

INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

The County Counsel has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

TITLE: A MEASURE REQUIRING AN ELECTION TO APPROVE ANY CONTINUED OR FUTURE WORK FOR THE RAIL + TRAIL PROJECT.

When the proponents of an initiative measure submit a petition to the County that states their intention to circulate and gather signatures to qualify a measure on the ballot for the next election, the California Elections Code requires that the County Counsel prepare a summary of that measure. County Counsel makes no conclusion in this summary about the accuracy of any representations in the measure, nor the legality of its provisions, if enacted.

Under California Government Code sections 29532.1 and 67940, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (“RTC”) is designated as the transportation planning agency for the area of Santa Cruz County. The RTC’s “Rules and Regulations” manual governs the internal operating procedures for the agency.

If approved by the majority of Santa Cruz County voters, this proposed measure would add two new sections with identical wording to the RTC’s Rules and Regulations. The first addition would appear under Section III, which details the RTC’s sources and allocation of funding. The second addition would appear as a new Section XII, entitled “Special Requirements.”

Under this proposed measure, these two new identical sections would:

- 1) Require a majority of voters (at least 51%) to approve the continuation of any work related to a “Rail + Trail” Project in a regular election;
- 2) Prohibit the RTC from taking any action that would authorize or permit the construction, studies, and/or continuation of a “Rail + Trail” project, or incurring any related debt or bonds, unless such election is held;
- 3) Suspend any work currently in progress or associated with the “Rail and Trail” project until such election is held;
- 4) Permit a “Trail Only” or “Greenway” project to proceed without any additional voter approval;
- 5) Supersede and override any and all other requirements under which the RTC is governed; and
- 6) Apply retroactively from the date the measure was found to have qualified for placement on the ballot.

A regular election is defined as a statewide general, statewide primary, or regularly scheduled municipal election.

A “Rail + Trail” project is defined as any project that combines a pedestrian and bicycle trail path with planned passenger train service along an existing 32-mile rail corridor previously purchased by the RTC.