



Jill Ekas, Community Development Director  
City of Half Moon Bay  
501 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, California 94019

February 23, 2018

Dear Director Ekas,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan. We attach the map "Figure 3-2 Pedestrian Recommendations" as a reference.

Some time ago our volunteers attended a "joint" meeting at which it was made quite clear that the "Parallel Trail" in the eastside of the Caltrans Highway #1 right-of-way needed to be a top priority. We commend that sense of priority because of the safety and connectivity benefits as well as the utilization of public land.

Additionally there was considerable pushback in that meeting against the "Vista" trail (shown in purple as a "study" area) due to known coastal resources and it was not thrown out largely due to a staff request to keep it in the plan as a possibility. The Sierra Club is aware of the coastal resources along that route. We are also aware that there is no public ownership of the lands that this routing would cross. Significant portions of that route would cross working agricultural lands to the detriment of ongoing viability, a long and expensive bridge would be required across Frenchman's Creek and the routing along the south side of Frenchman's Creek, as shown, would go through existing farmhouses, a barn, and a reservoir much less existing small parcel agriculture on some of the best soils in Half Moon Bay. As the Vista and Frenchman's Creek Trails are identified as "study" routings we do not believe that any intensive study needs to be undertaken in order to remove these from the Plan.

Another study is a trail linking the Grandview subdivision to the Terrace/Highland subdivision across Beachwood. There was indeed an informal trail there for many years that might have presented a case for a longstanding use as justification for existing through a wetland but ever since the City Council took ownership of the parcel and 3 years later (2012) fenced off any access from Golden Gate Avenue the trail has gone unused and the environment has reclaimed it. Given the cost and

complexity of reestablishing that trail as well as the prospect of gaining connectivity between these neighborhoods via the high priority Parallel Trail we believe that this study should designate this trail reestablishment as a low or far in the future priority.

We have consistently spoken about the folly of the Pilarcitos Creek Trail options that would prospectively traverse along either the south or north sides of the creek from the Coastal Trail to the Matteucci subdivision in the southern version or along the north and behind the Grand subdivision and then bridging across the creek to Oak Avenue in the northern version. We are aware that an earlier Council decision to NOT take either of those options and instead to connect to Altona Avenue and thence to Kelly Avenue appears to have been lost. Nonetheless we need to assert that the City of Half Moon Bay has long proclaimed to be supportive of preserving as much of its agricultural character as it can. Planning to run trails through privately owned working agricultural properties without even asking the opinion of the landowner much less permission begs the question as to whether the committee that drafted the proposal is truly representative of the community at large or just a narrow segment of interest.

We know the owner is strongly opposed to either option and the owner's property is on both sides of the creek. We also know that bridging Pilarcitos Creek – proven home to both Red-legged Frogs and San Francisco Garter Snakes – will be a difficult permit to finance and to get approval. We also know that the LCP requires that there be no alternative before bridging a creek. There is an alternative - Altona Avenue to Kelly Avenue.

We do have concerns about the efficacy and impacts of what appears to be a Foothill Trail, some of the Wavecrest alignments but we will address those separately.

We close by commending what we understand is still the City's top priority – the east side Parallel Trail.

Sincerely,

Ken King  
Coastal Issues Committee Chair  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter  
3921 E. Bayshore Road, Suite 204  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Office: [650-390-9604](tel:650-390-9604)  
[www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta](http://www.sierraclub.org/loma-prieta)  
[www.facebook.com/LomaPrietaSierraClub](https://www.facebook.com/LomaPrietaSierraClub)

Cc: Mike Ferreira

## Chapter Conservation Chair