

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail is a recreation and interpretive pathway that links existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around Monterey Bay. It is a coastal path for walkers, joggers, bikers, families, locals, and visitors.

The trail invites pedestrians and bicyclists to "experience" the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary from vantage points on land. Interpretive features foster stewardship of this natural treasure and its shoreline communities. The route enables visitors to explore and enjoy the coastline of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, while respecting residential, agricultural, and environmentally sensitive surroundings along the way.



YOUR MARINE SANCTUARY

Marine Sanctuaries are for the ocean what National Parks are for our land: areas protected for their ecological, historical, or cultural significance. The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a national treasure that protects a diversity of marine habitats and a wealth of ocean life, from kelp forests to whales to deep sea creatures at depths of over two miles.

The human history of Monterey Bay has been intertwined with the ocean since Native Americans camped along the shore 10,000 years ago. Today, while millions of visitors are drawn to the bay each year, most of them will experience the marine sanctuary and its inspiring natural resources primarily from the shoreline. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail will provide opportunities to enjoy and learn about one of the most ecologically unusual and scenic water bodies in the world.

TRAIL GOALS

- Provide public trail access along the shoreline of the Monterey Bay, without harming sensitive areas.
- Enhance appreciation and protection of the marine sanctuary, our coastal environment, and local communities through engaging interpretation and information.

- Encourage alternative transportation and draw travelers out of their cars.
- Maximize ocean views and scenic coastal vistas, while connecting local trail systems, interpretive facilities, and points of interest along the way.
- Provide a sense of continuity along the entire trail route through unifying visual elements.
- Promote environmentally sensitive and respectful trail use.



TRAIL BENEFITS

The main purpose of the trail is to enhance appreciation and protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary by promoting public use and enjoyment at its shoreline. The trail can also serve as a regional transportation alternative to the automobile. Finally, the trail offers an economic advantage to the communities through which it passes. Nationwide trends show that proximity to a scenic and recreational amenity boosts retail activity and property values. Visitors to the region will discover yet another pleasurable reason to extend their visit, or to return.

PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The effort to connect Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail got off the ground in 2001. Recognizing that a continuous trail along Monterey Bay would evolve mostly from successful local trail efforts and would involve regional partnerships, the planning effort has sought to include local, regional, state, and federal agencies and non-profit organizations that could have a role in or support trail development.

The trail planning group is working cooperatively to identify, analyze, and map a linked system of trail routes along the shoreline of Monterey Bay, to develop a plan for trailside education and



interpretation, and to garner federal and state funding support. Planning, coordination, and technical assistance is provided by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the California Coastal Commission, and the office of Congressman Sam Farr.

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES TO DATE HAVE INCLUDED:

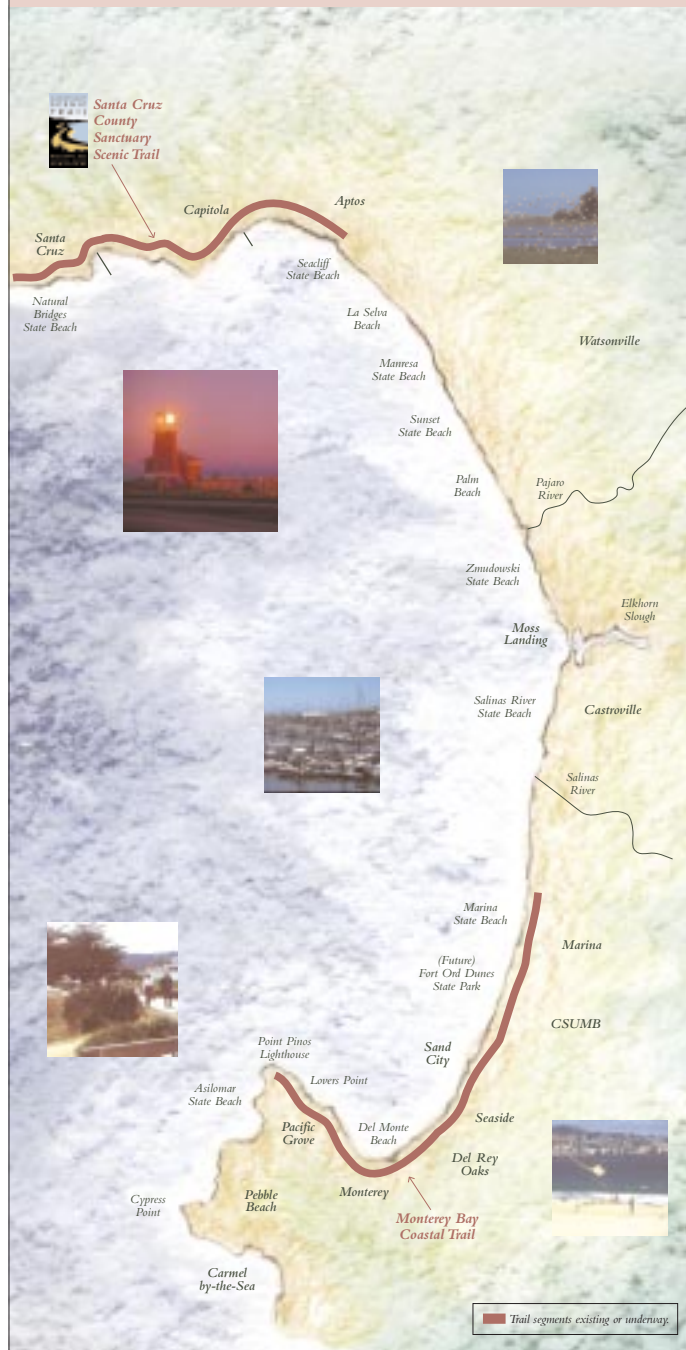
- Assemblyman Fred Keeley
- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
- Big Sur Land Trust
- California Coastal Commission
- California Coastal Conservancy
- California State Parks
- City of Capitola
- City of Del Rey Oaks
- City of Marina
- City of Monterey
- City of Pacific Grove

- City of Sand City
- City of Santa Cruz
- City of Seaside
- Congressman Sam Farr
- County of Monterey
- County of Santa Cruz
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation
- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Fort Ord Reuse Authority
- Friends of Rails to Trails
- Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
- Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce
- Moss Landing Harbor District
- National Park Service Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
- Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- Santa Cruz County Sanctuary
- Inter-Agency Task Force
- Santa Cruz Port District
- Senator Bruce McPherson
- Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail

A COASTAL TRAIL CONNECTING SANTA CRUZ AND MONTEREY



ALIGNMENT PRINCIPLES

While some segments of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail already exist, significant gaps remain. These principles express an intended approach to choosing the trail route.

PROXIMITY to the sea. Where feasible, the trail should be within sight, sound, or scent of the ocean.

CONNECTIVITY to places people want to go. In addition to providing recreational opportunities, the trail will allow travelers to reach desirable destinations such as harbors and parks.

INTEGRITY as a continuous, non-motorized route. To fulfill its promise, the trail must be continuous. Without separation from motor traffic the safety and character of the trail are compromised.

RESPECT for natural habitats, cultural and archaeological features, private property, neighborhoods, and agricultural operations along the trail route.

FEASIBILITY of achieving timely, tangible results with available resources. Practically, both interim and long-range alignments will need to be identified.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information about the project, or to be placed on a mailing list, please contact:

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Kyrria Sevo
445 Reservation Road, Suite G
P.O. Box 809
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 883-3750 info@ambag.org

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