

ARCHITECT MILFORD WAYNE DONALDSON FAIA

May 9, 2017

Marshall McKay, Chair
Julianne Polanco, SHPO, Executive Secretary
Elizabeth Harris, Vice-Chair
Alberto Bertoli, AIA, Commissioner
Bryan Brandes, Commissioner
Rick Moss, Commissioner
David Phoenix, Commissioner
Adrian Praetzellis, PhD., Commissioner
State Historical Resources Commission

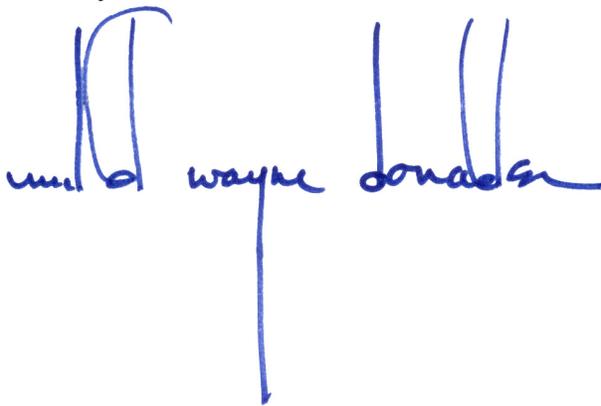
Re: Support for Nomination of the Willow Glen Trestle

Dear Chair Marshall McKay, SHPO Julianne Polanco, and Honorable Commissioners:

I write to reiterate my full support of the listing of the Willow Glen Trestle in the California Register of Historical Resources. I am unable to attend the Commission meeting tomorrow, but as you may recall I did attend the meeting a year ago in San Francisco and spoke in favor of the nomination. I attach a copy of my transcribed remarks, which I reiterate today.

In my opinion, this Commission's unanimous determination that the Trestle is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places was well-supported as is the listing in the California Register as recommended by your staff. I note that in addition to the support for listing by the city's own Historic Landmarks Commission and scores of city residents, the President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors wrote to the SHPO on April 17, 2017, explaining why the Trestle's "historic significance is beyond question."

Thank you.



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**Transcript of the Quarterly Meeting of the State Historical Resources
Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate Club, Ventana Room**
135 Fisher Loop, San Francisco April 18, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Item XI.A.2, Willow Glen Trestle over Los Gatos Creek, in San Jose, Santa Clara
County, at Local Level of Significance. Transcribed by Larry Ames, 9/26/16.

[2:00:30]

[Wayne Donaldson]

My name is Milford Wayne Donaldson. Chair Brandes, Members of the State
Historical Resources Commission, Secretary Polanco, in your position today as
SHPO, and Council Lynch:

I'd like to remind everybody, for maybe 5 seconds here or so: 11 years ago, the
Commission met in this very room, to listen to over 400 people. Chairs all the way
to the wall and standing room only, to two large districts being nominated, and it
was all about community, and that's what I want to address today: community.

The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, which created your commission, is
celebrating its 50th year. The purpose of the act says “the historical and cultural
foundation of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community,
life, and development, in order to give us a sense of orientation to the American
People.” – that is the purpose of the act.

But I'd also like to remind you all that this is under Criteria “A”, which is
associated with industrial and economic development of the San Jose community,
not “C”. And as all of you know, these linear resources, whether they be bridges
or railroads or old highways or airports or transmission lines or water resources or
trails, are always difficult because they change over time. We know they change
over time.

But more importantly, the San Jose Preservation Commission voted unanimously
– there was one person that was absent – and I listened to the audio tape of the
Commission. In Commission there, Marilyn Messina, “said I think it's wonderful,
to see a group of people, and so passionate and dedicated about preserving
something. Something unique and special in your area and the history, and it's
very gratifying to see that.”

But more important, the chair, Ramiro Torres, said, “even if it only lasts 50 years” – he’s referring to a report in the EIR – “I should think that should not be up to us at this point, our generation, to make that determination that it should be torn down. I have a 2 1/2 year old, and maybe then 50 years now, his generation can say “yes” to rebuilding the structure, or if it's too old, may be replaced. But at this point, if we're going to last another 50 years, let's keep it.”

So I think it's important, when we're looking at these, is that there's a need for every generation and every community to discover these “pieces of lost gold.” As William has always said, in the beginning of the National Historic Preservation Act, we had a lot of Placer gold, where you could just pick up gold off the ground, but now we have to look for these special things, like these mid-Century Modern and how we keep these going.

So, when we're looking at Willow Glen, I think it will give us again another sense of this orientation to community to establish not just what was at that time western San José, but to all of the members of San José.

Also, I think it's important that we can all benefit from saving these structures – there's an economic value that's still there, there's a kind to tell the history that relates to other points.

In closing, I’d just like to say a few items:

If you want to talk about the 2004 letter, I'm available to do that because, in all due respect, the City council members totally confused on that letter that I wrote in 2004. The steelhead have been living a long time, over 100 years in that stream, and in fact the EIR says to leave the bridge alone, and I recommend that the City of San Jose take care of the homeless.

So, in closing, I highly recommend that we follow the staff’s excellent report and that you direct the State Historic Preservation Officer to forward this nomination on to the Keeper for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you.

[applause]