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Sent: Friday, February 23, 2018 5:08 PM

To: Ann Yang <anny@hermosabch.org>; City Council <citycouncil@hermosabch.org>

Subject: New eComment for City Council Meeting (Closed Session - 6:00 PM and Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM)

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Joseph Verbrugge submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council Meeting (Closed Session - 6:00 PM and Regular Meeting - 7:00 PM)

Item: c) REPORT 18-0139 REPORT ON ADA ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSED DECOMPOSED GRANITE PATH ON GREENBELT (Public Works Director Glen W.C. Kau and Planning Director Ken Robertson)

eComment: Running parallel to The Strand is a lovely linear trail known today as the Hermosa Valley Greenbelt. Once part of a railroad easement, this narrow 24-acre (97,000 m2) strip had long been the subject of heated controversy and pressure from various commercial interests. After years of litigation and wrangling, the city was poised to permit intensive retail and condominium development in the mid-1980s when a grassroots group spearheaded by activist Rosamond Fogg forced the matter to a vote. The City Council at the time was divided over whether the matter was of much importance but after an energetic and passionate campaign, the citizens found that the greenbelt was a vital recreational resource and mandated its preservation for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors. This ballot initiative passed by almost 87%, the highest in California history.[citation needed] The previous November the public approved a referendum increasing the utility user's tax by 4% to help pay for the purchase.[citation needed] As a result, the Hermosa Valley Greenbelt has the quality of a rural country lane, home to the monarch butterfly and many bird and animal species. At any time of day or night joggers and walkers enjoy its soft woodchip trails and graceful landscaping. The Greenbelt is also now part of the federal rails to trails network. RUDAT (an urban architectural planning group) found that Hermosa Beach, thanks in large part to the existence of the Greenbelt, was a "world class pedestrian city".

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