

From: [Lisa Wojcik](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Fwd: Almonte District support for Measure AA amendments - Reimagined Roadways
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 8:44:50 PM

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Agenda Item: <https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/3-26-26-TAM-Board-Packet.pdf>

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the [Almonte Neighborhood of Mill Valley/Tam Junction](#) I am writing to express our support for the Measure AA amendments currently under consideration, and to make the case for Tam Junction as an early focus of the proposed Reimagined Roadways program.

Almonte neighborhood coordinates with other concerned neighbors in Tam Valley who rely on SR-1 and Almonte Blvd. For the Almonte neighborhood, this is not an abstract policy question - Almonte Blvd and Shoreline HWY1 are [the *only* flat, walkable routes](#) our children walk and roll to to school, the roads all neighbors walk to get groceries medications, to catch the bus and our connection point between neighborhoods and the broader regional transit network. Right now, it is not safe enough for any of us. We have been working with Safe Routes to school for several years specifically asking for a curbed sidewalks or boardwalk options along Almonte Blvd. to provide protection for us from traffic as documented in [these youtube videos](#) compiled over several years, sent to our representatives and county members during Safe Routes to School meetings.

The closure of the Coyote Creek pedestrian bridge has made a difficult situation worse. With that crossing out of service, people on foot are pushed onto the unimproved highway shoulder for nearly half a mile - on a stretch of SR-1 that already appears on the High Collision Network. This is not a gap that a crosswalk or a paint stripe will fix. It requires the kind of coordinated, corridor-scale investment that Reimagined Roadways is designed to deliver.

Beyond the immediate safety concern, Tam Junction is one of the more complex intersections of competing transportation needs in the county. State highway traffic, local neighborhood circulation, bus access, and pedestrian and bike routes all converge here with very little room to maneuver. Add to that the residential growth the County's Housing Element anticipates for this area, and the pressure on this corridor is only going to increase.

We believe Reimagined Roadways represents a real opportunity to get ahead of that growth rather than respond to it after the fact. Tam Junction is ready for that investment, and the community is ready to support it.

We appreciate the Commission's time and hope to see Tam Junction reflected as a priority as this program takes shape.

Sincerely,

Lisa Rao

Almonte Resident, member of Almonte District Improvement Club, and Safe Routes to School (SR2S) volunteer & liaison for the Almonte Neighborhood

From: [Patrick Linehan](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment – Tam Junction SR-1 as a Reimagined Roadways (March 26 Meeting)
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026 10:18:44 PM

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Agenda Item: <https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/3-26-26-TAM-Board-Packet.pdf>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the proposed Measure AA amendments, particularly the creation of the Reimagined Roadways category, and to highlight Tam Junction (SR-1 between Tennessee Valley Road and Almonte Boulevard) as a corridor aligned with this new program.

The Reimagined Roadways category is intended to advance projects of countywide significance that cannot be addressed through traditional local funding. Tam Junction clearly meets this threshold as the gateway to southern Marin, serving over 11,000 residents in Tamalpais Valley alone.

There is an active safety gap today. Following the closure of the east side Coyote Creek pedestrian bridge, pedestrians are now required to detour approximately half a mile along an unimproved shoulder on SR-1 within a segment identified on the High Collision Network. This condition disproportionately impacts schoolchildren, seniors, and people with disabilities.

More broadly, Tam Junction functions as a multi-jurisdictional, multimodal corridor where regional traffic, local circulation, transit access, and active transportation converge within a constrained space. These are precisely the conditions the Countywide Transportation Plan identifies as requiring corridor-level, multimodal solutions to improve safety, access, and overall system performance.

Importantly, this corridor is also identified in the County's Housing Element as an area planned to accommodate future housing growth in the Tam Junction / Manzanita area. This anticipated growth will further increase demand on an already constrained and high-risk corridor, reinforcing the need for proactive, integrated transportation improvements that support safe access for all users.

As described in your materials, the Reimagined Roadways category is intended to address complex corridors of this nature. Tam Junction exemplifies this need—at a scale and urgency that warrants early prioritization.

I respectfully encourage the Commission to identify Tam Junction as an early priority corridor under the Reimagined Roadways program.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Patrick Linehan
Tamalpais Valley Resident
Member, Tamalpais Design Review Board

From: [Emily Spady](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Tam Junction SR-1 as a Reimagined Roadways (March 26 Meeting)
Date: Monday, March 23, 2026 4:33:51 PM

Agenda Item: <https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/3-26-26-TAM-Board-Packet.pdf>

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Tam Valley Safe Streets Coalition, I am writing to express our support for the Measure AA amendments currently under consideration, and to make the case for Tam Junction as an early focus of the proposed Reimagined Roadways program.

Our coalition works on behalf of the roughly 11,000 residents of Tamalpais Valley who rely on SR-1 daily. For this community, Tam Junction is not an abstract policy question - it is the road their kids walk to school, the route seniors take to medical appointments, and the connection point between neighborhoods and the broader regional transit network. Right now, it is not safe enough for any of them.

The closure of the Coyote Creek pedestrian bridge has made a difficult situation worse. With that crossing out of service, people on foot are pushed onto an unimproved highway shoulder for nearly half a mile - on a stretch of SR-1 that already appears on the High Collision Network. This is not a gap that a crosswalk or a paint stripe will fix. It requires the kind of coordinated, corridor-scale investment that Reimagined Roadways is designed to deliver.

Beyond the immediate safety concern, Tam Junction is one of the more complex intersections of competing transportation needs in the county. State highway traffic, local neighborhood circulation, bus access, and pedestrian and bike routes all converge here with very little room to maneuver. Add to that the residential growth the County's Housing Element anticipates for this area, and the pressure on this corridor is only going to increase.

We believe Reimagined Roadways represents a real opportunity to get ahead of that growth rather than respond to it after the fact. Tam Junction is ready for that investment, and the community is ready to support it.

We appreciate the Commission's time and hope to see Tam Junction reflected as a priority as this program takes shape.

Sincerely,

Emily Spady
Tamalpais Valley Resident
Founder, Tam Valley Safe Streets Coalition



MARIN COUNTY

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
P.O. Box 4925
San Rafael, CA 94913-4925

JOHN A. CARROLL
MARIN COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Phone (415) 472-4110
Fax (415) 491-6625
marincoe@marinschools.org

March 6, 2026

I am in support of the renewal of the Transportation Authority of Marin's Measure A sales tax and the proposed amendments to the expenditure plan. Safe and reliable transportation infrastructure is essential to student success, and programs such as TAM's Crossing Guard program play a critical role in ensuring that students can travel to and from school safely each day. Maintaining and expanding support for crossing guards helps protect our youngest pedestrians while promoting safe routes to school across Marin County communities.

The proposed amendment to TAM's local transportation sales tax expenditure plan will allow TAM to sustain vital safety investments, including the addition of five crossing guards annually, which directly benefits students, families, and schools. As the Marin County Superintendent of Schools, I strongly support this renewal because it reflects our shared commitment to student safety, community well-being, and responsible local investment in transportation systems that serve Marin County's children and families.

John A. Carroll
Marin County Superintendent of Schools



711 Grand Ave, #110
 San Rafael, CA 94901
 ph: 415.226.0855
marintransit.org

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March 4, 2026

Anne Richman
 Executive Director
 Transportation Authority of Marin
 900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
 San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Support for Measure AA Draft Amendments

Ms. Richman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Measure AA Draft Amendments. We commend the comprehensive process your staff undertook to engage stakeholders and understand community priorities to inform the proposed revisions to the Expenditure Plan. Overall, we support the draft amendments, as they maintain stability for existing programs while better aligning expenditures with current and emerging needs and community priorities.

First and foremost, we strongly support maintaining the allocation to **Category 4, Maintain and Expand Public Transit Services**. We were encouraged to see that TAM's outreach efforts confirmed a high level of community support for public transit. Measure AA represents approximately 45% of Marin Transit's operating revenues and is foundational to sustaining local transit service. This funding enables Marin Transit to keep fares low and provide Marin County with a significantly more robust transit network than comparable counties, including the ability to offer community-specific services such as Marin Access services for older adults, yellow school bus service, rural West Marin Stagecoach service, and the Muir Woods Shuttle. Marin Transit faces financial uncertainties in the coming years, and maintaining this funding source is critical.

Local Measure A/AA funding allowed Marin Transit to maintain—and in some cases expand—transit service levels during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuing to operate these vital services during a challenging period enabled transit-dependent riders to make essential trips at a time when many other counties were forced to reduce service. Sustaining these services and maintaining consistent mobility allowed Marin Transit to achieve the fastest pandemic ridership recovery in the Bay Area.

Marin Transit also supports the creation of **Category 2.4, the New Reimagined Roadways Program**, as identified in the Expenditure Plan update. This



program presents a valuable opportunity to proactively address some of Marin County's most challenging multimodal corridors, where competing demands and limited right-of-way exist. We appreciate the work TAM has already undertaken to identify a Transit Priority Network through the Countywide Transportation Plan and recognize the importance of incorporating transit improvements along these constrained corridors. We also commend the Countywide Signal Study and the Part-Time Transit Lanes Study, which will help advance transit priority measures in Marin, including transit signal priority (TSP) and dedicated transit lanes.

Finally, we support the proposed expansion of **Category 4.6, Access to Ferries and Regional Transit**, to revise eligible recipients to include Marin Transit and TAM and to broaden the program focus to all Major Transit Stops, including SMART and ferry stations. This change provides greater flexibility to strengthen both local and regional transit connectivity and aligns closely with the recent MASCOTS effort to improve integration across the regional transit network.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Betts".

Robert Betts
General Manager, Marin Transit
rbetts@marintransit.gov



March 6, 2026

Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: Town of Ross comment on the proposed amendments to the Draft Measure AA ½ cent Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the Draft Measure AA ½-cent Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan released on January 22, 2026. Town staff have reviewed the proposed changes and offer the following comments.

- **Category 3.2 – Crossing Guard Program (Increase of 0.5%)**

The Town supports increasing funding for Category 3.2, offset by a reduction in Category 1.3 (Local Interchanges), to address rising program costs.

- **Category 2.4 – Reimagined Roadway (New 4.5% Allocation)**

While the Town appreciates the intent of the new Category 2.4 to advance regional, multi-jurisdictional, and multi-modal planning consistent with the 2025 Countywide Transportation Plan, we do not support reducing Category 2.1 (Local Transportation Infrastructure) by 4% and Category 2.4 (Innovative Technology) by 0.5% to fund it.

The Sir Francis Drake Boulevard corridor through Ross is uniquely constrained by adjacent residential development and steep slopes, leaving little opportunity to reconfigure the roadway to meet “Reimagined Roadway” objectives. As a Town without a commercial tax base, Ross depends on current Category 2.1 funding levels to maintain a viable pavement rehabilitation program.

Additionally, the Town has been preparing to implement emerging AI-based traffic signal technologies on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to close the gap between recent improvements in San Anselmo and proposed upgrades in Kentfield. Reducing Innovative

Technology funding would require identifying alternative funding sources for this congestion-relief effort.

The Town of Ross values TAM's role as the Congestion Management Agency and its support in improving Marin County's transportation network. We respectfully request that the TAM Board reconsider reallocating funds away from Local Transportation Infrastructure and Innovative Technology to support the new Category 2.4.

Respectfully submitted,



Teri Dowling
Town of Ross Councilmember and TAM Board member



Christa Johnson
Town Manager, Town of Ross

From: [Loretta Figueroa](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Loretta Figueroa](#)
Subject: Marin County's Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review - due 09 March 2026
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:15:44 PM

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Marin County's Measure AA requires that the Expenditure Plan be reviewed every six years to ensure funds reflect current transportation needs, community priorities, and emerging challenges. This process represents the first six-year review of the ½-Cent Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Marin County's Measure AA. It is March 2026 and these are my current top four concerns.

EXCERPT from Measure A/AA Fact Sheet KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/FINAL-TAM_AA_Review-Factsheet.pdf

- ** MADE school travel safer by improving walk and bike routes, expanding Safe Routes to Schools to nearly 60 schools, and adding crossing guards at over 90 intersections.
- ** IMPLEMENTED AND MAINTAINED local road improvements, including pothole repair to meet the needs of drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users.

1 - Bicyclists should yield to pedestrians. I don't know how to make this happen. Locally, bicyclists ride on sidewalks and the Mill Valley to Sausalito "Multi-Use Path" (MUP). Many bicyclists YELL at pedestrians to get out of their way. Many bicyclists want runners and walkers to stay off the paved MUP and only use the unpaved gravel at the sides of the MUP. Some pedestrians need a smooth walking surface to maintain their balance. Persons using wheelchairs, canes, and walker often require a paved path.

EXCERPT from California DMV

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/handbook/california-driver-handbook/laws-and-rules-of-the-road-cont1/>

As a bicyclist, you must:

- **Obey all traffic signs, signal lights, and basic right-of-way rules.**
- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Always look over your shoulder to make sure the lane is clear before turning or changing lanes.
- **Yield to pedestrians.**
- Wear a helmet (if under 18 years old).

- Stay visible (for example, never weave between parked vehicles).
- Ride as near to the right curb or edge of the roadway as possible.
- Not ride on the sidewalk (unless allowed by the city).
- Make left and right turns in the same way drivers do, using hand signals and turn lanes.
- Use a bike lane, whenever possible, or use a through traffic lane.
- Have fully functional brakes.

2 - Lower the Speed Limit behind Tamalpais High School

<https://safetrec.berkeley.edu/tools/california-safe-speeds-toolkit/california-safe-speeds-toolkit-current-speed-limit-setting-law>

EXCERPT - Local jurisdictions can establish 15 mph school zone speed limits and extended 25 mph school zone speed limits on certain roadways adjacent to school grounds. Refer to [CVC § 22358.4\(link is external\)](#) for specific definitions and requirements. While currently only allowable on local roads, a pending ordinance may extend these allowances to the state highway system, if approved by the California Department of Transportation.

- **15 mph school zone prima facie speed limit can be established:**
 - Up to 500 ft from school grounds.
 - In a residential district (refer to [CVC § 240\(link is external\)](#)).
 - On a road with two or fewer travel lanes.
 - On a road with a maximum posted speed limit of 30 mph before and after the school zone. Note: it may be possible to reduce surrounding 35 mph zones to 30 mph using other criteria to allow for this option.

3 - Missing crosswalks, bike lanes and sidewalks behind Tamalpais High School

<https://www.chp.ca.gov/siteassets/files/english-ped-tip-card.pdf>

EXCERPT - from the California Highway Patrol Pedestrian Tip Card

** Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk on the road, walk facing traffic. Always walk as far from traffic as possible.

** Cross at the corner. Cross at crosswalks or intersections wherever possible. This is where drivers expect to see pedestrians.

The roads behind Tamalpais High School are two lanes and there are no sidewalks or bike lanes. There is a crosswalk and limited sidewalk at the intersection of Stadium/Almonte/Homestead. There are no other crosswalks behind Tamalpais High School. There is no crosswalk at Miller if you are walking west on Almonte, facing traffic, from Rosemont to Camino Alto.

4 - Between Tam Junction and Camino Alto/Miller, where there is no sidewalk, pedestrians share the bike lane with bicyclists This bike lane is marked for bikes and not pedestrians. Pedestrians need a place to walk. Where should pedestrians

walk?

Be well. Be safe.

LJ

Loretta (Lorri) Figueroa
millvalleyfig@yahoo.com

When you have more than you need, build a longer table not a higher fence.

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”— Doug Tallamy

Public Comments on Wildlife Crossing

From: [Eric O. Gold](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Sally Gale](#); [Chance Cutrano](#); [Gerald Meral](#); [Liza Prunuske](#)
Subject: Statement for 3/26/2026 TAM Board meeting: Wildlife Crossing for Chileno Valley Road
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:56:02 PM

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I'd like to begin with a simple clarification of the public record.

There were 240 public comments submitted on the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing. 234 were in support. Only 3 were opposed.

That's nearly 99% support—yet that overwhelming consensus is not reflected in the staff report or presentation.

This matters, because it speaks to how strongly the community cares about solving this problem.

For seven years, volunteers have been out on Chileno Valley Road virtually every night during the rainy season, saving animals from traffic. They've moved over 40,000 newts and amphibians by hand. And still, more than 11,000 have been killed on the road.

This is not a sustainable system. It's an emergency response to a known infrastructure problem.

We're not asking for something new or experimental. Wildlife crossings are already acknowledged as eligible under Category 2.1. The proposed language change is simply a clarification—to ensure these projects are visible, competitive, and not lost in a catch-all category that funds everything from potholes to fleet upgrades.

We've seen this before. Sea level rise projects were also technically eligible under 2.1, but TAM created a dedicated category because without it, those projects would never rise to the top. The same logic applies here.

I also want to address the idea that this is a “low-volume road” issue.

Chileno Valley Road is already rated in poor condition and will require rehabilitation. That creates a rare opportunity to integrate wildlife crossings into planned road work—saving money and improving safety for both wildlife and drivers.

Finally, we appreciate staff's willingness to “continue discussions.” But without a timeline, a point of contact, or a funding signal, that path risks leading to inaction. The next plan update isn't until 2032. The community cannot sustain this level of volunteer effort for another 6 to 8 years.^[1]

So I'll close with a simple request:

Please ensure that wildlife crossings are explicitly recognized in the Measure AA framework—or, at a minimum, formalize next steps with clear accountability: a timeline, a lead contact, and a path forward.

The community has spoken clearly. Now we need a process that responds just as clearly.

And finally, it's important to understand this: the dedication that has powered seven years of relentless volunteer effort is not going away.

We will continue to be on that road, night after night. And we will be just as relentless in working with Marin County until a permanent wildlife crossing is built.

Eric Gold
Volunteer and Founding Board Member, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade.
San Rafael Resident for over 25 years

From: [Anne Richman](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: Email I sent to Commissioners forwarding MCL's comment ltr
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:19:53 PM

From: kate powers <kpmarin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 10:29 AM
To: Anne Richman <ARichman@tam.ca.gov>
Cc: KATHERINE POWERS <kpmarin@yahoo.com>
Subject: Email I sent to Commissioners forwarding MCL's comment ltr

For info and your consideration, Anne.
Thank you for opening the door for communication.

I appreciate you, your role and responsibilities, and your leadership style,
Kate

Dear Commissioner,

The following MCL letter (attached) was sent to TAM prior the deadline for comments. I wanted to make sure you received it. I'm sending to you with the following comments.

MCL has recognized this opportunity to provide comment as critically important because TAM's proposal for Amendments to the categories in the Measure AA Expenditure Plan, requires the Plan to be approved not only by TAM's Board of Commissioners but also by Marin's Board of Supervisors and by each of the eleven local jurisdiction town and city councils. This type of opportunity to suggest changes within the categories in the Expenditure Plan may not occur again for the remaining 22 years of the Sales Tax Measure.

We recognize that as a "Self-Help County", Marin's dedicated sales tax funds for transportation may only be spent on the specific Plan-described projects, programs, or services assuring Measure AA's local dollars are spent on locally identified needs.

MCL is asking, through our attached comment letter, that additional language be added to TAM's proposed amendments that would permit Measure AA funds to be used for transportation planning, projects, and roadway elements that would integrate environmental protections and mitigations to lessen ecological impacts from transportation infrastructure both during roadway improvements and construction of new projects. We ask that such language be included in Category 2.1, the Local Roads category, and Category 2.4 Reimagined Roadways.

The added language we requested would not limit TAM's ability to prioritize projects for funding under the category amendments TAM proposes for the Expenditure Plan. It would, however, permit funds from the sales tax measure to be used on projects that integrate environmental priorities and mitigation measures to prevent, avoid, and repair impacts to wildlife and ecosystems in the areas of the transportation projects that affect

them and in doing so it might elevate the priority of those projects when there are significant benefits from such integration.

We respectfully disagree with the notion that adding the wording that MCL's letter suggests, to TAM's other suggested amendments, would necessitate recirculating the Expenditure Plan for another 45 days.

MCL's added bullet for Category 2.1 is consistent with Staff's response to public comment on wildlife crossings (page 115 of 160 of TAM's meeting agenda packet), "Roadway elements of wildlife crossings are eligible activities under Category 2.1 Local Transportation Infrastructure, should a local agency advance a wildlife crossing project."

On TAM agenda's (page 117 of 160), the slide states in response to concern over a decrease in local road funding, "Category 2.4 will provide support to local roads of countywide importance with larger capital needs." The wording MCL suggests be added to 2.4 would simply expand the idea of what could be thought of as "of countywide importance" and the funding in the proposed amendment to Category 2.4 would remain consistent with TAM's recommendation. It would simply allow that "larger capital needs" may include infrastructure components, or roadway elements, that protect wildlife (fencing) and connect wildlife and habitats necessary for their survival (crossings).

TAM's Recommendation (on page 101 of 160) is that the Board adopt Proposed Amendments as shown "on the condition that no substantive changes are required upon completion of the preceding public hearing." And that "Public comments received after March 9, 2026, but before the end of the public hearing that result in minor revisions can be incorporated into the final adopted Amended Measure AA Expenditure Plan."

We would argue that the added language MCL requests are minor revisions, and not substantive changes to the Amendments TAM is recommending. The added language would simply broaden the inclusion of possible funding for reducing environmental impacts from Expenditure Plan funded infrastructure projects. The Expenditure Plan itself with TAM's proposed amendments would remain internally consistent such that all categories would still total 100% of revenues as presented.

I hope you will have time to read the attached letter and consider MCL's requests, and that you will read all of the public comments. The purpose of a public comment period and a public hearing is to listen and consider public input that may inform decision making. To that end and for this particular plan, the broader community, including many in the environmental community, has put a lot of effort into producing thoughtful comments for your consideration.

Sincere thanks,

Kate Powers

MCL Land Use, Transportation, and Water Committee Co-chair

From: [k.scott](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: **Please Support A Safe Crossing For Wildlife on Chileno Valley Road**
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 9:46:29 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kathyscott.sf@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board Members,

I'm writing to urge your funding support of a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road in northern Marin County.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road as they migrate between the forest and Laguna Lake where they breed. I am one of hundreds of volunteers with the citizen science non-profit group Chileno Valley Newt Brigade (CVNB) who have stepped in to help provide safe passage during the annual rainy migration season, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. A recent study of Chileno Valley Road by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) concluded that unless the problem is solved, the population of newts in this area will go extinct.

There's a solution: a wildlife undercrossing so animals can connect to food, water, and mates. And CVNB volunteers can stay home instead of patrolling the hazardous road in the dark and the rain. An undercrossing effort like this is already underway in nearby Santa Clara County, where Mid-Penninsula Open Space is partnering with the county and other agencies to investigate undercrossing designs to improve amphibian connectivity near Lexington Reservoir.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Kathy Scott
Tuesday Night Co-Captain, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade

[kathy.scott](#) | kathyscott.sf@gmail.com |

From: [MaryButler](#)
To: [Anne Richman](#)
Subject: New submission for Anne Richman
Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026 10:19:35 AM

Name

Mary Butler

Email

mb.butler@comcast.net

Question or Comment

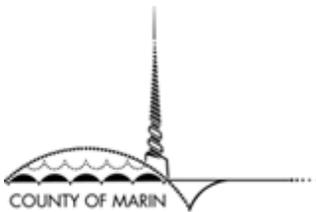
Please save the newts in Chileno Valley by building a tunnel under the road, or other feasible solution.
Thank you.
Mary Macey Butler

From: [Sonia Saltzman](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Cc: [Susannah Mrazek](#)
Subject: Fw: Approve Measure AA Funds for Chileno Valley Road [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:36:25 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-Title_Pri.png](#)
[Outlook-Facebook_L.png](#)
[Outlook-X_Twitte.png](#)
[Outlook-Instagram.png](#)
[Outlook-Linked In.png](#)
[Outlook-Youtube Lo.png](#)
[Outlook-Email Subs.png](#)

Hi Jennifer,

I hope you're doing well! Should we be forwarding these public comments to you, or is there someone else at TAM we should send them to? Thank you!

Best,
Sonia Saltzman



.....

Sonia Saltzman

District Aide, Supervisor Brian Colbert

County of Marin
Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 473-7351
CA Relay 711

Email: Sonia.Saltzman@MarinCounty.gov

Sign up for the District 2 newsletter [here](#).

Download FixItMarin [here](#).



From: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:09 AM

To: Susannah Mrazek <Susannah.Mrazek@MarinCounty.gov>; Sonia Saltzman <Sonia.Saltzman@MarinCounty.gov>

Subject: FW: Approve Measure AA Funds for Chileno Valley Road [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

From: No-Reply <No-Reply@MarinCounty.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:09:04 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

To: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>

Subject: Re: Approve Measure AA Funds for Chileno Valley Road [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

Contact Us

Email To: Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov

Hosted Page: <https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/board/district-2>

To: Brian Colbert

From: William Webb

Sender's Email Address: williamwebb35@gmail.com

Subject: Approve Measure AA Funds for Chileno Valley Road

Message: Dear Supervisor Colbert,

I am writing to encourage your support for the approval of Measure AA funds for Chileno Valley Road. Vehicle traffic on Chileno Valley Road creates a serious hazard to wildlife, especially native amphibians migrating after winter rains.

Work has already been conducted by the United States Geological Survey, Dokken Engineering, and dedicated volunteers to identify a potential solution for reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions on this roadway. Wildlife-friendly tunnels allowing safe passage under the roadway were determined to be the best solution. However, Measure AA funds are essential for completing the job in order to allow for CEQA compliance and finalizing the designs.

Thanks for your consideration!

Bill Webb
Larkspur

2026-02-09 08:12AM -0800

IP: 2601:647:300:1a60:cc7:1b88:b6c3:e3ce

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.marincounty.gov/privacy-policy>

From: [MaryAnne Flett](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt undercrossing at Laguna Lake, Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:11:19 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from maryanne.flett@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning,

I'm writing to advocate for building a crossing for newts and other amphibians on Chileno Valley Road. The California where and when I grew up was full of amphibians on the move during rainy nights but sadly, that has become rare with increased development and traffic. I believe that this is a chance to preserve a large population of amphibians and that everything possible should be done to protect them.

Thank you!
MaryAnne

--

Mary Anne Flett
Wildlife Biologist

maryanne.flett@gmail.com

text:

USFWS T&E permit #TE- PER2438806 **or TE233373-2**
CDFG SCP & MOU # S-211740004-21175-001

From: [Esther Wanning](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: A much-needed application of TAM's Measure AA funds -- a newt crossing
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:20:54 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from ewanning@estherwanning.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To The Board

The ways in which humans are destructive to wildlife are manifold, and there seems to be no stopping us. However, occasionally some of the senseless annihilation can be mitigated. One opportunity is to provide an undercrossing for Chileno Valley Road, for the many animals on their ways to or back from Laguna Lake. A great many are smashed by cars en route.

A large brigade of volunteers goes out in the evenings during the busiest seasons and hand-carry newts and frogs across. This saves some but is hardly a complete solution or a permanent one. Funding a planning grant for a tunnel under the road so that these many little animals can safely arrive at their destinations would be a very appropriate use of Measure AA funds. TAM includes sustainability planning, including mitigation of habitat destruction, in its purview. With all the money to be spent on roads for ourselves, the least we can do is spent some small proportion for the creatures who suffer so under our giant wheels. In so doing, we preserve the web of life.

This avenue has been successful in many places around the world, and I do not know anybody in this area who does not respond enthusiastically to the plan. I hope you, in your position on TAM, will do all you can to forward this proposal.

Sincerely,
Esther Wanning
San Rafael, CA

From: [David Wimpfheimer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Allocation of Funds Needed
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:04:52 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from calnatureguide@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sirs,

For many years on wet, winter nights I have seen hundreds of newts crossing Chileno Road to go to and from breeding habitats. Sadly, I have also seen many dead animals that have been run over by cars.

This shocking loss of wildlife does not have to happen. The solution is to build tunnels under the road so that the animals, and other amphibians can cross safely.

I urge the Authority to allocate \$1.2 million to complete studies that are necessary to receive state and federal funds for construction of the project.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Wimpfheimer

From: [Katherine Mitchell](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: California Newts and others
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 9:38:39 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kmmhighland@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please allocate the \$1.2 million for the studies required to receive state and federal funding for construction of tunnels under Chileno Valley Road so the California Newts and other salamanders and frogs can safely cross between the forest on one side and Laguna Lake on the other where they can complete their breeding cycle migration.

Thank you.

Katherine Mitchell
Inverness, 94937

From: [Ann Gessert](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chelino Valley newt project
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:21:41 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from agessert@live.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern

I am in full support of the project that will add culverts (or whatever are the best changes) under the road in Chelino Vallleyto allow newts, salamanders and other creatures to cross to their breeding grounds. An allocation of \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for this construction, a very small part of your budget. Please approve this allocation so this project can move forward and help these creatures survive.

Thank you

Ann Gessert
Inverness CA

From: [Aubree Ellison](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Newt Project
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 10:11:54 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from aubree@napalandtrust.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

My name is Aubree Ellison, I currently work at the Land Trust of Napa County after received my environmental studies degree at Sonoma State. As a passion project, I both volunteer with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, and have started my own newt-crossing group in the city of Napa.

I'm writing today to express my support for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road. This will not only assist the precious *Taricha torosa* (California newt), but provide an important example of a successful wildlife crossing project, which other municipalities can follow

A great amount of data has been collected to demonstrate the need for a final solution to help these newts cross the road. It has been great to volunteer with the Brigade but creating an established undercrossing would allow volunteers to move on to helping the next vulnerable population somewhere else.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Aubree Ellison
Monitoring Program Assistant



P:707.261.6328
Land Trust of Napa County
1700 Soscol Ave, Suite 20
Napa, CA 94559

www.napalandtrust.org

From: nancy@wisdomtracks.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Newt Study
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:16:36 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from nancy@wisdomtracks.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to support the allocation of \$1.2 million to complete the necessary studies for state and federal funding of a safe tunnel crossing under Chileno Valley Road for California Newts and other salamanders.

This may seem like a small thing but taking action that recognizes we share this planet with, and therefore have a responsibility to, the more-than-human world as well as ourselves is critical to all survival,

Thank you,

Nancy Binzen
Woodacre

From: [martha davis](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Newts
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:13:07 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mlcmarthadavis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Transportation Authority of Marin,

In these times, saving lives -- including the lives of creatures as humble as the Chileno Valley newts -- makes a difference.

Please fund the studies that will enable Marin County to receive the state and federal funding needed to protect these innocent creatures. All they are doing is trying to complete their natural life cycle but cannot because they are massacred by the thousands by passing cars.

We are the ones who have built these roads and we are the only ones who can modify the roads to reduce our impact on these creatures. Other transportation districts have made similar accommodations, such as the wildlife tunnels built in southern California to accommodate mountain lions and other migrating species .

This fix is simple. Please look in the mirror and think about what your decision means to ensuring the survival of the newts in Chileno Valley. Please be a hero for the newts. The communities you serve in Marin will thank you.

Martha Davis
Nicasio, CA

--

mlcmarthadavis@gmail.com

"Adjust to changing times while staying true to your principles."

Jimmy Carter

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

Elie Wiesel

From: [Charlie Lai](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Road - Measure AA Wildlife Undercrossing Funding
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 4:16:57 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from charlie.lai@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

My name is Charlie Lai, and I am reaching out to ask for your support in funding a **planning grant** for a permanent wildlife undercrossing on Chileno Valley Road!

Chileno Valley Road happens to bisect a natural migratory path for numerous amphibian species. Especially in the winter months, thousands of frogs, newts and salamanders emerge from the hillside to breed in Laguna lake. The California Newt and the Red Legged Frog, in particular, are "Species of Special Concern". At the Federal level, the Red Legged Frog is "Threatened".

To reach the lake, they cross a limited stretch of Chileno Valley Road - we call this section a "hot spot". Unfortunately because of their small size, they are difficult for drivers to see. Moreover, they come out en masse in the early evening, making sightings even harder. As a result, most are crushed. In recent years volunteers have patrolled the road nightly to help mitigate the number of deaths, but this is unsustainable.

As the board considers Measure AA allocations, it is an ideal time to pair road repair considerations together with wildlife crossing considerations. Wildlife crossings - both overpasses and underpasses (or undercrossings) - are becoming more and more prevalent across California ([link](#)). I am truly hopeful that the board can support funding for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife undercrossing **planning grant**!

Thank you so much for your time,
Charlie Lai

From: [patrice moore](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Road funding
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 8:48:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from all5moores@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Patrice Moore

From: [Randy Breaux](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Sally Gale](#); [Indigo Bannister](#); [Nancy Stclair Breaux](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Road Newt Brigade volunteer plea!
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:05:00 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gobroman@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Please Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Funding

To the Editor,

I appreciated the Marin Voice column "Chileno Valley Road crossing is deadly for our newts" (Jan. 30). As the article explains, this road has become a dangerous barrier for wildlife trying to reach Laguna Lake.

I have been an active volunteer for over 5 years with the CVNB helping newts and frogs and other reptiles and amphibians cross safely, but hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What's needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own.

The Transportation Authority of Marin is currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing that protects animals, improves safety, and reflects community environmental values.

I urge TAM to make this project a priority.

Randy Breaux, CEBS, CRPS
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

From: [Fred Rinne](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Road Undercrossing
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 5:27:28 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from fredrinne@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

I urge your organization to endorse a funding grant for wildlife undercrossing at Chileno Valley Road to protect the biodiversity of this special place where newts and other animals must cross this dangerous road to get to water they have done thousands of years. That this is a wildlife hot spot shows it should be priority for an undercrossing there.

Thank you for your time,
Fred Rinne

From: [Christine Flaga](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:47:15 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cflaga@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the TAM Board,

I have been a brigadier of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade for three years now. I've been on the road during peak California Newt migration conditions, and it's astounding to watch the adult newts, as well as other amphibian species like the federally threatened red legged frog, pour out of the hills towards the laguna to breed. Later in the season, we see the adults emerging from the opposite side of the road to make their journey from the lake back into the hills. Their journey back into the hillside means that they have successfully bred and laid their eggs in the lake. You can see that they have been in the lake with little bits of algae still clinging to their bodies. The earliest sign of the migration, in October and November, are the small, juvenile newts emerging from the lake and migrating to the hills where they spend the next five years maturing to a breeding adult. After reaching adulthood, they can travel to the lake and back to the hillside for up to 30 years! Of course that means they have to successfully cross the road twice every year. Once you learn to appreciate the beauty and life cycle of these creatures, it is devastating to find their smashed bodies on the road knowing that you didn't get to them in time before a car or truck ran over them.

I'm asking for your support to fund a grant for a permanent wildlife under-crossing infrastructure on Chileno Valley Road. As much as I love being a brigadier and spending evenings to assist these animals in successful passage across the road, this is not a sustainable long term solution to the problem. This wildlife crossing will provide improved road conditions and serve to protect environmental quality and biological diversity. It will also serve as a model for similar locations across the country. Please join us in saving the wildlife whose continued existence depends on safe passage across Chileno Valley Road.

Sincerely,

Christine Flaga

Brigadier, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade

From: [michael neuman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley road
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 12:22:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from barnasailor@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Transportation Authority of Marin,

Every rainy night on Chileno Valley Road in northern Marin County, California Newts and a variety of other salamanders and frogs cross the road between the forest on one side and Laguna Lake on the other side to complete their breeding cycle migration.

Volunteers from the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade move as many animals as possible but cannot save them all. Every year, thousands of these innocent creatures are run over by cars and trucks.

One solution is to create tunnels under the road that the animals can safely use. This is a wise use of funds managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for construction.

Thank you,

Michael Neuman
Inverness Park resident and Chileno Valley bicycle rider

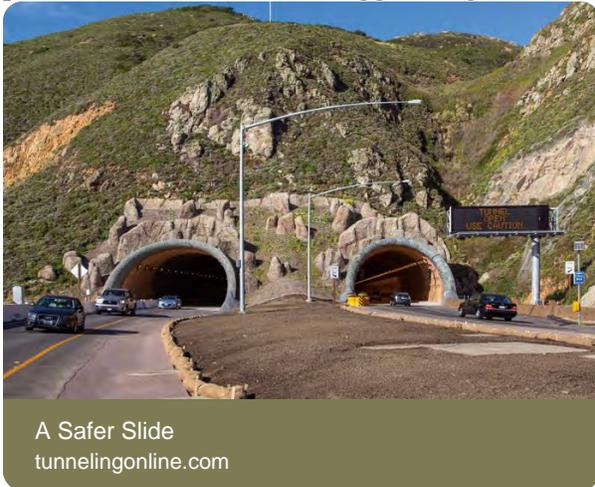
From: [Susan Gladwin](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley tunnel
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:28:15 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from segladwin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the budget needed to build a tunnel under Chileno Valley to protect the wildlife (newts, etc.) who die crossing the road there.

Please refer to the success of the Devil's Slide tunnel on Highway One that successfully protected falcons and red-legged frogs.



Thank you for supporting this.
Susan Gladwin
Mill Valley, CA

From: [Diana Barnes](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley under-crossing
Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026 10:40:24 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from diaba@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please approve the Chileno Valley under-crossing to kept our treasured newts safe.
Thank you, Diana Barnes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rick parmer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Jerry Meral](#); [Sally Gale](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley wildlife crossing project allocation request
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:13:45 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from rrparker@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM board,

There are road projects and there are road projects. Most have no appreciable impact on climate change or native wildlife protection.

Please consider breaking the TAM project allocation “norm” and supporting the 1.2 million ask for the Chileno Valley road wildlife crossing.

The newts have been arguably using their own migration “road” since the last ice age. They need us humans to right the wrong of ignoring their “right to safe passage” as fellow earth dwellers since we disrupted their peaceful annual trek with placement of that perilous road.

Cheers, Rick Parmer

Former student of Park Elementary school, Mill Valley

“Survivor/boat evacuee at 3 years old” Starling Road, Mill Valley flood of 1955....there should have been a TAM project to prevent that neighborhood flooding back then!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Greg Haskins](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Project: Funding Allocation Request
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:18:31 AM

You don't often get email from haskins02@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Jennifer Doucette:

I am long-term resident of Marin County (since I was born in December 1951). I would like to go on record in supporting the funding request for the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Project for the protection of amphibians, which are being slaughtered by the thousands along Chino Valley Road.

Thank you.

Greg R. Haskins
San Rafael, CA.
94901
Haskins02@yahoo.com

From: [Lynette La Mere](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Crossing
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 11:01:48 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lynette@purejoyliving.blog. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please help secure a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road

Thank you

From: [Andrew Chou-Belden](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: fund studies for newt tunnels
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:02:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from andrewchoubelden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Transportation Authority of Marin,

I, Andrew Chou-Belden, am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Authority allocating research funds that will lead to the construction of tunnels for California Newts and frogs crossing Chileno Valley Road for their breeding cycle migration.

As a California Species of Special Concern, newts are especially vulnerable to being struck by vehicles, and this occurs thousands of times a year. I have no doubt that future generations of Marin county residents would look kindly upon a construction project to protect these iconic creatures.

Sincerely,
Andrew Chou-Belden

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: A bridge to safety
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:15:34 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Kris Iwasaki <krisiwasaki@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:03 AM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Subject: A bridge to safety

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from krisiwasaki@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern, TAM, please consider this when appropriating funds:

>> 'create tunnels under the road that the animals can safely use. This is a very appropriate use of funds managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin. The Authority spends more than \$50 million a year. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for construction.'

Thank you,
Kristine Iwasaki
Belvedere, Ca

From: [Sonia Saltzman](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: Fw: Chileno Valley Road Improvements [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:44:22 AM

From: No-Reply <No-Reply@MarinCounty.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 1, 2026 8:48:09 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Chileno Valley Road Improvements [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

Contact Us

Email To:	Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov
Hosted Page:	https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/board/district-2/brian-colbert
To:	Brian Colbert
From:	Owen Gump
Sender's Email Address:	owenmgump@yahoo.com
Subject:	Chileno Valley Road Improvements
Message:	Dear Supervisor Colbert,

Per Jerry Meral's "Marin Voice" editorial in the Marin IJ from 1/31/26, I'm writing to encourage you to support using Measure AA funds to address numerous issues on Chileno Valley Road as part of the six-year Measure AA expenditure revision plan. Meral outlines the need for reptile tunnels to protect the local newt population (I'm sure you've heard of the Newt Brigade), and as a cyclist I'd like to both second this and highlight the road's general maintenance condition. Due to both ranch traffic and an increase in tourism, many sections of the road's pavement are in dire need of repair. The area is remote and far from emergency services, which could render any accident all the more serious. Please take both these issues into consideration as you work to revise the Measure AA expenditure revision plan for the safety of both humans and wildlife.

Thanks and best regards,

Owen Gump, Fairfax

2026-02-01 08:33PM -0800
 IP: 2600:1700:50e0:88bf:447:c69f:d6a:60cc

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.marincounty.gov/privacy-policy>

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: New submission from TAM Contact Form
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 1:38:22 PM

From: TAM Contact Form <info@tam.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 11:53 AM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Subject: New submission from TAM Contact Form

Name

Pat Dickens

Email

pwdickens@yahoo.com

Phone

Leave A Comment

Please allocate 1.2 million to complete the studies for tunnels under the road on Chileno Valley Road to protect newts and other amphibians who cross the road. Thank you!

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: Please Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Funding
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 5:49:55 PM

From: LINDA SHEPPARD <lsheppard08@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 5:15 PM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Subject: Please Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Funding

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lsheppard08@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

TAM Commissioners,

I have been a member of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade for seven years and I know that crossing Chileno Valley Road is deadly for our newts. This road has become a dangerous barrier for wildlife trying to reach Laguna Lake. Over the years traffic, especially speeding traffic, has increased. Only the countless hours of the volunteers have prevented increased deaths of newts, red-legged frogs, and other fauna.

Hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What's needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

You as a commissioner on the Transportation Authority of Marin, are currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing that protects animals, improves safety, and reflects community environmental values. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Linda Sheppard

Petaluma, CA 94954

"When I was young, I admired intelligent people. Now I admire kind people."

From: [Sonia Saltzman](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: Fw: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Fund on Chileno Valley Rd [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:03:07 PM

From: No-Reply <No-Reply@MarinCounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:06:03 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Fund on Chileno Valley Rd [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

Contact Us

Email To:	Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov
Hosted Page:	https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/board/district-2/brian-colbert
To:	Brian Colbert
From:	Robin Clarke
Sender's Email Address:	robinlynnclarke@gmail.com
Subject:	Please Support Wildlife Crossing Fund on Chileno Valley Rd

Message: Dear Mr Colbert

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

I am new to the Newt Brigade, and what I have found is a tremendous amount of volunteers that come from all over the greater Bay Area to hand carry newts across the road to safety at the cost of their own safety. And even with all these volunteers walking a mile long stretch of road we still miss some. Finding dead newts you were steps away from helping is a disheartening feeling.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Robin Clarke

2026-02-09 07:02AM -0800
IP: 2601:645:b83:f480:3015:4be:7401:b12

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.marincounty.gov/privacy-policy>

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: Protect salamanders on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:14:03 PM

From: Paul Barnett <paul@barnettfamily.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:09 AM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Cc: Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org
Subject: Protect salamanders on Chileno Valley Road

Some people who received this message don't often get email from paul@barnettfamily.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Colin and TAM Board,

I am writing to ask Transportation Authority of Marin to include as a priority the protection of salamanders with wildlife crossings at Chileno Valley Road. Other Bay Area jurisdictions have taken steps to protect these creatures from automobile traffic, most notably, the seasonal closings of South Park Drive in Tilden Park, in Berkeley. Seasonal road closure does not seem feasible in this location. Please support below grade wildlife crossings to protect these amphibians as they migrate to and from their breeding areas.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Barnett

San Rafael, CA 94903

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 4:20:01 PM

From: Daniela Powers <danielapowers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:26 PM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. I am an active volunteer with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and have been for 4 years. Despite our dedication, newts still get run over by the thousands each year, as it is not feasible to patrol the road 24/7. What is needed is a long-term, practical, scalable solution for safe wildlife crossing.

Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

I urge TAM to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Daniela Powers

From: [Molly Graham](#)
To: [Anne Richman](#)
Cc: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: FW: save marin wildlife
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:31:18 AM

FYI – Please see below. Original Message from Jerry and then forwarded to a list from Max Perrey.

Molly

Graham

From: greenchange@googlegroups.com <greenchange@googlegroups.com> **On Behalf Of** Max Perrey
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:27 PM
To: Green Change <greenchange@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Fwd: save marin wildlife

Passing along from Jerry Meral...



Max Perrey

[Create your own email signature](#)



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jerry Meral <jerrymeral@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, 9 Feb 2026 at 19:52
Subject: save marin wildlife
To: Jerry Meral <jerrymeral@gmail.com>

Dear Friend of Marin County Wildlife



Every rainy night on Chileno Valley Road in northern Marin County, California Newts and a variety of other salamanders and frogs cross the road between the forest on one side and Laguna Lake on the other side to complete their breeding cycle migration.

Volunteers from the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade move as many animals as possible but cannot save them all. Every year, thousands of these innocent creatures are run over by cars and trucks.

The solution is to create tunnels under the road that the animals can safely use. This is a very appropriate use of funds managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin. The Authority spends more than \$50 million a year. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for construction.

Please contact the Transportation Authority of Marin and ask them to make this allocation. Send your request to TAM at info@tam.ca.gov . They will decide this issue in the next few weeks.

Thank you for caring about the creatures with whom we share Marin County, and the planet.

Jerry Meral
Chileno Valley Newt Brigade

www.chilenovalleynewtbrigade.org

apologies for any cross posting

--

Jerry Meral

jerrymeral@gmail.com

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Green Change" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to greenchange+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion visit

https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/greenchange/CAE%2BN0m29-_Db2Rc_5wUe98aL157JL2bunJLTJEyrprtCC%2BX%2B4Q%40mail.gmail.com.

From: [Sonia Saltzman](#)
To: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
Cc: [Susannah Mrazek](#)
Subject: Fw: Transportation Authority of Marin [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:04:24 AM

Hi Jennifer,

Forwarding this public comment. Thanks!

From: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 7:21 PM
To: Susannah Mrazek <Susannah.Mrazek@MarinCounty.gov>; Sonia Saltzman <Sonia.Saltzman@MarinCounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Transportation Authority of Marin [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

From: No-Reply <No-Reply@MarinCounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 7:21:04 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Brian Colbert <Brian.Colbert@MarinCounty.gov>
Subject: Re: Transportation Authority of Marin [SENT FROM A PUBLIC FORM]

Contact Us

Email To:	Brian.Colbert@marincounty.gov
Hosted Page:	https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/board/district-2
To:	Brian Colbert
From:	Paul da Silva
Sender's Email Address:	pgsilva@sonic.net
Subject:	Transportation Authority of Marin
Message:	Dear Brian -

Marin County now has a great opportunity to show leadership and compliance with emerging public policy multiple levels. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), in deciding its Measure AA funding priorities, can dedicate funds to the proposed Chileno Valley undercrossing. This will help newts and frogs survive by avoiding getting crushed by automobiles and will also support the amazing volunteers of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade who have turned out at night and in the

rain for years to save these imperiled animals.

Such action would comply with California's Room to Roam Act (AB 1889), which directs cities and counties to minimize the disruption of wildlife movement, as well as with the spirit of the state's Safe Roads and Wildlife Protection Act (A.B. 2344), which requires the California Department of Transportation to prioritize wildlife crossing structures when improving or building roads. It would also help Marin to do its part in reaching Targets #1, #4 & 14 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

I respectfully ask that you do all that you can as a TAM Commissioner to help this dream become reality.

All the best,
Paul

2026-02-16 07:16PM -0800
IP: 162.234.254.236

From: magwhls@comcast.net
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: kjacobs@novato.gov
Subject: Input for Measure AA 6-Year Review
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 11:47:40 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from magwhls@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board,

I write in support of using Measure AA funds to create an amphibian-friendly wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. Across the country municipalities are creating wildlife crossings - it's all the rage! Mortality of wildlife on our roads is an ongoing crisis - a number of books, for children and adults, have been written about the importance of these crossings.

California has a mapping system showing the existing crossings - lets get on there!

<https://www.wildlandsnetwork.org/newsroom/interactive-ca-wildlife-crossings-map>

Please, make this a priority for this round of funding and help our vulnerable amphibians, and reptiles, make it across Chileno Valley Road. I am counting on you all and especially my TAM representative Kevin Jacobs!

Thank you for your anticipated compassion and environmental stewardship.

Maggie Rufo
Novato

From: [Lewis Baden](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Laguna Lake Amphibians
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 3:20:19 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lewisbaden@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Transportation Authority of Marin,

Please allocate an estimated 1.2 million dollars to build tunnels for our amphibian-friends, including California Newts and the threatened Red Legged Frogs, near and around Laguna Lake. These tunnels, if built, will help the local amphibians in their spawning travels to cross roads safely.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lewis Baden

From: [Jerry Meral](#)
To: [Anne Richman](#); [TAM Info](#)
Subject: legal status of Chileno Valley Road fix
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 1:16:45 PM
Attachments:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jerrymeral@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Anne

Please distribute the attached to the TAM Commissioners. We have had some feedback questioning whether this project is eligible for TAM funding. The attached is our analysis of why the project is eligible, and why it meets the criteria set out in the 2050 plan.

Many thanks for your help.

best regards

Jerry

--

Jerry Meral

jerrymeral@gmail.com

Repairing Chileno Valley Road in a way which allows safe animal passage
Submitted by Chileno Valley Newt Brigade
February 22, 2026

There are two important questions about TAM's involvement in repairing Chileno Valley Road, including animal passage.

Does TAM have the legal authority to install animal passage facilities as part of repairing the road? Do the key TAM authorizing documents support the repair of Chileno Valley Road to include safe animal passage?

The answer to both these questions is "yes". The texts of Measure AA, the accompanying implementation plan, and the TAM 2050 transportation plan all support this conclusion.

The 2050 transportation plan noting habitat destruction and climate change is the overarching justification for all county transportation projects. Measure AA is a funding mechanism that must conform to the mission of the 2050 plan

The Chileno Valley road project should be considered for funding pursuant to Measure AA since it meets the overall criteria of the 2050 plan. There may not be any other single project that meets all the criteria. Other road repair projects the TAM board is considering don't mitigate climate change or habitat destruction in any direct way.

There is substantial scientific evidence for the effectiveness of the habitat protection elements of the Chileno Valley road project.

This project will reduce animal mortality. The Monkton Amphibian Crossing project in Vermont is an example of a successful initiative designed to protect migrating newts, salamanders, and frogs from roadkill, utilizing specialized tunnels and drift fencing. Located on Monkton-Vergennes Road, it has reduced amphibian mortality by over 80%, ensuring safe passage for thousands of creatures.

Case law under the federal Endangered Species Act makes it clear that the current condition of the road is a violation of the Act, since it results in substantial take of a listed species, the California Red Legged Frog.

All the following material in *italics* are quotes from TAM documents. **Bold** text is simply for added emphasis.

Measure AA. SECTION 14. PROPOSITION

There shall be proposed to the voters of Marin County the following proposition:

In order to:

- *relieve traffic congestion on Highway 101 and local roads;*
- *fix potholes/maintain local roads;*
- *improve interchanges/access to/from Highway 101;*
- *expand safe routes to schools, including school bus service/funding crossing guards; and,*
- *provide local transit, including options for seniors/persons with disabilities;*

There is no question that maintaining local roads can include repairing Chileno Valley Road in a way which provides safe passage for animals underneath the road.

Measure aa further states:

SECTION 5. PURPOSE

*The Board of Supervisors, and a majority of the cities of Belvedere, Larkspur, Mill Valley, Novato, San Rafael, and Sausalito, and the towns of Corte Madera, Fairfax, Ross, San Anselmo, and Tiburon, representing all of the cities and towns in Marin County and all of the incorporated population have approved the Sales Tax Renewal Expenditure Plan as required by Public Utilities Code Section 180206(b). Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 180201, TAM requests the Board of Supervisors to call for a special election (to be consolidated with the County of Marin's General Election) to be held on November 6, 2018 and to submit a measure to the voters of Marin County for their approval that would, if so approved, authorize TAM to extend collection of the existing one-half of one percent retail transactions and use tax through March 31, 2049 and authorize TAM to issue limited tax bonds to finance the transportation improvements set forth in **the 30-Year Sales Tax Renewal Expenditure Plan**.*

The 30-Year Sales Tax Renewal Expenditure Plan states

*It supports **an environmentally sustainable future** while providing transportation options throughout the county. (p. 6).*

Without providing animal passage, this promise cannot be kept, since the animal populations using Chileno Valley Road are in danger of extinction.

All the projects and programs included in this Expenditure Plan provide essential transportation infrastructure and services in Marin. (p.12).

It is undeniable that Chileno Valley Road is essential transportation infrastructure, including its ability to maintain wildlife populations that are influenced by its use.

*The Expenditure Plan is organized around four categories or strategies designed to meet the current needs of our businesses and residents, while **protecting the environment** and ensuring the high quality of life enjoyed in Marin. P. 12.*

Improving Chileno Valley Road is critical to protecting the environment.

The TAM Marin Countywide Transportation Plan 2050 includes the following:

*Page 3. In this new era of climate change, sustainability in transportation planning refers both to the desire to mitigate environmental degradation (air, noise, and light pollution, carbon emissions, **habitat destruction**, etc.) locally while also accepting the global reality of a changing planet and the need to adapt infrastructure and system operations to account for hazards such as more extreme temperatures, storm events, flooding, wildfires, tsunamis, and sea level rise. A sustainable transportation system is a resilient transportation system.*

Page 6

*This plan provides essential transportation infrastructure and services for people who live and work in Marin County. The Expenditure Plan will improve traffic operations and infrastructure on city streets and highways; fix potholes and maintain local roads; provide transit services within the county, including services for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities; improve air quality; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and create local jobs. It **supports an environmentally sustainable future** while providing transportation options throughout the county.*

Page 8

*This funding stream has provided significant benefits that have helped improve mobility, reduce local congestion, **protect the environment**, enhance safety, and provide a variety of high quality transportation options to meet local needs.*

Page 12

*Supports an efficient and effective transportation system that **protects and sustains Marin County's natural environment** and unique quality of life.*

PLAN COMPONENTS

*The Expenditure Plan is organized around four categories or strategies designed to meet the current needs of our businesses and residents, while **protecting the environment** and ensuring the high quality of life enjoyed in Marin.*

*The four categories outlined in Figure 3 will help achieve Expenditure Plan goals: Providing congestion relief and enhancing mobility, improving infrastructure, and providing diverse choices for all travel modes **to benefit the environment** and our community.*

PLAN COMPONENTS *The Expenditure Plan is organized around four categories or strategies designed to meet the current needs of our businesses and residents, while **protecting the environment** and ensuring the high quality of life enjoyed in Marin.*

Page 16

*The Expenditure Plan is organized around four categories designed to **protect the environment** and quality of life enjoyed in Marin County.*

From: [Lance Barlas](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Measure AA Expenditure Plan
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:53:06 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lbarlas1@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

This letter is intended as a Public Comment regarding the Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review

Dear TAM Board:

I have an intensely personal relationship with Chileno Valley Road and the wildlife that utilize it. I am one of some 80 volunteers with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade who spend our winter nights, often in the wind and rain, transporting newts safely across this roadway. California newts and rough-skinned newts have evolved in this location over thousands of years. Their life cycle requires them to breed in Laguna Lake and but spend the majority of their adult lives on the wooded hillside adjacent to the lake. To do so they must cross Chileno Valley Road, where each breeding season they are run over by the thousands. Over the past seven years we have documented and transported to safety over 38,000 newts, but were unable to save over 11,000 that we documented dead on the road.

Several other amphibian species are also present on Chileno Valley Road. Of particular note is the California Red Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), a federally listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Its population has undergone a major decline in recent decades, and it has been extirpated from approximately 70% of its former range in California. Over the past 2 1/2 years our group has documented about 1600 live California RLF's on Chileno Valley Road, but also 300 dead.

According to the Federal Register, 11 September 2000, "Based on movements of *Rana draytonii*, USFWS recognized the primary constituent elements for critical habitat to be, at a minimum, two (or more) suitable breeding locations, a permanent water source, associated uplands surrounding these water bodies up to 150 m from the water's edge, all within 2 km of one another and connected by barrier-free dispersal habitat . . ."

The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade is completing a reconnaissance level study of designs for improving the road, paid for by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and undertaken by the United States Geological Survey and Dokken Bridge Engineering.

I am requesting that as part of your six-year Measure AA capital outlay review, that you allocate \$1.2 million over the next two years for the purpose of modifying Chileno Valley Road in the vicinity of Laguna Lake, both to repair and improve this section of the road, and to build an undercrossing to prevent ongoing road kill of the amphibians that cannot currently avoid crossing this road. This fund allocation will be sufficient to bring the road repair design to 65%, and to complete a CEQA analysis. I believe that this falls squarely within the mandate of the Transportation Authority of Marin. The Marin Countywide Transportation Plan 2050 Executive Summary

(December 2024), under the heading "A Sustainable Future Built on Innovation and Resilience" (Page 8) states its goal:

"Actively partner to implement transportation strategies to support climate resiliency, *environmental protection*, and economic development throughout Marin's communities."

It goes on:

"In this new era of climate change, sustainability in transportation planning involves *mitigating local environmental degradation* while adapting infrastructure and system operations to account for more extreme temperatures, storm events, fire risk, and sea level rise."

I believe that the vast majority of Marin County citizens would support this project. I urge TAM to strongly consider this request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lance Barlas, M.D.

From: [Jack Liebster](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: sallygale@gmail.com
Subject: Measure AA funding is Needed for Newts.
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 9:22:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jackliebster01@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

For at least seven years, an intrepid band of volunteers have come out in the middle of rainy nights, at risk to their own lives, to help keep thousands of newts and other wildlife from being crushed by cars passing along Chileno Valley Road. More than 40,000 animals have been saved by this effort. But we need a permanent infrastructure solution.

To address the environmental objectives included in Measure AA, to protect wildlife, and to make needed safety and road improvements along Laguna Lake, TAM should support a planning grant for undercrossings of Chileno Valley Road so wildlife can safely cross on their own. A variety of wildlife undercrossings are being developed across the state, and we need one of our own.

Please make this project a priority.

Thank you very much.

Jack Liebster, Corte Madera.

From: [K.F.S.](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Measure AA Funds Use
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 7:09:12 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kriyanow@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello TAM,

I am writing to request the allocation of funds for the Chileno Valley Road newt/wildlife permanent crossing.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

Kriya Stevens

, Forest Knolls, CA 94933

"The greatness of a nation can be judged by how it treats its weakest member,"

From: [Cec](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Measure AA funds
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:14:14 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from cmrejas@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To Whom This Concerns,

Please use Measure AA funds for an under crossing for wildlife on Chileno Valley Road. I lived in Marin County for many years and I've personally stopped and tried to help move amphibians and reptiles out of the roadways. Please appropriate funding to this very worthy cause.

Cecilia Rejas, Santa Rosa, CA
Sent from my iPhone

From: [TAM Contact Form](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: New submission from TAM Contact Form
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:48:50 PM

Name

Sandra Wallace

Email

woodwan@earthlink.net

Phone

Leave A Comment

We Marinites love our natural world. Where else would you see folks of all ages patrolling county backroads late at night, and rejoicing with each amphibian they can pick up and relocate safely?

However, this is not a safe pastime, and it's a wonder that said Marinites are not themselves hit by cars in the darkness.

We think it would be an ideal project for Marin County to build an underpass to facilitate the road crossing for the salamanders and newts. Perhaps a series of pipes under the road bed would suffice—nothing as elegant as the larger crossings for deer and other large mammals we see on major highways.

We hope this gets some attention and discussion at the upcoming TAM meeting.

Thanks!

Sandra Wallace and Michael Frankel
Nicasio, CA

From: [TAM Contact Form](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: New submission from TAM Contact Form
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 1:09:38 PM

Name

Claudia Wornum

Email

claudiawornum@comcast.net

Phone

Leave A Comment

Dear [Commissioner / TAM Board],

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Claudia Wornum

From: [TAM Contact Form](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: New submission from TAM Contact Form
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:03:03 PM

Name

David Wimpfheimer

Email

calnatureguide@gmail.com

Phone

Leave A Comment

Dear Sirs,

For many years on wet, winter nights I have seen hundreds of newts crossing Chileno Road to go to and from breeding habitats. Sadly, I have also seen many dead animals that have been run over by cars.

This shocking loss of wildlife does not have to happen. The solution is to build tunnels under the road so that the animals, and other amphibians can cross safely.

I urge the Authority to allocate \$1.2 million to complete studies that are necessary to receive state and federal funds for construction of the project.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

David Wimpfheimer

From: [hilde simon](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: newt crossing
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:22:08 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hildesimon@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Staff,

I add my name to others to encourage you to allocate funds for newt crossings on Chileno Valley Road.

We do not have to accept the killing of thousands of newts as unavoidable when there is such an easy fix.

Thank you,

Hilde Simon

Corte Madera, CA 94925

From: [Judith Ciani Smith](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt crossing
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 4:48:10 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from jeciani@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Transportation Authority

I am writing to respectfully urge you to fund the studies needed to facilitate construction of tunnels under the roads where newts and frogs cross to their breeding grounds near Laguna Lake.

All denizens of the natural world deserve the opportunity to exist and thrive in and thereby enrich the fabric of life which we humans have a sacred duty to protect and preserve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Judith Ciani Smith
!Inverness CA
94937

From: [Marcin Whitman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt/wildlife crossing for Chicano Valley road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 6:48:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from water@terraserve.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

For seven years, hundreds of volunteers of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, have walked the mile-long route on cold, rainy winter nights to help move newts — as well as frogs, salamanders, toads, turtles and other vulnerable wildlife between their forest home and the lake, and back again when they are done breeding

Since the group's inception, the volunteers have rescued more than 40,000 animals. But despite the heroic effort, thousands of newts and other animals are still being run over.

IN ADDITION, this volunteer effort is just a stopgap measure. According to USGS the newts future is in peril: Unless the problem is solved, populations of newts in this area will go extinct.

I urge you to include moving forward the construction of newt- and frog-friendly tunnels under the road. Such have effectively been used in similar situations. Time is running out for the newt and we cannot continue to rely on volunteers to mitigate a problem caused by a public road alignment. Time to step up and take care of this issue. This means, among other actions, **adding expedient funding of this newt tunnel project to the Measure AA budget** (soon up for a rare opportunity for revision).

M Whitman

From: [Ingrid Noyes](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Tess Elliott](#)
Subject: Newts and frogs of Laguna Lake
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 2:48:45 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ingridnoyes@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

February 24, 2026

To the Transportation Authority of Marin:

I'm writing to ask that you allocate some funds towards getting tunnels under Chileno Valley Road to reduce the amount of newts and frogs that get squished on that road every year. I can't think of a better way to use these funds, and it sounds like it would only require a very small portion of our transportation budget. We humans put that road right between the lake and the forest, and the amphibians need to get from one place to the other to complete their breeding cycle. It seems only fair that we mitigate the damage created from this deadly obstacle we have put in their way. They were here first, after all, and as fellow residents of the planet, they deserve our consideration.

I hope you will seriously consider this (and do it!).
Thank you very much.

Ingrid Noyes
Novato CA

From: [Carina DeVera](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Now is the time to invest in a wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 8:41:24 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-kzvf031.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_9f85c0.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_92717e.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_b1b598.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_9d6574.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cdevera@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to express my strong support for funding a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. While I work in animal welfare in Marin, I am writing today in my personal capacity as a community member who cares deeply about protecting local wildlife.

Every year, large numbers of amphibians struck by vehicles as they attempt to cross the road to breed at Laguna Lake. Community volunteers have stepped up to reduce the loss of life, but volunteer patrols are not a substitute for a safe, permanent solution.

Planning funding now would ensure that wildlife crossing infrastructure can be thoughtfully incorporated into future road improvements, making the project more cost-effective and aligned with long-term transportation goals. Voters approved Measure AA to maintain our roads while protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly advances both priorities.

In a world where so much feels out of our control, it's rare that we get to make such an immediate, meaningful difference for a small creature completely at our mercy. I respectfully urge you to include funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you for your time and leadership,

Warmly,

Carina DeVera

Digital Marketing Manager

she/her

415.506.6248 Direct

415.883.4621 Campus

marin humane
Lives made happy.



From: [Judith Forrest](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Permanent Safe Newt Crossing
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 1:38:51 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from judith@perspective2.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Professionals,

I am writing to encourage the funding of the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. The construction of an under-road tunnel would be of enormous benefit to the breeding newts and also a wise safety measure for the many volunteers rescue workers who have put many hours into transporting the newts across the road.

In these times, it is increasingly important and necessary that we do what we can to protect wildlife and preserve Marin's natural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judith

Judith Forrest
judith@perspective2.com
perspective2.com

From: [Heather Clapp](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please allocate \$1.2 million for Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Corridor Studies
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 8:42:41 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from heatherc@ptreyes.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it May Concern at the Transportation Authority of Marin,

I'm writing to urge you to allocate \$1.2 million from your annual project budget to complete the studies for underground wildlife tunnels on Chilleno Valley Road. Every year, thousands of innocent creatures (salamanders, newts, frogs, etc) are run over by cars and trucks, particularly during their breeding season. The road runs directly through their route: from the forest on one side and Laguna Lake on the other. Fellow friends and neighbors have stepped in to help with their crossing, organized by the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, and while admirable, this is not a sustainable, long-term solution for the health of wildlife populations. When these roads were built, there was never forethought as to which wildlife this would impact. It is upon us now, as we are increasingly aware of how our roadways cause harm to individuals and breeding populations of many species, to do what is right. We must use the tools and information we have to support our fellow community members (wildlife) with whom we share these lands, waterways, and planet. In this case, I urge you to allocate \$1.2 million towards completing the necessary studies and taking steps towards building a wildlife corridor along this route in Chileno Valley.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Heather Clapp

--

Heather Clapp | [she/her](#)
Director of Community Engagement and Philanthropy
[Point Reyes National Seashore Association](#)
heatherc@ptreyes.org
Office: (415) 663-1200 x310

From: [Carolyn Placente](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please fund a planning grant for Chileno Valley Rd
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 10:09:33 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from carolynplacente@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Members of the Transportation Authority of Marin Board,

Each year during the rainy months, newts leave their forest burrows to reach ponds to mate and lay their eggs. That means they have to cross Chileno Valley Road. They need our protection.

Please allocate Measure AA transportation funds to fund a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road so that construction will be possible later.

Wildlife is integral to what makes Marin so very unique. It is our duty to plan to protect wildlife of all sizes.

Thank you.

Kindly,
Carolyn

Carolyn Placente
Longtime West Marin Resident

From: [Greg Reis](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please fund Chileno Valley wildlife undercrossing
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 6:36:39 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gregreis@gmx.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Transportation Authority,
I encourage you to fund the \$1.2 million completion of studies of a wildlife undercrossing in Chileno Valley so that state and federal funding of construction can occur.

Thank you,
Greg Reis
San Geronimo, CA

--

Sent with GMX Mail app

From: [Susie Schlesinger](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please fund crossing for the newts!
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 3:43:15 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from chisosdog@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

From: [Yvonne Young](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please fund the Chilean Valley Wildlife crossing
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 2:16:08 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from yvonne.young@compass.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am urging you to fund a properly designed under crossing in the Chilean Valley. It is such a small thing, but it will ensure the survival of the survival of the Newt population in that area.

I would love to see the Transportation Authority of Marin be the good guys and vote to allocate Measure AA funds in the form of even a small planning grant to move this project along and making future construction funding possible.

Thank you so much!

Yvonne Young
Novato, California

From: [Linda Seabright](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please fund the crossing!
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 6:19:48 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lindaseabright@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Newts are so necessary and so is the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. Please consider funding the undercrossing as so many other locales in California have done.

Thank you.

--

[Linda Seabright](#)

From: caroljcoyle@verizon.net
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Fund the Wildlife Crossing on Chileno Valley Rd
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:40:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from caroljcoyle@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chileno Valley Road bisects one of Marin County's largest amphibian migration corridors. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs are killed while attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. Without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction.

Please include the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing among its Reimagined Roadways priorities.

Carol Coyle

Novato, CA 94947

From: [Patti Breitman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please save newts
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:13:40 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from eatplants@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear people,

There are few opportunities in our lives to save the lives of other beings. Please do what you can to help save newts by allocating money for tunnels for their safe crossing.

The solution is to create tunnels under the road that the animals can safely use. This is a very appropriate use of funds managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin. The Authority spends more than \$50 million a year. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for construction.

With gratitude,
Patti Breitman
Fairfax CA

From: [Paige Brown](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Funding
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:29:19 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pbrown30@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To TAM,

I recently saw a moving documentary how dangerous Chileno Valley Road crossing is for our newts” trying to reach Laguna Lake.

Volunteers have spent years helping newts and frogs cross safely, but hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What’s needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own.

The Transportation Authority of Marin is currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing that protects animals, improves safety, and reflects community environmental values.

I urge TAM to make this project a priority.
Paige Brown

From: Paige Brown
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Funding
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:29:19 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pbrown30@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

To TAM,

I recently saw a moving documentary how dangerous Chileno Valley Road crossing is for our newts” trying to reach Laguna Lake.

Volunteers have spent years helping newts and frogs cross safely, but hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What’s needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own.

The Transportation Authority of Marin is currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing that protects animals, improves safety, and reflects community environmental values.

I urge TAM to make this project a priority.
Paige Brown

From: [Ann Carey](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please support funding for "Reimagined Roadways" and wildlife crossing
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:05:31 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from sfcarey@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board,

I am writing to urge you to support allocating a portion of Measure AA funds to the "Reimagined Roadways" category, and to fund the design of a permanent wildlife crossing along Chileno Valley road.

On cold rainy winter nights, I join other dedicated volunteers to walk a one-mile stretch of this road, helping newts and endangered red legged frogs cross safely. While I enjoy those quiet evening walks in the rain, it is not a sustainable solution for ensuring the preservation of these animals.

By funding the design of a permanent wildlife crossing now, TAM can ensure that this project becomes an integral part of needed repairs to the roadway when they are undertaken. This project would protect not only the Laguna Lake newt population, but can also serve as a model for other wildlife crossings for amphibians and other small creatures.

Please continue Marin County's reputation as a leader in environmental protection and "reimagined" design by funding the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing.

Thank you.

Ann Carey

From: [Daniela Powers](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Funding for a planning grant Chileno Valley Road
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 7:25:08 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from danielapowers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. I am an active volunteer with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and have been for 4 years. Despite our dedication, newts still get run over by the thousands each year, as it is not feasible to patrol the road 24/7. What is needed is a long-term, practical, scalable solution for safe wildlife crossing.

Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

I urge TAM to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Daniela Powers

From: [Lisa Krieger](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:11:12 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lisa.krieger55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

Amphibians aren't crossing Chileno Valley Road....Chileno Valley Road is crossing their forest home.

In just one brief three-hour span last week - Feb. 6 - cars flattened 3 California newts, 1 rough-skinned newt, 1 red-legged frog, 1 California red-sided garter snake and at least 4 chorus frogs.

Dozens of others would have perished if volunteers weren't on the road, at their own risk, helping the animals cross.

PLEASE support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and **this project clearly does both.**

Thank you,

Lisa Krieger, Inverness Park

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."
-- John Steinbeck, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*

From: [Wendy Funk](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support the Wildlife Crossing Funding for Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 1:53:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wfunk@petk12.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I am writing to urge you as TAM board members to support funding for a planning grant for the urgently needed wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

This road bisects the natural habitat of newts and several other species, forcing them to risk death to reach their breeding grounds, Laguna Lake. Juvenile newts (often less than 2 inches long) then face the same perilous trek to reach their oak forest habitat. This native species is steadily declining toward local extinction.

This hits home in our classrooms. As a fourth-grade teacher, my students are studying the Chileno Valley Newt and examining ways to provide them safe passage. Through this project, my students are learning about local ecosystems, the impact of human infrastructure, and the responsibility we have to protect native species. They are seeing firsthand that volunteers hand-carrying animals across the road to safety is not a long-term solution.

What we need is a permanent infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own. You are currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing. Such a project would not only protect animals and improve road safety but would also show our students that their community acts on its environmental values.

I urge TAM to make this project a priority. Let's show the next generation that we are committed to protecting the wildlife they are working so hard to preserve.

Sincerely,

Wendy Funk
Fourth Grade Teacher, Grant Elementary

Notice to Recipient:

Information contained in this message may be privileged, confidential and protected from disclosure. If you are not an intended recipient, it is strictly prohibited to use, disseminate or copy this communication. If you have received this in error, please reply to the sender and then delete the message.

Thank you.

From: [sarah estrella](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding for Chileno Valley Road Newts and Frogs
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 8:19:46 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from skestrella@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road for newts and red-legged frogs.

This road entirely cuts off thousands of amphibians from completing their life cycle in Laguna Lake, a trip they must make twice each year. Thousands of animals are killed by vehicles in the process. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Sarah Estrella

From: [Nina Zhao](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 6:45:41 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ninaszhao@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Regardless of whether the road actually makes a dent in local wildlife populations, there is robust research showing that wildlife road collisions cost the local community money, time and physical & emotional wellbeing.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money NOW (in the form of human and animal lives) and LATER (money and time that originally would've gone to repairing car and hospital bills now can go to other things like volunteering at local library, taking care of children, etc.). Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

I'm sure the Los Angeles team behind the Annenberg wildlife crossing would also be happy to explain why they are spending/have already spent millions of dollars on their wildlife bridge! If LA can build one, Marin county should be able to too.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you!

Nina S. Zhao

BA in Ecology | Anthropology minor

[linkedin.com/in/nina-s-zhao/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/nina-s-zhao/)

Pronouns I use: they/them; she/hers

Here's to the present moment: "Dum spiro spero"

From: [Shannon Casteel](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:27:29 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from casteels@sonoma.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Shannon Casteel

From: tdm 1963
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:29:00 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tdm1963@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

Dear Tam Board,

We're writing to urge your funding support for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. We are volunteers for the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and have seen firsthand the devastating results of encounters with vehicles, not only for the newts, but also for endangered California red-legged frogs and other species. Our work in helping the newts cross the road safely is meaningful, but a permanent infrastructure crossing is vital to the future survival of these animals. Newts and other amphibians are bioindicator species and maintaining healthy populations is an important factor in keeping our local environment healthy for future generations.

Funds for planning will allow the wildlife crossing improvements to be a part of road repairs, which would be both a time- and cost-saving measure. Measure AA is meant to protect the environment while maintaining roads, and the Chileno Valley Road project would do both.

We strongly urge TAM to support funding for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife crossing planning.

Thank you,
Gregg & Sohni Yaylian
Sebastopol

From: [Cristina Torres Duarte](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 10:12:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cctorresduarte@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. And I know this first hand, since I've volunteered with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade for 5 years. But carrying newts, frogs and other animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution.

Early planning allows wildlife crossings to be included during road repairs, saving time and public funds. Measure AA supports both road maintenance and environmental protection, and this project achieves both goals.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Best regards,

Dr. Cristina Torres Duarte
Associate Project Scientist
Bodega Marine Laboratory - UC Davis

Bodega Bay, CA 94923

From: [Grace Moore](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 8:15:00 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from grace.ellington.moore@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner/TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Grace Moore

From: indigobannister@gmail.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 11:51:07 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from indigobannister@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

As a professional environmental scientist that has studied conservation planning and as a former County of Marin employee, I'm writing to urge you to support funding of the design of a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Since 2022, I have dedicated a night of my week each winter to helping amphibians cross Chileno Valley Road. Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers like me have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term solution. Marin is a leader in sound conservation planning, and allocating funding for wildlife crossings should be a priority for TAM.

Dedicated funding now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Indigo Bannister

Indigo Bannister

indigobannister@gmail.com |

From: [Katie Brammer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Rd
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:23:30 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from katie@kbrammergraphics.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To The TAM Commissioner and Board Members:

I would like to strongly urge The Transportation Authority of Marin to help fund a wildlife undercrossing for Chileno Valley Road when deciding Measure AA priorities. In addition to reducing wildlife mortality and reconnecting critical habitat to help several species along Laguna Lake, it could also reflect well on TAM's modern approach to environmental ethics. As a volunteer with The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, I can attest to the heartbreaking loss of all kinds of life caused by Chileno Valley Road cutting through the migratory paths of thousands of animals along Laguna Lake.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife undercrossing planning grant.

Sincerely yours,
Katie Brammer

katie@kbrammergraphics.com

[Would you kindly acknowledge receipt if possible?]

From: [BING](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:08:04 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from brendanwho72@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing this email to urge you to take action and support funding for a grant for a wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. As it stands thousands of newts and other animals are killed as they attempt to cross to Laguna Lake. Volunteers do not have the resources or the means for a long term solution without new infrastructure. This project would clearly maintain the road and also protect the environment as Measure AA was approved for. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Brendan Ing

From: Chris Mikalson
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:56:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from chrismikalson@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for permanent wildlife crossings on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Kit Mikalson

From: [Serena Myjer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 4:11:05 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from serenamyjer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Serena Myjer

From: [Marjorie Wagman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:23:59 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mcwagman@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I write to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed by vehicles while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. I have joined the volunteers that have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality; this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Marjorie Wagman

Sent from my iPad

From: [Lyndsey watkins](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 5:04:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from watkinslyndsey@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Lyndsey Marie Watkins

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Michael K](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:05:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mkraus.x@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner / TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help save wildlife year after year and night after night during the migration season, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Michael Kraus
mkraus.x@gmail.com

From: [Hannah Cummins](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 4:04:17 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hnnhcmmns@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Hannah Cummins

From: [Rachel MacDonald](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 7:38:58 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rachmacd1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake.

Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Rachel MacDonald

From: [Lali Navarro](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 8:40:48 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lalinavarro.05@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Lali Navarro

From: [Kelly K Lombardi](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 9:49:14 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kellyklombardi@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Kelly

From: [Michelle Oga-Yates](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 11:43:50 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-cid_E68878.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_9f85c0.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_92717e.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_b1b598.png](#)
[Outlook-cid_9d6574.png](#)
[Outlook-cnyrpfea.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from moga@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

~~Michelle

Michelle Oga-Yates, MA, MBA

Training and Compliance/ Marketing and Communications Coordinator

she/her/hers

Pet Parent to Watson, Sherlock, Ginger, Mycroft, Miso, Nori,

Feta, Ricotta, Gouda, & Basmati

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 [Book time to meet with me](#)

From: [Gioia Hansbury](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road!
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 4:46:28 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gioialeonard@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Gioia Leonard Hansbury
Novato ,CA.

From: [Craig Erridge](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:56:58 PM
Attachments: [Letter to the TAM board.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from craigerridge@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please distribute this letter to all members of the TAM Board

Dear TAM Board & Transportation Authority of Marin,

I am writing on behalf of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, in support of the TAM funding that would help build safe passage for newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife who must cross Chileno Valley Road during their yearly migration. I am one of 14 captains on the brigade that assist these wonderful creatures to safely cross Chileno Valley Road throughout the winter months.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Many volunteers like me have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

The section of Chileno Valley Road for which we are requesting an allocation is unique in Marin County and deserving special attention. It slices through a habitat that supports thousands of native amphibians and reptiles. The two newt species that live here are unique to this type of very specific habitat. They don't exist in just any pond or lake. Some of the species that live here are listed on the **IUCN Red List**. Measure AA funds will make progress towards safe wildlife crossings for these threatened species. This effort is extinction prevention for multiple species. The activities of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade are monitored across the nation, including articles in the New York Times, the Guardian, the LA Times, and many other print and media outlets. The work done here on this county road will reflect positively on Marin County. Marin County has this opportunity to continue its legacy of environmental conservation by proactively providing safe passage across this roadway.

The Environmental work we do here in Marin County will serve as inspiration and provide a replicable model to other municipalities in California and the nation. This project will continue Marin County's values regarding the environment.

Through Measure AA, I urge the TAM Board to allocate funding for construction of safe wildlife passages across Chileno Valley Road. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you!

Signed, Craig Erridge

From: [Laura Anderson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 8:05:37 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from andersonlaura422@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. Thank you.

From: carrotlover11@icloud.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 2:51:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carrotlover11@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board members,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

I am a member of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and have been rescuing newts and other critters for three seasons. Although I really enjoy this volunteer work because it's beautiful on the road in the evening - we see stars, hear owls, see muskrats - and it feels good to carry a newt across the road to safety, it would be much better for the newts to have a safe passage. Relying on volunteers to help out a species is not a long term strategy. Giving the critters a way to travel safely is the solution. They need a road undercrossing designed for them.

I know there are many projects that need funding. I hope you will prioritize this one for the sake of an animal that needs our help since humans put a road across its migration path. If the planning is funded now, it will save money later as the planned and designed wildlife crossing improvements can be done when the road is scheduled for repair. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Laurie-Ann Barbour

Cotati, CA 94931
carrotlover11@icloud.com

Stay close to anything that makes you glad you are alive.

HAFIZ

From: [Darlene Blackman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 2:15:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from darleneblackmanprmosman@gmail.com.
[Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Creating a permanent solution to save our wild neighbors is possible!

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It is a solution to saving lives!

Thank you.

Darlene Blackman

Marin resident

From: [Andrea Cornelius](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 10:08:56 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from andreacornelius01@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

From: [Audrey G](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 2:59:50 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from audreybluebird@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Audrey Gironda

From: [Meredith Hansbury](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 2:45:33 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mhansbury91@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.
Meredith

From: [Sally Holland](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 11:59:00 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sholland@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Sally Holland

Youth Programs Manager

she/her/hers

Pet Parent to Molly & Quincy

I work Tuesdays and Wednesdays

415.506.6288 Direct

415.883.4621 Campus

From: [Dawn Kovell](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 1:59:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dkovell@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I am writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake.

Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Dawn Kovell

Larkspur Resident

Marin Humane, Director of Behavior & Training

From: [Bunny Lane](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:47:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from blane@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Tam Board,

I'm urge you to fund the planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every winter, wildlife — especially newts and salamanders — are killed while trying to reach Laguna Lake. It's heartbreaking, and it's completely preventable.

When this crisis became impossible to ignore, **Gale** stepped up. She created the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, and for *seven years*, volunteers have walked a mile of that road on cold, rainy nights — flashlights and safety vests on — gently carrying newts, salamanders, frogs, and other small wildlife safely across.

Their dedication is extraordinary.

But we all know it's **not** a long-term solution. Volunteers can't be our permanent wildlife-protection system.

A wildlife crossing *can* be.

And if we plan it now, it can be built into the upcoming road repair — saving lives and taxpayer dollars.

Measure AA promised safe roads and environmental protection. This project delivers both.

Please approve the planning grant.

Let's stop the needless deaths.

Let's honor the volunteers' years of work.

And let's finally give our wildlife a safe way to cross.

Warmest Regards,

Bunny Lane

Behavior & Training Administrative Coordinator

She/Her

Pet Parent to Doc Holiday and Wyatt Earp

415.506.6280 Direct

415.883.4621 Campus



From: [Lawrence A](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 8:04:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from wonderboy4212@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. Many thanks!

From: [Elizabeth Lazaroff](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 8:27:38 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from elaz8361@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Members of the TAM Board:

Fwoomp, squish, splat: which of these sounds would you choose to describe the action of a car tire smushing an amphibian? A gruesome thought, isn't it? Fortunately, these sounds are heard far less frequently on Chileno Valley Road due to the efforts of the volunteer Newt Brigade. Each year, the brigade saves thousands of newts, frogs, and salamanders, assisting them in crossing the road as they migrate from living to mating-and-hatching areas. Chileno Valley Road is a fragmented ecosystem, where local species could become threatened or endangered because of the loss of contiguous habitat.

Here in the North Bay, while we are blessed, we also live with the results of 175 years of ecosystem fragmentation, wherein both flora and fauna are struggling to survive. Once there were thousands of majestic redwoods. Now, redwoods exist in isolated pockets, like the national monument you visit by driving your car to a parking lot, taking a van, and then riding 20 minutes to see them. Almost like a zoo of caged animals, these towering, old-growth specimens live not as giants in fairy rings—but as single individuals—trapped among asphalt.

On the other hand, in the North Bay, we have also saved edenic gems. Take The Hole in the Head in Bodega Bay. Quiet and peaceful, The Head is an oasis where dozens of animal and bird species come to rest, nest, and live on a pond surrounded by lush shrubs and trees. Decades ago, The Head was not slated to turn out this way. But a group of citizens banded together and prevented a nuclear power plant from being built on the site. 65 years later, we continue to reap the benefits of their vision and commitment to beauty, safety, and the environment.

Many of those citizens have come and gone. I did not know them. I do not know their names nor the details of their crusade. But I know what they did. Each time I go to the oasis, I say a little prayer of gratitude, thanking them for their efforts: not only for themselves; but their children; their children's children; and--if we are equal stewards--their children who will come after.

Our local amphibians are in similar peril. We must repair the fragmentation in our ecosystems. Chileno Valley is a great place to start. By allocating Measure AA funds to a planning grant for a permanent amphibian crossing, you can leave a legacy of a thriving ecosystem wherein the smallest are also accorded the same value as the largest, where nature is as important as the convenience of a road.

We can bequeath our children isolated redwoods and thousands of Eucalyptus trees that feed raging wildfires amid increasingly warming temperatures. Or we can bequeath our children an oasis where flora and fauna thrive and humans benefit from its restorative powers. We need to think bigger and farther. Rebuilding a fragmented ecosystem on Chileno Valley Road is a positive step in our collective future. Our children and children's children may not know your names, but they will know the actions you took and thank you many years into the future.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Elizabeth Lazaroff
Petaluma

From: [Brynn Monaghan](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 11:52:42 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bmonaghan@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake.

Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Brynnlie Monaghan

Customer Service Representative

Pet Parent to Toki

415.506.6221 Direct

415.883.4621 Campus

marin humane
Lives made happy.



From: [Cherylann Pasha](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 12:24:51 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cpasha9@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Cherylann Pasha

From: powers.liv@gmail.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 12:07:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from powers.liv@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Olivia Powers

From: [Ariel Waldman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 10:38:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from arielcw02@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Ariel Waldman

From: [Lena Zentall](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:22:14 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from lena@zentall.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Lena Zentall

From: [Celia Chatham](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please support wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:01:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from celiachatham@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for permanent wildlife crossings on Chileno Valley Road. Each year thousands of animals are killed crossing the road during annual breeding migrations and regional movements to and from Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help move newts and other amphibians quickly across the road during peak animal activity time periods that overlap with high traffic commute hours, but this is not a long term or scalable solution.

I am a local biologist, have volunteered helping amphibians cross the road, and have reviewed the initial feasibility and crossing assessments. Building well-designed wildlife crossings at this location has a high likelihood of resulting in positive effects on the health and persistence of newt and other native wildlife populations in the region. It would be a wonderful and effective land stewardship action driven by many years of data collected by dedicated volunteers combined with analysis and designs by experienced professionals. And aside from promoting environmental quality and protecting natural resources, I imagine many people driving on Chileno Valley road would prefer to avoid crushing newts on their daily commute.

Funding planning now would allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Celia Chatham

From: [Liza Prunuske](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please support wildlife crossings on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:57:26 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ljprun@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Commissioners of the Transportation Authority of Marin:

I am writing in support of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade's request for funding for the next stage of construction design and environmental compliance for improvements along a reach of Chileno Valley Road.

I worked on habitat restoration projects in West Marin for over 40 years and am now a member of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade. For seven years, our volunteers have been gently ferrying newts to safety on rainy evenings. But despite rescuing over 40,000 animals, 1000s are killed. Last year alone, 187 California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, were found dead. I myself have scraped pond turtle pieces off the road. Hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What's needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own.

This is a rare opportunity for TAM to support permanent undercrossings that protect wildlife, improve safety, provide needed road improvements along Laguna Lake, and address the environmental goals included in Measure AA.

I urge you to make this project a priority.

Liza Prunuske

Occidental, CA 95465

From: [Info](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please! Support the Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 5:17:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from info@tinamills.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Commissioners,

I am writing to you today to beg you to use a small portion of the approved AA Measure funds for a much-needed planning grant so that we can finally ensure that we get a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road which would save thousands of lives and myriad species. It has been shown that a wide variety of animals use these life-saving crossings structures when made available. Many have been approved and built, or are in progress now, across the country and Marin County should be another similar beacon of light. This is an ethical animal right to *long-life* cause!

I was born and raised in Marin County and am a proud member of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade. Everyone I have spoken to about the Brigade in the last five years has been excited to hear about our tireless efforts to carry newts and other innocent creatures one by one, who are in grave danger, across the road to safety.

Pacific Newts only have to cross the road twice a year. If they don't get squished by vehicles, they can live up to thirty years! Sadly, along with the ones we save, we find thousands of adults and tiny juveniles, most are dead, but some are injured and suffering. It's sad when you realize that their need to cross this road has been passed down from generation to generation, long before the road existed.

Newts need to have their "babies" in the water at Laguna Lake, and then they all need to cross again to the hills where they live out the rest of the year. It's a wonderful feeling to pick up an animal knowing you are likely saving its life (they move slowly and the cars go fast). We also save endangered Red-legged frogs and other animals on the road that would use a crossing instead.

If we fund planning now, it will save time and more public money later. Measure AA promised to maintain roads and protect environmental quality, and this project does both beautifully.

Please do the right thing for these helpless creatures, that have every right to live. We owe it to them to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It's a great way to help them reach that thirty-year life span!

— *Tina Mills, Petaluma, CA*

Tina Mills
Petaluma, CA 94952

From: [Emily Wiemer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 11:37:56 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from emilywiem@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Emily Wiemer
Fairfax, CA

From: [Faeryn Dunnigan](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 2/26/2026 meeting 6:00pm
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:24:10 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from faerynshead@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Good afternoon,

My name: Faeryn Dunnigan

My address: 90 Ridge Road San Anselmo CA, 94960

Agenda item number: N/A (Speaking towards the Chileno Valley wildlife passage.)

My comment:

“Good evening,

My name is Faeryn Dunnigan and I live within Marin County.

Tonight, I would like to use my voice to advocate on behalf of those unable; the newts of Chileno Valley. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge that designated wildlife passages in Chileno Valley would also be beneficial to the human community of Marin. I see incorporating these crossings as a big opportunity to improve road safety conditions, lower street maintenance costs as well as to protect the beauty that drives Marins’ economy. As a current College major in Biology, I understand the impact wildlife crossings have; from preventing traffic collisions, to reducing habitat fragmentation as well as helping to increase genetic diversity. As a young adult, I want to look back on my life in years to come and smile, recognizing the accomplishments, our community has established. With TAM’s help, I know this dream can be made possible. TAM, I urge you to partner with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade to make wildlife passages in Chileno Valley a reality in order to enhance the protection of generations to come for all animals, humans and non-humans alike.”

Thank you for your time,
Faeryn Dunnigan

From: [Josh Barlas](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment regarding the Measure AA Expenditure Plan
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 12:05:19 AM
Attachments: [Letter to the Board - Josh Barlas-signed.pdf](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from joshbarlas@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

This letter is intended as a Public Comment regarding the Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review

Dear TAM Board,

This letter is intended as a Public Comment regarding the Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review currently underway. I would like to urge you to allocate \$1.2 million over the next two years to the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade for the purpose of modifying Chileno Valley Road in the vicinity of Laguna Lake to provide undercrossings for the multiple species of amphibians and reptiles that utilize this area. This allocation would be sufficient to fund approximately 65% of the road repair engineering design and to complete a CEQA analysis.

Of particular interest on Chileno Valley Road are California Newts, Rough-skinned Newts, and California Red-Legged Frogs. These animals are literally killed by the thousands each year by vehicle traffic as they migrate across Chileno Valley Road. The California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) is a federally listed threatened species. The California newt (*Taricha torosa*) is designated as a California Species of Special Concern by the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) due to significant population declines, particularly in Southern California. While they lack federal endangered status, they are threatened by habitat loss, high road mortality during breeding migrations, and invasive predators.

More than 80 volunteers with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade participate in the nightly ritual of moving Red-Legged Frogs and migrating newts off the roadway in order to minimize their vehicle-caused mortality. However, this labor-intensive process cannot be expected to sustain these populations in the long run. Significant data about each animal, including its GPS location, are documented and recorded. Those data are being used to design the optimal road modification. Only by provision of alternative migratory routes (under the roadway) can the carnage on the road be prevented and the long-term health of these populations and their broader ecosystems be assured.

Thank you for your time and service,

Joshua Barlas

San Rafael, CA 94901

joshbarlas@gmail.com
m

--

Best,

Joshua Barlas
1600 Ton Master, 2nd Mate Unlimited
BS, Marine Transportation, Cal Maritime
MA, Literature, UC Santa Cruz
[LinkedIn](#)
joshbarlas@gmail.com

From: tdm 1963
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:34:03 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tdm1963@gmail.com. Learn why this is important <<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>>

We strongly support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

We are volunteers for the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and have seen firsthand the devastating results of encounters with vehicles, not only for the newts, but also for endangered California red-legged frogs and other species. Our work in helping the newts cross the road safely is meaningful, but a permanent infrastructure crossing is vital to the future survival of these animals that serve as bioindicator species. Maintaining amphibian populations is an important factor in keeping our local environment healthy for future generations.

Funds for planning now will allow the wildlife crossing improvements to be a part of road repairs, which would be both a time- and cost-saving measure. Measure AA is meant to protect the environment while maintaining roads, and the Chileno Valley Road project would meet both goals.

We strongly urge TAM to support funding for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife crossing planning.

Gregg & Sohni Yaylian
Sebastopol

From: [Jennifer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 11:53:57 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from jmhorne@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Members of the TAM Board:

I am writing on behalf of the hundreds of Chileno Valley Newt Brigade volunteers, in support of TAM funding that would help build safe passage for the newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife who must cross Chileno Valley road twice on their yearly migration. We Brigadiers represent a wide range of professions, including scientists, doctors, salon owners, and teachers. We, too, migrate, and come to the road from November to March from a number of Bay Area towns, including Fairfax, Inverness, Novato, and Petaluma. We are on the road every night of the week during the migration, despite rain, wind, cold temperatures, and the peril from passing vehicles. And while we try to save as many newts as we can, we still find newts dead on the road due to the lack of a safe passage. According to the USGS, and despite our best efforts, Brigadiers alone cannot save the newts from extinction. Only construction of a safe wildlife passage can do that.

In the name of the newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife on Chileno Valley Road, we urge the TAM Board to allocate funding for a wildlife passage on Chileno Valley Road. Although the amount we are requesting is just a small percentage of the total that TAM disburses, the impact is significant: it is the difference between life and death for the newts of Chileno Valley Road and for biodiversity in the area.

Jennifer Horne, o/b/o the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade volunteers

From: [Carol Carr](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: public comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing planning grant
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 3:33:13 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from carrcarol@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board:

I am writing to urge you to grant funds to the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade wildlife crossing project. The important work of this local, grassroots group was detailed in the Marin Independent Journal article, Crossing is Deadly for our Newts, of January 30th, detailing the dedicated and environmentally critical work of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade. These grassroots, dedicated, "boots on the rainy ground" volunteers have carried this project for years and made major strides in not only saving the newts and other amphibians otherwise destined to death and species loss, but have made major contributions to environmental research, wildlife study, and critical revisioning of our relationships within a highly threatened ecological web. Now is the time to truly amplify this important progress and major contribution to the future of our wildlife and our community priorities. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is currently deciding the allocation of Measure AA funds. I strongly urge TAM and our community to support the funding of the wildlife crossing infrastructure project of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade that will have significant impact on local wildlife protection, broadspread wildlife corridor research, and national wildlife crossing studies. This is a huge opportunity for TAM and our community to be an important part of making critical shifts in how we value and protect and interact with our critical ecology. The time is past due - I strongly urge TAM to support the funding of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade Wildlife Crossing Project on Chileno Valley Road.

Sincerely,
Carol Carr, RN

From: [Info](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: I Support the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 5:58:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from info@tinamills.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board Members,

I am in full support of using a portion of the funds approved from AA Measure, for a much-needed planning grant so that we can finally ensure that we get a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. This would save thousands of lives and myriad species. It has been shown that a wide variety of animals use these life-saving crossings structures when made available. Many have been approved and built, or are in progress now, across the country and Marin County should be another similar beacon of light. This is an ethical animal right to *long*-life cause!

We need to end the killing and suffering of injured animals by the thousands which is caused by cars running over them on this stretch of road. Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles attempt to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, and they are needlessly slaughtered by vehicles. Volunteers, like me, have stepped in to help carry them across the road, one by one to safety, but this is inefficient and a crossing would save so many more lives.

Newts for instance, only need to cross the road twice a year. Once to have 'babies' and then to go back to live the rest of the year in the hills across the street. If they do not get run over, newts can live up to thirty years! It is tragic to lose or injure thousands of young animals needlessly.

Planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and money while protecting wildlife.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads and protect environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals beautifully. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Please do the right thing for these helpless creatures that have every right to live. We owe it to them to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant that will help them to reach that thirty-year life span!

Tina Mills
Petaluma CA

From: [Courtney McFall](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:48:18 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from courtney.mcfall@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

As you know, this roadway has become a major barrier for wildlife trying to reach Laguna Lake, particularly during seasonal migrations. Each year, thousands of animals are killed attempting to cross. While volunteers have worked tirelessly to help newts and frogs cross safely, hand-carrying wildlife across an active roadway is neither safe, scalable, nor a long-term solution.

A permanent wildlife undercrossing would protect animals, reduce vehicle collisions, and improve safety for drivers and volunteers alike. Importantly, funding the planning phase now would allow wildlife crossing improvements to be incorporated into future road repair projects—saving time, reducing costs, and making efficient use of public funds.

Measure AA was approved to maintain and improve Marin's transportation infrastructure while also protecting environmental quality. Supporting a planning grant for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing clearly aligns with both goals and reflects our community's strong environmental values.

I respectfully ask you to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant as TAM sets its priorities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Courtney McFall and Tyson Mitchell, Fairfax CA

From: [Craig Erridge](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:07:02 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment - Letter to the TAM board.docx](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from craigerridge@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to submit the follow Public Comment:

Dear TAM Board & Transportation Authority of Marin,

I am writing on behalf of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, in support of the TAM funding that would help build safe passage for newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife who must cross Chileno Valley Road during their yearly migration. I am one of 14 captains on the brigade that assist these wonderful creatures to safely cross Chileno Valley Road throughout the winter months.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Many volunteers like me have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

The section of Chileno Valley Road for which we are requesting an allocation is unique in Marin County and deserving special attention. It slices through a habitat that supports thousands of native amphibians and reptiles. The two newt species that live here are unique to this type of very specific habitat. They don't exist in just any pond or lake. Some of the species that live here are listed on the **IUCN Red List**. Measure AA funds will make progress towards safe wildlife crossings for these threatened species. This effort is extinction prevention for multiple species. The activities of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade are monitored across the nation, including articles in the New York Times, the Guardian, the LA Times, and many other print and media outlets. The work done here on this county road will reflect positively on Marin County. Marin County has this opportunity to continue its legacy of environmental conservation by proactively providing safe passage across this roadway.

The Environmental work we do here in Marin County will serve as inspiration and provide a replicable model to other municipalities in California and the nation. This project will continue Marin County's values regarding the environment.

Through Measure AA, I urge the TAM Board to allocate funding for construction of safe wildlife passages across Chileno Valley Road. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you!

Signed, Craig Erridge

From: [Michael K](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 8:00:54 AM

I support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. For the past 7 years, volunteers have stepped in to help save wildlife nightly during the 5 months of migration, but this approach is not sustainable.

Planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and money while protecting wildlife.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads and protect environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Thank you,
Michael Kraus
mkraus.x@gmail.com

From: [Kelli Yon](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 12:45:12 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kelli@kellyon.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road

Dear Commissioner / TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Kelli Yon

Kelli Yon

Sebastopol CA. 95472

From: [Callie Kindrish](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:23:44 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from calliepowerx@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

I urge the Transportation Authority of Marin to fund a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. I volunteer helping California newts cross this road during the rainy season, and while volunteers save some animals, this is not a safe or sustainable solution. Funding planning now would allow a crossing to be included in future road repairs, saving public money and protecting environmental quality as Measure AA intended.

- Callie Kindrish

From: [Cynthia](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:02:54 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cameiswinkel2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Cynthia Meiswinkel

From: [Christian Naventi](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 7:56:03 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from xian400@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Over the past few years, many volunteers have been active on wet nights, helping these critters and recording valuable scientific data. This is not a feasible long-term solution, however.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The wildlife crossing would provide a long-term answer to this problem and help a unique community tremendously.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Christian Naventi
West Petaluma

From: rick@oceanicyachts.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 12:35:47 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rick@oceanicyachts.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

As a volunteer and as an individual, throughout my life, I have been helping wildlife cross our roads safely, whether it is turtles, frogs, snakes or newts.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross the Chileno Valley road to reach Laguna Lake. We volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Rick Peterson

Senior Broker

Oceanic Yachts

San Francisco/Sausalito/Sag Harbor

www.oceanicyachts.com

From: [Ellen Ferguson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 1:32:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ellen.lm.ferg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers, like myself, have stepped in to help, but this approach is not sustainable.

Planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and money while protecting wildlife.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads and protect environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.
Ellen Ferguson
San Geronimo Valley

From: [Kirsten Franklin](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:37:26 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from yugenado@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

February 11, 2026

Dear TAM Board Members,

I am writing to strongly support the call to address the deadly wildlife crossings on Chileno Valley Road described in Jerry Meral's recent Marin Voice commentary. The scale of amphibian mortality there is unacceptable and preventable.

For the past five years, I have volunteered as a Chileno Valley Newt Brigadier and have witnessed firsthand both the extraordinary community effort and the ongoing losses. While volunteers have saved tens of thousands of animals, we cannot be the long-term solution. The crossings are predictable, seasonal, and scientifically documented — and they require permanent infrastructure.

Using Measure AA transportation funds to design and build wildlife tunnels and related protections is consistent with the measure's sustainability and environmental commitments. Proven solutions already exist and are endorsed by biologists and engineers.

I urge the Transportation Authority of Marin and county leaders to prioritize funding and environmental review for this project now. Protecting these native species is a shared public responsibility and an achievable one.

Sincerely,
Kirsten Franklin

From: [Sarah Weed](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:57:53 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sarah.weed704@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For years, this stretch of road has posed a serious danger to wildlife trying to reach Laguna Lake, resulting in thousands of animals being injured or killed by traffic. Volunteers have stepped in to help reduce these impacts, but relying on people to manually move wildlife across a roadway is not a sustainable or long-term solution.

Investing in planning now would allow wildlife crossing improvements to be incorporated when the road is repaired, saving time and public funds while protecting wildlife and improving safety. This is a practical, forward-looking approach that aligns with the goals of Measure AA to maintain roads and protect environmental quality.

I urge the Transportation Authority of Marin to prioritize funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant during this Measure AA update.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Weed

From: [Brian Schmahl](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:42:39 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from be.schmahl17@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I, a resident of San Rafael, support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

The portion of Chileno Valley Road adjacent to Laguna Lake has become a significant source of mortality for migrating amphibians such as California newts and the threatened California red-legged frog as they migrate to breeding habitat in the lake. Before volunteers such as myself began assisting these amphibians across the road, thousands of animals were killed each year.

While our current system of shuttling newts across the road by hand works for now, it is not a permanent solution to this problem. In order for these amphibians to sustainably cross the road safely, we need to build wildlife crossings for them. For that, we need funding.

The Transportation Authority of Marin can supply that funding. As you and your fellow TAM Commissioners prioritize Measure AA funding this year, we have a unique opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing. We have a rare opportunity right now to kick start a project that would protect these vulnerable wildlife species in perpetuity.

The Chileno Valley newts have already received nation-wide coverage and strong local support. Wildlife crossings across the country receive bipartisan support because they have been shown to work, both for the wildlife and for us humans. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Brian Schmahl

From: [Robin Clarke](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 7:07:18 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from robinlynnclarke@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

I am new to the Newt Brigade, and what I have found is a tremendous amount of volunteers that come from all over the greater Bay Area to hand carry newts across the road to safety at the cost of their own safety. And even with all these volunteers walking a mile long stretch of road we still miss some. Finding dead newts you were steps away from helping is a disheartening feeling.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Robin Clarke

From: [Allison Broennimann](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 7:16:39 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from albroennimann@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. And, I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. I joined the newt brigade as a Saturday night volunteer for 2021-2025 to help in these efforts. It would be most safe for drivers, wildlife and volunteers to not have volunteers on the road

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Allison Broennimann

From: [Brent Bessire \(via Google Docs\)](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:44:23 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bbessire@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Brent Bessire attached a document



Brent Bessire (bbessire@gmail.com) has attached the following document:

Please see the attached email supporting a wildlife crossing for the newts and frogs in Chileno Valley



Untitled document

Snapshot of the item below:

I am writing on behalf of the hundreds of Chileno Valley Newt Brigade volunteers, in support of TAM funding that would help build safe passage for the newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife who must cross Chileno Valley road twice during their yearly migration. We Brigadiers represent a wide range of professions, including scientists, students, veterinarians, doctors, salon owners, and teachers. We, too, migrate, and come to the road from a variety of Bay Area towns, including Fairfax, Inverness, Novato, SantaRosa and Petaluma. We are on the road every night of the week during the migration, despite rain, wind, cold, and the peril from passing vehicles. And while we try to save as many newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife as we can, we still find newts dead on the road due to the lack of a safe passage. According to the USGS, Brigadiers alone cannot save the newts from extinction.

In the name of the newts, red-legged frogs, and other wildlife on Chileno Valley Road, we urge the TAM Board to allocate funding for construction of a wildlife safe passage. Although the amount we are requesting is a small percentage of the total the TAM Board disburses, the impact is significant: it is the difference between life and death for the newts of Chileno Valley Road and for biodiversity in the area. Surely there is no other transportation project in Marin County that has a return on investment greater than that.

Sincerely,

Sara Schachter, DVM, DACVIM

Does this item look suspicious? [Report](#)

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because bbessire@gmail.com shared a document with you from Google Docs.



From: [Katie Brammer](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 10:27:05 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from katie@kbrammergraphics.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To The TAM Commissioner and Board Members:

I would like to strongly urge The Transportation Authority of Marin to help fund a wildlife undercrossing for Chileno Valley Road when deciding Measure AA priorities. In addition to reducing wildlife mortality and reconnecting critical habitat to help several species along Laguna Lake, it could also reflect well on TAM's modern approach to environmental ethics. As a volunteer with The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, I can attest to the heartbreaking loss of all kinds of life caused by Chileno Valley Road cutting through the migratory paths of thousands of animals along Laguna Lake.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife undercrossing planning grant.

Sincerely yours,
Katie Brammer

katie@kbrammergraphics.com

From: [Shannon Casteel](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:29:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from casteels@sonoma.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

I support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this approach is not sustainable.

Planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and money while protecting wildlife.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads and protect environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Shannon Casteel

From: [Sonia DeDominic](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:39:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ssd0202@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I support funding for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this approach is not sustainable.

Planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and money while protecting wildlife.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads and protect environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Thank you.

~Sonia DeDominic

From: [BING](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 6:10:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from brendanwho72@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing this email to urge you to take action and support funding for a grant for a wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. As it stands thousands of newts and other animals are killed as they attempt to cross to Laguna Lake. Volunteers do not have the resources or the means for a long term solution without new infrastructure. This project would clearly maintain the road and also protect the environment as Measure AA was approved for. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Brendan Ing

From: [Rick Stubblefield](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 2:54:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rick@fuzzbuddies.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I very much liked the Marin Voice column, that appeared January 30th in the Marin IJ, "Chileno Valley Road crossing is deadly for our newts". As the article explains, this road has become a dangerous barrier for wildlife trying to reach Laguna Lake. And although I do not live in Marin County, half of Laguna Lake is in Sonoma County and I have cause to drive along where Chileno Valley Road borders the lake for about a mile.

Volunteers have spent years helping newts and frogs cross safely, but hand-carrying animals across a busy road is not a permanent solution. What's needed is infrastructure that allows wildlife to cross safely on their own. I am one of those volunteers and have seen California newts, rough-skinned newt, California Red-legged Frogs (a threatened species), ensatinas, arboreal salamanders and California red-sided garter snakes, not to mention a multitude of Pacific chorus frogs, all trying to cross a road that, at times, sees cars moving very fast.

The Transportation Authority of Marin is currently deciding Measure AA funding priorities. This is a rare opportunity to support a planning grant for a permanent wildlife undercrossing that protects animals, improves safety, and reflects community environmental values.

I urge TAM to make this project a priority.

Sincerely,

Richard Stubblefield

Petaluma, Ca 94952

From: [Marjorie Wagman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 3:28:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mcwagman@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I write to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed by vehicles while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. I have joined the many volunteers that have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality; this project clearly does both.

I strongly urge TAM to prioritize this important project.

Thank you,

Marjorie Wagman

Sent from my iPad

From: [Sarah Millus](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 11:25:03 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from smillus@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I strongly support funding for a planning grant to improve Chileno Valley Road, including a wildlife undercrossing to prevent amphibian and reptile road mortality.

Every year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed while trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, including species protected under federal and state law. Dedicated community volunteers devote thousands of hours annually to help these animals cross safely, but this extraordinary level of effort cannot continue indefinitely.

A planning grant now will ensure that wildlife crossing improvements are incorporated when the road is repaired—saving time, reducing future costs, and protecting local biodiversity.

Measure AA was passed to maintain local roads while safeguarding environmental quality. Funding this planning grant fulfills both goals. I urge TAM to prioritize this project.

Sarah Millus

From: [Rose Reeb](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support for Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 1:14:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rose.m.reeb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM,

I'm writing to encourage your support for a planning grant to establish a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed attempting to cross this stretch of road to reach Laguna Lake, including species unique to California that are considered "imperiled" and protected by law. While volunteers have made commendable efforts to reduce vehicular fatalities, these measures are not sustainable as a long-term solution.

Funding the planning phase now will ensure that wildlife crossing improvements can be integrated into upcoming road repairs, saving both time and public resources down the line. Measure AA was designed to maintain road safety while preserving environmental quality, and this initiative does exactly that.

I respectfully urge you to approve funding for the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing planning grant.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rose

From: [Marina Olson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: RE: Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing
Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:30:41 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-0uyfa4uh.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from molson@westervelt.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Transportation Authority of Marin,

I am writing to urge you to support Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing with the Measure AA funds. I am a field biologist from the bay area (now in Sacramento) who has seen the unfortunate and preventative loss that occurs on roads adjacent to breeding habitats, especially directly adjacent to breeding habitat. These species (newts, red legged frogs, tree frogs) etc. are all concentrated in small areas to cross manmade structures for which they have no other access. I have volunteered with the Newt Brigade and have seen and heard about the positive impact they are making (and even inspiring) in similar projects around the state. Please allocate funds to support this special project and special group of volunteers that continue to show up on rainy, cold nights, along a dark road (where we've experienced some locals even speeding up or honking at volunteers) whom are safely trying to make a difference in your part of the world.

Thank you for caring about wildlife in the present and for our children who deserve to enjoy nature the same we have.

Kindly,

Marina L. Olson
Biologist

Sacramento, California 95864

wesmitigation.com



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From: [thinkindance](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: RE: Laguna Lake Amphibians
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 3:29:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from thinkindance@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Transportation Authority of Marin,

Please allocate an estimated 1.2 million dollars to build tunnels for our amphibian-friends, including California Newts and the threatened Red Legged Frogs, near and around Laguna Lake. These tunnels, if built, will help the local amphibians in their spawning travels to cross roads safely.

Thank you for your consideration,

Angela Dickens

From: [Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Re: Wildlife Crossing at Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:40:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from fieldsketcher@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Transportation Authority of Marin

To Whom it May Concern:

At night, in rain or dry weather, volunteers patrol hazardous Chileno Valley Road to carry wildlife across the road: the California Newt, threatened California Red-Legged Frog, and the Red-sided Garter Snake and others so that these creatures do not get killed by car traffic.

If there was a wildlife crossing, these and other creatures could safely cross and the volunteers risking their lives could stay home. In Santa Clara County, Midpeninsula Open Space is partnering with the county and other agencies to study feasibility and designs to improve amphibian connectivity near Lexington Reservoir.

In Marin, an Allocation of \$1.2 million from Measure AA transportation funds would complete the necessary studies. Please support a planning grant to design permanent wildlife crossing at Chileno Valley Road.

Sincerely,

Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña

=====

Monica Schwalbenberg-Peña
fieldsketcher@gmail.com

From: [Gollin Suzanne](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Safe Newt crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 4:47:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from myboytex@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I am someone who supports you funding a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please continue to show the state and country that Marin County cares about all types of animals. And that we will be as progressive as possible to save as many as we can.

Thank you.

Suzanne Gollin
San Rafael CA

From: parmeleebt@gmail.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Salamander Tunnels
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 5:59:42 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from parmeleebt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please consider allocating funds for studying Chileno Valley Road salamander tunnels. Salamanders and frogs cross the road to reach their breeding grounds at the lake. So many are killed by vehicles while doing so. Under road tunnels would help prevent much of the slaughter by providing safe passage to these animals.

Thank you in advance for advocating -and allocating - for their survival!

Parmelee Thatcher

Marin Resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Todd Steiner](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Save the newts!
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 6:48:21 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tsteiner@tirn.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Provide funding for the Chileno Valley Road Life-Saving Tunnel!

Todd Steiner
Founder • Special Projects Director
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Cell: (415) 488-7652



Fighting for a Blue-Green Planet!

Visit our Website! <https://seaturtles.org>

From: [lilo.mar](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Secure Funding for a Permanent Wildlife Crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 3:10:01 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lilomar37@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM:

I urge you to support a wildlife crossing planning grant. Each year during the rainy months, newts leave their forest burrows to reach ponds to mate and lay their eggs. That means they have to cross Chileno Valley Road.

Please fund a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road.

Gioconda Molinari and Peter Saltzman, Marin County Residents.

From: [Charlette Epifanio](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 1:35:37 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from roseymooncat@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road

Dear [Commissioner / TAM Board],

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Charlette Epifanio
Sebastopol CA

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Merri Pittman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 4:21:54 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from pittco@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board members:

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road near Laguna Lake. This section of Chileno Valley Road has long presented safety concerns for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians due to its narrow shoulders, limited visibility, and sharp curves. In addition to these human safety challenges, the area is a critical wildlife corridor, particularly for migrating newts, California red-legged frogs, and western pond turtles, which attempt road crossings during seasonal movements between aquatic and upland habitats. Each year, thousands of amphibians and reptiles are killed by passing vehicles, posing a serious threat to local biodiversity.

The proposed wildlife crossing project would support improving roadway safety while integrating an amphibian and reptile undercrossing beneath the road near Laguna Lake. This crossing would provide safe passage for wildlife and significantly reduce roadkill mortality, balancing human transportation needs with Marin County's environmental stewardship goals.

The requested funds would support planning for the undercrossing structure, as well as necessary ecological monitoring and community engagement efforts. The project aligns closely with Measure AA's priorities for enhancing safety and sustainability within Marin's transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Your support of this proposal would reflect your commitment to preserving the biodiversity which is critical to maintaining the ecological health of the region.

Sincerely,

Merri Pittman
Member, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade
pittco@sbcglobal.net

From: [Lauren Cole](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 9:45:18 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from lbcole92@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. I'm a volunteer with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade - volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Every week when I go out, I move many amphibians across the road. However, I always find multiple dead ones as well. The worst are the injured ones we have to move and let go, knowing they are suffering and not knowing whether they'll survive.

Amphibians are a vital part of any ecosystem, not only for their own sake as living creatures, but because their sensitive physiology makes them the "canaries in the coal mine" of the natural world. Their presence indicates a thriving habitat, and as they dwindle, so too will their surrounding ecosystem.

Planning for this funding now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you for your time,
Lauren Cole

From: [Dede sabbag](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support for Chileno Valley Newt Crossing
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:54:22 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from dedesabbag@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM board members,

I am writing to you to ask for funding support (from the Measure AA funds) to get the designs going to make the Chileno Valley Road safer for newts (and other amphibians and critters) to cross. It has been heartbreaking to learn many thousands of these threatened species have been killed while trying to get to the Laguna Lake for procreation. They've likely been making this journey since long before a road was put there.

I believe that a lot of your constituents will look favorably at using the AA measure funds to not only improve a road but also to build the first safe wildlife crossing in Marin. It will generate a lot of good news in a County where appreciation of, and desire to protect our natural beauty and wildlife is widespread among the citizens.

I lived in Mill Valley for forty years, and now for ten years in Sonoma. Currently I volunteer in a few roles with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, and when I lived in Marin I was quite involved with environmental issues. For one, I was the founder of the Elizabeth Terwilliger Marsh native plant garden.

Please do all you can to lend support and funds to this wildlife crossing endeavor.

Respectfully ~Dede Sabbag
Sonoma CA

From: [Jonathan Kaplan](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support for study to protect Chileno Valley Newts
Date: Saturday, February 7, 2026 7:26:15 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from deskofjk@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing support funding for a means of protecting the Chileno Valley Newts. I understand that on Chileno Valley Road in northern Marin County, California Newts and a variety of other salamanders and frogs cross the road between the forest on one side and Laguna Lake on the other side to complete their breeding cycle migration.

Volunteers from the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade move as many animals as possible but cannot save them all. Every year, thousands of these innocent creatures are run over by cars and trucks.

The solution is to create tunnels under the road that the animals can safely use. This is a very appropriate use of funds managed by the Transportation Authority of Marin. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the studies necessary to receive state and federal funding for construction.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best, Jonathan Kaplan

Inverness, CA 94937

From: [Julie Carlson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support for Tunnels for Salamanders - Chilean Valley RD
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 8:10:38 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carlson.juli@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing in support of allocating funding to study Chileno Valley Road salamander tunnels.

If you don't know or care much about salamanders, please take the time to read this article from *Bay Nature* titled *Being a Salamander* by Brandon Keim. Valuing and caring for salamanders "is an act of kinship."

<https://baynature.org/magazine/winter2026/being-a-salamander/>

Sincerely,
Julie Carlson
Mill Valley

From: [Uta Jehnich](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support for under-road Newt+ passage
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 9:35:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from utajehnich@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Please allocate money for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

It's Marin's true heritage to protect and support our gorgeous county wild lands and all its non-human residents.

Thank you.

Uta Jehnich

Terra Linda

From: [Carly Everidge](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support for Wild Life Crossing, Chileno Valley
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:08:31 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from carly.everidge@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hi TAM,

I wanted to write to you in support of a planning grant for a wildlife crossing at Chileno Valley rd.

Please help protect wildlife in these beautiful spaces where human cars have severely impacted wildlife crossings.

Thank you,
Carly Everidge

Sonoma County

From: [Mary Goe](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support planning grant for permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Rd
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 9:25:46 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from marygoe@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello,

I kindly ask for your support of a planning grant for the permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road so that the animals can safely reach food water and shelter. Protecting our remaining wildlife is vitally important for the ecology and safety of all life.

Thank you

Mary Goe Balcerak

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ella Fodor](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 10:16:27 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from edfodor@ucdavis.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. As a Wildlife Conservation Biology student and volunteer, I have personally witnessed the results of numerous road strikes along Chileno Valley Road, affecting several ecologically important species. The mortality on this road is both tragic, and hopefully preventable.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Ella Fodor

From: [Amy Dunnigan](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: TAM 2/26/26 6pm meeting remark
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:38:37 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from amydunnigan@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Transportation Authority of Marin, My name is Amy Dunnigan and I live in San Anselmo (90 Ridge Road).

I encourage you to help make the newt wildlife crossing a reality. I feel like most everyone in Marin takes great pleasure in our critters both big and small and approving this road improvement will only help our biodiverse animals continue to grow and thrive. Keeping the roadways safer for drivers is also a no-brainer.

This year has been tough for so many reasons out of our control. We lost Jane Goodall this year, but I must remind you of her famous quote, "What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what type of a difference you want to make." The newt brigade is comprised of a tireless demographic all ages, including my biophile daughter, and so many more including. I've witnessed their hard, tireless, admirable work for years. They deserve a win. All living things do!



February 19, 2026

Anne Richman, Executive Director
Chair Kate Colin and Members of the Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Urge Support of the Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing Funding Request

The Tomales Bay Foundation (TBF) is involved in projects of habitat restoration, education, scholarships, community development, research and improvements within the Tomales Bay Watershed. We are concerned about the high mortality of **California newts, slender salamanders, red-legged frogs, California red-sided garter snakes and chorus frogs** which are run over each year as they attempt to cross Chileno Valley Road in their migration to Laguna Lake to breed.

For seven years volunteers from the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade (CVNB) have been on the road, rain or shine, to help reduce this mortality. Because of our concern for wildlife in the watershed, in 2024 TBF awarded a \$5,000 grant for the purpose of characterizing the newt population migrating to Laguna Lake and which involved Professor Gary Bucciarelli and his UC Davis students.

Volunteers are not a permanent solution to this mortality problem. In California crossings for wildlife have become a priority for road design and a number of crossings have been funded and constructed. In 2024 the CVNB contracted with Dokken Engineering to prepare a feasibility study of alternative crossing designs. The feasibility study has been completed and narrowed the crossing designs down to three that will need further elaboration.

PO Box 447, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

www.tomalesbayfoundation.org

email: steward@tomalesbayfoundation.org

We therefore urge your board to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. A permanent wildlife crossing project is desperately needed and will reduce the mortality of California newts and other wildlife trying to cross the road and eliminate the need for a volunteer brigade to help them along.

We look forward to your favorable action on this funding allocation request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Gaman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Gaman, President, Tomales Bay Foundation

--



Postal Address:
76 Albert Park Lane
San Rafael, CA 94901
discoverwildcare.org

February 19, 2026

Anne Richman, Executive Director
Chair Kate Colin and Members of the Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Executive Director Richman, Chair Colin, and Members of the TAM Board:

At WildCare, we work to make sure all species can coexist – not just by treating sick or injured animals, but also by teaching people how to live well with wildlife and by advocating for better protection of wildlife and our remaining open spaces.

I write to you to add our voice to those requesting that the Transportation Authority of Marin allocate \$1.2 million from the Measure AA Reimagined Roadways fund to advance the design and environmental review of permanent wildlife undercrossings on Chileno Valley Road near Laguna Lake.

As you know, Chileno Valley Road bisects one of the largest amphibian migration corridors in Marin County. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs are killed attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. The road also threatens the federally listed California Red-Legged Frog and the Western Pond Turtle, a California Species of Special Concern. The U.S. Geological Survey has concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction.

WildCare has long advocated for investment in connectivity projects to protect wildlife. This project is listed on California's statewide priority connectivity map, but state and federal funding sources are severely constrained. Multi-benefit projects like this one can compete for larger construction grants, but only with local matching dollars and the support of regional transportation agencies. TAM's investment in planning and design is the essential catalyst that will unlock those larger funding sources and multiply the impact of every local dollar.

In addition to caring for our region's wildlife at our veterinary hospital, WildCare runs environmental education programs inspired by the legacy of Elizabeth Terwilliger. Our programs aim to strengthen environmental stewardship and responsibility by teaching an appreciation of nature and a respect for wildlife.

The strongest reinforcement we can give to those education programs is to model that behavior in our deeds. Together, we can create a brighter future for wildlife and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. We urge you to make this critical investment in infrastructure to protect these threatened and critical species that are a part of this wonderful ecosystem we call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellyn Weisel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellyn Weisel
Executive Director

From: [Lori Eanes laptop](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Tunnel for Chileno Valley Newts
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 12:04:16 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lori@lorieanes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I strongly support funding for building a permanent structure to help the Chileno Valley Newts. The newts must migrate across Chileno Valley road every year to get to Laguna Lake. They have been going to this rare natural lake for thousands of years and thousands are killed trying to do what they must do. We must help them. These charismatic little creatures aren't the only animals that would benefit from the tunnels. Western Pond turtles and Red-legged frogs, both endangered, as well as many other small animals would also be helped.

The tunnel is a small price tag for the good it would do. I'm a filmmaker and photographer in San Francisco and I was so inspired by the work of Sally Gale and her newt brigade that I made a film to try to help them and I hope your board will also support this project. If you need more information please check out my short film

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1000633911>

The password is Newt.

Thanks so much for your support.

Lori Eanes

www.lorieanes.com

From: [Shree Ram](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Vote for Animal Tunnels
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 11:09:21 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from shreejennifer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the members of the Transportation Authority of Marin,

I am writing to encourage your support of the studies required to receive State and Federal funds for the construction of animal road crossing tunnels.

Please vote to allocate \$1.2 million of TAM's annual budget of \$50 million.

Animal safety corridors have proven effective in reversing animal mortality rates. With your vote, Marin County can be a leader within the state and country setting precedent for these critical pathways to species preservation.

Thank you for your vote to protect our local wildlife.

Shree Jennifer Ram
Point Reyes Station

From: [Catherine Cunningham](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: We need infrastructure now for our fellow amphibians
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:37:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherine@eikosphere.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chileno Valley Road bisects one of Marin County's largest amphibian migration corridors. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs — including the federally listed California Red-Legged Frog — are killed while attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction.

Please support the construction of infrastructure to support this important mating ritual to ensure that our newts, salamanders, and frogs are not harmed by speeding traffic. Thank you.

Catherine- a California native and tax payer my entire life.

Catherine Cunningham, PhD
<https://eikosphere.com>
<https://naturalintelligence.com>



From: [Becky Olsen](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife Crossing at Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 4:53:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from beckyolsen28@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom it May Concern:

At night, in rain or dry weather, volunteers patrol hazardous Chileno Valley Road to carry wildlife across the road: the California Newt, threatened California Red-Legged Frog, and the Red-sided Garter Snake and others so that these creatures do not get killed by car traffic.

If there was a wildlife crossing, these and other creatures could safely cross and the volunteers risking their lives could stay home. In Santa Clara County, Midpeninsula Open Space is partnering with the county and other agencies to study feasibility and designs to improve amphibian connectivity near Lexington Reservoir.

In Marin, an Allocation of \$1.2 million from Measure AA transportation funds would complete the necessary studies. Please support a planning grant to design permanent wildlife crossing at Chileno Valley Road.

Sincerely,

Becky Olsen

From: [Alexandra Austin](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: wildlife crossing for CA amphibians
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:00:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from acaustin1991@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm emailing to illustrate the critical importance to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

This is in the interest of the conservation of our California amphibians and wildlife that are increasingly being destroyed by the thousands with each passing year- especially those that migrate across Chileno Valley road to and from Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Alexandra Austin

From: gclyde11@gmail.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife crossing for newts in Chileno Valley
Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026 7:03:28 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gclyde11@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Transportation Authority of West Marin –

I write in support of a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. I recall first seeing newts in a creek near my home about 75 years ago and being amazed at all phases of their lives – from the translucent sacs of eggs to their “hatching” and maturing into elegant adults. I even kept two in an aquarium for over a year feeding them slugs from the garden.

I was shocked to learn of the carnage on Chileno Valley Road that happens every night during this season. I commend Sally Gale and all the volunteers who have worked so hard, and I urge your authority to support and fund a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Respectfully,

George Clyde, Marshall CA

From: [Joelle CantoAdams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife crossing funding proposal
Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 5:35:11 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jcantoadams@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

At the next TAM board meeting, there will be a group of community members rallying around a wildlife crossing funding proposal to receive TAM funds. This wildlife crossing is to protect some of the smallest and most vulnerable creatures: reptiles and amphibians. For nearly a decade, volunteers of local community members have patrolled a stretch of rural road outside of Petaluma to help frogs, snakes, newts, and salamanders cross this relatively busy road. These include protected species like the California-red legged frog. The newts in particular cross this road with high frequency, as it was built right between their terrestrial upland habitat and Laguna Lake where they go to breed. Without the tireless work of volunteers 7 days a week each breeding season, thousands of newts would be run over and killed, devastating the local population. They are cold blooded and sensitive to evening temperatures, and simply cannot move their tiny bodies out of the way of passing cars in time. While we volunteers are proud of what we do, our work is not sustainable in the long term; we cannot be everywhere at once and still face regular newt losses. This wildlife crossing would provide newts and other small animals passage underneath the road and greatly reduce the number of deaths from cars for decades to come. We hope you grant TAM funding to make this wildlife crossing, novel in its design and implementation, a reality for our community.

Thanks,
Joelle

From: [Martha Nissen](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife Crossing Measure AA funds
Date: Monday, February 9, 2026 9:13:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from nissenmartha@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am in favor of using Measure AA funds to support a planning grant for construction of the Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing.

Each year, newts and red-legged frogs have to cross this road to breed in Lake Laguna.

Thank you,
Martha Nissen

From: [Alison Quoyeser](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife Crossing Needed!
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 2:46:33 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from aaquoyeser@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM,

California Newts, Red-legged Frogs, and Western Pond Turtles need our help! I am writing to request that TAM include funding for a planning grant to create a wildlife corridor on Chileno Valley Road when budgeting your measure AA funds, which we taxpayers supply. Brave souls are out on Chileno Valley Rd in the night saving these animals, but still thousands are crushed by cars. An amphibian- and turtle-friendly wildlife crossing is needed!



Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely,
Alison Quoyeser



Alison Quoyeser, Co-Director
| amigosalados.org | amigosalados4@gmail.com
[Mill Valley, California, USA 94941](#)

From: [Ellen Shehadeh](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife crossing
Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026 8:09:17 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from mstessb2@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am more than happy to support a wildlife crossing. We have a duty to protect our animal neighbors.
Ellen Shehadeh, Inverness Ca.
Sent from my phone

From: [Carol Sklar](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: wildlife crossing
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 9:29:12 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from clar5@sonic.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

what a great idea-
and how many other roads need this?
thank you
Carol Sklar, Occidental

Chileno Valley Road needs a safe crossing for wildlife

Editor: While Chileno Valley Road paves the way for easy transit for people, it makes life more dangerous for animals — including the California newt, the threatened California red-legged frog and the lovely red-sided garter snake — by dividing their homes. To carry the wildlife across the road, local volunteers are patrolling the hazardous road in the dark and the rain.

There's a solution: a wildlife under-crossing, so animals can connect to food, water and mates. And volunteers can stay home. Such an effort is already underway in nearby Santa Clara County, where Midpeninsula Open Space is partnering with the county and other agencies to investigate feasibility and designs to improve amphibian connectivity near Lexington Reservoir.

Now it is time for our region to act.

The Transportation Authority of Marin is meeting on Feb. 26 to discuss how to spend Measure AA transportation funds. An allocation of only \$1.2 million would complete the necessary studies. This only happens once every six years, and decisions will be finalized in early March. Contact the transportation authority at info@tam.ca.gov to urge support for a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road — the step that will make future construction possible.

Lisa Krigger, Inverness

From: [Mayra Swaintek](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife Crossing
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026 8:48:00 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mayraswaintek@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Mayra and Jay Swaintek

Woodacre, CA 94973



March 9, 2026

Sent via email

Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review - Support for Wildlife Connectivity and Funding the Chileno Valley Road Newt Crossings

To Whom it May Concern:

The Center for Biological Diversity (Center) is writing to urge the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) to incorporate wildlife connectivity projects as eligible for Measure AA funding in the proposed Reimagined Roadways Program of the Expenditure Plan. Such projects, which can include infrastructure like wildlife crossings, have been shown to make roads safer for people and wildlife by reducing wildlife vehicle collisions while restoring habitat connectivity and improving climate resilience.

The Center would also like to express our strong support for TAM to allocate \$1.2 million to the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade for the Chileno Valley Road improvement project that will include wildlife crossings for newts and other small animals along a one-mile stretch along Laguna Lake. Wildlife crossings are critical to protecting federally threatened California red-legged frogs and other small, sensitive species that have been documented as roadkill on this section of road, including California newts, rough-skinned newts, garter snakes, arboreal salamanders, Pacific chorus frogs, *Ensatina* salamanders, and more. TAM has an opportunity to proactively address this issue and showcase the County's environmental leadership at a time when the federal administration is attacking the environment and rolling back environmental protections.

Background on the Center

The Center for Biological Diversity is a non-profit, public interest environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 1.8 million members and online activists throughout California and the United States. The Center has worked for many years to protect imperiled plants and wildlife, open space, air and water quality, and overall quality of life for people in Marin County.

Roads have significant impacts on wildlife movement and habitat connectivity.

As detailed in a 2021 Center Report (Yap et al., 2021), roads and development create barriers that lead to habitat loss and fragmentation, which harms native wildlife like newts, plants, and people. As barriers to wildlife movement, poorly-planned development and roads can affect an animal's behavior, movement patterns, reproductive success, and physiological state, which can lead to significant impacts on individual wildlife, populations, communities, landscapes, and ecosystem function (Brehme et al., 2013; Ceia-Hasse et al., 2018; Haddad et al., 2015; Marsh & Jaeger, 2015). For example, habitat fragmentation from roads and development has been shown to cause mortalities and harmful genetic isolation in mountain lions in Southern California and along the Central Coast (Ernest et al., 2014; Gustafson et al., 2021; Riley et al., 2014; Vickers et al., 2015), increase local extinction risk in amphibians and reptiles (Brehme et al., 2013, 2018; Cushman, 2006), cause high levels of avoidance behavior and mortality in birds and insects (Benítez-López et al., 2010; Kantola et al., 2019; Loss et al., 2014), and alter pollinator behavior and degrade habitats (Aguilar et al., 2008; Goverde et al., 2002; Trombulak & Frissell, 2000).

Habitat loss and fragmentation also severely impacts plant communities. An 18-year study found that reconnected landscapes had nearly 14% more plant species compared to fragmented habitats, and that number is likely to continue to rise as time passes (Damschen et al., 2019). The authors conclude that efforts to preserve and enhance connectivity will pay off over the long-term (Damschen et al., 2019). In addition, connectivity is important to allow for range shifts and species migrations as climate changes (Cushman et al., 2013; Heller & Zavaleta, 2009; Krosby et al., 2018). Loss of wildlife connectivity decreases biodiversity and degrades ecosystems.

Community scientists have documented high levels of sensitive wildlife, including roadkill, on the road.

The impacts to connectivity due to traffic on Chileno Valley Road are clear. Community scientists risk their safety walking along a mile-stretch of road at night during the rainy season to save newts and other critters from becoming roadkill. Over the past seven years, hundreds of volunteers have spent more than 8,600 volunteer hours helping transport some 40,000 newts across the road.¹ Unfortunately, they can't save everyone. Despite their heroic efforts, they have also counted more than 11,000 dead newts on the road. And while newts account for the highest number of observations (dead and alive), volunteers have regularly documented federally threatened California red-legged frogs and other wildlife over the years.² In fact, during the 2024-2025 rainy season, volunteers documented more than 900

¹ Meral, J. (January 30, 2026). Marine Voice: Chileno Valley Road crossing is deadly for our newts. Marin Independent Journal. Available online at: <https://www.marinij.com/2026/01/30/marin-voice-chileno-valley-road-crossing-is-deadly-for-our-newts/>

² See community scientist project, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade Umbrella Project data on iNaturalist at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/chileno-valley-newt-brigade>

California red-legged frogs on the road.³ California red-legged frogs, California newts, and rough-skinned newts have been identified as very-high and high risk of negative road-related impacts (Brehme et al., 2018), and the community science data illustrate this. In addition, this segment of road has been identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a wildlife movement barrier.⁴

Amphibians are extremely vulnerable and in decline.

Amphibians are the most threatened vertebrate group with more than 40% of species threatened (IUCN 2016) and approximately 200 species collapsing to or near extinction since the 1970s (Alroy, 2015; Stuart et al., 2004). According to researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), amphibian populations in the U.S. are declining at an alarming rate of almost 4% per year (Grant et al., 2016), and roads increase local extinction risk in amphibians (Brehme et al., 2018; Cushman, 2006). Amphibians are important indicators of ecosystem health; they play critical roles in the food chain and carbon cycle in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (Arribas et al., 2015; Best & Welsh, 2014; Rowland et al., 2016; Semlitsch et al., 2014). They face numerous threats, including habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, chemical contaminants, disease, roads, and climate change (Brehme et al., 2018; Bucciarelli et al., 2020; Hayes et al., 2006; Riley et al., 2005; Yap et al., 2015). We must do more to protect these populations before it is too late.

Wildlife crossings could improve connectivity for newts and other small critters on Chileno Valley Road.

Wildlife crossings have been shown to reduce road mortalities and make roads safer for both wildlife and people. For example, in a pilot study conducted in Yosemite, an elevated section of road allowed Yosemite toads and other small critters, including snakes, rodents, and lizards, to safely migrate (Brehme & Fisher, 2020). Amphibian undercrossings embedded in the road with grated tops and cattle guard crossings are other potential mitigation measures that have had some success when appropriately designed, and could be explored for this site. Numerous studies and reports provide guidance on amphibian crossing design (Brehme et al., 2020, 2022; Gunson et al., 2016).

Conclusion

The Center urges TAM to include wildlife connectivity projects in the proposed Reimagined Roadways Program of the Expenditure Plan. We also strongly urge TAM to fund the Chileno Valley Road improvement project so that wildlife crossings can be installed in this identified wildlife movement barrier/roadkill hotspot. Improving the road to be more permeable for

³ See community scientist project, Chileno Valley Newt Brigade Project 2024-2025 data on iNaturalist at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/2024-2025-chileno-valley-newt-brigade-winter>

⁴ CDFW. (2026). Terrestrial Wildlife Connectivity Barriers. Available online at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Wildlife/Connectivity/Barriers#627835141-target-species-for-statewide-top-priority-wildlife-connectivity-barriers-identified-by-cdfw>

newts and other wildlife will make the road safer for animals and people while improving habitat connectivity and climate resilience.

The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade has already done a significant portion of the foundational work for such a project. Not only have they been working tirelessly to document the live and dead animals they find on the road, but they have also been working with CDFW, the U.S. Geological Survey, and other stakeholders to address the problem and determine a feasible solution. The County has a responsibility to appropriately manage this road segment to protect the valuable and iconic wildlife in the area and keep residents safe. Relying on volunteers to risk their lives to save these cherished wildlife populations is unsustainable.

Life on Earth is experiencing a sixth mass extinction driven primarily by habitat loss and fragmentation, and climate change is an increasing threat. Combating the extinction and climate crises requires bold action to ensure we protect remaining biodiversity and reconnect open space. This not only helps wildlife, but it is essential to building a healthy, climate-resilient future for all Californians. Native landscapes help us regulate our climate, purify our air and water, pollinate our crops, and create healthy soil. Thoughtful land use planning that protects and reconnects native biodiversity will help ensure healthy, climate-resilient ecosystems persist while bringing the state closer to its commitment to conserve more than 30 percent of its lands and coastal waters by 2030 under executive order N-82-20.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Measure AA Expenditure Plan Review and the Chileno Valley Road improvement project. We look forward to seeing this project move forward.

Please include the Center on your notice list for all future updates to the review and do not hesitate to contact the Center with any questions at the email listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Yap', is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Tiffany Yap, D.Env/PhD
Urban Wildlands Science Director
Center for Biological Diversity
2100 Franklin St., Suite 375
Oakland, CA 94612
tyap@biologicaldiversity.org

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1968 S Coast Hwy Suite 622, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | savethefrogs.com

March 9, 2025

Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Board of Commissioners
info@tam.ca.gov

RE: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA

Dear TAM Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of SAVE THE FROGS! — the world's leading amphibian conservation organization — I am writing to express our strong support for the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade's request that the Transportation Authority of Marin include language for wildlife crossings in its Measure AA expenditure plan.

Chileno Valley Road is a well-documented wildlife mortality hotspot, where thousands of California Newts (*Taricha torosa*) and other amphibians are killed each year while attempting to cross to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. Dedicated volunteers have stepped in to carry these animals to safety by hand — a heroic effort, but not a sustainable or scalable solution. A permanent, engineered wildlife crossing is the only long-term answer.

Amphibians are among the most imperiled groups of animals on Earth, and California's native newts and salamanders face mounting pressures from habitat fragmentation, disease, and climate change. Road mortality compounds these threats significantly. Funding a planning grant now — while Measure AA road improvements are being designed — is a cost-effective, forward-thinking approach. Integrating a wildlife crossing at the planning stage avoids costly retrofits later and ensures that public infrastructure investments serve both human and ecological communities.

Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while protecting environmental quality. A wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road does exactly that. SAVE THE FROGS! urges the TAM Board to include clear language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you for your service to Marin County and for your consideration of this important conservation matter.

Together we can SAVE THE FROGS! ■

Sincerely,

Dr. Kerry Kriger

SAVE THE FROGS!

Founder, Executive Director & Ecologist

www.savethefrogs.com

From: [Esther Wanning](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: A much-needed application of TAM's Measure AA funds -- a newt crossing
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9:20:54 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from ewanning@estherwanning.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To The Board

The ways in which humans are destructive to wildlife are manifold, and there seems to be no stopping us. However, occasionally some of the senseless annihilation can be mitigated. One opportunity is to provide an undercrossing for Chileno Valley Road, for the many animals on their ways to or back from Laguna Lake. A great many are smashed by cars en route.

A large brigade of volunteers goes out in the evenings during the busiest seasons and hand-carry newts and frogs across. This saves some but is hardly a complete solution or a permanent one. Funding a planning grant for a tunnel under the road so that these many little animals can safely arrive at their destinations would be a very appropriate use of Measure AA funds. TAM includes sustainability planning, including mitigation of habitat destruction, in its purview. With all the money to be spent on roads for ourselves, the least we can do is spent some small proportion for the creatures who suffer so under our giant wheels. In so doing, we preserve the web of life.

This avenue has been successful in many places around the world, and I do not know anybody in this area who does not respond enthusiastically to the plan. I hope you, in your position on TAM, will do all you can to forward this proposal.

Sincerely,
Esther Wanning
San Rafael, CA

From: [Eric Heim](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Project
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 6:35:29 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ericheim@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Transportation Authority of Marin,

I am writing to urge TAM to allocate Measure AA funds for a small planning grant to advance the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing project.

Each rainy season, California newts, red-legged frogs, and other amphibians cross Chileno Valley Road to reach Laguna Lake. Road mortality is the greatest threat to their survival. For seven years, volunteers with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade have spent nearly 9,000 hours rescuing animals by hand, saving more than 40,000 lives. Even so, over 11,000 have been found dead on the road.

While this volunteer effort is extraordinary, it is not sustainable and cannot prevent large die-offs during peak migration nights. Biologists and engineers agree that permanent wildlife undercrossing is the only effective long-term solution.

A modest planning grant would allow this project to move forward and become eligible for construction funding. I respectfully ask TAM to support this practical, cost-effective step to protect wildlife and Marin's natural heritage.

Thank you for considering this practical step to protect wildlife and Marin's natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Eric Heim

San Rafael

From: [Barbara Hale](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:14:28 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from barbarahale@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am writing to express support for the funding of the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing planning grant. We need a permanent, science-based solution to protecting newts and other animals crossing traffic to Laguna Lake. Please allocate the funds to this project. I am a resident of San Anselmo, born and raised in west Petaluma.

Thank you
Barb Hale

From: [Lori Eanes laptop](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Comment to Secure Funding for Permanent Wildlife Crossing on Chileno Valley Road,
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:18:10 PM
Attachments: [favicon.ico](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lori@lorieanes.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM,

I attended the meeting tonight asking for funds to get a wildlife crossing for Chileno Valley Road and I wasn't surprised by the huge turnout.

I spent 3 years working on a short film about the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and the people trying to get this wildlife crossing made are passionate about making a difference. I'm including a link to my 13 minute film and I'm hoping you have a chance to watch it. It's such an important project and Sally Gale and the Brigadiers have an amazing story and I think each of you will be interested in hearing it.

The film has been in several film festivals and won a best in show award in San Francisco.

The password is Newt

Vimeo
vimeo.com



Thank you so much for your interest.

Lori Eanes
www.lorieanes.com



March 9, 2026

Anne Richman, Executive Director
Chair Kate Colin and Members of the Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Executive Director Richman, Chair Colin, and Members of the TAM Board:

The undersigned organizations write in strong support of the proposed Measure AA Expenditure Plan amendments and to urge TAM's partnership in advancing a permanent wildlife undercrossing on Chileno Valley Road near Laguna Lake. We support the addition of language to the Reimagined Roadways category that would make wildlife crossing and roadway resilience projects eligible for planning funds under the amended Expenditure Plan. And we ask TAM to work with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, the County of Marin, and the conservation community to advance this project through design and environmental review — an investment estimated at \$1.2 million that would make the undercrossing shovel-ready for integration into the County's road rehabilitation for Chileno Valley Road.

TAM's six-year Expenditure Plan review is a rare window to align transportation investment with Marin's environmental values. The Reimagined Roadways category was created for exactly this — multi-benefit roadway improvements that advance environmental resiliency alongside infrastructure needs. Chileno Valley Road is rated "Category IV – Poor" on the County's Pavement Condition Index and will require rehabilitation in the coming years. The County will lead that rehabilitation as the road's owner. TAM's role is to help ensure that when the County rebuilds, a permanent wildlife crossing is permitted and ready to construct — saving time and taxpayer money.

The need is urgent. Chileno Valley Road bisects one of the largest amphibian migration corridors in Marin. Each winter, thousands of California newts, salamanders, and frogs are killed attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. The corridor also supports the federally threatened California red-legged frog and the western pond turtle, a California Species of Special Concern. Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey and Dokken Engineering, funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, have concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, continued road mortality poses a serious long-term threat to species in this wildlife corridor.

For seven years, hundreds of volunteers with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade have spent cold, rainy nights hand-carrying amphibians across the road. Over 40,000 animals have been rescued — work featured in the New York Times, The Guardian, NPR, and dozens of other outlets. But

volunteer rescue is not a permanent fix. The community has sustained this extraordinary effort while working toward the infrastructure investment that will make it unnecessary. We are ready to partner with TAM and the County to reach that goal.

This project is not starting from scratch. The CDFW-funded study identified three promising undercrossing concepts. Marin County Public Works is familiar with the road conditions and the project need. The next step is to advance the best alternative through design and environmental review — the critical phase that TAM, the County, and the project team would navigate together.

State and federal funding for wildlife connectivity is severely constrained. The Wildlife Conservation Board can fund only a fraction of California's top priority projects, and federal wildlife crossing funds have been frozen. Multi-benefit projects like this one can compete for larger construction grants, but only with local planning dollars in place and the backing of a regional transportation agency. TAM's investment in planning and design is the catalyst that will unlock those larger funding sources and multiply the impact of every local dollar.

This request is consistent with Measure AA's stated purposes. The Expenditure Plan references environmental protection no fewer than seven times, including commitments to "protect the environment" and sustain "Marin County's natural environment and unique quality of life." It also advances the Countywide Transportation Plan's climate adaptation strategy and the General Plan's habitat connectivity policies. The language changes we support would not limit TAM's discretion in project selection. They would simply ensure that when a project like this one — one that integrates wildlife protection into routine road maintenance — comes forward, the Expenditure Plan does not stand in the way.

Protecting imperiled wildlife on a County road is a shared responsibility. A partnership between TAM, the County, and the conservation community on this project would demonstrate what Marin can accomplish when transportation planning and environmental stewardship work together. The science is clear, the community is mobilized, the engineering pathway is defined, and the funding tools exist. We look forward to working with TAM to bring this project to life.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Gale

Founder

Chileno Valley Newt Brigade

Ashley Eagle-Gibbs

Executive Director

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC)

Laura Chariton

President

Watershed Alliance of Marin

Kenneth Bouley

Executive Director

Turtle Island Restoration Network / Salmon Protection and Watershed Network

Jeff Miller

Senior Conservation Advocate

Center for Biological Diversity

Michael Painter

Coordinator

Californians for Western Wilderness

cc:

Congressman Jared Huffman, California's 2nd Congressional District

Senator Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District

Assemblymember Damon Connolly, California State Assembly, 12th District

Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Supervisor, District 4

Derek Johnson, County Executive Officer, County of Marin

Chris Blunk, Director of Public Works, County of Marin

From: [Julia Anderson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Dear [Commissioner/TAM Board],
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 11:10:02 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from juliaganderson2002@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM board,

On behalf of both animals and human residents of the Chileno Valley area, I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for the Chileno Valley Road wildlife crossing. Thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Not only is this bad for the animals, but it also creates an unsightly mess on the road that could impair drivers and requires cleanup, negatively impacting humans. Deceased animals also can create a smell, attract flies and parasites, and attract more animals who could then also get hit and perpetuate the problem.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It will benefit humans and animals.

Thank you,
Julia Anderson

From: [gacstephen](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Dear [Commissioner/TAM Board],
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 2:16:06 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from gacstephen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

-Gannon

From: [Roberto](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Dear [Commissioner/TAM Board],
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 1:02:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from algodon.alacran@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Roberto Lemus, an East Bay resident who wishes to see the entirety of the Bay Area protect its endemic wildlife.

From: [Jerry Meral](#)
To: [Ed Nute](#); [jennifer Horne](#); [Rick Parmer](#); [Liza Prunuske](#); [Eric O. Gold](#); [Sally Gale](#); [Jerry Meral](#); [Patty Wimpfheimer](#); [Gail Seymour](#); [Anne Richman](#)
Subject: frog crossing in Oregon
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 10:04:00 AM

Hi Anne

Please distribute to Commissioners. Let me know if you have trouble with this link.

Thanks!

Jerry

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/58-3/how-people-are-helping-breeding-frogs-dodge-cars/>

--

Jerry Meral

jerrymeral@gmail.com

From: [shannon ayres aguilar](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Funding For Chileno Valley Newt Brigade
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 3:24:17 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from shannonayresaguilar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

My friend Niko wrote a poem about newts. He hopes the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade will be able to get funding so they can save more amphibians!

O, to prick a pint of newts
begotten from the pavement.
To hold those slushy bellies—
They, squirming with the
litheness of a moistened
tongue. "How fare you, small
creature?" into the beating
strokes of wet, embodied
tails and suctioning toes.
How ripe, the great lather
of them, held waist-high.

From: [Jennifer Doucette](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: FW: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:20:40 PM

From: Brett Trumper <norcaljax@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 6:02 PM
To: TAM Info <info@tam.ca.gov>
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road

Some people who received this message don't often get email from norcaljax@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road

Dear [Commissioner / TAM Board],

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Brett Trumper



March 9, 2026

Anne Richman, Executive Director
TAM Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA. 94901

Via email: info@tam.ca.gov

RE: Measure AA Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and proposed amendments

Dear Director Richman and Board of Commissioners:

Marin Conservation League has reviewed TAM's Measure AA Expenditure Plan and its recommendations for Amendments. We recognize this has been a major undertaking and appreciate that the sales tax measure allows for this type of deliberative and thoughtful review of the Plan every six to eight years. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments.

If accepted, the proposed Amendments to categories in the Expenditure Plan will require the Plan to be approved not only by the TAM Board of Commissioners but also by Marin's Board of Supervisors and by a majority in Marin's town and city jurisdictions. That's a high bar which makes this comment period especially important. The opportunity to suggest category changes to the Plan may not occur again for the remaining 22 years before the tax's expiration.

Expenditure Plan review and MCL's Request

On Transportation Authority of Marin's website, it states "TAM works with towns, cities, transportation agencies and community groups to identify and prioritize transportation needs and to distribute local, state, and federal funds." As a "Self -Help County", one of 25 in the State, Marin has voted to tax itself through a "dedicated" sales tax. "Dedicated" in this context means that revenue generated by the sales tax is legally restricted to be spent *only* on specific pre-approved projects, programs, or services, rather than being placed into a general fund.

That means Marin's Measure AA provides local dollars for locally identified transportation needs. While funds are eligible for the several valuable transportation and road-related categories and strategies currently identified in the Expenditure Plan, we find the current Plan does not meet one important transportation need: **to fund projects that integrate environmental protection and mitigation in transportation planning and projects in order to lessen ecological impacts.**

It's no secret that roads and transportation infrastructure impact California's ecosystems, resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation, environmental pollution, and exacerbate impacts from climate change to threatened and sensitive species. Roads are stressors to biodiversity because they are where a majority of wildlife injury and unnatural mortality occur.

PHONE: 415.485.6257
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
WEB: marinconservationleague.org

ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977



Many times, however, ecological and wildlife impacts are spatially limited to specific road segments or road effect zones. **By integrating habitat connectivity and wildlife passage solutions combined with fencing or other barriers in high-risk areas into transportation planning, for example, many impacts could be minimized.**

We ask that TAM incorporate language in Measure AA's Sales Tax Expenditure Plan to **include funding for planning and implementing local multi-benefit transportation projects that integrate environmental priorities and mitigation measures to prevent, avoid and repair the effects of transportation infrastructure and existing roadways on wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems.**

Alignment with Marin's Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP)

MCL's request aligns with the vision and goals stated in Marin's Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). The CTP's vision statement includes: "In this new era of climate change, sustainability in transportation planning refers both to the desire to mitigate environmental degradation (air, noise, and light pollution, carbon emissions, habitat destruction, etc.) locally while also accepting the global reality of a changing planet and the need to adapt infrastructure and system operations to account for hazards ..." The goal for sustainability states: Actively partner to implement transportation strategies that support climate resiliency, **environmental protection** [*emphasis added*], and economic development throughout Marin's communities.

Suggested amendment to Strategy 2 of the Expenditure Plan to increase alignment with Marin's CTP

Adding the following language to Measure AA's Expenditure Plan would not only address our stated concerns but would increase the Plan's alignment with Marin's County's CTP.¹

Under Strategy 2, **Category 2.1 Local Transportation Infrastructure**, add a bullet for:

- *"infrastructure improvements to address harmful environmental impacts"*

In newly proposed **Category 2.4 Reimagined Roadways**, include language that would allow local road projects that offer multi-benefits to be included in the category, for example (suggested language in **red**):

*Percentage of Sales Tax Funds equal to 4.5% of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be dedicated to "Reimagined Roadways: Provide planning and project development activities for large roadway capital projects **and local road projects that achieve multiple local benefits.**"*

*Description: "With traffic and land use changes in Marin County, there is a growing need to advance large roadway capital projects **and local road projects that provide multiple local benefits**, specifically roadway corridors or intersections, to support multijurisdictional travel and multiple modes of travel **and/or environmental protection**. This category would support the identification and planning of roadway projects of countywide significance. The funds would be used by TAM to advance prioritized projects through the initial project delivery phases and compete for construction funding. TAM would work with local jurisdictions to determine corridor needs in alignment with the Countywide*

¹ Reference: [January 22, 2026 TAM Board of Commissioners meeting packet](#), Agenda Item 7 – Attachment B "Measure AA Expenditure Plan Amendment #1, April 2026" pgs 113-115, and Attachment C "Measure AA Alignment with CTP Goals – Draft" pg 143.



Transportation Plan (CTP) and the ability to leverage outside grants from regional, state or federal funding sources.”

Adding the language requested above would not limit TAM’s ability to prioritize projects for funding under the categories of the Expenditure Plan. It would, however, permit funds from the Measure AA sales tax to be used on projects that integrate environmental priorities with the transportation projects that affect them and might elevate those projects when there are significant benefits from such integration.

Case in point: Chileno Valley Newt Brigade’s road undercrossings project in West Marin

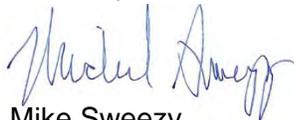
Roads built over and through local ecosystems often pass through the interface between wetland and upland habitat. Many of Marin’s roads are no exception. This creates a mortal threat for amphibians due to their life cycle needs and the habitats they depend on for breeding, foraging, and sheltering—needing to migrate from water to upland and back to water during the course of their lifetimes. This is the case annually for Chileno Valley’s large population of California newts and the other amphibian species near Laguna Lake.

MCL supports the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade’s efforts to secure funding from both TAM and the County to advance permanent wildlife undercrossings for the newts and other fauna along the hazardous mile of Chileno Valley Road near Laguna Lake. The local funding would advance California Fish and Wildlife’s previous investment by furthering the project to 65% design and through environmental clearance. The funding would help ready this incredibly “shovel worthy” project to be “shovel ready” for future application for state and federal funding so that the undercrossings construction could be coordinated when pavement maintenance improvements to Chileno Valley Road are undertaken by the County. **Less than one year of Measure AA’s dedicated funds for the proposed Reimagined Roadways category could make this happen.**

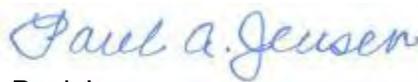
Marin’s Countywide Transportation Plan describes the County’s transportation history as shaped by both nature and innovation. It’s our hope that local transportation investments will further integrate Marin’s values for nature and innovation, not only in this Expenditure Plan, but also into the future.

Thank you for considering these specific requests.

Sincerely,



Mike Sweezy
President



Paul Jensen
Co-Chair, Land Use Transportation & Water Committee



Kate Powers
Co-Chair, Land Use, Transportation & Water Committee

Cc: Derek Johnson, County Executive, County of Marin
Christopher Blunk, Director of Public Works, County of Marin

PHONE: 415.485.6257
FAX: 415.485.6259

EMAIL: mcl@marinconservationleague.org
WEB: marinconservationleague.org

ADDRESS: 175 N. Redwood Dr., Ste. 135
San Rafael, CA 94903-1977



From: [Kristina Kronenberger](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Measure AA- crossing
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:53:06 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kdkronenberger@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello- I am writing to urge support for a wildlife underpass on Chileno Valley Rd.
Appreciate it
Kristina Kronenberger
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Suzan Hahn](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt crossing
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:27:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from suzhahn3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals, including newts, endangered Red-legged Frogs and snakes, are killed by cars trying to cross this road from Laguna Lake to the forest. Volunteers have stepped in to help; my husband and I are among them. Every week during migration season, we spend one night a week walking on Chileno Valley Road transporting these creatures by hand across the road to keep them from being run over by cars. However, this is hardly a long-term or sustainable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It's up to people to save and increase the diminishing wildlife we have left.

Thank you for your consideration,

Suzan Hahn, DDS and Newt Brigador

From: [Parsa Fard](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt Crossing
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:55:42 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from parssoodi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am in support of the wildlife underpass on Chileno Valley Rd.

From: [Suzan Hahn](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt crossing
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 8:27:55 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from suzhahn3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals, including newts, endangered Red-legged Frogs and snakes, are killed by cars trying to cross this road from Laguna Lake to the forest. Volunteers have stepped in to help; my husband and I are among them. Every week during migration season, we spend one night a week walking on Chileno Valley Road transporting these creatures by hand across the road to keep them from being run over by cars. However, this is hardly a long-term or sustainable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It's up to people to save and increase the diminishing wildlife we have left.

Thank you for your consideration,

Suzan Hahn, DDS and Newt Brigador

From: [donnica ramirez](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt Poetry
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:01:00 PM
Attachments: [get-this-man-a-true-true.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from donnica06@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Give the Newt Brigade more funding!!!!

Here is my newt poem titled, *Newt Right Now*, by Donnica Ramirez.

Newt newt not right now,
Newt newt cross the town.
Newt newt let me help,
Newt newt you can't yelp.
Newt newt sticky skin,
Newt newt release toxins.
Newt newt you are the slime,
Newt newt til the end of time.



From: [Rae Pierce](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: newts!
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:01:16 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from swabypierce@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon,

I, Simone Rae, govern the Santa Rosa Junior College literary club, "Vitae Lampada." We are going to put a myriad of newt poems in your inbox with the intention to get the Newt Brigade more funding.

#SAVETHENEWTS!



Below is my poem:

Newts on pavement
No fur, no fun, just the threat o' endangerment.
Slimy, and whiney, and they do go "chirp, chirp!"
The average man,
whomst is not a nerd,
may mistake them for a bird.
GET THIS MAN A Newt...

All the best,
Simone

From: caroljcoyle@verizon.net
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Fund the Wildlife Crossing on Chileno Valley Rd
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:40:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from caroljcoyle@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chileno Valley Road bisects one of Marin County's largest amphibian migration corridors. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs are killed while attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. Without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction.

Please include the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing among its Reimagined Roadways priorities.

Carol Coyle

Novato, CA 94947

From: [J. Loye](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: please support newt survival
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 6:26:39 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jeloye@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I live in yolo county and spent quite a bit of time in Marin. One of the things I value highly in Northern California is the presence of. newts. when friends visit from out of state in the spring, that is one of the things that I strive to share with them. It is an unusual opportunity to have wildlife integrated successfully into the local ecology living with humans. And it is so important to protect them from being squished on the roadways. Please support the protection of the newts with the latest building. That is before you. we are all in this together, every species of us. We are a community. There's no reason we should go out of our way to destroy the magic of our world. Thank you.

Jenella Loye
Dept. Entomology, Univ. California Davis
and Carroll-Loye Biological Research
Mail to:
Mobile:
website: Carroll-Loye.com and <http://www.soapberrybug.org/>

"The thinking man must oppose all cruel customs no matter how deeply rooted in tradition or surrounded by a halo. We need a boundless ethic which will include the animals also"
Dr. Albert Schweitzer

A Poem by Mary Oliver: Messenger

My work is loving the world.
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird—
equal seekers of sweetness.
Here the quickening yeast there the blue plums.
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.

Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?
Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters,
which is my work,
which is mostly standing still and learning to be
astonished.
The phoebe, the delphinium.
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.
Which is mostly rejoicing, since all the ingredients are here,

which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart
and these body-clothes,
a mouth with which to give shouts of joy
to the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam,
telling them all, over and over, how it is
that we live forever.

From: [Chris Carlson](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Ariana Rickard](#)
Subject: Please Support use of Measure AA funds to improve wildlife connectivity
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 12:46:22 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from chris@sonomalandtrust.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing because I support the proposed use of Measure AA funding to help identify and remediate wildlife connectivity problems.

Although the focus has been on Chileno Valley road, there are almost certainly dozens of other places in Marin where wildlife and vehicles are at odds – to the detriment of both.

Marin has a chance to become a leader in the effort to identify and protect wildlife connectivity, and get a head start on future state requirements.

Starting in 2028, the “room to roam act” requires that California Counties will have to add a “wildlife connectivity element” to their general plan whenever an update is made. Although this action is beyond the scope of the TAM, roads are a critical part of a successful effort to protect wildlife movement, and people from animal-vehicle collisions.

More specifically, any designs or solutions developed for the Chileno Valley Road project, are likely to serve as blueprints for future projects across the state.

On a separate but related note, I've been working with Caltrans, CDFW and a road ecologist to study wildlife connectivity along State Route 12 in Sonoma Valley. Our study won't be finished until early 2027, but I plan on presenting results to interested groups in the region – would that be of interest to your board?

Info on AB 1889: <https://ascent.inc/sb1425-ab1889/>

Sincerely,
Chris Carlson



Chris Carlson | *Sonoma Valley Stewardship Program Manager*

Sonoma Land Trust

822 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(707) 595-8368

www.sonomalandtrust.org

From: mrsahonima@aol.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 10:19:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mrsahonima@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board:

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Earline Leppert Ahonima

From: [Arlo Thomas](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 6:15:07 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from arlothomas24@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner/TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Newts are especially cool and are some of California's coolest native wildlife. Their natural migration patterns have been split by roads, and being so small, they are unable to get across the road as quickly as larger animals and are incredibly vulnerable, becoming road kill.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Arlo Thomas

From: [Kathryn](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 11:03:50 AM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kaskin@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later.

Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Thank you,
Kathryn Askin
Volunteer Chileno Valley Newt Brigade

From: [catherine cole](#)
To: [TAM Info](#); [Moulton-Peters, Stephanie](#)
Cc: [Erika Parrino](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 11:27:14 AM

Dear Stephanie/TAM:

Writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Cat Cole
Mill Valley

From: [Erica Durwood](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 11:33:13 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from edurwood@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Erica Durwood

From: [Carrie Evans](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:51:30 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carrieusa@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.
Thank you,

Carrie Evans, Sausalito Resident

--

Carrie Evans
carrieusa@gmail.com

From: [Lisa Friedman](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 3:10:35 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ljfriedman@mac.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

Scores of newts and other precious amphibians are dying unnecessarily. I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,
Lisa Friedman

From: [Eric Gold](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Cc: [Sally Gale](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 1:07:10 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from eric@thedatadude.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

My name is Eric Gold. I've lived in San Rafael for 28 years. I'm a university-trained herpetologist and biostatistician, and I'm a founding board member of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade.

For the past seven years, our volunteers have worked on cold winter nights often in heavy rain and wind to help California newts cross Chileno Valley Road safely. After more than 9,000 volunteer hours we've rescued more than 40,000 animals and night-by-night have carefully documented what's happening on that corridor.

But that incredibly relentless volunteer effort is not a viable permanent solution.

The science is clear. Without a safe crossing structure, this population faces long-term collapse. And from a transportation standpoint, large numbers of animals on a narrow rural road create real safety concerns for drivers — especially at night and in wet conditions.

This stretch of road is already rated in poor condition and will need rehabilitation in the coming years. That gives us a rare opportunity: if we secure planning support now, we can design a wildlife undercrossing that integrates seamlessly into future road work — saving money and avoiding costly retrofits later.

This is a practical, multi-benefit project for Marin County that builds on years of meticulously gathered scientific data and strong community support. It improves safety. It strengthens infrastructure. It protects biodiversity.

We're asking for partnership so that years of community work and data collection can lead to a permanent, engineered solution — one that reflects Marin's values of safety, stewardship, and smart infrastructure planning.

In my Jewish tradition there's a concept called tikkun olam — which means “repairing the world”. It's about taking responsibility for the damage our systems cause and fixing it in lasting ways — We built a road. It's causing harm. Now we're trying to repair that harm — thoughtfully and permanently, and by providing Measure AA funding, TAM can play a key role in that endeavor.

Regards,

Eric

From: [Sally Holland](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 11:59:00 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sholland@marinhumane.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you.

Sally Holland

Youth Programs Manager

she/her/hers

Pet Parent to Molly & Quincy

I work Tuesdays and Wednesdays

415.506.6288 Direct

415.883.4621 Campus

From: [Junco Bullick](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:07:52 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jjuncobullick@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable TAM Board Commissioners -

I am writing to encourage you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, literally thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have organized to help the animals cross safely, but this is not a long-term sustainable solution.

By funding planning now will allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project absolutely achieves both of these important objectives..

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

James Junco Bullick

From: [Lena Zentall](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:22:14 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from lena@zentall.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear TAM board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Lena Zentall

From: [shannon.ayres.aguilar](mailto:shannon.ayres.aguilar@gmail.com)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Poetry For The Newt Birgade
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 3:39:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from shannonayresaguilar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Crossing The Road

I drag myself across mountains
Logs, streams, and rocks.
This ain't an easy hike
For a newt
I want to find love
Why else would I go so far?
The ground rumbles
There's a sound I don't recognize
Two splendid suns

What has happened?
My friends are crushed
The ground is orange
I'm all alone
And yet I continue my hike
To a beautiful glass lake

I hope the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade can get their funding!

From: [shannon.ayres.aguilar](mailto:shannon.ayres.aguilar@gmail.com)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Poetry For The Newt Birgade
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 3:39:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from shannonayresaguilar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Crossing The Road

I drag myself across mountains
Logs, streams, and rocks.
This ain't an easy hike
For a newt
I want to find love
Why else would I go so far?
The ground rumbles
There's a sound I don't recognize
Two splendid suns

What has happened?
My friends are crushed
The ground is orange
I'm all alone
And yet I continue my hike
To a beautiful glass lake

I hope the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade can get their funding!

Dear TAM Commissioners;

2-26-26

My name is Sally Gale and I am the co-founder, along with Gail Seymour, of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade. I live in Chileno Valley and am a beef rancher. I recently retired as Chair of the Marin Resource Conservation District., a board I served on for thirty years.

Seven years ago, the Brigade began with a small crew of hearty souls. We have grown to 100 committed brigadiers. We are a bucket brigade plus; we not only scoop up vulnerable newts, but we log them onto iNaturalist for all to see. This data is the basis of a plan we already have to build a wildlife crossing across one mile of Chileno Valley Road. To this date, we have documented 40,000 live newts, 10,000 dead ones, and many others, including thousands of federally listed Red Legged Frogs.

However, we have come to a crossroads; We have collected enough data to justify and design a wildlife crossing, but we need County support to build it.

I wish to make two points;

The first is that we have already explored the low hanging fruit; we have gone to the neighbors with the idea of closing the road during peak migration, but they are opposed. We have asked various federal and state agencies to carry us further, but the funding is not there.

We all wish closing the road was a possibility, but it is not. We have had several community meetings and the ranchers were very clear.; they need the road to be open as they go back and forth between ranches many times a day. Paying them for the inconvenience will also not work.

The second point I would like to make is that Marin County has always been an environmental leader. We are known for the protection and habitat enhancement of ag lands and the preservation of wetlands and open space. Reimagining our roadways to accommodate ancient wildlife pathways presents another opportunity to lead. We ask you to partner with us to create safe passage for wildlife across our dangerous roads.

Sally Gale

Petaluma, Ca., 94952



From: [laura.equitz](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:43:17 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lequitz@att.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For decades, thousands of animals were each killed each year trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, a breeding ground and home for many species but especially amphibians and reptiles. This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Starting 7 years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite being a team of more than 100 strong as of this season-who save thousands of herps-this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years. The real question is why would we not want to fund this?

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Laura Equitz

From: [Carol Carr](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: public comment: include language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 2:02:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from carrcarol@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM: Thank you for your attention and consideration of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade's presentation at the 2/26 meeting requesting TAM measure AA dollars. I am asking you to provide financial support for the engineering and construction of the infrastructure project proposed for Chileno Valley Road. Of course, this will not only protect the newts and other species that will benefit from the safety project, but will propel Marin County into yet another leadership role as we move in to our future of planning how to protect our wildlife, our environment, and the ecological web. For far too long, we have ignored the devastation our "planning" has unleashed on our environment. But we are now informed and it is time to change the thinking, the understanding, and our ACTIONS. This is about the important crucial role that our forward thinking will have on preserving, saving, and supporting our shrinking wildspaces and nature overall. Please Marin - be assured that the "few" in attendance at that meeting - the 70 - that were able to attend your meeting - are a slim measure of the amount of people in your community who care deeply about this issue. It is so much more than the newts!!!! Please! Be the leader you have always been - prove that we care and can make wise decisions. Give us the prestige, the ownership, and pride of accomplishing this project!!!! It is not only our local opportunity, but this will have deep connections and ramifications for academic studies and environmentalists, wildlife crossing projects and wildlife corridor studies, and successes well beyond Marin. It is our opportunity to play a vital and leadership role in how to do it!!!!

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you so much .
Carol Carr, RN

From: [Tom Gardali](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 2:26:16 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tgardali@allhandsecology.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner Rodini and Transportation Authority of Marin Board,

I am writing to urge you to **please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.**

Roads are emerging as a substantial threat to wildlife populations around the world. Among the most important factors affecting habitat connectivity for wildlife in human altered landscapes is the presence of roads and accompanying vehicle traffic. Roads can have a range of direct and indirect impacts on individual animals and populations, including altered access to resources, reduced reproductive success, and direct mortality. Although comprehensive estimates of roadkill mortality over large areas is difficult, existing estimates suggest up to a million animals (vertebrates) killed per day and significant population-level effects on some species. [I am happy to provide references for these statements if desired]

An excellent example of where this would have important benefits in Marin is Chileno Valley Road where thousands of animals are killed trying to cross the road each year.

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and hence wildlife crossing improvements is an outstanding fit and one which we support.

Sincerely,

Tom Gardali

Tom Gardali
Chief Executive Officer

tgardali@allhandsecology.org



All Hands Ecology
PO Box 577
4900 Shoreline Highway 1
Stinson Beach, CA 94970
allhandsecology.org

Audubon Canyon Ranch is now All Hands Ecology

From: [GiGi Williams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 3:04:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from historicallyyours@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear [Commissioner / TAM Board],

I am yet another Chileno Valley Road Brigade member requesting support for permanent wildlife crossing/protection.

The Chileno Road is and has been a tragic graveyard of thousands of slaughtered wildlife.

Thankfully, volunteers have put their own lives at risk to protect these voice-less ones, however this is not a sustainable or long-term resolution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

In Gratitude, Χρόνια Πολλά!

(Many Happy Returns)

^,,,^

(>'<)

Your Servant,

GiGi =^..^=



From: [Chrissy Howell](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 6:10:52 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from chrissyhowell@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Christine Howell

Novato, CA

From: [Julia Street](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:26:53 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from juliastreet@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Julia Street

From: [Justin Street](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:42:28 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from juststreet@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioner,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Justin Street

From: [Lindsay Martien](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 12:53:59 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lindsay.martien@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board members,

I'm writing to express support for funding for a planning grant to **construct** a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of newts are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. California newts can live up to 30 years of age in the wild, making each road death a small tragedy.

Funding planning initiatives now will allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project would accomplish both.

I urge you to please include language in the Measure AA Reimagine Roadways Expenditure Plan to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Lindsay Martien

From: [K.Spalding](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026 10:23:43 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from kzspalding@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped up, but this is not a long term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included during road repairs. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while protecting environmental qualities. This project does both.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Kathryn Spalding

From: jenniferstock9@gmail.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 1:02:30 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jenniferstock9@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Subject: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road

Dear TAM Commissioner,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

I live just down the road and have been encouraged by the community effort to illustrate and help the biological corridor needed there with the efforts to allow safe passage of newts and frogs.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now for Marin County allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. We can do this!!

Thank you for considering my comments

Jenny Stock

From: [Julie](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings in Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 2:28:06 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from protecthabitat@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board

I'm writing to respectfully ask for your support in allocating funding for a planning grant to develop a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. Establishing a long-term solution here is critical for both wildlife protection and public safety.

Each year, thousands of animals—including amphibians, reptiles, and small mammals—attempt to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake and the surrounding wetlands that are essential to their life cycles. During peak migration periods, large numbers are struck and killed by vehicles. In addition to the loss of wildlife, these collisions can also create safety hazards for drivers. Dedicated volunteers have stepped in to assist animals across the road during migration events, but relying on volunteers in the roadway is not a safe, scalable, or sustainable approach to addressing this ongoing problem.

Planning for a permanent wildlife crossing now would allow the necessary infrastructure—such as undercrossings, culverts, and directional fencing—to be integrated into future roadway repair or improvement projects. Incorporating wildlife connectivity features during planned construction is far more cost-effective than retrofitting the road later, and it ensures that transportation improvements support the long-term ecological health of the region.

Protecting wildlife movement corridors is also essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and resilient wildlife populations, particularly as habitats become increasingly fragmented by roads and development. Ensuring safe passage between Laguna Lake and surrounding habitats will help preserve biodiversity, support native species that rely on these wetlands for breeding and feeding, and reduce ongoing wildlife mortality.

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you, Julie Wittmann

From: [Meredith Drake](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Include Language for Wildlife Crossings Measure AA
Date: Friday, March 6, 2026 12:32:32 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from meredith_drake@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm writing to encourage you to support funding for the permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road!

I appreciate the volunteer work being done to try to protect the wildlife crossing near Laguna Lake but I don't think this is enough. Please consider road funding that includes and encourages protection of our local wildlife. Include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you,

Meredith Drake

Item 7 - Public Comment

From: [Brian Bullick](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:20:29 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ibis44@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Brian Bullick
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eithne Haran](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 3:59:11 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from eithne8@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable TAM Board Commissioners -

I am writing to encourage you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, literally thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have organized to help the animals cross safely, but this is not a long-term sustainable solution.

By funding planning now will allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project absolutely achieves both of these important objectives..

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Eithne Haran Bullick

From: [Teal Bullick](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Please Support Wildlife Crossing Funding on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:39:00 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tealbullick7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable TAM Board Commissioners,

I am writing to encourage you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Every year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have organized to help the animals cross safely, but this is not a long-term sustainable solution.

By funding planning now will allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project absolutely achieves both of these important objectives..

Please include language in the Measure AA reimagine roadways expenditure plan review to address wildlife connectivity as it pertains to roads in Marin County.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Teal Bullick

From: [Heather Hand](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chilean Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 5:48:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from hjensenhand@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioners and TAM Board,

I'm writing to humbly ask you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals die when crossing the road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or sustainable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,
Heather Hand

From: [Allison Broenimann](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 7:46:36 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from albroenimann@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings,

I was at the public hearing this evening on Thursday, Feb 26th, 2026. I was so moved by all the public comments. I was too shy to speak but wanted to also share my questions, what would a full public commentary be in Marin county without at least one artist and psychologist statement? I am both an artist and therapist. Here goes.

In Marin, we pride ourselves on a handful of things, and conservation, biodiversity, beauty, mental health and art are all on that list.

My photograph called "Reflection" won 2nd place in the subject Transportation category for the Click Off Photography Contest in 2024. I wrote a blog on this topic. Since then, I have taken many more photos of the Chileno Valley Road and Valley.

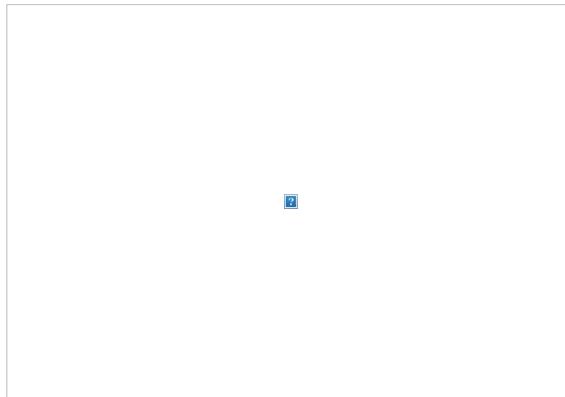
I can't emphasize enough about the beauty of the Lagoon and its surrounding hillsides. The land is as truly magical as are the newts. My favorite facts about newts are that they can live until they are 40 years old, and their genome sequences are 6-10 times larger than ours. When I reflect upon these facts, it's easy to see that their impact on the environment may be more than we can perceive.

Please see the blog below and I ask to please support funding for the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant.

Thank you for your reflection on this topic.

best,
Allison

JANUARY 15, 2024
**Capturing the Essence: A Journey Through Marin County's
Chileno Valley Road**



Winning Image of a Reflector on Chileno Valley Road by Allison Broenimann

Stock Tales & Manes is proud to share that my entry for the randomly assigned category of transportation was awarded 2nd place in the [Mill Valley Click Off Photography Art Commission Competition](#). While this photo of a reflector may seem small and ordinary, just like the Newt's that cross the road where this reflector lies, there is an important story to be told. This blog is about why this image is important to me and the community that surrounds it.

Setting Out at Sunset

I went out one night at sunset with a safety vest and walked the harrowing 1-mile stretch of Chileno Valley Road hoping for an iconic photo of a newt at sunset. The newts did not come out, so I focused and reflected on the tiniest other things I was able to find along this stretch. After falling into the trance of the singing of the frogs and feeling the gaze of the dairy cows munching hay, by the time I reached this reflector, I was already in an alternate mind space.

Out of the dozens of reflectors that evening, along that one-mile stretch, this one simply spoke to me. I stayed with it and got closer, attempting to use it to transport myself on a brief imaginal exercise to connect with all it represented. For me, it is a portal for reflection on so many aspects of transportation and road ecology. The roads and the paths I choose represent freedom and mobility in all sorts of directions, and with that, there is also responsibility. This road also represents the people, ranchers, newts, livestock, and the importance of the quality and balance of our water supply in this area.

Saving the Newts

This quality and balance of our water that is regulated by the Newt population is such a simple yet complicated topic. The 1-mile stretch of Chileno Valley Road is the place where many Newts travel for breeding, and while doing so, munch and regulate all the bacteria that stop animals and humans from thriving. If the newts do not get to thrive, neither do our livestock, and thus along the chain, neither do we. Juvenile newts travel from the Lagoon to the hillside, grow up, and then travel back to the lagoon to begin their breeding cycle.

As a volunteer for [The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade](#), I am invested in a solution that protects the species and their habitat as they cross the busy road. I have also been faced with the reality of water supply issues and rights, the limits of roads, and their role in our relationship to wildlife and travel. I began to also understand the level of complexity that any rancher must face while attempting to create food, keep the ecosystem balanced, and also provide for their own family, and keep the lights on. Saving the Newts does not come without fear and some compromise of material cost to the ranchers and individuals who work the land surrounding this one-mile stretch of road, and are attempting to work through how to balance the many aspects of their road ecology

Hope for Solutions

My hope with this photo is to speak to the multidimensionality of this issue. By raising awareness, I hope to bring a bit of reflection and creativity for how we can mindfully move forward to protect the newts, protect the ranchers who are connected to the land, and directly ask how local government and policy can work together towards creative solutions that meet everyone's needs while also balancing our dependence on the newts. It's eye-opening to imagine centering the mind around the tiniest of

beings that allow our lives to thrive!

From: [rcantoadams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026 10:01:08 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rcantoadams@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For decades, thousands of animals were each killed each year trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, a breeding ground and home for many species but especially amphibians and reptiles. This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Starting 7 years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite being a team of more than 100 strong as of this season-who save thousands of herps-this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years. The real question is why would we not want to fund this?

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

From: [René Canto-Adams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026 10:15:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rcantoadams1319@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For decades, thousands of animals were each killed each year trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, a breeding ground and home for many species but especially amphibians and reptiles. This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Starting 7 years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite being a team of more than 100 strong as of this season-who save thousands of herps-this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years. The real question is why would we not want to fund this?

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

René Canto-Adams

From: burr-57.tepee@icloud.com
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:35:50 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from burr-57.tepee@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road. My goddaughter and her fiancé have been volunteering—along with 100 other dedicated souls—to shepherd animals, amphibians, and reptiles across the road to reach Laguna Lake, which is a breeding ground and home for many species.

This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Thousands have been killed and about seven years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite their efforts, this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, and California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years. It would be a shame not to support the ecological and biological legacy of their survival.

I respectfully ask that you please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Dr. Mi-Yung L. Rhee, DACM, Dipl. O.M. (NCCAOM)®, L.Ac.
she/her/hers

From: [Heidi Rochford](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 4:54:57 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from heidi@westandwilder.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Numerous passionate volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

The funding planning allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, the wildlife crossing does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you for your time,

Heidi Rochford

From: [William Adams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support for Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Sunday, March 8, 2026 9:28:20 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bill@wladamspc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For decades, thousands of animals have been each killed each year trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, a breeding ground and home for many species but especially amphibians and reptiles. This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Starting 7 years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite being a team of more than 100 strong as of this season-who save thousands of herps-this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years.

Please take an integrated and strategic approach to support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you for consideration and action on this important issue.

Bill Adams

From: [Rose Reeb](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support for Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 1:14:13 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rose.m.reeb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM,

I'm writing to encourage your support for a planning grant to establish a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed attempting to cross this stretch of road to reach Laguna Lake, including species unique to California that are considered "imperiled" and protected by law. While volunteers have made commendable efforts to reduce vehicular fatalities, these measures are not sustainable as a long-term solution.

Funding the planning phase now will ensure that wildlife crossing improvements can be integrated into upcoming road repairs, saving both time and public resources down the line. Measure AA was designed to maintain road safety while preserving environmental quality, and this initiative does exactly that.

I respectfully urge you to approve funding for the Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing planning grant.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rose



March 9, 2026

Transportation Authority of Marin

Attn: Anne Richman, Executive Director

900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100

San Rafael, CA 94901

Submitted via email

Re: Public Comment on Proposed Measure AA Expenditure Plan Amendments – Category 2.4
Reimagined Roadways

Dear Executive Director Richman and Members of the TAM Board of Commissioners, Resource Renewal Institute (RRI) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments during the 45-day public comment period for the proposed amendments to the Measure AA Expenditure Plan. RRI is a Marin-based conservation organization with over 40 years of experience advancing science-informed environmental stewardship across California and beyond. We have been closely following the growing campaign for a permanent wildlife corridor on Chileno Valley Road as presented by the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, we write in strong support of the proposed amendments and to make two specific requests:

(1) that TAM adopt a targeted addition to the Reimagined Roadways category description to ensure it can accommodate wildlife crossing and roadway resilience projects, as detailed below and in Attachment A; and

(2) that TAM engage as a partner with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade and the County in securing funding for a permanent wildlife undercrossing on Chileno Valley Road, beginning with support for a \$1.2 million planning grant to fund Phase 1 design and environmental review.

Support for the Proposed Amendments

RRI commends the TAM Board and staff for a thorough and inclusive Expenditure Plan review process. We are particularly supportive of the new Reimagined Roadways category, which fills a critical gap left by the expiration of Measure A's Major Roads program and creates a meaningful mechanism to advance multi-jurisdictional, multi-modal corridor projects through planning and environmental review. We also support the proposed changes to Category 2.3 Sea Level Rise and Resiliency, and the broadened eligibility for first- and last-mile connections under Category 4.6.

Suggested Addition to the Reimagined Roadways Category Description

To ensure the Reimagined Roadways program is positioned to capture state and federal grant funding and to reflect the full range of multi-benefit outcomes that corridor projects can deliver, RRI respectfully suggests the following addition to the category description (see *Attachment A*), to follow the existing sentence ending "...compete for construction funding":

“Project development may also identify opportunities to advance roadway resilience and multi-benefit outcomes, including adaptations to sea level rise and flooding, wildfire evacuation route improvements, and the integration of wildlife crossing infrastructure where roadway corridors intersect with habitat connectivity priorities identified in adopted local, regional, or state plans.”

This language is intentionally high-level and non-prescriptive. The suggested addition is consistent with the CTP 2050’s “Adaptation to Climate Change” strategy, the Reimagined Roadways Fact Sheet’s explicit reference to “wildfire evacuation & SLR” priorities, and the Marin County Conservation Blueprint and CDFW connectivity data that provide an objective, science-based basis for identifying where corridor integration is warranted. Importantly, wildlife crossing infrastructure is classified as a transportation safety improvement under programs TAM already relies upon, including HSIP and ATP — it fits squarely within the Expenditure Plan’s existing scope.

This Comment Period is the appropriate moment to make TAM aware of the need and to propose broad language ensuring the Reimagined Roadways fund is flexible enough to support wildlife crossing projects that integrate with forthcoming transportation facility improvements. The proposed language is intentionally broad and non-binding because nearly every jurisdiction in Marin has wildlife corridors impeded by transportation infrastructure. Language that benefits the entire service area gives every commissioner a reason to support the amendment and positions TAM to pursue multi-benefit funding opportunities countywide.

The Direction of California Transportation Policy

TAM has a timely opportunity to lead among California’s regional transportation agencies by building wildlife connectivity into its planning framework now, rather than retrofitting later. Two enacted laws already establish the direction. AB 2344, the Safe Roads and Wildlife Protection Act of 2022, required Caltrans to inventory wildlife connectivity barriers and integrate crossing features into highway projects. The Room to Roam Act of 2024 extended connectivity obligations to local agency general plans. The next legislative step is already underway: SB 1250 (Cortese, 2025), sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and supported by RRI, would make wildlife connectivity a formal performance objective within Caltrans’ State Highway Asset Management System and require clear connectivity targets in the Transportation Asset Management Plan. Whether or not SB 1250 is enacted this session, the trajectory is unmistakable: wildlife connectivity is becoming a core element of California transportation infrastructure. By incorporating similar principles into the Reimagined Roadways program now, TAM positions Marin County ahead of this curve and strengthens its competitive standing with state and federal funders who increasingly reward multi-benefit integration into competitive grant proposals.

A Viable Capital Stack for Chileno Valley Road

A permanent wildlife undercrossing on Chileno Valley Road is a fundable project with a realistic path to capitalization. The Chileno Valley Newt Brigade is seeking a \$1.2 million planning grant to fund Phase 1 design and environmental review. From RRI’s perspective, a viable capital stack exists that layers local, regional, state, and federal sources: Measure AA Reimagined Roadways funds for planning and local match; Marin County Department of Public Works contributions aligned with scheduled pavement rehabilitation; Marin County Parks Measure A open space funds for habitat-side improvements; California Department of Fish and Wildlife grant programs for wildlife connectivity; and federal Community Project Funding (congressional earmarks) or competitive grants such as RAISE, PROTECT, or HSIP for construction.

Bay Area precedents demonstrate that the institutional partnerships and funding mechanisms described here are proven and replicable. The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Alma Bridge Road Newt Passage Project in Santa Clara County—an amphibian undercrossing on a county road, developed in partnership with the County, Caltrans, and community scientists—is a near-exact analogue to the Chileno Valley project and is now moving toward construction. Midpen's larger Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings project, developed in partnership with Caltrans and VTA, recently completed environmental review with state funding secured in part by Senator Cortese, the author of SB 1250. While regional and statewide examples exist, what is needed here in Marin is a coordinating framework. TAM, as the regional transportation authority, is the natural convener.

Why TAM Partnership Is Essential

RRI understands that local and regional government agencies may recommend pursuit of federal and state funding opportunities. However, two practical realities make TAM partnership essential. First, coordination with TAM is needed to ensure the Newt Brigade, the County, and other jurisdictions present a unified, coordinated front rather than competing against each other for limited federal community grants during the upcoming earmark processes. Second, if state or federal funding is secured, those dollars will require local match and a receiving agency that can coordinate oversight and disbursement of planning grant dollars for Phase 1 design and environmental review. That institutional role is beyond what a volunteer organization can provide, regardless of its capacity or commitment. This will require partnership with regional government agencies such as the County of Marin and TAM.

The broader the partnership, the higher grant applications will score and the more likely outside funding can be brought to Marin. RRI sees the potential for a partnership of unusual scope: the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade providing the community science and volunteer infrastructure; the County of Marin and TAM providing jurisdictional authority, project management, and local match; MTC helping to align the project with regional funding priorities; state natural resource and transportation agencies — CDFW and Caltrans — providing technical guidance, connectivity data, and grant funding; and state and federal elected officials helping to align earmark and competitive grant opportunities. That kind of coordinated, multi-level effort is exactly what state and federal funders are looking for, and it is well within reach here.

Urgency

This project cannot wait. Chileno Valley Road is rated Category IV — Poor on the County's Pavement Condition Index and will require rehabilitation in the coming years. If planning dollars are secured now, a permanent wildlife undercrossing can be shovel-ready and seamlessly integrated into that rehabilitation — saving time and taxpayer money. The Chileno Valley corridor is one of the largest amphibian migratory routes in the North Bay, supporting California newts (a state Species of Special Concern), rough-skinned newts, and federally threatened California red-legged frogs. USGS and Dokken Engineering studies commissioned by the Newt Brigade have concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, continued road mortality poses a serious long-term threat to these populations. Over seven years, Newt Brigade volunteers have rescued more than 40,000 animals. It's an extraordinary community effort, but it is only a temporary stopgap.

Conclusion

RRI strongly supports the proposed Measure AA Expenditure Plan amendments and encourages their adoption at the March 26, 2026 public hearing. To advance the partnership described in this letter, RRI respectfully suggests that TAM staff convene an initial coordination meeting in April 2026 with the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade, County Department of Public Works, and interested state and federal

partners to identify a shared path forward on the planning grant and project timeline. RRI stands ready to support that effort in any way that is useful.

Thank you for your leadership on this important planning process and for your ongoing commitment to a transportation system that serves all of Marin County's communities and landscapes.

Respectfully submitted,



Chance Cutrano

Director of Programs

Resource Renewal Institute

ccutrano@rri.org

www.rri.org

cc:

Kate Colin, Chair, Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Supervisor, District 4

Derek Johnson, County Executive Officer, County of Marin

Chris Blunk, Director of Public Works, County of Marin

Congressman Jared Huffman, California's 2nd Congressional District

Senator Mike McGuire, California State Senate, 2nd District

Assemblymember Damon Connolly, California State Assembly, 12th District

Dina El-Tawansy, Director, California Department of Transportation

David Ambuehl, Acting Director, Caltrans District 4 – Bay Area

Andrew B. Fremier, Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources

Meghan Hertel, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

ATTACHMENT A



Measure AA Expenditure Plan Amendment #1, April 2026

Pursuant to the actions of the participating jurisdictions and the TAM Board of Commissioners as defined by the Measure AA Expenditure Plan approved by the voters of Marin County in November 2018, the following amendments to said Expenditure Plan are hereby incorporated into the Expenditure Plan effective XXXXXXXX.

CATEGORY 1 (Change in funding distribution)

The following change in funding distribution shall supersede previous funding distribution language:

Percentage of Sales Tax Funds equal to ~~7%~~**6.5%** of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be used in Category 1, with ~~3%~~**2.5%** dedicated to “Improve Highway 101 local interchanges and freeway access routes to reduce congestion, improve local traffic flow, and address flooding impacts throughout the county.”

CATEGORY 2 (Multiple Changes)

The following change in funding distribution shall supersede previous funding distribution language:

Percentage of Sales Tax Funds equal to ~~22%~~**18%** of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be dedicated to “Maintain and manage local roads to provide safe and well maintained streets for all users. All investments will consider the needs of all users in accordance with local practices (i.e. “Complete Streets” practices) that have been adopted in each city, town, and the County. Improvements to maximize the efficiency, effectiveness, and

resiliency of our transportation system to be determined by local jurisdictions and may include:

- Paving and repair to roadways, drainage, sidewalks and intersections
 - Bike lanes and paths
 - Safe pathways to transit and bus stop improvements
 - System enhancements to accommodate new technologies such as signal coordination, real time information
 - Investments to address congestion on local street and road corridors
 - Facilities and support including project management, technical services and outreach to support alternative fuel vehicles, electric vehicles, zero emission vehicles and autonomous vehicles
 - Municipal fleet conversion to alternative fuel vehicles including electric vehicles •
- Improvements to address sea level rise and flooding on local streets

*The following change in description shall supersede all previous language:
Sea Level Rise and Resiliency*

Marin's transportation infrastructure is sited along vulnerable bay frontage that is at increasing risk of flooding and erosion from sea level rise and king tide events. This funding would be utilized to support protecting and adapting Marin's roadways and related infrastructure to the effects of sea level rise and flooding. These funds can be used to serve as seed money to find solutions, attract matching grants and leverage private investments to meet the challenges and vulnerabilities identified in numerous planning efforts including those of Bay Wave, and CSMART. The funds can also be utilized for facilities to support alternative fuel vehicles including electric vehicles. Sea Level Rise and Resiliency funds shall be available to TAM and to eligible recipients including local jurisdictions through a process defined by TAM.

The following change in funding distribution and description related to Innovation Technology shall be deleted and replaced with:

Percentage of Sales Tax Funds equal to **4.5%** of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be dedicated to "Reimagined Roadways: Provide planning and project development activities for large roadway capital projects."

Description: "With traffic and land use changes in Marin County, there is a growing need to advance large roadway capital projects, specifically roadway corridors or intersections, to support multi jurisdictional travel and multiple modes of travel. This category would support the identification and planning of roadway projects of countywide significance. The funds would be used by TAM to advance prioritized projects through the initial project delivery phases and compete for construction funding. TAM would work with local jurisdictions to determine corridor needs in alignment with the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) and the ability to leverage outside grants from regional, state or federal funding sources. **Project development may also identify opportunities to advance roadway resilience and multi-benefit outcomes, including adaptations to sea level rise and flooding, wildfire evacuation route improvements, and the integration of wildlife crossing infrastructure where roadway corridors intersect with habitat connectivity priorities identified in adopted local, regional, or state plans.**"

CATEGORY 3 (Change in funding distribution)

The following change in funding distribution shall supersede previous funding distribution

language:

Percentage of Sales Tax Funds equal to ~~41.5%~~ **12.0%** of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be used in Category 3, with ~~7.0%~~ **7.5%** of the total collected net of existing obligations and administration to be dedicated to “Maintain the crossing guard program, providing funding for crossing guards throughout Marin County”.

The following description change will supersede all previous description language: All references to number of sites and/or intersections will be replaced with number of crossing guards.

CATEGORY 4 (Modified description)

The following description change will supersede all previous description language:

Expand access to Rail and Ferry Stations through first and last mile programs or services. Expand and maintain shared mobility services, and new transit connections to address first and last mile connections to rail and ferry stations.

Marin County residents and workers now have expanded regional transportation options to improve regional mobility, particularly during commute hours. Local residents and workers often require first and last mile connections to make these regional options accessible, including access to the ferry and express bus services. This category helps to expand and maintain first and last mile solutions that provide access to regional transit stops for Marin’s residents and commuters. The funds can be accessed by TAM, Marin Transit, or Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District as sponsors of shared mobility services such as bikeshare systems or new first/last mile connections (e.g. Shuttle service, new transit connections, or other shared mobility services) at major transit stops working in coordination with TAM.

COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (Additional language)

The following description change is in addition to all previous description language:

To accurately represent the voices of the communities in Marin, especially to timely address the needs and voices of the Equity Priority Communities (EPCs), the TAM Board has the authority to review and amend the COC membership structure when necessary.

AMENDMENTS TO EXPENDITURE PLAN (Modified and additional language)

The following description change will supersede the previous description of the frequency of reviews (the remaining amendment description language is unchanged):

The Expenditure Plan must be reviewed periodically following passage to ensure that it responds to a rapidly evolving transportation landscape, incorporates innovations, and reflects current priorities. The TAM Board may also consider an amendment, adhering to the process below, at the point of the scheduled review or at any time deemed necessary during the life of the Expenditure Plan.

The timing of the Measure AA Expenditure Plan review and the Measure B Expenditure Plan review will occur together for one consolidated, concurrent review for efficiency and effectiveness. The timing of the two review processes will occur concurrently during the second

scheduled review for both Measures B and AA in 2032 to 2033 and will establish an eight-year cycle for both thereafter. This would provide four review cycles for Measure AA, including a final one the year before the measure is due to sunset in 2049.

March 2, 2026



Anne Richman, Executive Director

Cc: Board of Directors

Transportation Authority of Marin

Dear Ms. Richman and TAM Commissioners,

I write to support allocation of \$1.2 million from the “Reimagined Roadways” program to repair Chileno Valley Road in a way which will provide safe passage for newts, listed California Red Legged Frogs, and other amphibians and reptiles.

Unless corrective action is funded, Marin County is at risk of violating the federal Endangered Species Act, as many listed California Red Legged Frogs are being killed. The newts are a keystone species for forest health, and the United States Geological Survey has stated that the Laguna Lake population is in danger of extinction unless the roadkill is addressed.

Measure AA funds clearly can be used for this purpose, with TAM documents making frequent reference to environmental and habitat protection. These animals are a Marin and Sonoma County resource, and local agencies should take part in protecting them by incorporating wildlife crossings into transportation projects throughout the county. I understand that this project competes with other funding needs, but these critical biological resources must be protected.

Of course, we can’t protect Marin’s keystone species alone; State funds will also be needed, and if I am elected to the Assembly, I will work to gain those funds, as a partner to TAM on holistically-designed transportation solutions that bring multifaceted public benefit.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eli Beckman'.

Eli Beckman

2-term Mayor of Corte Madera

Candidate, State Assembly District 12



Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and San Francisco counties

Anne Richman, Executive Director
Chair Kate Colin and Members of the Board of Commissioners
Transportation Authority of Marin
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

February 27, 2026

Re: Support for Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure on Chileno Valley Road

Dear Executive Director Richman, Chair Colin, and Members of the TAM Board:

The Marin Group of the Sierra Club writes in support of the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade's efforts to secure planning and design funding for permanent wildlife undercrossings on Chileno Valley Road. Many of our members are among the dedicated volunteers who spend cold, rainy nights helping amphibians safely cross this road. Our volunteers have witnessed firsthand both the scale of the crisis and the limits of volunteer rescue as a long-term solution.

Chileno Valley Road bisects one of Marin County's largest amphibian migration corridors. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs—including the federally listed California Red-Legged Frog—are killed while attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction. Over seven years, Newt Brigade volunteers have rescued more than 40,000 animals, but volunteer effort alone cannot substitute for a permanent, structural solution.

We are encouraged by TAM's creation of the Reimagined Roadways category within the Measure AA Expenditure Plan. This fund is designed to support multi-benefit roadway improvements that advance environmental resiliency. The Sierra Club supports this program and recognizes that it must address multiple priorities, including sea level rise adaptation and other critical resiliency challenges.

Within that context, we urge TAM and the County to ensure the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing project receives the local support and funding needed to move forward. This roadway is in poor condition and will require rehabilitation in the coming years. By investing in planning and environmental review now, TAM and the County can integrate permanent wildlife undercrossings into that future road work. This will create a resilient, multi-benefit project that improves safety for all road users and reconnects vital habitats.

This project is listed on California's statewide priority connectivity map, and a CDFW-funded reconnaissance study has already identified promising undercrossing designs. Local investment in planning is the essential catalyst to position the project for larger state and federal grants. We encourage TAM to include the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing among its Reimagined Roadways priorities and to partner with the County and conservation community to advance a permanent solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Holli Thier

Holli P. Thier, J.D. Chair
Sierra Club, Marin Group

From: [Sabine CantoAdams](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 11:01:46 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from scantoadams@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

For decades, thousands of animals were each killed each year trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake, a breeding ground and home for many species but especially amphibians and reptiles. This includes hundreds to thousands of California red-legged frogs, a federally protected species, as well as thousands of newts and salamanders. Starting 7 years ago, volunteers from the surrounding communities stepped in to help. Despite being a team of more than 100 strong as of this season-who save thousands of herps-this is not a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning can now allow wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both. The local newt, salamander, California red-legged frog populations need this support so they can continue to thrive in this valley as they have for thousands of years. The real question is why would we not want to fund this?

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Sabine Canto

From: [Charlotte Cosca](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Sunday, March 1, 2026 11:54:26 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cmcosca@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Even when volunteers are present, we continue to see animal deaths.

These animals are of special concern in California. They deserve to cross the road under safer conditions.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant.

Thank you,

Charlotte Cosca

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Charlotte Cosca (she/her)
Land Trust of Napa County

From: [David Donnenfield](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 12:40:57 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from daviddonnenfield@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM Board,

I'm writing to urge you to support funding for a planning grant for a permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals, including salamanders, Red-legged Frogs and snakes, are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help; my wife and I are among them. Every week during migration season, we spend one night a week out on Chileno Valley Road and near the Lagoon transporting these creatures across the road to keep them safe from automotive traffic that otherwise might have run them over. However, this hardly a long-term or scalable solution.

Funding planning now allows wildlife crossing improvements to be included when the road is repaired, saving time and public money later. Measure AA was approved to maintain roads while also protecting environmental quality, and this project clearly does both.

Please support funding for the Chileno Valley wildlife crossing planning grant. It's up to people to save and increase the diminishing wildlife we have left.

Thank you,
David Donnenfield

Petaluma, CA 94954

From: [Jackie Elward](#)
To: [Anne Richman](#)
Subject: Support for Chileno Valley Road Wildlife Crossing Funding
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 8:06:09 AM
Attachments: [letter to TAM.docx](#)

You don't often get email from jackieelward3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Richman and TAM Commissioners,

Please distribute this letter to all commissioners of the Transportation Authority of Marin.

I urge you to allocate funds from the new “Reimagined Roadways” program to improving Chileno Valley Road to provide safe passage for newts, listed California Red Legged Frogs, and other amphibians and reptiles between their forest home and Laguna Lake.

Despite the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade volunteers rescuing tens of thousands of animals from being run over, thousands of animals are still being killed each year. Only a permanent physical solution can solve this problem.

These types of wildlife crossings are increasingly popular around the country, and even the world. Marin County has long been a leader in wildlife protection, and this project would carry on that tradition.

The wildlife resources of Laguna Lake are shared between Marin and Sonoma Counties, and the counties should work together to protect them.

If I am elected to the Assembly, I will do my best to find state funds to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Many thanks for considering my views on this important subject.

Best regards,

Jackie Elward

Attached is a formatted copy of this letter for your convenience should you wish to print and distribute it.

From: [Vanessa Christie](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Supporting permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:30:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from vschristie@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello TAM board members,

My name is Vanessa Christie and I'm a newt brigade volunteer writing in great support of the Transportation Authority of Marin funding a planning grant from Measure AA's Reimagined Roadways program for permanent wildlife undercrossing infrastructure on Chileno Valley Road.

A permanent solution means wildlife connectivity to Laguna Lake and an innovative model that can be replicated at amphibian crossings all over the world. We could be leaders in conservation, an opportunity like this that is not often in our lifetimes.

Please vote yes to the permanent wildlife crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

Thank you
Vanessa Christie

From: [Emma Brandaw](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: The Newt Poem
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:10:10 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from emmabrandaw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, my name is Emma Brandaw. I am a member of Vitae Lampada and have been instructed to write you a poem in recognition of your efforts to protect the newts! I am happy to oblige.

Crossing

By Emma Brandaw

As your body enters the world
your skin absorbs the air
your eyelids unbutton
your toes collect the dirt

All adversity is faced alone
some is heedless
some is painful
Some adversity can be ameliorated

Imagine inescapable suffering
for the sake of continuance
then remember for some
you can be god

From: [Catherine Cunningham](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: We need infrastructure now for our fellow amphibians
Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:37:56 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from catherine@eikosphere.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chileno Valley Road bisects one of Marin County's largest amphibian migration corridors. Each winter, thousands of California Newts, salamanders, and frogs — including the federally listed California Red-Legged Frog — are killed while attempting to reach breeding habitat at Laguna Lake. The U.S. Geological Survey has concluded that without a permanent infrastructure solution, local amphibian populations face extinction.

Please support the construction of infrastructure to support this important mating ritual to ensure that our newts, salamanders, and frogs are not harmed by speeding traffic. Thank you.

Catherine- a California native and tax payer my entire life.

Catherine Cunningham, PhD
<https://eikosphere.com>
<https://naturalintelligence.com>



From: [Jenna Lee](#)
To: [Jenna Lee](#)
Cc: [TAM Info](#); sallylgale@gmail.com
Subject: Wildlife Crossing
Date: Friday, February 27, 2026 7:08:48 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jennawandrey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear community,

As I won't be able to attend Thursday's Zoom meeting I would still love to be involved and my voice be heard. I am attaching a letter as my support for this project.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed wildlife crossing.

This project is a vital step in protecting local species, including frogs, newts, turtles, and other wildlife. These animals need our help to navigate their habitats safely, and implementing this crossing is a practical and effective way for us to ensure their protection.

I urge you to support this initiative to help preserve our local biodiversity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Jenna Wandrey

Thank you!

From: [Shannon Crossen](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Wildlife Crossings on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 7:41:38 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from shannoncrossen@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear TAM,

I'm writing to encourage you to support finding a permanent wildlife crossing solution on Chileno Valley Road.

Each year, thousands of animals are killed trying to cross this road to reach Laguna Lake. Volunteers have stepped in to help, but this is not a long-term or scalable solution. Wildlife crossing roads, even small ones, present a potential safety risk to the traveling public as well. The mortality of wildlife also works against state and local economic investments in wildlife conservation. Whether you're concerned with public safety, economic investments, or wildlife conservation, wildlife crossings are an established successful win-win-win solution that work for all.

Thank you,

Shannon Crossen
Transportation Ecologist
Former Caltrans Biologist

From: [Karen Dolcini](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Reject funding for Newt underground crossing on Chileno Valley Road
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 3:32:48 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kvdolcini@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I live on Chileno Valley Road. My property is across the road from the Laguna Lake that this project would effect and I can see first-hand how unnecessary this project is. I urge you NOT to spend money on a foolhardy grant for an underground crossing on Chileno Valley Road.

The money should definitely be put to better use. Please use the funding to benefit transportation improvements (road repairs, transit services, etc.). I did not vote for funding to support a radical project to save some newts that are not even endangered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Dolcini

Petaluma, CA 94952

From: [CHRISTINE CORDARO](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: Newt tunnels
Date: Monday, February 16, 2026 2:44:43 PM

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from christinecordaro@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern:

Apparently there is a request to allocate up to \$1.5 million dollars to fund the construction of tunnels under Chileno Valley Road to save the newts during their mating crossings.

Please do NOT allocate money to this absurd idea! Would newts actually find and use these tunnels? I think not.

We have so many pressing priorities here in West Marin and newt safety is NOT one of them.

Sincerely,
Christine Cordaro
Inverness Resident

Sent from my iPad

From: [TAM Contact Form](#)
To: [TAM Info](#)
Subject: New submission from TAM Contact Form
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 7:52:10 PM

Name

Sherry Temple

Email

sherrytem@comcast.net

Phone

(415) 713-5523

Leave A Comment

This is a comment on the IJ article 1.2 million to help newts cross the road, and that is just for the study and evaluation! This is not rocket science! The newts only cross twice a year, per the article. What is wrong with a volunteer group twice a year doing what they are already doing, watching for cars, and flagging them down, when they see a newt crossing. 1.2 million dollars can go a long way toward something that will benefit the most people, such as filling potholes, buying smart lights, reconfiguring traffic. We will be a joke to most of the country if you go ahead with this waste of money!