

E. COMMENT LETTERS NOT ADDRESSING EIR

The following pages include comment letters that do not specifically address the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). As a courtesy to the commentors, these letters were included in the FEIR because they often reflect opinions of the writers about the elements of the Master Plan or about the process.

Greetings Susan, from a home that strongly supports a pedestrian/bike/mothers with strollers path through Arana Gulch. The Broad-Way - Brommer connection will help make Santa Cruz more walker friendly PLUS reduce car trips, reducing vehicular noise and air contamination. Don't we all want more greenbelts to cycle and walk through making exercise more pleasant? Hopefully I'll show up @ the March 28 draft plan meeting...
All my best to you... *[Signature]*



Mr. Gary Harrold
534 La Honda Dr
Aptos CA 95003

March 3, 2006

Dear Susan Harris:

I'm writing you in support of the Broadway-Brommer multi-use path. I understand that some neighbors around Arana Gulch strongly oppose this path, but I think that Arana Gulch will become an even greater asset to the community once:

- 1) Broadway neighbors have access to this open space that belong to all of us.
- 2) Cyclists have an alternate route between Live Oak and Santa Cruz.

Santa Cruz is getting more congested with traffic all the time. The positive impact of having safe, accessible bike paths connecting commercial, recreational and residential hubs is undeniable.

My husband and I regularly walk our dog at Arana, and I find that the park is under-utilized. If we can protect the tar plant AND make the park more accessible to more people, everyone benefits.

Thank you,



Susanne Altermann
332 Market
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Susan Harris

From: David Campbell [dec1@humboldt.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2006 3:32 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Support for Arana Gulch Project

To: Susan Harris, SC Parks & Rec Dept

I have just been reviewing the on-line materials describing the path system for the Arana Gulch Project. As one who often leaves and car at home in Soquel and bicycles downtown for various errands, I heartily encourage forward progress on this development project. While bicycling along Soquel Drive/Soquel Avenue is the straightest and fastest way to get between downtown Santa Cruz and Soquel Village, it is hardly the safest. Peddling along Brommer and Broadway involves fewer cars and slower traffic, but Arana Gulch has so far blocked such a route. Once the path system is completed connecting Brommer and Broadway, not only will folks like me feel safer on bikes--others can be expected to leave their cars at home on sunny days and "take the bike." The combination of less harm to the environment by peddling instead of driving along with the health benefits of this bit of exercise will enhance the quality of life for members of our community. The ecological benefits of this path system should easily outweigh any ecological harms. I understand some neighbors have taken a selfish stance and oppose the Arana Gulch Project. I trust your department will take a broader community-oriented perspective as you move forward with the plan.

--David Campbell
 Main Street resident, Soquel

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David E. Campbell, Ph.D.	dec1@humboldt.edu
Department of Psychology	Phone: 707-826-3721
Humboldt State University	FAX: 707-826-4993
Arcata, CA 95521-8299	www.humboldt.edu/~campbell/psyc.htm

3/7/2006

To: Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Dept.
From: Mike Erbe
Subj: Arana Gulch
Date: 3/12/06

It was exciting to read about the developments regarding Arana Gulch and I would like to offer comments.

Two of the largest issues facing our wonderful community today are traffic and the obesity of our children. It seems that on a daily basis we see headlines in the paper about these problems... And they are getting worse.

I believe that what we do with Arana Gulch can have a positive impact on both of these things.

1) Traffic: I frequently ride a bicycle back and forth across town. Depending on the destinations, the bike path along the river is the first and obvious choice. Using it provides a natural, safe, and easy way to get around thereby reducing the need to drive. It is encouraging to see the constantly increasing numbers of people using this. However, when the destinations are closer to Soquel Avenue, the available options for safe bicycle travel are limited. Riding a bicycle on Soquel Avenue is a real bummer and this discourages the use of bicycles.

A paved trail through Arana Gulch and suitable for use by bicyclists bicycles would provide a much needed, safe, and convenient way for people to ride across town.

2) Recreation/Obesity: Many people are reluctant to pursue physical activities, and take their children with them, when they are certain to return home caked in mud. A paved trail in Arana Gulch would provide a perfect venue for all sorts of family related outdoor activities. The presence of a paved trail would encourage both families and individuals to be more active.

I believe that it is our responsibility as caring citizens of our community to build this paved trail from Broadway Avenue to Brommer Street.

Please feel free to contact me about this subject.

Mike Erbe
(831) 458-4450
mike.erbe@plantronics.com

March 20, 2006

To the Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department,

I have reviewed the Arana Gulch Master Plan and Draft EIR and am very impressed with this proposal and all the extensive work it represents.

I hope this project is adopted as I believe it to be the best possible plan and one that should be agreeable to the majority of Santa Cruz citizens. Because no structures are planned other than a bridge span, impact on the land would be very minimal while the recreational and educational possibilities would be greatly increased.

I feel all the environmental concerns have been well researched and adequately addressed including measures to protect sensitive wetlands and plants.

The new western entrance to this park land along with the multi-use trail will mean that this special place will be accessible to more people. It would be great for Gault students to be able to walk four blocks to learn about area habitat and environmental protection. And, having increased recreational activity in such isolated areas has proven to drive away problem folks.

The downsized paved path would be only a tiny percentage of the entire area, yet will provide a much-needed way for cyclists and walkers to safely get from one side of the Gulch/Harbor area to the other, reducing hundreds of car trips daily.

We are lucky to have this unique and

interesting natural open space in the middle of an urban area, I hope you will approve this plan so Arana Gulch can be made available for all citizens to appreciate and enjoy.

I can't imagine people not supporting this scaled back, low-impact project except those who want to keep the area a private neighborhood off-leash dog park.

Please move forward with this plan to enhance this jewel of an area for Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Tricien Comings

March 23, 2006

Dear City Council Members and Parks and Recreation Commission,

I am writing in regards to the Arana Gulch project, and I would like to assert my support for the draft master plan for the Arana Gulch property. I am an active member of the community, and through volunteerism, research, and meetings, I have become aware of the possibilities and potential for Arana Gulch.

The current proposal involves, (1) a bridge over Hagemann Gulch and (2) a paved pathway (possibly semi-pervious material) from Broadway Ave to Brommer Street. This plan will help to facilitate a respectful and environmentally sensitive strategy that can make this city owned open space accessible for our entire community. With a paved path, everyone including those using wheelchairs, strollers and the elderly will be able to access and enjoy this tranquil public property. Moreover, this plan is imperative to provide a direct and safe east-west corridor for non-automobile traffic.

Although the land use issue may be contentious, I wholeheartedly believe that there is great potential for native restoration projects and educational opportunities that would sustain and support the native vegetation of Arana Gulch.

Please support this proposal, as it is an important and exciting element of our master transportation plan. The more cars we can encourage off the impacted roadways equates with a lowered impact upon on our overstressed neighborhood roadways, transit corridors and on our environment. The positive health benefits with a safe and efficient path are invaluable for all.

As an eastside to mid-county bike commuter for over 20 years, I look forward to this fabulous project!

Thank you for your consideration,

Connie Wilson

Connie Wilson
311 Linden St.
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062

Susan Harris

From: whatisron@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 10:00 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Broadway Brommer path

Hi,

Just writing to express my support of the proposed B/B path. I think it would do a lot to improve the environment to encourage people to travel by foot, bicycle, stroller, etc.

-Ron Goodman
421-0139

3/27/2006

LETTER E7

Susan Harris

From: Harvey Hartman [hshartman@att.net]**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2006 9:49 PM**To:** Susan Harris**Subject:** Arana Gulch Proposed Trail System

Hi Susan,

Looking at Figure 5 in Section 3 of the Arana Gulch Master Plan, it appears that only about 25% of the proposed trail system would be open to bicyclists. That means that I (on my bicycle) would be excluded from 75% of the trails including access to two of the scenic overlooks.

I often encounter pedestrians (equestrians, too) without incident when riding my bicycle in Wilder Ranch State Park. All it takes is an awareness of IMBA's Rules of the Trail http://www.imba.com/about/trail_rules.html, particularly rule number 4, and a little common courtesy.

I would really like to see more trails open to bicycling.

—
Harvey Hartman
Santa Cruz, CA

3/27/2006

Susan Harris

From: Karin Grobe [kgrobe@pacbell.net]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2006 10:49 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: 'Micah Posner'
Subject: Arana Gulch trails

March 24, 2006

Dear Susan,

Please let the City Council and Parks and Recreation Commissioners know I support a bike/pedestrian trail and bridge connecting Broadway and Brommer. This route will be great for unhurried bike trips from Santa Cruz to Live Oak and points east of there. Bike speed will be slow due to surface conditions and the opportunities to view natural surroundings and wildlife so bikes will not impact pedestrian comfort levels. It will not be a direct route, so cyclists will use the roads when they are in a hurry, but it will be a great addition to biking opportunities in the area. It will be appreciated by cycling families and seniors.

Sincerely,
Karin Grobe
236 Sheldon Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

3/27/2006

LETTER E9

128 Linden St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

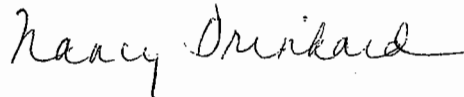
March 24, 2006

TO: City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

I am in support of this report and the proposed master plan. If this plan is implemented, there will be access for pedestrians (and pedestrians with leashed dogs) and bicyclists. Given the close proximity of this property to so many city residents, such access is necessary. For bicyclists, it will provide a much needed safe west to east access.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Drinkard".

Nancy Drinkard

REC'D MAR 27 REC'D

LETTER E10

Susan Harris

From: Sheila Carrillo [escuelita@baymoon.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 4:54 AM

To: Susan Harris

Subject: bike path

Hello. The creation of this path is important to me and my family, so we can safely ride our bikes from our home on the Westside. I urge strong support of the proposed path! Thanks, Sheila Carrillo and family

3/27/2006

Susan Harris

From: George Haye [geohaye@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 12:13 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan--please support BIKE TRAIL

To all of whom it may concern,
I'd like to voice my support for the
bicycle/pedestrian trail through Arana Gulch. I've lived in Santa Cruz City for years but
currently can only say that I live in Santa Cruz County.
Nonetheless, I hope my good words for this project do count. I have friends and relatives
in this area, and indeed may wish to purchased property in the Seabright area in the
future.

Regarding the bike trail, this safe and scenic east-west route will be an extremely
positive addition to the community infrastructure in the area. Let's do it!

Best regards,
George Haye
13766 Long Ridge Road#A
Los Gatos, CA, 95033

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Susan Harris

From: Allison Christine Luengen [allisonl@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 9:59 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: support one bridge Arana Gulch

Dear Susan,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed bridge and narrow, paved path through the meadow in Arana Gulch with a connection to the upper harbor. I am a cyclist and I live in Santa Cruz and having safe, off-road connections through town is very important to me. Such a path will make me more likely to ride my bike and reduce traffic and automobile pollution within our city. Besides, Arana Gulch is a beautiful area, and being able to bike there will improve my access to that area. The path and bridge will ensure that Arana Gulch is accessible to everyone, not just those who can afford to buy homes there or drive over there. Please don't let the neighbors keep everyone else out of Arana Gulch. This is a public area, and the public should have access.

Thanks,
Allison Luengen
144 Tree Frog Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Susan Harris

From: sschnaar@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch

Hi. I won't be able to make it to the meeting on Tuesday, just wanted to say that I strongly support a pedestrian/bike path through Arana Gulch.

Certainly our extensive green spaces are a large part of what makes Santa Cruz county so special. However, I think the benefits of a safe east-west route far outweigh the negative impacts from increased walking and cycling through Arana Gulch. Soquel, the main east-west route for cyclists now, is nerve-racking and dangerous. In addition to riding amidst heavy traffic, cyclists must breathe all the exhaust soot and smog. This is a valuable opportunity for us to encourage walking and cycling, and reduce car traffic.

Sincerely,

Steve Schnaar

1305 Laurel St, Santa Cruz

3/27/2006

Susan Harris

From: Steve Lustgarden [slustgarden@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 7:26 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: Steve Lustgarden
Subject: Arana Plan

Hello,

I live very close to Arana Gulch (off of Frederick Street) but it's a very inconvenient place to get to, by foot or by bicycle. I either need to go out onto Soquel to get there, or go all the way down Frederick to Frederick St. Park and then through the upper harbor.

The proposed plan would make the Gulch much more accessible to me, both for recreation and as a route to Live Oak and beyond by bicycle.

I strongly support this plan, as someone who loves the city's open space, loves native plants and animals, loves to see the city take steps to reduce the number of cars on the roads and improve and ease bicycle transport, and loves to have open space accessible to all citizens.

this is a great plan. Let's implement it.

thank you,

Steve Lustgarden
28 Hanover Court
SC, CA 95062

3/27/2006

Susan Harris

From: Annie Corbett [acorbett@soe.ucsc.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:18 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch bicycle path

Greetings Ms. Harris,

I am writing you to encourage your support of the Broadway/Brommer bike path connection through Arana Gulch.

As a citizen of Santa Cruz and a concerned cyclist, I would like to see more bike paths in the city. When I lived in Davis, CA, I saw how bike-exclusive paths encouraged a greater reliance on bicycle transportation. If you build it, they will come. Sit near west and east cliff drive or the bike path through the Great Meadow at UCSC and you will see droves of cyclists -- people who could otherwise be driving. A reduction in car trips offset the slight environmental disturbance of constructing new bike paths.

While Santa Cruz is generally a safe and fun place to bike, it can also be frustrating to find new routes. I recently began working on campus, and I have yet to find a seamless route from the east side of town. A bike path through Arana Gulch would be a helpful step in that direction.

As a bike commuter, scientist, employee of UCSC, and citizen of Santa Cruz, I urge you to support the Arana Gulch Master Plan.

Thank you,
Annie Corbett

Susan Harris

From: flo queen-stover [fqueenstover@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 1:07 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch Master Plan

Dear Susan Harris-

I am writing in support of the proposed Arana Gulch Bike path. This bike path is a much needed connection for getting across town safely and quickly. Having to cross town on Soquel or Murray Street bridge is very dangerous. The open space that we enjoy in our city should be multi-purpose. I can not understand why there is opposition to this path. As a resident of Santa Cruz who pays property taxes; please make the Arana Gulch more accessible to all the members of the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Flo Queen- Stover
113 Lance Court
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

Susan Harris

From: Elizabeth Schilling [lizzy@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 9:01 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: arana bike path

Dear Ms. Harris,

I have reviewed the Draft EIR for Arana Gulch and find it to be a very well-balance approach for an important property in our community. In past hearings I have been concerned about environmental impacts of so many uses on the land, but I feel the impacts have been addressed and a plan made for managing them. Good work on behalf of the city to balance so many concerns.

I am particularly supportive of the proposed bike path over Hagemann Gulch. This will allow me and my children to more safely travel from Live Oak to downtown Santa Cruz. Since they are teenagers who cross town to go to high school I need this bridge and its new access to allow us to get out of our cars so we can make the trip in healthier ways. We need this option of a safe bike and pedestrian route that the plan provides.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schilling
2261 Juan Pablo Lane
Santa Cruz, CA
476-7284, ext. 105

Susan Harris

From: Leslie Cook on behalf of ViewPoint
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 9:02 PM
To: Susan Harris; Dannettee Shoemaker
Subject: FW: Arana Gulch EIR

-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Engelhardt [mailto:BruceME@webtv.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 9:01 PM
To: ViewPoint
Subject: Arana Gulch EIR

Councilmembers,

Please accept the EIR for Arana Gulch, including the proposed additions that allow for cross-park pedestrian and bicycle access. I come to this conclusion after attending citizen study group meetings over the past several years on this matter. Despite the protestations from neighbors that official bike parks would be injurious to the environment, there are already many dirt paths that have been carved out throughout the park by local residents' bikes. The neighbors' pets also run unleashed through the area chasing rabbits or whatever animals may exist there. It is hypocritical for them to object to access by others. Based on the mess I've seen there to date, perhaps official city installations might bring the unofficial, unsanctioned uses under control and might, in the longrun, cause less damage than what goes on now in the park.

Thankyou for your attention and consideration.

Bruce M. Engelhardt
708 Riverside Ave. #D
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060-4646
329-8823

Susan Harris

From: Monica Pielage [mpielage@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2006 9:20 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: I Support the Arana Gulch Master Plan Draft EIR

I support the current Arana Gulch Master Plan Draft EIR for the so called "one-bridge" option. This is exactly what we need to provide bicycle and stroller access to the harbor and beyond with limited impact on the natural area. I hope that you move this project forward quickly.

Thank you.

Monica Pielage
117 Darwin St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

3/31/2006

Susan Harris

From: Annelies Gengel [annelies@baymoon.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2006 9:51 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Broadway-Bommer Bike Path

Dear Susan,

I am writing in support of the Broadway-Bommer Path. In particular I would vote in support of the bridge connecting Broadway with the park. As a bicyclist and walker, I feel it to be a much safer alternative to Soquel and Murry which feel very dangerous to bike on. I know I would utilize the path frequently to get to the Live Oak area as well as Capitola (the mall/41st Ave), and on to Cabrillo College. I would have preferred the original level connection with multiple bridges, but I will gladly settle for this alternative.

Sincerely,
Annelies Gengel
222 S. Brancifore Ave
Santa Cruz

Annelies Gengel
annelies@baymoon.com

Susan Harris

From: Michele Wright [soccamom@pacbell.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 9:27 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: ARANA GULCH LAND USE

To the City of Santa Cruz,

I am aware that the development of Arana Gulch is back on the table in our city. I attended meetings many years ago when the discussion was to use the lands for recreation/park uses. I was in support of those plans and still am. I know that at that time land was set aside to provide additional soccer fields for our children in Santa Cruz.

Now many years later the demand for more fields is even greater. Not only do we have a shortage of soccer fields in Santa Cruz, another growing sport, LaCrosse is also in desperate need of this same size field.

Please do not short change our children in Santa Cruz. Give them the land to be able to run around on. With out sports many of our children would be getting in trouble with their free time. I know this to be a fact, because for over 20 years my husband and I have been involved with the soccer community, as coaches and board members. I am currently the Santa Cruz county Youth Soccer League registrar, which oversees the playing of soccer for children from under 6 to 19 years of age.

Again please support turning Arana Gulch into a sports center/park for our children. This will keep Arana Gulch green, open it up for many people to use and enjoy. I am a resident on Frederick St and often walk in Arana gulch but will only do so with a friend because of the many desirable people I have encountered in the Gulch. Turning Arana into a park/sport center will help keep the area safe for all to enjoy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter in support of fields and park land at Arana gulch.

In support of our children in Santa Cruz County, Michele Wright
216 Frederick St.
Santa Cruz
soccamom@pacbell.net

Susan Harris

From: cactopus@excite.com
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 8:04 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: yes to bikes in Arana

I say yes to a bike path in Arana Gulch.

People need a safe way to commute across town on their bikes.

People with kids need a safe place to ride their bikes.

Patricia Unruhe
Santa Cruz City Resident

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Susan Harris

From: dave.r.delucchi@lmco.com
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 8:34 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana gulch bike path

I am in favor of the building of the Arana gulch bike path. It seems to me that most of the oposition to the path is coming from the local residents that live near the gulch and prefer to keep their little green belt area "semi-private". The county is in need of a safe and more direct path for cyclists to cross from north to south county. Soquel Drive bike path is very dangerous with the auto traffic that usually is present. A bike path through Arana gulch would provide a much safer cycling route that would do a lot to promote the increase in bicycle transportation and I do not think will be detrimental to the beauty of the gulch.

David Delucchi

4/7/2006

LETTER E24

Susan Harris

From: leever11@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 9:44 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch

I just read in the Sentinel about the proposed Arana Gulch trail system. I fully support a bike trail through Arana Gulch. There are bike trail all over the U.S. through environmentally sensitive areas and there is very little impact from the bike trail. There already is a trail through the area but it is not paved to allow road bikes and wheel chairs. The addition of the bike trail will greatly improve cross town bike travel allowing cyclist to avoid the bridge over the yacht harbor or having to ride on Soquel road.

Connecting to Brommer street, which has a wide shoulder and plenty of room for cyclists is long over due. With the addition of a bike trail through Arana Gulch a cyclist will be able to get across town from downtown Santa Cruz to Capitola as fast or faster than a car at the 5pm rush hour.

Although I live in Ben Lomond I ride my bike in Santa Cruz quite often. If I lived in Santa Cruz I would probalby ride my bike and leave the car in the garage most days. Anything we can do to make the city more bike friendly is okay by me.

I also belong to the Sierra Club and understand the concerns of maintaining environmentally sensitive areas and open space. I don't think a bike trail is a problem.

Lee Overbeck
Ben Lomond

Susan Harris

From: Nancy Lenz [nananan@rattlebrain.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 5:05 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch Green Light

Re: Arana Gulch Master Plan

I say Green Light Go Ahead to the proposed Arana Gulch Trail System.

I live just doors from East Cliff/Murray Street and daily see this county's most endangered species -- BICYCLISTS -- try to navigate the designated bicycle trail to cross the Seabright area to reach Live Oak.

I walk through the Yacht Harbor and through Arana Gulch frequently. I tried riding my bicycle on the eroded trails but had to dismount to avoid disaster. When I walk there meet few other walkers. Most using the area seem to be with unleashed dogs. On my last walk an unleashed 60-pound "puppy" jumped on me and hit my face as he tried to give me a kiss.

I would welcome a maintained trail for bicyclists and pedestrians from Broadway connecting to Brommer.

I would welcome a no dogs off leash enforced policy.

I would welcome a policy addressing the sediment runoff that infiltrates the Yacht Harbor.

I would welcome the steps outlined to restore the endangered tarplant.

Please go ahead on implementing this good, comprehensive plan.

Nancy Lenz
230-B Pilkington Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Memorandum

To: Susan Harris
From: Flora Ling
Date: 4/7/2006
Re: Arana Gulch Draft Master Plan

Comments

I agree with the vision and goals of the Arana Gulch plan, which advocates better utilization of land while limiting damage and mitigating past abuses. It seems to have many benefits and few negatives.

I particularly value the creation of the bike/pedestrian/wheelchair trail through Hagemann Gulch, which currently is ignored. I would love to be able to view the heritage roses, which are described in the report. The bridge is a good way to limit erosion while providing better access to other parts of the trail system. Currently, the Frederick Street Park with its steep, eroded stairs provides access only to able-bodied adults or very fit bikers. The upper entrance through Mentel Ave. gives access only to a limited number of neighbors and their pets. The one through the Upper Harbor is fine but little used.

I have walked the Gulch often, ridden my bike and tried to ignore the neglect of this lovely space. I think of the natural history walks, the bird watching, and enjoyment that more would experience with the trails and other features described in the plan. The existing haphazard network of trails does little to stop erosion or illegal use, such as littering or camping.

As a participant in the periodic removal of broom and thistle, I applaud the removal of non-native plants, erosion control, and protection of habitat (tarplant and birds). Limiting use to the paved or maintained trails may end abuses such as camping and pollution by pets. Nothing is more insulting to our land than the debris and filth left by selfish campers and dog owners.

I have seen elsewhere how it's possible to control damage to endangered species by requiring people to walk only on designated trails or boardwalks. Dogs should be required to have leashes. To require this in a heavily populated area like Arana Gulch is common sense.

The document reads well and is thoughtfully prepared. I really want this plan to be executed.

Flora Ling
943 Windsor St.
SC, CA 95062
831-425-8500
fshling@comcast.net

Susan Harris

From: Ann Butler [annb@cruzio.com]
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2006 11:45 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Susan Harris,

My name is Ann Butler. I recently read of the plans for Arana Gulch, naming you as a contact person. I am generally quite pleased with the proposed project, but have just one issue that does concern me. When we say that we are providing a pedestrian trail, along with other shared access (if I got that part right), it gives me pause when I think of what has happened to the river levee project in the city limits. What was billed as a beautiful pathway from one end of the city through the Boardwalk area is indeed visually pleasing. However, the rampant drug use and homeless population sleeping along the path, smoking whatever, and generally presenting a pretty unwelcome face to the family users, have basically resulted in that population enjoying themselves far more than the family population. In spite of several efforts by the city to accommodate the homeless, they just keep on getting in the way of every other opportunity for taxpayers to enjoy the city environs.

I hope I don't sound like a heartless fanatic; I am just so tired of hearing about the wonderful new projects for the citizens to enjoy and how great it will be, and I write to encourage you to make every effort to actually make this area available to families without fear of needles, sleeping bags, defecation, and all the rest.

Signed,

Ann Butler, now a raving conservative, reluctantly.
518 Ocean Street, 457-2080

4/7/2006

Susan Harris

From: Sharon Saldavia [sharonna@cruzio.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2006 2:05 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: ARANA GULCH DRAFT EIR

To the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department and the City Council,

PLEASE DO NOT DEVELOP THE ARANA GULCH GREEN BELT. It is fine just the way it is. It is a well-loved open space, used by thousands of Santa Cruzans, especially those who reside on the east side of town, where options are relatively limited. (THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR OUR WONDERFUL GREENBELTS!)

PLEASE: NO BRIDGES OR 'RAMPS' OVER HAGEMANN GULCH OR ARANA CREEK,

NO PAVED, CONCRETE OR HARDENED-SURFACE ROADS/PATHS,

RESPONSIBLY MANAGE THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF THE GREENBELT.

The City of Santa Cruz is facing serious financial challenges. Please do not spend precious financial resources on this project, when law enforcement, schools and roads need every penny! SPENDING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON THIS PROJECT IS PURE FOLLY!

Much has been said recently about the problems the City faces managing the parks and open spaces that we already have. PLEASE DON'T INVITE A NUISANCE BY PAVING THIS AREA. It is a serious fire hazard in the summer. Paving this area will invite crime and aberrant behavior. Our law enforcement officers and Parks Dept. officers are spread too thin as it is. THE CITY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THIS AREA IF IT IS DEVELOPED AS PROPOSED! Be realistic!

There are other less intrusive options available to bicyclists. Let's explore those!

Access for the handicapped? It's a good idea, but Arana Gulch is not the only park or open space that needs improvements in this area. Let's look into a comprehensive plan for dealing with the issue of access to the City's parks. Please, let's not use this issue as a front for what is really a transportation issue. That is patronizing and insulting and, really, beneath you.

Thank you for listening to my comments. Respectfully, Sharon Saldavia

Susan Harris

From: Gina DePolo [gina.depolo@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2006 3:04 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: Arana Gulch - Master Plan

Susan,

While so many of our city's parks provide venues for organized sporting activities, beautiful playgrounds, picnic grounds and even golfing, there is none whose sole purpose is to simply let us experience nature - just as it is, wild and without adornments - except for Arana Gulch.

I am lucky enough to live near the north entrance to the park, which is no accident. We didn't invest in a home here to be near the Fostersfreeze on Soquel Ave. We wanted our family to have easy access to nature, to green, to our own "back forty". We walk through Arana Gulch at least six days a week. We know both Great Blue Herons, the feral cat that sits on the hillside, every mud hole, when all the flowers bloom, where all the beautiful mushrooms are, and yes, we are very familiar with the tarplant as well. My thirteen month old son even has his favorite trees that we greet daily.

Arana Gulch is a special place just as it is. Mud, bumps, imperfections and all.

While I am a bicylce enthusiast, as are many members of my extended family, and I would love to see major improvement to bike safety and bike lane availability in this city, I seriously doubt that putting up a million dollar, 330 foot long (!) bridge over Hagemann Gulch and a "ramp" over Arana Creek will convert car commuters to bike commuters. This is a fallacious argument made by some bike trail advocates that I've heard time and time again. Please don't let a small, yet very vocal group of citizens guide your decision. What we need are safe bike lanes on Soquel Ave. and other existing streets. A very important but very different topic.

Greenbelt to me means green, brown and sometimes muddy. It means nature. It means no buildings, no houses, no roads. It means no pavement. It means sometimes having to walk single file, or having to jump over a mudhole.

Greenbelt to me means no development.

Thank you for reading my views on this important topic and I hope that you will seriously consider modifying the Master Plan to remove these "improvements".

Sincerely,

Gina DePolo
 137 Mentel Ave.

4/10/2006



Santa Cruz County Cycling Club

www.santacruzccycling.org - P.O. Box 8342, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

April 7, 2006

Susan Harris
Santa Cruz parks and Recreation Department
809 Center St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Santa Cruz County Cycling Club's support for multi-use trails on Arana Gulch property.

Dear Ms Harris,

The Board of Directors of the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club voted unanimously to support the draft Arana Gulch Master Plan whereby multi-use trails for bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchairs are proposed. The Board supports either of the options presented that allow for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Hagemann Gulch. We encourage your approval of the Arana Gulch Master Plan and Environmental Report.

We believe the multi-use trails and bridge will meet a much needed route for recreational users and commuters traveling between North and South County. The other routes available for this purpose, such as Soquel Avenue are unsafe and cause conflict between bicyclists and motorists. We also believe a viable route through Arana Gulch will encourage more people to use their bikes rather than driving, thereby helping save the environment.

The Santa Cruz County Cycling Club (SCCCC) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1971. Its mission is to bring cycling to all levels of riders and encourage healthy lifestyles through education, advocacy, friendship, teamwork, and fun. There are over 250 members, consisting of various levels of bicyclists, including commuters and recreational bicyclists.

If you need additional information I can be reached at the above address or at 460-1818.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Bedal
President, SCCCC

Susan Harris

From: Paul Haney [phaney2@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 11:00 AM

To: Susan Harris

Subject: arana gulch

Please stop with the plans to develop arana gulch. Too much paving. Why can't we just maintain it and leave it the way it is.

Thank you,
Paul Haney

4/11/2006

Susan Harris

From: Leslie Cook on behalf of City Council
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 10:48 AM
To: Cynthia Mathews; Ed Porter; Emily Reilly; Mike Rotkin; Ryan Coonerty; Tim Fitzmaurice; Tony Madrigal
Cc: Dannettee Shoemaker; Susan Harris; JaneMarie Polmanteer
Subject: FW: Paving Arana Gulch

For 3/28 Meeting

-----Original Message-----

From: Mandy Slayton [mailto:aslayton8@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 10:42 AM
To: shariss@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: City Council
Subject: Paving Arana Gulch

Dear Susan Harris and Santa Cruz City Council,

I am writing to urge you not to pass any plan that includes the paving of Arana Gulch. This is one of the last open spaces in the town of santa cruz. It is wild and beautiful and is known by many as "little Africa." It is also home to the endangered tarplant. We love this area as it is, dirt paths through tall grass studded with oaks. Please do not destroy one of our last urban open spaces. Pavement does not always equal improvement, sometimes things are best left alone.

Thanks for you time,

Amanda Slayton
144 Mentel Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Susan Harris

From: jamie.amos@johnsondiversey.com
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2006 12:55 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: Draft EIR - Arana Gulch freeway

Ms. Harris:

I live on the Hagemann Court culdesac which backs up to Arana Gulch. Please don't put in a bridge or ramp over Hagemann Gulch or Arana Creek. Daily, I watch the hawks go to and from their nest in the Eucalyptus trees at the edge of the gulch and I am opposed to increasing human activity near them. I am also opposed to destroying the wildlife in order to make bigger path for people. People don't live there but our plants and animals do.

I am opposed to having this preservation ruined just so people won't have to travel by road to go around the gulch.

Jamie Amos
87 Hagemann Ct.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

4/10/2006

Susan Harris

From: Andria Gordon [agordonsc@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2006 5:06 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch

Susan,

I wish to register my dismay that the master plan for Arana Gulch seems to encompass lack appreciation for what it is now- one of the last tracts of open space in the county. It seems that a similar plan is proposed every year or so, the public speaks against it and then it reemerges.

For those who visit Arana Gulch daily, this is an area that does not need improvement. We can create new parks, but wild lands are irreplaceable.

This is an extremely important issue for so many of us who enjoy this area.

I do vote in every election and am willing to work for what I believe in.

Thank you for your attention.

Andria Gordon

Santa Cruz

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Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around <http://mail.yahoo.com>

Susan Harris

From: scfamflea@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2006 5:50 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch

I am a property owner at 408 Harbor Dr. My yard backs up to Arana Gulch. I am in favor of soccer fields on the site, as was originally planned. Currently, we have an incredible need for fields for sports.

Depot Field has helped ease the burden, but is overused. We now have Lacrosse and Soccer teams vying for space. I would love to see the Arana Gulch property being used in a way that promotes health and fitness. As it stands right now, I am uncomfortable walking through the area. I have stumbled upon both homeless encampments and groups of people drinking.

I am also in favor of a bikepath across the meadow to increase East-West access.

Sincerely,
Anne Fliesler

Susan Harris

From: Michelle Kinney [mkinney@cats.ucsc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 7:44 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch
Attachments: mkinney.vcf

Susan, as a user and neighbor of Arana Gulch, our family is against the development of any of the Arana Gulch area in its entirety. We'd like to see the open land left alone. There are so few places like this in Santa Cruz. We don't understand why or see the need to develop that area. Efforts and monies should be focused on the current roadways surrounding the area (Soquel, Seabright, and the harbor bridge) if ease and increased accessibility around the area is really the issue.

Let's take care of the developments we already have, not create new ones. Developing the Arana Gulch area will only create more maintenance for the city which in turns costs a lot of money the City doesn't have. If the City doesn't have funds to take care of the current roadways, then the City has no business creating more of a financial burden for its residences.

Please listen to our voice and leave Arana Gulch alone.

Thank you, Michelle Kinney

4/11/2006

Susan Harris

From: Rebecca Black [rebbblack@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 12:16 AM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: Arana Gulch

Dear Ms. Harris,

We would like to express our concern about the proposed paving plans for Arana Gulch greenbelt. As Mentel Avenue residents, we strongly oppose this plan. We walk in the gulch almost everyday. As a writer and professor, I have a deep appreciation for the endangered tarplant, as well as the frequent wildlife I observe in the gulch.

Currently, the Master Plan for Arana Gulch has no management plan for these plants and animals. And while we generally support bikepaths, we feel strongly that Arana Gulch should not be paved for wheeled access. We are strong supporters of ADA considerations, but Arana Gulch should not be "parkified." Paving part of the gulch would completely destroy its beauty, which is a daily solace and inspiration for a multitude of Santa Cruz residents.

Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Black and Sylvain Carton

Rebecca Black
Dept. of English
St. Joseph's Hall
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA 95053

"

On the road to retirement? Check out MSN Life Events for advice on how to get there!
<http://lifeevents.msn.com/category.aspx?cid=Retirement>

Susan Harris

From: Lowell Fitch [mosquitolk@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 12:08 AM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Fwd: Re: Arana Gulch master Plan
Attachments: pat188527249

Lowell Fitch <mosquitolk@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

Date: Wed, 12 Apr 2006 00:05:42 -0700 (PDT)
 From: Lowell Fitch <mosquitolk@sbcglobal.net>
 Subject: Re: Arana Gulch master Plan
 To: sharris@ci.santa-cruz

Dear Susan Harris,

I have attached a letter for you and the City Council with my input/ opinion about the Master Plan for Arana Gulch.

In a nut shell. I don't want the bridge, bike path, interpretive trail system with signs, dogs on leash at all times, paved paths, etc. No development! Keep it as wild as it can be.

Leave Arana Gulch as it is. I don't want a "guided nature walk". I just want to walk in nature. Why anyone would want interpretive displays, overlooks, signage in that beautiful little plot of land is beyond me. I take a walk over there to get away from all that stuff. I know there is old foundation remnants but that little headland looks like a field should look- muddy, overgrown, tangled. It is such a joy to look at and walk in such a field. Get field guides if you have the need to name the plants and birds.

The Harbor has thousands of tons of pavement for walking and biking. It has lots of signage. It has paved the whole damn Arana Drainage, Now it likes to believe it is environmentally correct with signs naming of the wildlife they have displaced.

The master plan should be working to save this tract of land from all development not to carve it up like a street plan or a strawberry field. A 330 foot bridge, an eight foot asphalt bike road, what are you thinking? We don't need to save this land from itself. We need to save it from the engineers, recreation majors and city planners who can't abide an empty lot or a non linear muddy footpath.

Twenty some years ago my friend ran for the city council because he wanted to join Broadway and Brommer with a street and a bridge. He was right it would help with traffic. He was wrong to think Arana was just in the way. The bike advocates are wrong too. The bike road will forever change the character of Arana the same way as oil drills in Monterey Bay would forever change the character of the bay. It changes the landscape- how it looks and how it feels. Not to mention the actual damage to the life. My old friend and the bike advocates both feel the sacrifice is worth the gains. Don't we almost always chose comfort, ease and usability over the

4/12/2006

natural landscape,

Keep the bikes on the roadways and keep improving their lanes.

Anyway, please read my letter. It makes me sad to think that the City of Santa Cruz and the Parks and Recreation Department believe this is the best best plan for Arana Gulch.

Sincerely,

Lowell Fitch
90 Hagemann Court
Santa Cruz, CA

4/17/2006

Dear Susan Harris and Santa Cruz Council members,

I am writing you to ask for nothing. Yep, I don't want anything. Strange as it sounds, asking for nothing is asking for more. And for some reason it is the hardest to give.

I want Arana Gulch to be left as is. I don't want a 330 foot bridge. I don't want an asphalt bike path. I do not want interruptive signs with pictures and trails-they clutter up the natural landscape. I don't want a soccer field or housing.

It is ok to just leave the old place alone. Its unique beauty will be appreciated.

If the goal of all this development is to get more visitors/usage, rest assured visitors will come. If Arana is left alone its "value" to us all will grow exponentially year by year. Every tract of land that has been saved has become more important to the subsequent generations.

If the goal for this proposed development to help bike riders, work on the miles and miles of bike lanes that are used through out the city. Why ruin a pretty little wild sanctuary for three miles of asphalt bike roads? Why spend all that money for so little mileage?

But I'll let others argue the case about finance, maintenance, endangered plants, habitat, and the thirty plus years of prior commitments to leave the Gulch and its headlands undeveloped, etc. All very good reasons.

I want to try to express the importance of wild places, a field (not soccer, football, baseball) that is just left uncultivated, not bisected, not explained by signage. There is something so joyful about a field that is defined by dirt foot/deer paths and the natural boundaries of trees, creeks and gullies. It is even liberating to see a dog romp around, not restrained by a leash. As Robert Frost said "One could do worse than be a swinger of birches."

I know you are busy. You need to take polls and head counts, yea or nay; still I am including a Wendell Berry poem which I hope you will be able to take the time to read. It expresses so quietly our need of wild things, of wild places without lines and wires and roads and signs and asphalt paths.

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

I know the bike advocates are insistent and persistent. Their cause for more and safer bike ways is noble. But they are often a one note Johnny and sometimes they miss the forest for the trees. Everyone in my family has a bike. We like bikes.

Put the bike paths along the roads and railways, for those corridors have already been annexed for travel ways. Also, I don't need a sign telling me what I'm looking at. Billboards in a field can become the Burma shave signs of a highway. We need to hold our little wild places very dearly. Once we have carved, paved and constructed sign tour guides through this little island of land it will just become another onramp and rest stop along another manmade byway. We won't ever get it back to wild. We won't be able to view it as wild or feel that it is wild. It will be just another little green park with benches to maintain and schedule garbage service for.

Who would have thought we would be fighting over little Arana as the last vestige of a wild place in Santa Cruz City. But we have mostly "paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Now we want to pave more paradise and up some tasteful billboards. Why? We keep expanding, cutting, and building. We keep losing our wild things and our wild places.

So please give me nothing. Please keep Arana Gulch as is. It is so beautiful.

Sincerely,

Lowell & Corinne Fitch
90 Hagemann Court
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
831.423.4425

Susan Harris

From: Roberta Thompson [bobbyethompson@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2006 5:14 PM

To: City Council

Subject: Arana Gulch Property Development

Dear City Council Members:

Isn't it possible to leave Arana Gulch as a natural habitat? Surely the tax revenue generated by development is not worth the destruction of this sensitive area!

Please consider other sources for a greater tax base and leave Arana Gulch as a place to find solace and comfort in a far too busy world.

Thank you.

Roberta Thompson
Scotts Valley

4/12/2006

Susan Harris

From: priya [gingert@cruzio.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 1:16 PM
To: Susan Harris
Subject: Arana Gulch Greenbelt

Dear Ms. Harris:

Please leave the Arana Gulch Greenbelt an undisturbed Green. Please do not pave or bridge or "improve" or otherwise disturb the peace of the place. As we understand that funding is already in place for the Master Plan of "improvements", may we suggest they be used instead to employ a few college kids to wander through the banks and under trees to collect the trash and litter and sleeping bags and clothes which have been regularly left behind by the transient element of our area. We have spent a fortune on large strong garbage bags to go into these areas and clean up to prevent an excess of rat population and to discourage people from repeat littering. If an area is kept regularly cleaned up, it has been proven, those who litter and loiter do not feel comfortable there. We are not against the homeless, poor, or addicted; we just don't want them to trash out a beautiful natural area.

Now the city wants to trash out the area with an approved method of disturbance (we get pretty emotional about this place, don't we?)...there are plants and creatures and respectful members of society who would just like a place to wander and rest and meditate and pray and horse around with their children without having to notice the city is right there in their face as it were. At night one can actually see the stars in that field...did you know that? Yes, right in the middle of the city a starlit field!... and millions of wildflowers by day!

Please... on behalf of ourselves, and those who have neither time nor

4/12/2006

ability to speak through e-mail, we ask respectfully that you persuade the city to leave Arana undisturbed as Nature intended.

Thank you for
your time and attention.

C. Petschler
P. J. Finke and R.

4/12/2006

Susan Harris

From: Amy Isacson [agoldenmoon@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 9:22 AM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: arana gluch

To Whom It May Concern:

When making your final decision about the Arana Gulch plan, please take into account those of us who have taken the time to write you. We range from young to old and we enjoy this open space immensely. It is truly a special place. It is a pristine destination for those seeking a break from the concrete jungle surrounding it.

Should you decide to pave over the open space, it will forever be altered. It can never return to what it once was.

My husband has spoken before at your meetings at the pure risk of creating 330' bridge. What a perfect place for a person to be cornered from both sides at night! That's just asking for trouble.

We routinely head to the lower harbor with bikes and have no problem accessing it from the gulch. We do not need a paved portion under our bicycle wheels. They do just fine and the surrounding habitat in Arana Gulch is all the better for our lack of intrusion with concrete.

Please hear us when you make your final decisions on this area. There is not much left of untouched land in this area. Please be the ones responsible for preserving it.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Isacson

Susan Harris

From: Amy Isacson [agoldenmoon@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 9:30 AM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: arana gluch

"Please don't make a road. I like to ride bicycles there and my farm tractor and my doggie likes to play in the gulch. I don't want a road to go in because I might fall down and break my coconut on the hard road.

I think the blue heron won't like the road ~ please don't put the path in."

~ Jack Isacson, age 4 1/2

April 9, 2006

Dear Santa Cruz City Council Members and Santa Cruz Park and Recreation Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for a bicycle/pedestrian path through Arana Gulch. Balancing public access and environmental protection is very important to the future of Santa Cruz. Providing a paved bicycle/pedestrian path through Arana Gulch gives more people the ability to visit, learn and appreciate the true urban asset that the park can be.

For many years Congressman Farr has pursued a vision of linking the diverse communities of the Monterey Bay with a coastal bike path. The paved section from Shaffer Road to Wilder Ranch is an excellent example of a sensible improvement that has increased the access to Wilder Ranch by equestrians, hikers, and bicyclists without adverse environmental impacts. It provides a safe route for families to expand their exploration of the many facets of Santa Cruz.

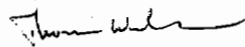
The master plan for Arana Gulch should address the needs and desires of all city residents and link the neighborhoods by greater utilization of the open space. A paved bicycle/pedestrian path provides an east-west community link that is safer than the existing Soquel Avenue or Murray Street options,

Arana Gulch is large enough to provide a diverse experience for all visitors. The improvements in the master plan enhance the ability for more people to enjoy this city park. I encourage you to endorse this master plan that embraces the entire community and sends a strong message to the coastal commission that the improvements provide long term management of this open space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Wilson



Susan Harris

From: salandangel breiter [salandangel@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2006 1:10 PM
To: sherris@ci.santa-cruz.ca.us
Cc: City Council
Subject: Arana gulch

I am writing to voice my objection to the plans relating to the Arana gulch area concerning both the 8' wide paved paths and the bridge. Arana gulch is the perfect open space. Please leave it untouched. We really enjoy it the way it is and feel that any development will ruin our treasured spot. thanks for considering our opposition.

The Breiter Family
Angelita, Sal, Avia and Makai.

April 12th, 2006

I write this while in
Waiting room at P.P. -
Westside Clinic, down -
town, for follow up appt.
concerning a minor injury;
thus, this communication is
not being typed-up, & I
proudly do not own/use
a fax machine nor a
computer. Please accept
this letter w/my concern,
deep concern, over the
issues of Arona Gulch.
I, for one, (yet I'm
sure I →

speck for so many
citizens who feel the
same, yet have not the time,
moxie, attitude, skill, etc.
to write to you. We crazy
humans have got to save
this planet. The idea(s) to
any minor or major development
to this protected Greenbelt area
is repulsive to me. I
respectfully wish - request -
want the Plan. Comm. & the
Parks & Rec. Comm. to simply
leave Arons Gulch absolutely
"alone". no human manipulation.
We all honor & wish to preserve,
conserve, keep, this Stately -
beautiful, centrally located
nature area — yet why

would any well-meaning
leader - director - worker
in your field - expertise,
Want to, or even suggest
to - manipulate, develop, build,
Construct any thing in this
gorgeous, wonderful, natural
preserve? Do not build a
bicycle freeway, per se! Is
there a bicycle-path-stretch-
road(s) built at Lighthouse
Field? Moore Creek? Pogoip?
No! Please don't think about
bicycle "freeways" at these parks!
Nor am I happy about any
"freeways" thru parks for
wheelchairs! There numerous
places for people to securely go to
w/their desire to relate with
Mother Nature. Thank you for →

your attention!

Sincerely,

Alene D. Smith
36 yr. resident,
voter, activist,
very concerned human
being. I'm saving the
planet - the best way
we all can; ultimately -
I don't breed! I
had no offspring!

Proudly - so w/ no
regrets. Consciously
received a tubal ligation -
sterilization by choice in
1973!
Hey!
Connect bike - bridge - trail
along rail - trail & thru Harbor.

This page is intentionally blank

Susan Harris

From: Shann Ritchie [sritchie@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2006 10:58 AM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: Master Plan for Arana Gulch and DEIR

Good day,

We write once again, to express our outrage and dismay that the City is continuing with the unacceptable and flawed plan to create bridges and a bike path through the only remaining open space on the east side of town: the Arana Gulch Greenbelt.

This is madness. The 67.7 acres of Arana Gulch should be permanently preserved and protected as open space, not destroyed in the name of another park that the city cannot afford to maintain or keep up.

The vision and goals of this space should contain:

- A management plan for plants and animals in the Greenbelt, especially the endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant.
- No bridge over Hagemann Gulch or Arana Creek
- No paved, concrete or hardened-surface paths
- No lighting whatsoever

The DEIR report has numerous flaws, and contradictions. I won't waste time listing them here as others have already forwarded the problems and contradictions with the DEIR, to you, in detail.

Suffice it to say, that the City has no money or personnel for upkeep of what is being proposed, nor are there enough police, fire and emergency personnel available to keep up with the vandalism, fires, and additional campsites for the homeless that this plan will produce.

How can the City on the one hand say they do not have enough funds to maintain basic services, keep schools open, or repair potholes in the roads, and then propose to squander millions (make no mistake - projects of this scope NEVER come in on budget) on a plan that will virtually destroy the only remaining open space left in town, all in the name of providing a *bike path* for a handful of people to use? And let's be clear: regardless of People Power's rhetoric the average commuter in Santa Cruz does NOT use a bicycle as their main means of transport to and from work. How many bicyclists have you observed commuting to work in the rain the last 2 months? Additionally, using the *sop* of making the AG available to disabled by providing a ramp that does not meet ADA requirements...well, enough said about that.

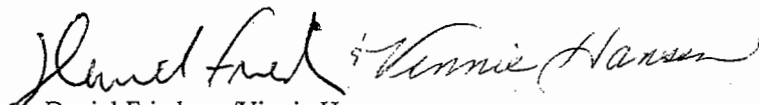
This is just insane. We will continue to fight this project and hope the City is prepared to spend money on legal fees should this go to court.

Shann and Dennis Ritchie
106 Hagemann Avenue
Santa Cruz CA 95062

4/14/2006

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE EIR FOR ARANA GULCH

- 1) There are 4 current east-west bike routes maintained at taxpayer expense.
- 2) Bikes must still be ridden on city/county streets to/from Arana Gulch
- 3) Even if State tax money fully funds the building of a paved road and bridge over Arana Gulch, the ongoing maintenance, policing, graffiti removal, and liability expenses will be borne by the City of Santa Cruz *forever*.
- 4) Barring a new dot-com bubble, the financial health of Santa Cruz will remain problematic indefinitely. Positions are left unfilled and compromises to public safety and schools have already presented themselves. Given a limited amount of taxpayer revenue, what are the funding priorities of the City of Santa Cruz?
- 5) A handful of bicyclists have pushed for this paved road and bridge for over 10 years and have finally discovered a new ruse: the needs of the disabled. If a handicapped trail "needs" to be built, it can be completed via a straight in/out path from Agnes Street. This would be more cost effective for the city in terms of maintenance, graffiti removal, policing, and liability costs. Of course, none of the bicyclists pushing the paved road and bridge would support this solution to their newly invented "disabled issue."
- 6) There are parks and open spaces that have disabled access. Not every group can or should receive exactly what they would like from every public park or open space. Should all groups like soccer players, skateboarders, toddlers, bicyclists, or disabled automatically have special facilities built and taxpayer money earmarked for their specific needs/desires?
- 7) A paved road and bridge over Arana Gulch will invite a criminal element (complete with stolen shopping carts) to the open space and surrounding neighborhood resulting in additional taxpayer expense for public safety.
- 8) Have the majority of Santa Cruz City council members publicly advocated a paved road and bridge be built over Arana Gulch prior to their election? If not, it would be fair to allow voters a referendum on the financial priorities of the City vis-à-vis the permanent, ongoing taxpayer expenses resulting from a paved road and bridge across Arana Gulch.

 4/14/06
Daniel Friedman/Vinnie Hansen
1011 Bostwick Lane
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Susan Harris

From: Rena and Harlan [public@domesticman.net]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2006 4:25 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: No development in Arana Gulch

To Susan Harris and the Parks and Rec Dept.,

Please permanently protect Arana Gulch as open space, free from development.

I am VERY concerned about the precedent of the road (aka 8' paved bike routes) in greenbelts. While I am sure that the current plan and the current council would still support the area as greenbelt, I am not convinced that the area will be free from cars and open 20 years from now. Once a 8' paved "path" is down, other development is all to easy. I know the pressure that the Pogonip is under for a road through there, and this Arana Gulch proposal would literally "pave the way" for future projects in this vein.

Please, we need a plan for plants and animals in the greenbelt, no destructive bridges, and no pavement!

I support more bike accessibility, but do not understand what Arana Gulch has to do with it. Let's put the money towards better bike (and stroller!) access to/from Fredrick Street Park, or on the rail lines, or a safe bike lane on Soquel from Morrissey to Capitola Road. Arana Gulch should not be paved just to solve the errors of traffic in our city. Both issues are important, but they are separate issues.

Keep Arana Gulch Cement Free!

Thank you,
Rena Dubin
420-1535

ROELOF W POT

610 Canyon Street
Santa Cruz
CA 95060
931-471-2525
rolf@comcast.com

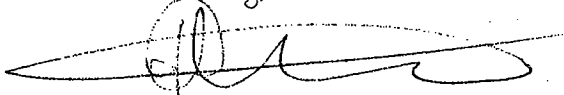
To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Broadway-Brommer bike and pedestrian path.

I feel major concessions have already been made by eliminating the eastern bridges. I always thought a level bike connection through Arana Gulch to connect Santa Cruz with Live Oak and beyond would be optimal. However, the plan including a bridge across Hagemann Gulch will be a great move forward with the added benefit to access Arana Gulch from the Seabright neighborhood. I am also in favor of paved paths. This plan is already so long in the making and does not deserve to be further diluted.

Looking forward to see this plan come to fruition!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rolf Pot', written over a horizontal line.

Rolf Pot

Susan Harris

From: coachleanne@hotmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2006 2:13 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: Counter to Arana Gulch Development

Dear Susan,
I have ridden my bike, walked, jogged and walked my dog in Arana Gulch for ten years now and through all the meetings I have attended on this issue, I am frustrated, angered and disillusioned on the way decision making has been done on this issue. And it's not your fault.

My bottom line is "No" on the asphalt bike land and bridge. The rest is my plea to be heard and I hope it is taken with the utmost of respect. I do not want an 8-foot wide piece of asphalt on this city designated greenbelt. An asphalt path would be an eyesore and needless use of the city's already over-burdened staff. If you don't have money to pick up the trash, than how can you have money to maintain a bridge and trail? Who is so adamant about developing greenbelt property at the city- I don't understand. If the city has no money, than why are they wanting to spend it on something very few people want?

The fancy sign, garbage and recycling cans and doggie bags- are fine- I ask the city to please leave this greenbelt alone. This is the only place you can go to ride, walk or hike or walk your dog where you won't be filled with ticks, and don't have to see the bain of modern infrastructure. It's just a neighborly piece of land that is treasured by all who walk or drive across the county to visit. It is a jewel of Santa Cruz- please do not destroy what the city itself has set aside for its citizenry.

I have yet to meet anyone who frequents there that wants this pavement. I know there is a faction of bicycle riders who would like better access across town- GREAT! Absolutely, bicycle commuting and riding should be encouraged for economic, recreation and environmental reasons in the city. I am a rider myself. But, there are other ways to do this beyond the different plans that keep getting presented to use over and over again.

Let's have a professional facilitator come in make it work FOR EVERYONE instead of continuing to present plans that are not useful to either side. Show us some vision- and use the resources in your own community for collaborative problem solving. This is a community issue that can be solved without the old government ways of "yes" or "no" voting. THIS IS A DIALOG THAT IS WANTING TO HAPPEN IN THIS COMMUNITY not continued flawed plans that we keep getting presented over and over- either by Planning, the City Council or now the Rec and Parks.

There are many skilled facilitators in the area who could actually help all the factions come together and come up with a plan that is useful and agreeable to everyone. Susan, this is my dream instead of you having to stand up and be unfairly blasted at meetings. You are hearing anger and frustration of people not being heard. We do not see a vision for this land- can you show us that you are wanting to meet community needs? As it is, it appears that staff just keep coming up with ideas that no one wants. Feel free to call me. I have access to professional and non-biased facilitators who can help everyone with this now painful issue. This does not have to be expensive.

If you put this path and/or bridge(s) in you will greatly impact this peaceful property and dishonor the original vision that this property was acquired for. What you will find instead, is a bike path where people will walk to the side of or cut new pedestrian trails that will impact the land even more. No one will want to walk on a path where bicycles will be whizzing by them. The bike path idea is ugly, needless and not what people want. The bridge is an over-engineered solution. Please stop spending our money on studies, reports, consultants and staff. You are the Recreation Dept- you do amazing things for this city that improves our quality of life- please ask your citizens for help in a dialog and they will support you!

Sincerely,
LeAnne Ravinale

Susan Harris

From: School Account [teacherkarl@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2006 9:00 PM
To: Susan Harris
Cc: City Council
Subject: arana gulch

This letter is to voice my disapproval for any plans to further develop the Arana Gulch property. I have watched the property evolve from cow pasture to public openspace and find the property thoroughly enjoyed by the general public in its present configuration.

In concept a bike path is nice but it in no way enhances a greenbelt. In my experiences on the bike paths in the meadow below UCSC, bicycle commuters tend to be very intolerant of anyone or anything slowing their pace. It has been a challenge taking my five year old son on those paths as fast moving cyclists present a very real threat.

Currently, I take my wheelchair bound grandmother and my tricycle riding five year old out in the gulch without the need for paved pathways, lighting or bridges. I would be far less likely to take them out in the gulch if the primary access was a paved pathway with bike commuters whizzing past. Establishing a grade amenable to ADA standards is pointless as the park can already be easily accessed with no significant slope from Mentel Ave and Park Way. My wheel chair bound grandmother won't be competing for space on the paved pathway with bicycle commuters traveling at commute speeds.

The point is paving a pathway excludes pedestrians, handicapped and children as it isn't SAFE for them to be on the same roadbed as bicycles.

Furthermore the 300 foot bridge over Hageman gulch opens up a virtually undisturbed sanctuary for racoons, possums, fox, hawks, herons and I am sure many other species I haven't personally observed. Extending a bridge over that gulch will destroy the privacy and inaccessibility that makes Hageman gulch such an irreplaceable animal habitat. The noise, smells, etc will force wildlife to seek new refuges that just don't exist.

Arana Gulch needs no further development to serve its highest and best use. Keep it the vital and unaltered open space that contributes so much to the diverse ambience Santa Cruz possesses.

Thank you,
Karl Isacson
105 Mentel Ave
Santa Cruz, CA
95062

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