

Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club  
Executive Committee

Wednesday November 9, 2022, 2022; 6:30-8:30 Zoom meeting

1. Greetings/Introductions

Present: Mike Guth, Jerry Busch, Steve Bakaley, Steve McGuirk, Kristen Sandel, Micah Posner, Jim Danaher.

2. Announcements:

Micah had several transportation announcements, including 1) that Friends of the Rail Trail were invited to meet with new Metro director, who he described as pro-train; AB 1919 passed, but didn't get in budget; a new bill to get kids to school without cars, did not pass, but is in the budget. Micah will work on this with his daughter on these issues. Mike Guth discussed the Moran Lake habitat, and said funds were approved, but required mitigation, which never happened. Mike met Manu and others, discussed mitigation for removal of trees at Moran Lake. Mike is also meeting with the park department. Coastal bluff protection/Coastal Committee met. Big issue for many groups. Mike requested that the SC take up the issue.

3. Changes to the Agenda: no changes.

4. September 11 Minutes

a. A concern came up about endorsements that were not addressed by the State SC. Micah moves to approve the minutes, Steve B seconds Passes, 6-0 vote.

5. October 12 Minutes

a. Steve B moves to accept; Kristen seconds; Passes 6-0.

6. Election Committee Report

a. Report/no action anticipated: 3 candidates need to get ballot statement back to Elec committee within two weeks. Micah asked if anyone was following the Ventana election. He also said he believed there was an opening on the Ventana. Mike added that there has long been a promise to have a seat on the Ventana committee for someone from the SC chapter.

7. Climate Committee Report

a. Report: Kristen gave the report and stated what was discussed at the meeting.

8. Conservation Committee Report (Mike)

a. Report: Mike discussed City of SC tree appeal because a permit was issued. Two new members expressed interest on joining the ConsCom.

b. Lot 4 tree appeal; NOTE: This item was voted on by ExCom after the ConsCom meeting; unanimous vote to join tree appeal; 6-0.

c. Segment 8/9 DEIR letter: (did anything happen?)

d. New members: Laura Tate; Jane Orback: Lauren Tate and Jane Ohrbach would like to join the ConsCom. Mike nominates them. 6-0 to join them to Conscom.

e. Draft letter on Rail Trail: Mike mentioned all the times when this letter was discussed, and all the people who have reviewed and approved the letter. Mike said the EIR did a good job in identifying impacts, but said more mitigations are needed. Kristen said the Club is supporting the trail, and brought up another alternative. This alternative would construct the trail by covering, but not removing the tracks. Mike said the Club brought up 3 significant impacts, and came up with specific mitigations. Most important: Monarch impact; offsite mitigation; Kristen is the primary author of the letter. Micah liked letter: expresses support for project, and provides mitigations. Jerry asks about where most of the trees are located. Mike suggests that the letter include maintaining the access points to the rail trail, and mentions that the fence styles on the west side don't limit access.

Jerry suggests adding language that states that bat mitigation include a includes program with a measurable success rate. Mike suggests that Jerry add language to that effect. Jerry moves that we approve letter as written, and consider adding appropriate language 1) pedestrian crossing; 2) accommodate bats;

Jerry moves to: accept letter, with additions that were discussed in the chat, consider adding language for more vigorous impact mitigation regarding the bats. Steve McGuirk seconds. The letter would be approved as written, plus one paragraph defining the impact and one paragraph discussing the bats, and another paragraph discussing the crossings of the rail trail and mitigating the impact of the crossings. The deadline for the responses, which was coming very quickly, was discussed. Kristen seconds. 6-0. Passes.

9. Measure O update. A short discussion ensued.
10. Update to Leaf Blower Letters (Steve McGuirk). A letter prepared by Steve McGuirk was reviewed. Micah moves to approve letter, with commitment from McGuirk, to send to appropriate agencies. 6-0. Letter will be adjusted for addressing different recipients.
11. Election Update.  
Micah gave the update on the hernandez/dutra race, and said that Hernandez was ahead by about 12 points. He also said that Measure Q, the urban boundary measure, is leading by a large margin.