



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009**

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Linda Parks
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John C. Zaragoza
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November 10, 2020

Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Zaragoza and Supervisor Parks to Name the Ojai Valley Trail Bike/Pedestrian Bridge Over San Antonio Creek the Steve Bennett Bridge in Honor of Supervisor Bennett's Service and Commitment to Improving Bicycling and Trails in Ventura County (Recommendation 1 Requires Unanimous Vote).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Approve naming the Ojai Valley Trail bridge over San Antonio Creek, the Steve Bennett Bridge in Honor of Supervisor Bennett's Service and Commitment to Improving Bicycling and Trails in Ventura County (Requires Unanimous Vote); and
2. Hold a ceremonial "unveiling" of the bridge sign on a date to be determined when the COVID-19 restrictions allow larger gatherings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is negligible cost for purchasing and installing the plaque.

DISCUSSION:

Local cyclists approached us with a request to honor Supervisor Bennett's term on the Board of Supervisors by naming the Ojai Valley Trail bridge over San Antonio Creek as "The Steve Bennett Bridge".

Supervisor Bennett has long been a strong advocate for improved infrastructure for bicycling. Steve was very involved in the development of the Coastal Bike Trail along Highway 101 between Ventura and Carpinteria, moving the bike trail from the inland side of the highway to along the shoreline. He led our Board to allocate funding in our budget to complete bike trails throughout Ventura County, including the addition of bike lanes when roads were repaved. Along with Congressman Salud Carbajal, Supervisor Bennett initiated Cycle California Coast, the joint Santa Barbara-Ventura County effort to improve infrastructure improvements to increase cycle tourism and benefit local cyclists.

It is particularly fitting that the bridge over San Antonio Creek on the Ojai Valley Trail be named after Supervisor Bennett. This project almost didn't happen. The original grant funding came up short. Supervisor Bennett was able to come up with a plan for the County to provide "bridge" funding until another grant was secured. Today, the bridge is an iconic symbol for local cyclists and visitors alike. It is widely regarded as one of the most scenic portions of the popular Ojai Valley Trail, fittingly a trail enjoyed by cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities due to its friendly terrain and gentle slope.

I hope you will join us in this effort to recognize Supervisor Bennett's longstanding and unwavering commitment to providing access to safe bicycle and pedestrian trails throughout Ventura County.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 1-805-654-2613.

Sincerely,



John C. Zaragoza
Supervisor, Fifth District



Linda Parks
Supervisor, 2nd District