



**California Trolley and
Railroad Corporation**
c/o MTI
210 N. 4th St., 4th Fl.
San Jose, CA 95112

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February 26, 2015

Hon. Sam Liccardo, Mayor
and Hon. Council Members
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Three Creeks Trail
Pedestrian Bridge Project

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Council Members:

We write to urge the Mayor and City Council to support preservation of the historic train trestle at Lonus Avenue in Willow Glen along the Three Creeks Trail. We make this request on behalf of the Board of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC), which voted unanimously to urge the Mayor and City Council to request the Council both hold another public hearing to receive new public input and direct staff to preserve the historic train trestle. In doing so, you will help restore an important bridge to the past. Specifically we recommend that the San Jose City Council select the "Retrofit Alternative" described in the draft EIR to be the "Preferred Alternative" selected for implementation.

The mission of CTCRC is to preserve and reflect the rich legacy of rail transportation in the Santa Clara Valley for the educational and recreational benefit of current and future generations. Since our founding in 1981 we not only continue to operate four trolleys in History Park, but have also restored nine historic trolley cars, built the Trolley barn and street trackage in History Sa Jose Park, and spearheaded the restoration and movement of the signature historic locomotive featured at the entrance to History San Jose Park. Working to save a historic train trestle is consistent with our mission and we were unaware of the City's decision; had we known we would have contacted the City during the previous hearing.

As you know, San Jose has had a track record of making "progress" at the expense of its history only to later regret some of those decisions. More important when additional time and effort has been expended to preserve our history, such as most recently with the rejuvenation of San Pedro Square and the Peralta Adobe, we have been rewarded through an outpouring of support that has led to community building and residents taking greater interest and pride in their community. That is exactly what is occurring here as with other efforts to preserve the past. By preserving this historic trestle San Jose will gain—at an unusually small cost for a historic project—that hard to achieve intrinsic sentiment that we are more than just another city.

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The trestle is a classic 90-year old structure, which were once common, and are almost now nonexistent. Aside from the qualitative enhancement to the trails system, preserving this trestle for future generations will help residents make a small connection to the critical role that rail played in the economic success of our region. That history cannot be understated. The arrival of the railroad in San Jose meant we now possessed the vital linkage to the growing urban center to the north, San Francisco, which ultimately would provide the even more essential link to the east for both freight and passenger service. The agricultural economy that was the Santa Clara County of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries was able to find a national market for its crops. Migration from the east and Midwest suddenly became much easier and safer.

Finally, the Trestle will add to the potential and much needed resurgence of that portion of Willow Glen, accentuated by the acquisition in June of the Roberto-Sunol Adobe by the California Pioneers which plans to open a museum at the location. It should also be noted that trestle reuse in other cities have furthered those communities' interest in trail use by drawing much needed attention to these projects. Going forward we ask that you not only redirect staff to preserve this trestle but also direct staff to include CTCR and other similar historic organizations and commissions when decisions are underway concerning demolitions of the very few remaining historic trestles. The trestle along the Coyote Trail, adjacent to Kelly Park at Senter Road, is an example of possibly the only other historic trestle in San Jose remaining under public ownership.

In closing we strongly urge that the trestle be preserved to reflect its part in the rich legacy of rail transportation in the Santa Clara Valley for the educational and recreational benefit of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ginsborg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

David Ginsborg
President
California Trolley and Railroad Corporation

DG:lrj