



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
GROUP**

Of The Ventana Chapter

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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

1523 Pacific Ave.

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

transitcorridoraa@sccrtc.org

Re: TCAA. Stakeholder Input

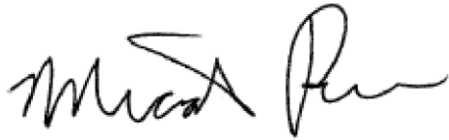
The Sierra Club supports the preferred alternative for the railroad corridor identified by staff as part of the TCAA study - an electric rail system, as long as the rail system allows for a contiguous trail within the rail corridor. The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club is comprised of some 4000 members throughout Santa Cruz County.

The Sierra Club has long advocated for rail transit systems because rail transit promotes Transit Oriented Development (TOD), an effective strategy for reducing urban sprawl and preserving open space. In the long run, because rail is centered on a single line and around stations, it supports infill along the corridor and a lifestyle in which residents are able to walk for a majority of their needs and use the train for longer trips. Trips taken via electric rail systems have low greenhouse gas emissions per rider and encourage civic interactions. They allow residents long range mobility without the need for significant investments of personal capital. Rail transit on the corridor will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide equitable mobility to the residents of Santa Cruz County.

We also understand that electric rail on the corridor is only one component of a broader integrated county transit system. We urge the RTC to create an integrated transit network with rail and bus connectors, to be (ideally) run by the Metro and to build dedicated bus

only lanes on Highway One and study additional technologies that may become relevant to our future transit system, both on the corridor and within the county.

Thank you for your consideration,

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

Micah Posner, Executive Committee Chair

Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group