



December 12, 2011

Mr. Erik Lundquist
Planning and Building Department
1232 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

Re: Class I Multi-Use Trail to Oat Hill Mine Road Trail Head

Dear Erik:

I am writing to urge the City of Calistoga to include a Class I multi-use trail connection from the existing Washington-Dunaweal bike path to the Oat Hill Mine Road trailhead, in the City of Calistoga's section of the proposed County-Wide Bike Plan.

As you know, the existing Washington-Dunaweal bike path will eventually become part of the Napa Valley Vine Trail. This trail will be the spine of the County-Wide bike network, providing a safe route for non-motorized transportation between the five cities in Napa Valley. This will be an important resident-serving asset benefitting the families of Calistoga, and is estimated to generate an additional \$75 million dollars per year in tourism, with Calistoga gathering its fair share as the northern end of the trail.

The Class I link to Oat Hill Mine Road is important because it makes qualification for public funding more likely since those funds will enable completion of key segments of two trails. Besides serving the Vine Trail, it will be the connector for Bay Area Ridge Trail where it traverses the Valley from Napa Bothe State Park to Oat Hill Mine Road, linking footpaths in the Mayacamas Mountains to those in the Vaca Mountains. This trail will also directly benefit Calistoga, as a practical solution for improving the safety of the many cyclists who visit businesses in Calistoga on bikes provided by the Solage Calistoga Resort.

We understand that the alignment of this path is not set, regardless of where it may be shown on the bike plan, and that the final alignment will be based on a number of community needs to be determined in the future. What is important, however, is that a Class I bike path be in the plan for this segment so that the project qualifies for consideration of public funding.

We strongly urge your support of this Class I segment in the proposed updated plan for Calistoga. We feel this is necessary to ensure a timely extension of the Vine Trail to Calistoga.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Costanzo". The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael J. Costanzo
Executive Director, Napa County Bicycle Coalition
3379 Solano Avenue #1700 | Napa, CA 94558 | 707.812.1770 | www.napabike.org