



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

September 5, 2017

Nathan Nguyen, P.E.
City of Santa Cruz Public Works
809 Center St.
Santa Cruz, CA, 95060

Dear Mr. Nguyen,

Here are the formal comments from Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Division regarding the CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Santa Cruz Rail Trail Segment 7 (Phase 1)

It must be recognized that some soils along the Santa Cruz Rail Corridor have been chemically impacted by past uses of the rail line. Contaminates include metals, such as arsenic, pesticides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and petroleum hydrocarbons. Soils in the rail corridor require further characterization and possible remedial action. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission has entered a Remedial Action Agreement with Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Division (EHD) for EHD to provide oversight of the characterization, monitoring, mitigation and/or remediation of the soil in the rail corridor. Therefore, the Regional Transportation Commission and any other jurisdiction or agency, including the City of Santa Cruz, must notify EHD of any planned activity that will result in soil disturbances within the Santa Cruz Rail Corridor. Projects along the rail corridor are reviewed by EHD to ensure that the soil is properly characterized and mitigated to protect the public and the construction workers on the project that might have short-term, exposure with any potentially contaminated soil

The paved portion of the Santa Cruz Rail Trail, Segment 7, provides a barrier over potentially impacted soil and therefore, reduces the potential for the public to come into contact with potentially contaminated soil. Through continued coordination by City of Santa Cruz and the Regional Transportation Commission with EHD, construction of the rail trail can be performed in a manner that protects the public and projects workers.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Supplee, R.E.H. S.
Hazardous Materials Program Manager
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