

## Chileno Valley Newt Brigade Volunteer Action Toolkits

### Help Secure Funding for a Permanent Wildlife Crossing on Chileno Valley Road

Right now, the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is deciding how to spend Measure AA transportation funds. This only happens once every six years, and decisions will be finalized in early March.

We are asking TAM to fund a planning grant to design a permanent wildlife crossing under Chileno Valley Road—the step that will make construction possible later.

Your voice matters. **These 4 actions take 10 minutes and collectively create significant pressure on decision-makers.**

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#### **IMPORTANT FIRST PLEASE READ:**

***It is essential that we get as many people do these actions!***

***If you don't have the time to write, reach out to [scottwebb02@gmail.com](mailto:scottwebb02@gmail.com) or [ccutrano@gmail.com](mailto:ccutrano@gmail.com), and we can help or write it for you.***

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#### **ACTION 1: LETTER TO THE EDITOR** **Marin Independent Journal – Opinion Section**

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##### **Why this matters:**

Letters to the Editor are widely read by TAM commissioners, staff, and local decision-makers. Responding to a published opinion piece increases the chances your letter will be printed.

##### **Reference Article:**

“Marin Voice: Chileno Valley Road crossing is deadly for our newts” (Jan. 30)

<https://www.marinij.com/2026/01/30/marin-voice-chileno-valley-road-crossing-is-deadly-for-our-newts/>

##### **How to submit:**

Email: [opinion@marinij.com](mailto:opinion@marinij.com)

Length: 200-300 words maximum

Include: your name and contact information (only your name is published)

##### **Sample Letter:**

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.

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.

[Your Name]

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**ACTION 2: EMAIL TAM COMMISSIONERS**

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**Why this matters:**

TAM commissioners track public input and consider it when setting funding priorities. Messages from both Marin and non-Marin residents show broad public support.

**How to send:**

***If you live in Marin County:***

Email your City representative or County Supervisor, who also serves on the TAM Board. Find the TAM Board list here:

<https://www.tam.ca.gov/boc/#members>

***If you do NOT live in Marin County (e.g., Sonoma County):***

Send your message to TAM’s general email:

[info@tam.ca.gov](mailto:info@tam.ca.gov)

**What to Write**

Take your LTE and change it slightly. You did the work of creating a LTE I would just make your email slightly more direct.

**Sample Email:**

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,  
[Your Name]

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### **ACTION 3: FORMAL MEASURE AA PUBLIC COMMENT**

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**Why this matters:**

Public comments become part of the official record and must be reviewed by TAM before final decisions on Measure AA are made.

**What to write:**

***Reuse your Email to Commissioners, it's that easy!*** Feel free to mix it up if you feel inclined, but no need if you don't have the time.

**How to submit:**

Email your public comment to:  
[info@tam.ca.gov](mailto:info@tam.ca.gov)

**Recommended subject line:**

Public Comment: Support Chileno Valley Wildlife Crossing Planning Grant

Sample Public Comment:

***(You may reuse the email above.)***

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.

[Your Name]

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**ACTION 4: Send this Toolkit to 5-10 People!**

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The only way this campaign will succeed is if every volunteer who completes the action sends it to their networks!

Grassroots activism works!