



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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September 1, 2020

Netra Khatri, City Engineer
City of Arcata
736 F Street
Arcata, CA 95521

Subject: Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project

Dear Mr. Khatri,

The County of Humboldt strongly supports the City of Arcata's grant application to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) for funding to complete the Arcata Annie & Mary Trail Connectivity Project. The City of Arcata has been coordinating on the Annie & Mary Trail with the County of Humboldt, Humboldt County Association of Governments, City of Blue Lake, Friends of the Annie & Mary Rail Trail and many other community organizations for well over a decade. These partnerships are critical to achieve this ambitious regional trail initiative which crosses multiple jurisdictional boundaries.

Once all phases are complete, the Annie & Mary Trail will enhance non-motorized travel by connecting the Humboldt Bay region with communities along the Mad River all the way to the City of Blue Lake with a continuous, non-motorized path. We appreciate the City of Arcata for leading the development of the westernmost segment of the Annie & Mary Trail while the County of Humboldt has focused on developing trail projects on the eastern side near Blue Lake.

We understand the City of Arcata's project proposes to construct a Class I bike path (shared-use trail) from Sunset Avenue to the Arcata city limits at West End Road, plus extending the trail eastward into the unincorporated area and connecting to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Park 1. The purpose of this extension is to provide safe access to this popular, family-friendly, regional destination for community recreation on the Mad River. We understand that if the project is funded through ATP, the earliest construction would occur is likely in 2023.

The County of Humboldt provides conceptual approval of the preliminary designs of the trail segment through the unincorporated area as contained in the ATP application. In addition, the County agrees to be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance of the trail segment from West End Road to Park 1 once constructed, and this letter serves as a letter of intent to maintain this section of trail. The County will work with the City of Arcata, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, and other landowners to acquire easements, if necessary, for this segment of trail. The County will work with the City of Arcata to refine the design and secure the right-of-way of the trail section that will ultimately be operated and maintained by the County. Final approval by the County will be required prior to construction for all trail work in the unincorporated area.

Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors