

Save Our Trails!



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

The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor
San José, CA 95113

SUBJECT: Three Creeks Trail and Sharks Ice

June 3, 2019

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Mr. Sykes, Councilmember Esparza, members of the City Council and staff:

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.”*

We noted in the recent memorandum by Kim Walesh and Matt Cano (File 19-216) *“authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute of a memorandum of understanding with Sharks Ice”* that the **Three Creeks Trail** was not mentioned at all.

This Three Creeks Trail will be constructed along the right-of-way of the old UPRR line. That right of way bounds the parcel currently occupied by Shark Ice and the Municipal Stadium to the south and to the east (including the curve along the southeast of the parcel).

This Trail has been identified in the City’s Greenprint (see, e.g., Appendix C, page C14, or the District 7 map). It is an essential cross-town link in a city that is well served by trails in a north-south direction, but which has no trail south of Hwy 237 to link the trails from east to west. It will be essential to the city’s mode-share goals, as it will provide a link for pedestrians and bicycles to Tamien Station, and it will link with the Five Wounds Trail that goes past the future 28th Street/Little Portugal BART station. Furthermore, it offers a recreational opportunity in an underserved community. And finally, it is a critical component of any future Loop Trail around downtown, a trail that is now only partially complete, and that is an inspiration for those who love San Jose.

We are concerned about the future of that trail, given the potential for encroachment raised by the MOU that the City will negotiate with Shark Ice. We therefore request that the City commit to preserving the right of way for the Three Creeks Trail in the Memorandum of Understanding that will be negotiated.

Three Creeks Trail will connect three existing river trail systems (Los Gatos Creek, Guadalupe River, and Coyote Creek) and will be a part of the system of trails linking the Ridge Trail to the Bay Trail in the South Bay. Inter-departmental coordination is essential as well as outreach to all constituencies, not just the Sharks. If the city chooses not to include this portion of the Three Creeks Trail through the Sharks Ice property it would effectively end the possibility of this east/west trail connection and a true off-road loop around downtown. However, if the city includes the trail through this property it will show the way for the other landlords along this RR right of way that the trail might be able to skirt their properties as well. This action would accelerate the completion of The Three Creeks Trail.

Mr. Sykes, when will there be a community outreach meeting considering this property? Also, can you help set up a joint meeting with Save Our Trails, Friends of Five Wounds Trail, PRNS, OED, and Planning?

We have noted in the past that sometimes coordination between OED and PRNS has been incomplete. We do not wish to see that happen in this instance. Connecting the three major north/south river trail systems through the city with an east/west trail on the south side of downtown to be the final connection in an approximate marathon length loop trail around downtown is an opportunity not to be missed. We believe that finishing Three Creeks Trail to create a loop trail around the downtown core will be an economic driver itself.

Thank you, Mayor Liccardo, Mr. Sykes, and Councilmember Esparza. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Rankin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Rankin

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