

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Department Liaison:
San Mateo County Office of
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San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: Support Letter for Crystal Springs Regional Trail Grand Jury Report

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On September 25, 2019, a special meeting of the San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was held to discuss the civil grand jury report issued July 25, 2019 addressing gaps in and other issues concerning the Crystal Springs Regional Trail. As the 17.5 mile Trail lies entirely in the unincorporated areas of the County it is directly within the BPAC's area of responsibility, and various elements of the Trail have been reviewed by the BPAC over the last few years.

At the special meeting the BPAC unanimously voted to endorse the recommendations of the civil grand jury report. The BPAC urges the Board of Supervisors to take a leadership role in bringing together the relevant agencies, including the County Planning and Parks Departments, the San Francisco PUC and CalTrans, to close the gaps in the Trail and increase access points as described in the civil grand jury report.

Since the BPAC was organized in 2016, a major focus of our efforts has been to support efforts to link the various bike and pedestrian resources that are scattered across the County, with the goal of creating a more functional network that will encourage walking and cycling by enabling pedestrians and cyclists to get where they are going safely and efficiently. We have seen time and again the situation where a separated trail ends abruptly and forces users onto busy streets and highways. The result in these cases is that literally there are accidents waiting to happen, sometimes with fatal consequences.

The Sawyer Camp Trail, including the South of Dam extension opened earlier this year, is a striking example of this phenomenon. The County has gone to meaningful expense to create a safe and attractive separated trail, but the trail ends a mile north of the 35/92 intersection. Trail users, including pedestrians (often with strollers) and cyclists, are then forced to negotiate a genuinely scary roadway, made all the more dangerous because of parked cars along the roadside as a result of inadequate access points to the trail. From there the southbound users hoping to get to Canada Road are funneled into an intersection where cars are moving to and from Half Moon Bay at highway speeds. It is hard to overstate the risk profile of this situation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Natalie Gore, <i>Chair</i>	John Langbein (Alternate)
Bill Kelly, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Elaine Salinger (Alternate)
Dianna Butcher	
Susan Doherty	



An Advisory Committee to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

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There is no need for us to recapitulate the thoughtful conclusions of the civil grand jury report. But we do wish to underscore for the Board the magnitude of the opportunity as we see it. The Crystal Springs Regional Trail should be a crown jewel of the Bay Area, and one of the great pedestrian and bicycle routes in the entire country. It has a host of unique advantages, including magnificent scenery, mostly level topography, and easy access via I-280. It has the further advantage that all of the Trail is already in public hands and that most of the Trail is already constructed. The incremental investment required to realize the benefits appears to be relatively small, and funding appears to be available via Measure W.

With the benefits of trail completion so close within our reach, the BPAC unanimously believes that now is the time for the modest additional effort required to get to the finish line. The status quo, on the other hand, represents both a missed opportunity and a clear and present safety risk.

Please let us know if we can assist in any way in the Board's consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Gore, Chair

San Mateo County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

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