

## Wyatt, Rosie

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**From:** Bridget Hawkins <bridgethawkins@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:37 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Michael Gutierrez  
**Subject:** Support for the Park Avenue Trail Segment

Bridget Hawkins Gutierrez & Michael Gutierrez

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April 15, 2025  
Capitola City Council  
420 Capitola Ave.  
Capitola, CA 95010

### **Subject: Support for the Park Avenue Trail Segment**

Dear Honorable Members of the Capitola City Council,

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed Park Avenue segment of the Coastal Rail Trail. We urge you to vote in favor of this project, which promises to bring significant benefits to our community.

We attended the recent town hall meeting at New Brighton Middle School regarding the Coastal Rail Trail. While we acknowledge that a large number of attendees expressed opposition to the Park Avenue segment, we believe it's important to recognize that the sentiments expressed at that meeting may not reflect the views of a majority of Capitola residents. It was apparent that many in attendance were aligned with anti-rail, pro-Greenway interests, which made it difficult to gauge the broader community's support for the project. We understand there is concern that some of you may feel undue pressure due to the overwhelming vocal opposition. We urge you to also consider the many residents who support this project but may not have been as vocal at that particular meeting.

The Coastal Rail Trail is a vital project for Capitola, and the Park Avenue segment is a crucial link that will enhance connectivity and accessibility for all residents. We believe that this segment offers several key advantages:

- **Improved Safety:** A separated multi-use trail along Park Avenue will provide a safer route for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users, reducing potential conflicts with vehicular traffic.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** This segment will better connect Capitola Village with the Cliffwood Heights neighborhood, making it easier for residents to access local businesses, parks, and other amenities.
- **Increased Recreational Opportunities:** The trail will provide a beautiful and convenient space for recreation, promoting a healthier and more active lifestyle for our community.
- **Economic Benefits:** The trail can attract visitors and boost local businesses, contributing to the economic vitality of Capitola.
- **Environmental Considerations:** We understand that the Park Avenue alignment has been designed to minimize environmental impacts, including protecting monarch butterfly habitats.

Furthermore, we understand that funding for this project has already been secured. At this stage, the primary obstacle to completion appears to be the opposition from those attempting to stall the broader Coastal Rail Trail project. We urge you not to let the vocal minority derail a project that will bring substantial benefits to Capitola.

We urge you to consider the long-term benefits of this project for our community and vote in favor of the Park Avenue segment of the Coastal Rail Trail. Your support will help create a more connected, vibrant, and healthy Capitola for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Gutierrez & Bridget Hawkins Gutierrez