



SCOTTS VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PRESS RELEASE

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SCOTTS VALLEY CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPOSE GREENWAY INITIATIVE

The Chamber Board of Directors welcomed representatives from both sides of the Greenway Initiative Measure D to provide presentations seeking the Chamber's endorsement. After listening to both sides and careful deliberating, the Board voted to oppose the Greenway Initiative Measure D. The Chamber By-Laws state that we must poll our membership before taking an official stance on a political issue. Of those who responded, 100% were in favor and zero members responded with opposition.

Why did the Board take this position? There are four primary reasons that factored into the Board's decision:

The first reason is Public Transportation. If Measure D were to pass, it would permanently end any chance of ever having a rail line linking North County to South County. Will additional funding need to be secured? Could it take decades to complete? The answer is of course "yes". However the Board feels that just because a public transportation rail line could be difficult and won't happen immediately, does not mean this project should be completely abandoned.

The second reason is Emergency Services. SLV Fire officials released a letter, that the Chamber is in alignment with, that voiced major concerns on forced railbanking. The Felton Branch rail line provides critical infrastructure needed to access fire emergencies related to catastrophic wildfires as well as search and rescue operations along the San Lorenzo River Corridor. Currently, there are areas in the Santa Cruz Mountains that can only be accessed by the rail line.

The third reason: Is this measure about the trail, the rail or both? Some are led to believe that voting for Measure D is the only way to have the trail between Santa Cruz and South County. This is not true. The current plan which has been in the works for the last two decades includes the rail AND the trail. The truth is that parts of the trail have already been constructed and are others are currently in the works. In fact, if Measure D were to pass, over two decades of work will be discarded and thrown out the window.

The final reason is to protect Roaring Camp and the Felton Branch Rail Line. Those in favor of Measure D say that their interests are only with the rail line between Santa Cruz and South County. This may be true, however, should Measure D pass there would be "rail banking" of both of these lines. Currently the line between Roaring Camp and Santa Cruz is federally protected. The Felton Branch rail line that is vital to Roaring Camp's business would be giving up that federal protection. Once you give up that protection, it is gone forever and vulnerable to the whims of whichever politician may be serving at the time. Roaring Camp is vital to the community on every level, from weddings, funerals, music festivals, and families. The people it brings into our area both locally and from outside our county has a direct economic impact on our local businesses, feedback we have already received from our members.