



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 16, 2023

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DRAFT EIR FOR COASTAL RAIL TRAIL SEGMENTS 10/11 AVAILABLE

4.5-mile trail would provide recreational, transportation opportunities

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Segments 10/11 of the Coastal Rail Trail is now available for public review.

The completion of the DEIR begins a 60-day public review process. Spanning between 17th Avenue and State Park Drive, Segments 10/11 of the Coastal Rail Trail is a joint project of the County of Santa Cruz, the City of Capitola, and the Regional Transportation Commission. The California Transportation Commission has awarded \$67.6 million in project design and construction costs.

Segments 10/11 include a 4.5-mile paved multi-use, ADA-accessible trail from 17th Avenue in the west to State Park Drive in the east, generally extending along the Branch Rail Line. It will provide recreational, active transportation, environmental and cultural education opportunities for a wide variety of users, with connections to 10 schools, 18 parks, 13 public beaches, two community centers, and multiple residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.

The County is scheduled to receive comments on the Draft EIR at a public meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023, 5 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Information on location and format will be available via the project website www.santacruzcountyca.gov/RailTrail.

The review period closes Friday, December 15, 2023 at 5 p.m. The County must receive all written comments regarding the adequacy of the Draft EIR before then. Comments on the Draft EIR should be submitted in writing to Rob Tidmore at 979 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 or via email to RailTrail@santacruzcountyca.gov.

Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (except on holidays,) at the County of Santa Cruz Planning Department's General Information Desk, 701 Ocean St., 4th Floor, Santa Cruz. The Draft EIR is also available at Santa Cruz County Parks Department, 979 17th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Santa Cruz, and online at the project website.