

Email to PRMD on June 3, 2010

PRMD
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Attention Sonoma County Planning Commission
CC ghelfric@sonoma-county.org

Subject: Public hearing on Current Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan—Sonoma Valley
June 10 at 2:30pm meeting –Central Sonoma Valley Trail Project #183 Priority 1.

The Valley of the Moon Alliance is encouraged by your proposal to create a Class I bike trail from Santa Rosa to Sonoma. We have long supported the need for this bike path. We have also suggested using the SCWA pipeline easement and other existing publicly owned lands and easements wherever possible to accommodate the trail alignment.

We also request that the plan when developed consider connections to adjacent parks and other public lands from the Highway 12 corridor for cyclists and pedestrians to minimize conflicts with adjacent private property owners.

The traffic on Highway 12 is increasing yearly as more wineries, hotels, event centers, and homes are completed. Any cyclists riding along the narrow shoulders of Highway 12 risk bodily injury or worse. CalTrans has added a warning strip of grooves for drivers to alert them when the veer to the shoulder. However, these grooves present an additional hazard for bicycle wheels.

The Class I trail proposed adjacent to Highway 12 would provide a safe alternative for pedestrians and cyclists between Santa Rosa and Sonoma. Well designed connections to parks and other public lands would provide an alternative to such existing conflicts such as access through the Wild Oak Village and Oakmont retirement communities.

The Valley of the Moon Alliance is in full support and encourages a Class I bike trail parallel to Highway 12 .

Valley of the Moon Alliance
Board of Directors
Del Rydman, President