

**From:** Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 10:52 AM

**To:** Justin Cummings <[Justin.Cummings@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Justin.Cummings@santacruzcountyca.gov)>; Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>

**Cc:** Sandy Brown <[Sandy.Brown@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Sandy.Brown@santacruzcountyca.gov)>; Andy Schiffrin

<[Andy.Schiffrin@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Andy.Schiffrin@santacruzcountyca.gov)>; Trina Barton

<[Trina.Barton@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:Trina.Barton@santacruzcountyca.gov)>; Noel Bock <[ngbock@att.net](mailto:ngbock@att.net)>; Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** Please Pull Consent Item #29 on May 6, 2025 Board Agenda re: \$50,000 Feasibility Study of Cement Plant Road Bike and Pedestrian Path

\*\*\*\***CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I see that Consent Item #29 on tomorrow's Board agenda would approve \$50,000 for a consultant to do a feasibility study of a bike/pedestrian path along Cement Plant Road in Davenport. Please pull this item for better staff discussion because this work was already conducted by Swenson Builders within the last few years .

The work was done because of the CPUC Condition of Approval in 2012 for Swenson to construct a new private at-grade railcrossing in the Aptos Village Project on Parade Street. The CPUC approved the new Parade Street Crossing if two such private at-grade crossings were closed. The County identified the Warrenella Road crossing as one, and the Bayview Hotel crossing as the the other.

Swenson conducted extensive studies regarding the feasibility of adding a bike/pedestrian pathway as a mitigation for the hardship the closure would cause residents in the New Town area of Davenport. The heritage Eucalyptus trees were problematic. The County dropped the matter.

Please pull Item #29 from tomorrow's Consent Agenda for better public discussion of this matter. It is possible that much of the work that the consultant now proposed to be hired with \$26,000 from District 3 Measure K sales tax monies could be saved for other important improvements in the Third District.

I have copied the text of the staff report of Consent #29 below for clarity.

Please respond. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

Here is what Consent Item #29 states on the May 6, 2025 Board of Supervisor packet:

<https://santacruzcountyca.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=318>

***Executive Summary***

*The Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument is anticipated to open to the public during the summer of 2025. The Regional Transportation Commission's bicycle/pedestrian trail from Wilder Ranch State Park to Davenport (Rail Trail Segment 5) is scheduled to be completed by March of 2026. Cement Plant Road will provide a major approach to the National Monument entrance from the town of Davenport but has no sidewalks or room for a bike lane. Developing a safe bike and pedestrian path for the increased number of visitors to the area will help realize the goal of encouraging public access to coastal resources while reducing public safety dangers.*

***Discussion***

*The Cement Plant Road Bicycle/Pedestrian Path project was included as a high priority in the North Coast Facilities Management Plan. The Plan recognized the importance of providing safe access from Davenport to the National Monument for bikes and pedestrians with the expected opening of the Monument and completion of the bike/pedestrian trail from Santa Cruz to Davenport.*

*The first step in developing the project is the completion of a feasibility study that will evaluate the feasibility of alternative alignments for the path. A consultant has been identified to prepare the feasibility study, and it appears that the total cost for the study*

would be approximately \$50,000. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has agreed to contribute approximately \$24,000 and Supervisor Cummings is willing to allocate \$26,000 in 2024-25 Third District funding towards the project. CDI will be responsible for overseeing the consultant contract. Due to the current workload in CDI, work on the study will commence in the early part of the 2025-26 fiscal year.

As part of the feasibility study, it is important that opportunities for input from both the Davenport community and BLM be provided. In addition, since the feasibility study is only the first step in the project's development, potential funding sources for completing the project will need to be identified.

### **Financial Impact**

The total cost for the feasibility study is estimated at \$50,000 with \$24,000 expected to be provided through an encroachment permit fee and \$26,000 to be allocated from District 3 2024-2025 Measure K funds (GL 197100/90000) and transferred to 621100-62330 (P40883).

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Reliable Transportation

Submitted By:

Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer