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Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
168 W. Alisal Street  
Salinas, California 93901

Re: PROP. 68 FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SALINAS SKATE PARK AND BMX PUMP TRACK (Agenda item 15, September 14, 2021)

Dear Monterey County Board of Supervisors:

Skateboarding and BMX riding help youth relieve stress and develop patience, resilience, flexibility, and other positive attributes. BMX pump tracks and skate parks attract youth participation in healthy physical activities, whether a beginner or a skilled athlete. They also provide an athletic option for youth less inclined, or unable, to participate in team sports.

Please pursue Prop 68 State Parks Bond funding for the proposed **Salinas Skate Park and BMX Pump Track** at 855 East Alisal Street, Salinas—a project that will significantly benefit many Monterey County youth and their families.

Frequently I witness local youth struggling in their attempts to develop skateboarding or BMX skills in locations that are unsafe, or otherwise inappropriate. Many youth revel in skateboarding and BMX, and our local youth severely lack locations to engage in them. Please show them that their needs too are a priority to Monterey County officials.

Skateboarding and BMX riding contribute to healthier communities. Among our county's youth who will benefit from this project are youth from many disadvantaged neighborhoods in Salinas that lack recreational activities. This is so meaningful for our county seat, where there aren't enough parks and where 35% of the population are teens and children.

Finally, many people—yes, even bicycling advocates—don't give a lot of consideration to skateboarding as another active transportation option. Certainly, most adults will never skateboard for transportation. Nonetheless, a skateboard is less costly than a reliable bicycle (or car, of course), and is easier to keep secure, protected from theft or vandalism. Cost and convenience are primary reasons why many youth skateboard to get about—including youth from North to South County, and from the Alisal to South Salinas. Youth who skateboard to meet some of their transportation needs benefit not only their physical fitness and family's transportation budget, they benefit all of us by reducing traffic congestion and carbon emissions. Providing a safe place where they can develop and strengthen their coordination, precision, endurance, and other skills important to safer skateboarding also supports the transportation choice of such youth.

For these reasons and more, I urge the Board of Supervisors to support the proposed new Salinas Skate Park and BMX Pump Track and pursue Prop. 68 State Parks Bond funding. Years ago, I met with Salinas city officials about this need of local youth. It's fundamental that positive alternatives for youth are supported, and I look forward to seeing the Board of Supervisors help make this skate and BMX dream of many a reality. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Mari Lynch  
Resident of rural unincorporated Monterey County