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## Land Trust Receives \$500,000 Trail Donation

### Santa Cruz Bicycles Donates \$500k to Build San Vicente Trails

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz Bicycles have something in common. It is in both the non-profit's and bike company's missions to get people on the land. Together, they are making big strides toward that goal at San Vicente Redwoods.

At the end of last year, Santa Cruz Bicycles made a \$500,000 gift toward building 38 miles of multi-use trails at the 8,500-acre San Vicente Redwoods (formerly CEMEX) property between Davenport and Bonny Doon. The gift was matched by another \$500,000 gift to the campaign.

"Access is a simple concept, but it's complicated and expensive in practice," said Land Trust Conservation Director Bryan Largay. Largay is spearheading the planning for the trails. He said plans will be completed in a few months and the first trails could be open in a couple years. "It costs a lot to build environmentally sensitive trails," said Largay.

San Vicente Redwoods was protected in 2011 by a non-profit consortium, including the Land Trust, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Save the Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund. Each brings its own expertise to the table, protecting the land for its redwoods, waterways—which serve the City of Santa Cruz and Davenport—and for wildlife. The Land Trust is tackling the access component.

According to the Santa Cruz Puma Project, San Vicente is one of only three areas in the county where mountain lion denning occurs.

"It's tricky to build trails on a property that is protected for so many other important reasons, but it's possible, and we're making it work for the land, and for people and wildlife." Largay said. He said trails will steer clear of mountain lion denning areas and sensitive habitats.

Throughout 2014, the Land Trust held a series of public input forums and talked with hundreds of neighbors and stakeholders. "You spoke and we listened," said Largay. The

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result was a 38-mile trail network for all types of users, which can be viewed on the Land Trust's website. This is the plan that Santa Cruz Bicycles wants to see implemented.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity and we just felt supporting it was the right thing to do," said Santa Cruz Bicycles CEO Joe Graney. "The Land Trust's plan to build trails for cyclists, equestrians and hikers serves the outdoor community well, and the whole project potentially presents a whole new model for public lands acquisition, management and stewardship."

The plans will include a skyline-to-the-sea-trail, running from the top of San Vicente Redwoods, through Coast Dairies and out to the Davenport Bluffs and the future Rail Trail, though that's in a later phase, said Largay.

Land Trust Deputy Director Stephen Slade said the group has raised half of the \$7 million it's hoping to raise for trails. Gifts to the campaign will also help build five miles of trails at the Watsonville Slough Farm and three miles of trails at Glenwood Open Space Preserve in Scotts Valley.

Other campaigns within the Great Land and Trail Campaign, include *Protect Wildlife and Wildlands*—an effort to build a tunnel under Highway 17 and connect wildlife to open spaces throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains, *Build the Rail Trail ASAP*, and *Farmland Forever*.

See the draft San Vicente Trails Plan, find out more about the campaign, and make a donation on the Land Trust's website [www.LandTrustSantaCruz.org](http://www.LandTrustSantaCruz.org).