



August 19, 2009

Richard Rendon, Supervisor
Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Office of Grants and Local Services
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

RE: Support for funding for Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam

Dear Mr. Rendon:

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC), I am writing to support efforts to secure funding for the Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam. The various segments of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail, including the historic Sawyer Camp trail, provide much-needed walking and biking opportunities for residents throughout San Mateo County. The trail's beautiful location and scenery is an ideal backdrop for such activities, and the popularity of the existing trail segments is a testament to their appeal.

The SVBC's mission is to promote bicycling for everyday transportation. Cycling has obvious health and environmental benefits, and we believe that encouraging bicycling among people of all ages is likely to provide lasting benefits to the entire community. We are requesting the completion of the South of Dam section of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail because it will provide an important gap closure, and the completed path is likely to attract more cyclists.

Gap closures have been a crucial transportation and recreation impediment in San Mateo County for the past 30 years, and the SVBC has prioritized trail connection as one of its primary programs. Many people prefer the perceived safety of a recreational trail, free from the challenges of navigating motorized traffic. Recreational trails provide safe places for children and novice riders to develop their cycling skills and discover the joys and benefits of bike riding. Such trails often serve as a first step on the path to cycling as a form of transportation. Furthermore, regional trails are often used by bike commuters during the less popular weekday morning and evening hours because they provide efficient routes unencumbered by motorized vehicle traffic.

While we overwhelmingly support this project, our members raised several concerns, and we hope these issues can be addressed as part of the project planning and implementation.

1. Safety will be improved if consideration is given to how cyclists and pedestrians will transition between the recreational trail and Skyline Blvd. Signage and pavement markings might help to alert motorized traffic to the presence of cyclists and pedestrians near the trail entrances and exits.
2. Consideration needs to be given to how the required fencing will impact wildlife in the area, as well as the "caged-in" feeling it gives to trail users. Less restrictive and more permeable options would be preferable.

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non-profit organization.*



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Our communities need more than just road construction; we need additional space for recreation. The existing segments of the Crystal Springs Regional Trail are very popular and can be quite crowded, particularly on the weekends. Their popularity clearly reflects the need for additional recreational trails, and trail expansion is greatly desired by the many cyclists and non-cyclists who use the trail. The Crystal Springs Regional Trail South of Dam project is a perfect means of addressing this need, and the use of federal funds for closing the gap in this very popular trail would be a sound investment of public dollars.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Corinne Winter
Executive Director

Cc: Cecily Harris, San Mateo County Department of Parks, via email.

