



June 3, 2013

State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway 13th Floor
Oakland CA 94612

Re: Support for City of Arcata's Rail with Trail Connectivity Project

Dear Board of Directors,

Humboldt Baykeeper works to safeguard our coastal resources for the health, enjoyment, and economic strength of the Humboldt Bay community, and is a member of the California Coastkeeper Alliance and the international Waterkeeper Alliance. We have a longstanding interest in protecting and expanding coastal access for all users, particularly the completion of California's Coastal Trail.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Humboldt Baykeeper in support of the City of Arcata's Rail with Trail Connectivity Project, provided that the final design complies with the California Coastal Act. Development of the Coastal Trail along Humboldt Bay between Arcata and Eureka has been a dream for many residents of the Humboldt Bay area for decades. Such a trail will provide safe coastal access for commuting, recreational, and touring cyclists along a designated section of the Pacific Coast Bike Trail, as well as hiking and nature study, and will provide access to a spectacular section of coastline – the shore of Humboldt Bay.

The Arcata Rail with Trail Connectivity Project will complete a portion of the Coastal Trail between Arcata and Eureka, the two largest population centers in Humboldt County. As such it is an important first step towards securing safe coastal access for commuters, families, and visitors along the only section of Highway 101 that follows the Humboldt Bay shoreline. It will encourage the appreciation of the coastal wetlands, sloughs, and mudflats and the stunning diversity of flora and fauna that are so abundant in these habitats.

We also support the project because it is a leap forward to connecting the nearly completed Eureka Waterfront Trail with the Hammond Trail in McKinleyville, connecting the major population centers and numerous coastal access points and recreation area, benefiting residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Kalt'.

Jennifer Kalt, Policy Director
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