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**Subject:** Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line  
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A group by the name of Greenway got Manu Koenig elected to the Board of Supervisors, and he wants to railbank the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. I believe his intent is to scare the voters of Santa Cruz into convincing the RTC that the light electric rail envisioned would cost too much. Past efforts of people now affiliated with Greenway included a plan to privatize parts of the ROW and turn it back over to the property owners who are among Manu's supporters. This plan appears to have gone underground, but the thought of it is outrageous because it would steal a public asset from the taxpayers of Santa Cruz, and convey it to private citizens who own adjoining property. Railbanking would be the beginning of this process, and must be prevented.

Funding for the Branch Line revitalization will be high, however the long term cost of not taking advantage of the ROW to ease traffic congestion on Highway 1 will likely be higher because of increased global warming and CO2 pollution. Our children deserve every advantage we can provide to slow down the destruction of our environment.

An increase in local taxes to fund electric light rail on the Branch Line would be tolerable to forward thinking environmentalists in Santa Cruz, in my opinion, and the RTC should not delay progress on the rail by putting the decision to accept a funding report from staff on hold while Greenway manages to create another public vote on the future of the ROW, (which has already been decided by the voters.)

Please do what you can to save the planet by increasing mass transit options in Santa Cruz County and the Monterey Bay Area.