

Save Our Trails!



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

Senator Jim Beall

State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: Support for Senate Bill 492

March 14, 2017

Dear Senator Beall:

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 SB 492, the Bill you have co-sponsored with Senator Bill Monning for the *“Preservation of the Upper Guadalupe, Los Gatos, and Saratoga Creek Watersheds”*.

Save Our Trails recognizes and supports the many benefits that will accrue to the public through the sale of San Jose Water Company lands to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, including protecting redwood forest, strengthening protection against fires, and preserving habitat for threatened native species

However, the aspect of SB492 that reverberates most strongly with **Save Our Trails** is the opportunity that it affords to link the portion of Bay Area Ridge Trail through Water Company lands with trails through lands of the Open Space District. Today, the gap in the Ridge Trail between Sanborn County Park to the west of Highway 17 and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve to the east is one of the most challenging and significant in the San Francisco Bay Area. We are very encouraged that the sale of land to the Open Space District will hasten the closure of this gap, and be a significant step to fulfilling the vision of a continuous loop that circles the San Francisco Bay along the ridgelines that frame this natural wonder.

We request that you share our letter with your colleagues in the Senate and House, all of whom we urge to vote in favor of SB492.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rankin".

Bill Rankin

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