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**Executive Director:**

*Joe Stupar*

**Administrative Assistant:**

*Olivia Rochelle*

Letter of support for the Santa Maria Creek Greenway:

The Ramona Chamber of Commerce endorses the Santa Maria Creek Greenway (SMCG) and trail which is a part of the Ramona General Plan as an important community goal. RCC is clearly communicating to government agencies, granting sources, and the community that we support the SMCG.

We like this project because hiking and riding are strong tourist attractions for Ramona, and this trail would bring people to and through the heart of our business area. It would also ease downtown parking pressure and reduce traffic on Main Street with its established staging area on Montecito Road. Beyond directing tourist traffic to our vibrant downtown area, the SMCG would attract more Ramonans to spend their leisure time pursuing local businesses and enjoying local restaurants. Recently, downtown Ramona has seen an upsurge in dining options, in successful vineyards, innovative downtown attractants like the cruise night and is becoming a destination location.

An additional economic benefit of SMCG is that real estate is more desirable in communities that are walkable, healthy, have access to nature, and provide a sense of being friendly, safe places to live. SMCG does contribute to all of that including creating a safe way for children to access schools. This project is the poster child of our mission statement "to develop and maintain a climate for viable economic growth, to promote loyalty to and networking for local businesses, and to demonstrate an outstanding leadership role in our community".

It also helps protect the watershed, reduce flooding, and conserve important natural resources. The project would provide a place away from traffic for walkers, bicyclists, people that use wheelchairs and ride horses in an absolutely beautiful setting with easy access to Main Street along the way. It will provide connection between homes, schools, the library, future senior center, Regional Park and business and create a community of neighbors sharing and creating a positive future for Ramona. Ramona including the RCC has been eagerly anticipating this important promised community asset since it has been adopted in the Ramona General Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Stupar", written over a large, faint watermark of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce logo.

Joe Stupar  
Executive Director