



North Coast Railroad Authority
419 Talmage Road, Suite M
Ukiah, CA 95482
707-463-3280

October 3, 2017

City of Arcata
Environmental Services Department
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

Re: Support for the Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project, Planning Phase

Dear City of Arcata,

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) is writing in support of the City of Arcata's Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project planning application submitted to the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program. The City of Arcata seeks planning funds to gain community input, hear priorities and identify potential routes for a walking and biking facility to connect north Arcata neighborhoods to downtown Arcata and Humboldt State University. Portions of the City's project may lie within NCRA's right-of-way. The NCRA and City of Arcata have successfully worked together on an agreement for a trail within a different segment of the NCRA right-of-way - the Humboldt Bay Trail North.

This project would provide additional multimodal connections through Arcata and connect to the Annie & Mary Rail Trail corridor. In 2008, the NCRA passed Resolution No. 2008-11 to express its willingness to cooperate with local entities to effectuate multi-modal transportation use of the A&M line. Advancing the Annie & Mary Trail, with the ultimate goal of connecting the cities of Arcata and Blue Lake, has been a regional transportation priority for nearly two decades.

This project is important to the economy of the Humboldt Bay area, which has a growing student population and is dependent on tourism, as well as the health and well-being of residents. The railroad corridor in north Arcata is challenging for NCRA to maintain and there are inappropriate uses, such as camping, dumping and vandalism to this area. The proposed trail, if it is ultimately situated wholly or partially within the rail corridor, would help discourage these uses and encourage maintenance and safety, in addition to all of the other benefits it would provide. It can also help to preserve the history of the rail line in the region, while preserving the public right-of-way that the NCRA maintains.

NCRA continues to be willing to cooperate with the City of Arcata and others to realize multi-modal transportation use along the NCRA rail line. This approval is conceptual for funding application purposes only. Final design review by NCRA will be required prior to construction for all work to be performed within NCRA's right-of-way. In addition, an entity such as the City of Arcata will be required to enter into an agreement to manage and maintain the constructed trail within the right-of-way.

We are pleased to support this Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project planning application and encourage financial assistance for this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,


Mitch Stogner, NCRA Executive Director