Hopkins,

"What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet."

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Thank you for your consideration and hopefully preservation, Jan Landry

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2010

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Th8a

Ryan Sarnataro

118 Hagemann Ave.

Santa Cruz, Ca. 95062

831-466-9570

California Coastal commission

725 Front St room 300

Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

To the commission,

I am writing as a resident of Santa Cruz who lives within yards of Arana Gulch. Unlike some of my neighbors I wholeheartedly approve of the plan to install the multi-use path, reintroduce limited grazing and protect parts of the open space from people and dogs.

In my personal case I am both a bicycle rider and a disabled person (yes it is possible to be able to ride a bicycle for miles while being unable to walk a couple of hundred yards). I see the trail improvements and the bridge as augmenting my personal comfort and safety. Right now the trails in the park are rutted and uneven in the summer and turn into sloppy gullies in the winter. If the open space remains unimproved, erosion and the problem of new trails popping up will further degrade the environment. The gulch will not remain static, it will be used by more and more people over time - the improvements are the best way the natural environment can be preserved.

The most important reason to approve the plan really has to do with the future. Long after I am no longer traveling through the park and my neighbors disturbed by the change of view have passed from the scene the improvements will be part of the infrastructure of Santa Cruz, a legacy to our descendants. At a time when spending on vital projects is drying up the opportunity to improve the open space and, dare I say, improve the non-vehicular arteries of Santa Cruz may not come again.

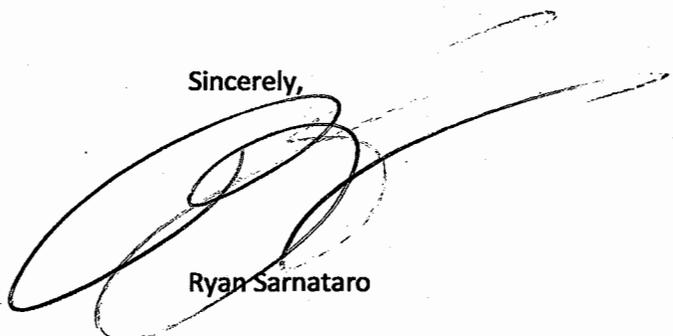
I urge the commission to approve the improved plan now under consideration.

RECEIVED

OCT 11 2017

CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION
CENTRAL COAST AREA

Sincerely,



Ryan Sarnataro

Thsa

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE
OF EX PARTE
COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of project, LCP, etc.: Th. 8.a. Application No. 3-09-068
Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz,
Santa Cruz County

Date and time of receipt of communication: Various

Location of communication: Correspondence Received

Type of communication: E-mails and Letters

Person(s) initiating communication: Various

Person(s) receiving communication: Mark Stone

Detailed substantive description of content of communication:
(Attach a copy of the complete text of any written material received.)

See attached e-mails

Date: 10/7/10 Signature of Commissioner: *Mark Stone*

If the communication was provided at the same time to staff as it was provided to a Commissioner, the communication is not ex parte and this form does not need to be filled out.

If communication occurred within seven or more days in advance of the Commission hearing on the item that was the subject of the communication, complete this form and transmit it to the Executive Director within seven days of the communication. If it is reasonable to believe that the completed form will not arrive by U.S. mail at the Commission's main office prior to the commencement of the meeting, other means of delivery should be used; such as facsimile, overnight mail, or personal delivery by the Commissioner to the Executive Director at the meeting prior to the time that the hearing on the matter commences.

If communication occurred within seven days of the hearing, complete this form, provide the information orally on the record of the proceeding and provide the Executive Director with a copy of any written material that was part of the communication.

Mark Stone

From: Monica Pielage [mpielage@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 9:56 AM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: I support Arana Gulch

Dear Sir/Madam:

I support the Arana Gulch Master Plan and improved public access to the open space as well as a safer east/west bike route for myself and my 4 year old son.

Please approve the plan.

Sincerely,

Monica Pielage
117 Darwin St
Santa Cruz CA 95062

Mark Stone

From: Jean Brocklebank [jeanbean@baymoon.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 8:38 AM
To: Mark Stone
Subject: Arana Gulch/Letter to the editor

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/ci_16274449

As You See It: Oct. 7, 2010

Posted: 10/07/2010 01:30:34 AM PDT

Keep an open mind

The purpose of the California Coastal Commission is to carefully analyze all applications placed before it, not to rubber stamp staff report recommendations.

The staff report assembles and organizes relevant background information and makes recommendations for action, including strict conditions of approval for the development permit. The commissioners review the staff report, along with critical testimony from the public, and make their decisions based on all the evidence, not just the staff report. The final decision on the application is made by the commissioners in a public hearing, not in the staff report.

At this next Coastal Commission meeting, commissioners will hear important new testimony about the Arana Gulch Master Plan application. Friends of Arana Gulch trusts that Commissioner Mark Stone will keep an open mind until all the evidence is presented and reviewed.

Michael Lewis, Santa Cruz

Mark Stone

From: Kirby Fosgate [kirbyfosgate@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 11:55 PM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Mr. Stone First, I would like to introduce myself; My name is Kirby Fosgate, and I am a Santa Cruz City resident and a retired State Park Ranger and the Trails Coordinator for the Santa Cruz District State Parks for over 25 years. I worked over the years on numerous State Park trail projects in Santa Cruz, and surrounding counties.

I respectfully ask you to support the proposed Arana Gulch Master Plan at the California Coastal Commission meeting in Oceanside on October 14th. I will be driving the 12 hour round trip distance to attend the meeting to encourage you and the Commission to approve this well thought out plan to protect and maintain the natural resources of Arana Gulch while allowing people to safely visit the open space.

Thank you for consideration

Kirby Fosgate
Santa Cruz

Mark Stone

From: Gina Bliss [gbwater@cruzers.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 9:05 PM
To: Mark Stone
Subject: Bike access to cross Arana

Dear Supervisor Stone

I appreciate your leadership for our County. I am always pleased when a person makes a stand that defends natural habitat from development.

I prefer to ride my bike, rather than drive, across Santa Cruz when possible. But I am 61 now and would not recover quickly from a vehicle vs bike accident.

I appreciate the great advances our community has made for bike and bicyclist safety.

For me, the proposed bike access across Arana Gulch would be safer than the available roads, so I do hope this project will be approved and built.

Sincerely,

Gina Bliss
126 Ladera Drive
Santa Cruz 95060

Mark Stone

From: Kathleen Rose [kathoo@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:42 PM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Mr. Stone,

I am a resident of Santa Cruz County and a longtime member of the Sierra Club, and I urge you to support the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan, as recommended by the Coastal Commission staff.

As the Commission staff makes clear in its recently issued report, the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan meets all the Coastal Act requirements, is the best option for the habitat, is the best option for the tarplant, is the best option for public access and accessibility for the mobility-impaired, and would provide an excellent opportunity to educate people about the habitat and the importance of preserving it. There is no valid reason to oppose this Plan. I urge your support.

Yours truly,

Kathleen Rose

Mark Stone

From: Nancy Lenz [nanlenz@cruzio.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 5:15 PM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.co.gov
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Supervisor Stone,

Please support the revised Arana Gulch Master Plan with a Multi-Use Trail.

I've spent 20 years in Santa Cruz, volunteering at Long Marine Lab and the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum, encouraging children and adults to be environmental stewards of our oceans and lands. I currently head a volunteer project to remove invasive English ivy and Himalayan blackberry from Pilkington Creek on the grounds of the Santa Cruz Natural History Museum and create a more natural habitat with California native plants.

I live in the City of Santa Cruz within walking or biking distance of Arana Gulch. My tax money went to pay for this open space and I would like to see it available for use by families with children in strollers, wheelchair bound citizens and older citizens like myself.

When I first moved to Santa Cruz I was 59. Now I am 79 and hope to walk through Arana Gulch someday on the Multi-Use Trail.

I care about preserving the tarplant and educating the public about this area. The revised plan addresses these issues.

Thank you for considering my opinion,

Nancy S. Lenz
230 Pilkington Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Mark Stone

From: Colleen Brokaw [colleenb@ebold.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2010 4:43 PM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scralg@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Please support Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Mark Stone,

I wish I could come in person to Oceanside to let you know how much I and my friends support the City of Santa Cruz's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan! I and my friends have used Arana Gulch many times, both as bicyclists and as walkers, and feel the plan would be beneficial to all of Santa Cruz.

Some of my friends worked long and hard on this plan, and I know them to have been thoughtful, smart, honest, and thorough in this, as in all their endeavors.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE ARANA GULCH MASTER PLAN FOR CITY OF SANTA CRUZ - AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE CENTRAL COAST!!

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Colleen Brokaw, Esq.
2630 Mattison Ln
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
831-535-2997

S

Supervisor Mark. W. Stone
Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

CC: Dan Carl, District Manager
10/7/10

Dear Commissioner Stone:

I am a longtime member of the Sierra Club, and I want to brief you on some aspects of the Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group, particularly as it relates to the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

The Group arguably does not have a position on the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan (AGMP). The Group's Executive Committee has not taken a position on Arana Gulch since 1995, a time when the City was just beginning to discuss alternative routes for pedestrian/bike/handicapped trails, and no one was working on a Master Plan for Arana Gulch. The Arana Gulch Master Plan did not exist until 2006. There has never been an Executive Committee vote on the Master Plan.

Furthermore, the few on the Executive Committee who claim to speak for the Sierra Club on this matter have never allowed the Group membership to vote on this issue. In my estimation, a majority of the Group's members would support the Arana Gulch Master Plan on environmental grounds. I note that at the May Coastal Commission meeting, 17 people spoke during oral communications in favor of the AGMP (only 2 opposed), and at least 8 of the 17 were current Sierra Club members.

Sierra Club National has not signed on with those claiming the Sierra Club opposes the AGMP. In 2006 there were those in the Executive Committee who loudly announced that the Sierra Club would join the lawsuit against the AGMP. In order for that to happen the Santa Cruz Group would have had to submit a "New Matter Form" to Sierra Club National. Approval of this submission would have allowed the Group to be one of the litigants in the suit. Responding to my query as to the validity of the assertion that Sierra Club National denied the Group's request to being a party in the Arana Gulch suit, a member of the Executive Committee responded "No validity. They were never asked." Why this turn around on Group's commitment to being party to the suit against AGMP?

It is also noteworthy that Sierra Club National has excellent policies on the importance of bicycle transportation and other alternative transportation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and emphasizes the importance of providing infrastructure

Mark Stone

From: dave@terra@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 11:50 AM
To: Mark Stone
Cc: scraig@coastal.ca.gov
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Sent via email and USPS

October 7, 2010

Supervisor Mark Stone
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Supervisor Stone:

I write this letter to urge your support for the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan. As a long-time and active member of our city and former resident of a town in your nearby supervisorial district, I ask that you carefully consider the community's broad-based project support as well as the increased public access and environmental protections of this project in making your decision as a member of the California Coastal Commission. I urge your support the Arana Gulch Master Plan for the following reasons.

First, in regards to environmental protections, the City's Arana Gulch Master Plan has been revised to make clear that the tarplant management program will cover nearly the entire grassland area, that the trail surface as well as base material will be permeable, and that additional existing trails that cause habitat or erosion problems will be closed and restored. And the completed study ordered by the Commission has clearly shown that the City's revised plan is environmentally superior to any other plans.

Second, in regards to improved public access, the City's revised plan would create the first wheelchair-accessible trails in any of the City's four greenbelt parks as well as provide access to the Harbor and nearby beaches. This is a wonderful improvement which serves seniors and persons with disabilities who would not otherwise have the opportunity to visit this open space.

Third, as the parent of young children I am especially supportive of programs which serve our community's youth. The City's revised Plan would create educational opportunities, such as interpretive displays for students, teachers as well as the general public, to learn about the habitat of this space. It's important that we engage residents and especially young people in efforts to learn about and protect our coastal environment.

Finally, and of particular importance because of their objective viewpoint, the Commission's professional staff has concluded that the City's revised Arana Gulch Master Plan meets all the requirements of the Coastal Act and is consistent with Commission precedents.

For the reasons stated above I respectfully request you to carefully consider the Commission's professional staff analysis and broad-based community support and vote to approve the City of Santa Cruz's Arana Gulch Master Plan at the California Coastal Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on October 14, 2010.

Cordially,
David Terrazas
Santa Cruz, CA

cc: California Coastal Commission
Attn: Susan Craig
725 Front St, Suite 300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Th 8a

**FORM FOR DISCLOSURE OF
EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS**

Name or description of the project: Agenda Item Th.8.a. Application No. 3-09-068 (City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co.)

Time/Date of communication: October 7, 2010, 4:00 pm

Location of communication: Oceanside City Hall

Person(s) initiating communication: Dave Grubb, speaking for Friends of Arana Gulch.

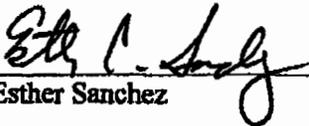
Person(s) receiving communication: Esther Sanchez

Type of communication: Meeting

The appropriate Commission action is accept the rezoning to "Natural Area" and to direct the City to remove all transportation elements from the proposed Master Plan and to implement all other actions in that document.

Monies needed for habitat restoration on the Arana Gulch Greenbelt will be available from sale of excess City real estate after the Commission's decision.

Date: October 7, 2010



Esther Sanchez