

Save Our Trails!



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

November 14, 2012

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Santa Clara County Government Center
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Subject: Proposed Alternative Projects for Stanford University Mitigation

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

A total of fifteen projects have been proposed by various agencies to mitigate the loss of recreational opportunities on the Stanford University campus. Each of these projects is worthwhile in its way, but since the total cost of all these projects is more than \$16 million, it is clear that the Board of Supervisors will have to choose which of these projects are the most deserving of being funded with the \$10.4 million of available Stanford mitigation funds.

Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities, a California Not-for-Profit Corporation, has evaluated each of these projects to determine which of them best meet the objective of providing recreational opportunities for Stanford University residents and facility users, are best aligned with our mission *“to promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all people”*, and best foster connectivity among the communities of Santa Clara County.

The single project that we feel is the one that is most outstanding in meeting these goals is the **Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project**. This recommendation is predicated, however, on the assumption that a Class-I trail will be constructed along University Avenue to connect this proposed trail with the existing trail along the approach to the Dumbarton Bridge (Highway 84). In this case, this project will close a gap in the Bay Trail and enable off-street travel all the way from the Dumbarton Bridge to Alviso, and will fulfill a generation-long dream of completing this long segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail. We feel that, whatever decision is made regarding the other proposed projects, the **Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project** should definitely be included among the projects funded by the County with these funds.

That said, when evaluating the descriptions associated with each of the fifteen projects according to the criteria outlined above, **Save Our Trails** finds the following proposed projects to be the ones most deserving of funding:

1. Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project
2. Adobe Creek Overcrossing of Highway 101
3. Matadero Creek Trail
4. Stanford Perimeter Trail

Unfortunately, the total cost of these four trails exceeds the available funds. However, we note that portions of the Stanford Perimeter Trail project are proposed for improving or widening existing trails or sidewalks, reconstructing median islands, improving trail access and intersections, etc. Because of the limited amount of funds available, we recommend that mitigation money be allocated only for those portions of the Stanford Perimeter Trail project that represent new trail construction.

In summary, **Save Our Trails** recommends funding the following projects:

- Ravenswood Bay Trail Connection Project: full funding
- Adobe Creek Overcrossing of Highway 101: full funding
- Matadero Creek Trail: full funding
- Stanford Perimeter Trail: funding of the new trail segments only.

These four projects would make outstanding use of the Stanford mitigation funds, and could be implemented without exceeding the available funding.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Delson
Secretary, SAVE OUR TRAILS
Web: www.saveourtrails-scc.org