



VENTURA COUNTY

Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee

Ventura County Transportation Commission
751 E. Daily Dr. STE. 420
Camarillo, CA 93010

Commissioners & Executive Director Erickson,

At the December 10th, 2025 Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) meeting, the APAC heard an item to discuss the Notice of Preparation for the Santa Paula Branch Line Trail Master Plan update. By unanimous motion of the members present, the APAC moved to have this letter written to record and transmit their concerns with the NOP outreach process. Namely, the APAC feels strongly that the Community Engagement has insufficiently engaged with the affected agricultural owners and operators adjacent to the Branch Line. To address these concerns, the APAC recommends VCTC take the following actions:

- Extend the Community Engagement & Scoping Period to allow time for better outreach to and opportunity for feedback from the affected agricultural operators.
- Make greater effort to adequately notice agricultural operators & landowners, by both
 1. Creating a mailing to said operators that can be confirmed receipt, such as certified mail, and which makes immediately clear the mailing is from VCTC, regarding the branch line, identifies the recipient as affected by the project, and lays out their opportunities to engage; and
 2. Holding a meeting specifically for agricultural operators & owners affected by the project.
- Ensure that future efforts to reach the agricultural workforce & farm laborers is designed to reach those workers who neither read nor write English or Spanish,

The APAC members have concerns with the project, which will be recorded in a letter sequel to this letter. We respectfully request you accept these recommendations and act expediently to address these and our following letter's concerns.

Scott Deardorff, District 1 Chair

Patricia Martinez
Patty Martinez, District 2



Lisa Tate, District 3 Vice Chair

Josh Waters, District 4

Bobby Jones, District 5