

Dear Coastal Commissioners:

I am a City of Encinitas resident.

I strongly support and request for your support to approve the Highway 101 alignment for the Cardiff portion of the Coastal Rail Trail. (Segment 39C, From Chesterfield Drive in Cardiff to 'E' Street in Encinitas.)

Why Pacific Coast Highway 101 and the Not East of the Rail Road Tracks?

- Because, Highway 101 improves beach access; it's where people want to ride, walk, run, meet friends, take selfies, and watch the sunset;
- Because, the Highway 101 project adds a bike lane in the southbound direction, adjacent to the day-use parking and campgrounds;
- Because, the Highway 101 alignment is preferred by an overwhelming majority of the community;
- Because, the Highway 101 alignment will make it much safer for many more cyclists, pedestrians, runners, etc. than the alternative east San Elijo Ave. option;
- Because unlike the east side the Highway 101 alignment will not reduce beach access or parking;
- Because Highway 101 will not have to pave over an existing open space natural area or destroy native plants and habitat;
- Because the Highway 101 alignment will cost substantially less than the east option.

The Cardiff segment of the coastal Rail Trail has been studied numerous times and discussed at multiple public hearings over a decade or more. We have had numerous false and costly starts, but we now have a clear picture of the needs of the community, a plan to accommodate the various stakeholder groups, and most importantly a funding source.

The proposed plan is a consensus of the Cardiff community, City, and regional agencies to:

- (1) Construct the regional coastal rail trail project on Highway 101 now.
- (2) As additional funding becomes available, add a below grade railroad crossing near Verdi Av., for safe pedestrian access through the rail corridor to the beach.
- (3) Work with the City to provide community improvements along San Elijo Ave with a low-impact-design to help accommodate safe local travel for cyclists and pedestrians throughout our coastal communities.

Please help our Cardiff community move forward by approving the Highway 101 alignment for the Coastal Rail Trail.

Sincerely,