

## Wyatt, Rosie

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**From:** mlbeltramojr@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 1:10 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Stopping the Rail Trail

Dear City Council Members,

My wife (Linda) and I are full time residents of Capitola. We live here, shop here, socialize here, and deeply care about this unique and beautiful city that we call "home." Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control we are unable to attend tonight's meeting, but I cannot let that prevent us from expressing our strong opposition to any proposal that the Council push forward with plans to build the so-called "Rail Trail."

First of all, our city needs a rail going through it about as much as we our Village needs a tsunami. Not only would a rail in or around Capitola ruin our jewel of a community, but it will end up costing the city, the county, possibly the state, literally BILLIONS OF DOLLARS (!!!), and FOR WHAT....a few hundreds of people who wish to periodically go from Watsonville to Capitola! Yes, there is no question that traffic congestion, particularly in the early morning and late afternoon is congested going north and then south, respectively, on Hy. 1, HOWEVER, the vast majority (upwards of 80%), is for people commuting from Watsonville "over the hill" on Hy. 17, rather than into and from Capitola or even Santa Cruz.

Moreover, if the so-called "California Bullet Train" has taught us nothing more—and it certainly should have!—it is that NOTHING gets built in California anywhere near on schedule nor anywhere near within budget.

(The bullet train was approved how many years ago, supposedly to go from L.A. to S.F. at "only a few" billion dollars, and is now UNLIKELY to go from Bakersfield to Merced—and how many people want to do that?— before 2033, and at HOW MANY TIMES OVER the initial estimated costs of the ENTIRE route??!!)

Just as important to the absurd cost versus the minuscule amount of need such a rail system would have, however, is the DAMAGE that such a rail system would have to the character, quaintness and quality of our community. We live in one of the most beautiful communities in the country, if not the entire world. You, as our city's representatives, are empowered and expected by us, your constituents, to PRESERVE that beauty and character. We are NOT San Francisco or Los Angeles, nor are we Fresno, Bakersfield, San Jose or San Diego—and we do not want to be those communities. Most of us choose to live here—and tourists choose to come here—BECAUSE we are a small, picturesque, unique haven. Slapping a rail system through our beautiful town would be like using a knife to slash the Mona Lisa.

Finally, from a legal standpoint, we implore you to uphold Measure L as well as Capitola Municipal Code 8.72 which require a PUBLIC VOTE on projects such as this. This is particularly significant when a measure significantly impacts not just our streets, roads and population, but the environment in which we live and which currently constitutes home for countless forms of wildlife, much of which is threatened by forces far beyond it's control—but not beyond ours.

In closing, please do not accede to the wishes of a few outsiders who do not live here, work here, or truly care about Capitola, but rather are only interested in making money and foisting something upon our community which we AND they know will only reek negative consequences to the fabric of the town that some 10,000 people lovingly call home. Instead, please exercise the courage, wisdom, foresight and community-based leadership that brought you to the Council and which, we believe, should cause you to derail the so-called push for a rail trail in Capitola.

Thank you.

Mario & Linda Beltramo  
705 Riverview Drive  
Capitola  
Sent from my iPhone