



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES



ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA, MARIN & SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES

August 10, 2020

Timothy Johnston, Senior Planner
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Via email to: timothy.johnston2@sfgov.org

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the SFPUC Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project

Dear Senior Planner Johnston,

We write on behalf of the Sierra Club and our two Chapters, San Francisco Bay and Loma Prieta, together comprising more than 100,000 members and supporters, to express our appreciation and support for the selection of Alternative B as the "Environmentally Superior Alternative" in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Southern Skyline Boulevard Ridge Trail Extension Project.

We are pleased to note that Alternative B meets our expressed hopes for an improved/expanded docent program on the Fifield-Cahill segment, said docent program being vital to the ongoing protection of the unique environmental sensitivity of the Watershed. We cite the improved handicap access segment as another noteworthy improvement.

As to the Extension itself we believe the 1.5 mile separation serves the dual purpose of significant cost reduction by avoiding challenging terrain and by achieving conflict reduction by discouraging potential bike/ped crossings of Highway 92. We support fencing to contain the small but impactful percentage of users that may be tempted to engage in destructive trespass. It is important, however that the fencing be as wildlife friendly as possible while achieving its main purpose. We do have a lingering concern as to appropriate mitigation for the cumulative removal/degradation of habitat that is an obvious consequence of the trail construction itself.

Our Chapters' leadership, in harmony with several prominent environmental organizations, became engaged with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's outreach efforts for an approximate 2 year period commencing 6 years ago that led to the initiation of this document in 2016. We were optimistic at that time that the San Francisco Planning Department would maintain, if not exceed, the excellent environmental work of two decades ago and we have not been disappointed. We look forward to the publishing of the final EIR with similar optimism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ferreira".

Mike Ferreira, Executive Committee member
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Feinstein".

Arthur Feinstein, Executive Committee
member, San Francisco Bay Chapter Sierra
Club