



# Rail & Trail Candidate Questionnaire

November Election 2022

*Local elected officials are appointed to serve on boards like the Metro and the RTC and can have an impact on countywide transportation decisions. Friends of the Rail & Trail is committed to discovering candidate positions and sharing them with the public so we can all make informed choices at the ballot box.*

Responses by Jimmy Dutra, Candidate for Santa Cruz County Supervisor, District 4

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1

The Regional Transportation Commission owns the rail corridor. The RTC has unanimously affirmed its commitment to leave the railroad infrastructure in place, maintain freight rail service, and institute high capacity public transit service. The RTC has also selected electric passenger rail transit as the locally preferred alternative for transit on the corridor. Do you support these policies? Why or why not? How would this position be expressed in your work, should you be elected?

This issue went to the voters as Measure D and overwhelmingly passed. I said from the beginning I would support the will of the people. I intend to uphold my promise. A feasibility study for passenger rail is in motion. We will find out the results and at that point pursue funding opportunities. I was a commissioner on the RTC in 2015. I advocated that if passenger rail ever came to fruition, it would include Watsonville. At that time Watsonville wasn't included in the plan. The exclusion of Watsonville was problematic and lacked equity. I worked with my colleagues and we garnered support from the commission to ensure any future passenger rail would include south county. In December 2015, I voted to accept the Rail Transit Feasibility Study for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and directed staff to look for funding to attain an environmental review, preliminary engineering report, and other studies needed to analyze potential rail transit. My focus was to secure service during peak hours for Watsonville and be included in any service scenarios up for final consideration.

2

Construction has begun on the **trail** next to the tracks, but some segments have faced opposition and resulting delays. What is your position on the multi-use trail planned for the rail corridor? How would this position be expressed in your work, should you be elected?

I have been an active supporter of our trail system. In 2015 as an RTC commissioner, I supported the Federal Land Grants Application (FLAP) for a north coast rail trail segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network. Last year I had the honor to cut the ribbon to one of our trail segments as mayor. I will continue to review all trail projects and if feasible work with funders to help finance these projects.

3

Neighborhoods with **safe streets**, bike lanes, and sidewalks create room for us to move freely without our cars. What would you do to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists?

I have been supportive of safe streets which include safe spaces for bikes and pedestrians. I will continue supporting these improvements. We need to offer opportunities for our residents to move around our communities in alternative ways.

4

What did you think of the June 2022 **Measure D vote**? What was your position on this measure? How do you interpret the outcome of this vote?

Voters overwhelmingly passed Measure D . I always said let the people vote. They will be the voice. They have now spoken. I interpret the decision as the community wants to move forward with passenger rail. I look forward to reviewing the results of the studies and supporting efforts in finding funding for this project.

Find-out more about Jimmy Dutra at their website: [JIMMY DUTRA - Home](#)