

## **Dave Cortese**

County of Santa Clara Supervisor, District Three  
Santa Clara County  
Board of Supervisors  
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San Jose Planning Department  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

Attn.: John Davidson, Environmental Project Manager

March 13, 2015

Re: Three Creeks Trail Bridge Project

As a life-long San Jose resident, I have witnessed the transformation of Santa Clara County from the Valley of Heart's Delight, where orchards dominated the landscape, to the Valley of Innovation and Opportunity, where we invent the next best thing.

We should be proud of where we have come as a community and a region. But we also need to respect our past and preserve our history. That's why I am recommending that the San Jose City Council reconsider its decision to demolish the Willow Glen Train Trestle and choose the option to retrofit the 94-year-old structure to serve as the bridge connecting the Three Creeks Trail to the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

I believe that the Draft Environmental Impact Report is flawed in a number of areas, not the least of which is the assessment that the train trestle is not historic. Built by the Western Pacific Railroad in 1921, the trestle served as a bridge for freight trains that carried products from the nearby canneries, including the Del Monte Corporation. The fruit packing industry is a big part of San Jose's past, and this trestle is only one of three remaining in San Jose.

The Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, chaired by local historian April Halberstadt, also supports preserving the trestle. And I have been informed that the San Jose Landmarks Commission also believes that the historic analysis in the DEIR is deficient and, at its next meeting, will discuss whether to consider the trestle for City Landmark status.

I am writing this letter as a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and do not speak for the entire Board. However, the County is one of the funding partners of the Three Creeks Trail project, contributing \$2 million of the Park Charter Fund in 2010 for acquisition of the trail's western alignment from Lonus Street to Minnesota Avenue,

and has committed \$1 million toward the future acquisition of the eastern alignment, east of Highway 87 to Kelley Park.

Over the years, we've lost so many of our history buildings and relics of the past. Please don't let the Willow Glen Train Trestle be another loss to the City of San Jose.

Sincerely,

Dave Cortese

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave". The signature is cursive and stylized, with a prominent initial "D" and a trailing flourish.

President, Board of Supervisors  
Santa Clara County