



## MEMO

**To:** NCRA Board of Directors

**From:** Executive Director Stogner

**Date:** June 14, 2021

**Subject:** **Agenda Item E.2 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding NCRA Support for SB 69 (McGuire) and Creation of the Great Redwood Trail**

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As you know, SB 1029 (McGuire) (effective January 1, 2019) established a new mandate for NCRA which resulted in the development of a new Strategic Plan adopted by the California Transportation Commission on December 3, 2020. Generally, the new Strategic Plan requires transfer of the NWP right-of-way to SMART south of the Mendocino/Sonoma County line (MP 89), railbanking the line north of Willits for creation of the Great Redwood Trail from Willits to Eureka, and dissolution of the NCRA in favor of a successor agency that would have management responsibility from the Mendocino/Sonoma County line (MP 89) to the Port of Humboldt Bay, including the 3 Branch lines in Humboldt County.

We are well on our way toward completion of the mandate embodied in SB 1029.

SB 69 (McGuire) is the follow-up legislation that has been approved by the State Senate and is currently set for consideration in the State Assembly. This bill is consistent with the NCRA Strategic Plan and the SB 1029 mandate. It would require the dissolution of NCRA by July 1, 2022, and creation of a new Great Redwood Trail Agency with management responsibility from the Mendocino/Sonoma County line (MP 89) to the Port of Humboldt Bay. It would also designate the railroad pathways south of the Mendocino/Sonoma County line, within SMART's jurisdictional boundaries, as the "Great Redwood Trail Southern Segment." (Copy of legislation attached)

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends NCRA support for SB 69 (McGuire), a measure that is consistent with SB 1029 (McGuire) and the NCRA Strategic Plan adopted by the CTC on December 3, 2020.