

[REDACTED]
Ventura, California 93001
November 4, 2020

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Dear Members of the Board,

I would like to respectfully recommend the naming of the Ojai Valley Trail bridge over San Antonio Creek "The Steve Bennett Bridge".

This bridge would not exist without the determination of Supervisor Bennett. Funding for the nearly \$2 million project involved monies from various federal, state, and local grants, as well as the County of Ventura. I am a member of the Channel Islands Bicycle Club which contributed \$17,000 to the project.

The County was awaiting approval for the final grant needed to cover the full cost of the bridge and allow the County to award the construction contract. At the same time, the earliest grants for the bridge were about to expire. Supervisor Bennett worked with the other County Supervisors to approve county funds to close the gap in the event that the outstanding grant was not approved. This allowed the bridge contract to be awarded prior to expiration of any monies. The additional grant was eventually approved and the "backstop" funds from the county were not required. As a result, we now have the much-photographed and appreciated landmark along the Ojai Valley Trail. Additionally, Supervisor Bennett has advocated and supported bicycle lanes and trails throughout his tenure on the Board of Supervisors.

Naming of the bridge in honor of Supervisor Steve Bennett will ensure that his critical role in supporting the Ojai Valley Trail bridge is always remembered.

Sincerely,



Kate Roney Faulkner