

From: [E. Hansen](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ON THE SANTA CRUZ BRANCH RAIL LINE
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:43:38 PM

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Dear Sirs,

As a resident of Southern Santa Cruz County, I want to express my support of multimodal rail and trail on the existing 32 mile rail corridor and that the SCCRTC formally adopted Electric Passenger Rail as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Additionally I ask that Watsonville pass a resolution supporting Passenger Service on the rail corridor similar to the City of Santa Cruz.

In a March 4th press release this year, California State Transportation Agency Secretary David S. Kim stated:

“We must dramatically reduce pollution throughout all aspects of the transportation sector to halt the climate crisis – and there is no time to lose,”

And

“Neighborhoods of color often bear the brunt of pollution and lack access to affordable mobility options.”

On March 10 of this year the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) unveiled the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI). The plan details how the state recommends investing billions of discretionary transportation dollars annually to aggressively combat and adapt to climate change while supporting public health, safety and equity.

The plan states that the following:

Transitioning to a cleaner transportation system must reach the most vulnerable Californians. Car ownership has become an expensive necessity for many low- income Californians to access jobs, education, and other opportunities. The transition to a zero- emission transportation system cannot leave these Californians behind.

Strengthening our commitment to social and racial equity by reducing public health and economic harms and maximizing community benefits to disproportionately impacted disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and involve these communities early in decision-making.

On February 2 of this year the California Transportation Plan 2050 (CTP 2050) was submitted to the Federal Government stating:

California Transportation Plan 2050 (CTP 2050) aims to advance social equity by actively directing support, resources, and protections to disadvantaged communities, and ensuring that the highest quality transportation options are available to those who need them most. The disparities that disadvantaged communities experience today are due in part to exclusion from transportation planning, engagement, and the decision-making processes.

California must strive for a transportation system that is equitable, safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient for all.

The wealth gap between rich and poor Californians has been growing yearly. Stagnant wages, paired with a rising cost of living, have heightened the economic burden on California’s low- and middle-income

residents.

Public transportation plays a vital role by providing access to work, school, shopping, and services. These systems help reduce congestion and GHG emissions by providing an affordable alternative to driving. By improving transit systems, and access to transit, we can improve health, quality of life, and access to opportunity across communities.

Yesterday April 27, the City of Santa Cruz approved a resolution in support of the LPA with the following:

The population of Watsonville, our neighbor to the south from which many commute to Santa Cruz for work and school, is over 80% majority Latinx and the per capita income of Watsonville is less than half the per capita income of the majority white population of the three north county cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Scotts Valley.

Improve access to higher paying jobs and higher education opportunities located in north county for south county residents.

Facilitate a decrease in the longstanding and substantial per capita income gap between the majority Latinx Watsonville residents and the majority white north county cities of Santa Cruz, Capitola and Scotts Valley.

Mr Gonzalez and Montesino,

I respectfully ask that as members of the SCCRTC in addition to the Watsonville City Council, you remind your fellow board and council members that equity in the reduction of green house gases is a state mandate and should be embraced and supported by Santa Cruz County.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Erik Hansen
Resident of Santa Cruz County