

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT
North Coast Rail Trail Environmental Assessment
in Santa Cruz County, California**

Santa Cruz County, CA – October 25, 2020 — The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFL) announces the availability for public review and comment the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Coast Rail Trail Project. The Environmental Assessment will be open for review for 30 days, from October 26 to November 25, 2020.

FHWA CFL, in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), proposes the development of the North Coast Rail Trail Project along an existing rail corridor parallel to the coastline and Highway 1 in northern Santa Cruz County. RTC was awarded federal funds through the FHWA administered Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) to construct approximately 7.5 mile of a multiuse bicycle and pedestrian trail. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and applicable implementing regulations, the FHWA has prepared an Environmental Assessment regarding the Project.

The Project would provide an accessible bicycle/pedestrian path for active transportation, recreation, and environmental and cultural education along the existing rail corridor between Wilder Ranch State Park and Davenport, CA, consistent with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network Master Plan. The Project would include a paved path with striping, parallel unpaved path and/or shoulder, and parking improvements with trail connections at three locations along the alignment.

The Environmental Assessment can be obtained from the following website:
<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/ca/monterey-bay-1>

To request a compact disc (CD) or paper copy of the document, please contact Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, FHWA by email at Dustin.Robbins@dot.gov or by phone 720-963-3586.

To be considered in the decision-making process, written comments on the EA's analysis and results of the environmental impacts of implementing the proposed action will be accepted until November 25, 2020. Please provide any written comments to: Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, FHWA, 12300 W. Dakota Ave. Lakewood, Colorado 80228 or via e-mail to Dustin.Robbins@dot.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact Dustin Robbins, Project Manager, using the contact information above.