

County of Santa Clara

Historical Heritage Commission

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Date: September 19, 2013

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

From: April Halberstadt, Chair, Historical Heritage Commission *AH*

Subject: Santa Clara Historical Heritage Commission support to preserve the Willow Glen Trestle as part of the proposed development of pedestrian bridge over the Los Gatos Creek.

The Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission ("Commission") understands that City of San Jose has decided to demolish the existing Willow Glen Trestle as part of the proposed development of pedestrian bridge over the Los Gatos Creek. The Commission requests the Board of Supervisors to encourage the City of San Jose to consider all available options to preserve, repair, and/or rehabilitate the Willow Glen Trestle in lieu of demolition.

The Commission discussed the Willow Glen Trestle project and received public comment on the project at its July 18, 2013 and August 15, 2013 meeting. Members of the public expressed concern about proposed demolition of the Willow Glen Trestle. Members of the public also commented that they were not aware of the City of San Jose evaluating any other alternative to demolish under CEQA.

The Willow Glen Trestle has been a part of the community since 1903, when the Western Pacific Railway (WPR) company was "incorporated to connect Oakland and Salt Lake City." (*Appendix B: Archeological Survey Report by Basin Research Associated, 2003.*) In 2004, the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for *Los Gatos Creek Trail, Reach 4 Coe Avenue to Auzerius Avenue (dated June 2004)* proposed using the bridge as a trail to connect Coe Avenue. Consequently, there has been a prior determination to repair and enhance the building on and around the trestle and, most importantly, not demolish the trestle.

The repair and preservation of the Willow Glen Trestle will benefit our community by protecting important historic resources which provides current and future generations with a picture of San Jose's rich railroad history.

The Commission appreciates the sensitivity that the Board of Supervisors and the City of San Jose has shown in the past regarding repairs and rehabilitation of historic resources. The Commission wants to support any efforts to help the community understand the Trestle's history and significance.

cc: Historical Heritage Commission; Clerk of the Board

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith