

Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

January 10, 2018

Mr. Mike Flaughter
Chair, Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
6980 Santa Teresa Blvd., Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95119

Sent via email, with copy to Ms. Liz Westbrook of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

SUBJECT: Support for a grant application for a feasibility study to close a gap on the Bay Area Ridge Trail as it crosses Santa Clara County

Dear Chairman Flaughter:

Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is *“To promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all.”* On behalf of **Save Our Trails**, I am writing to express our support for a Measure Q Urban Open Space Grant to the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, to allow the Council to determine the best route to close a gap in the Ridge Trail across the Santa Clara Valley.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is envisioned to be a 550-mile continuous loop that encircles the San Francisco Bay along the ridge lines. 367 miles of this trail are already open to hikers, and, in many places, to cyclists and/or horseback riders. Here in Santa Clara County there are two long segments separated by a relatively short gap: one of these segments extends through Sierra Azul OSP and Almaden Quicksilver County Park, and the other is the Coyote Creek Trail from central San Jose to Morgan Hill.

The grant would fund a study to determine the optimal route to close this gap between the two segments.

Having long, connected segments, uninterrupted by the need to traverse city streets, is one of the key elements encouraging public use of this unequalled facility, especially by families with children. **Save Our Trails** urges the Open Space Authority to help fulfill the ultimate vision of a continuous trail encircling the Bay by awarding a grant for this study to close a critical gap in the trail as it crosses the Santa Clara Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Rankin".

Bill Rankin
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: www.saveourtrails-scc.org