

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Injunction Issued to Stop Demolition of the Willow Glen Trestle**

**San José (May 28, 2014)** – The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle filed a public interest environmental lawsuit three months ago, challenging the City of San José’s failure to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) to study and consider alternatives to demolition of the evocative 1921 Willow Glen Trestle.

Yesterday, on May 27, 2014, Judge Joseph Huber of the Santa Clara Superior Court ***granted preliminary injunction*** to stop the imminent demolition of the historic trestle pending trial. The injunction states that “harm from the imminent demolition of the 1921 Willow Glen Trestle across Los Gatos Creek would be irreparable. There is significant public interest in the vintage trestle.”

The City must prepare an EIR whenever a project *may* have significant impact. The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle, the San José Historic Landmarks Commission, and historic architect Marvin Bamburg AIA are among those acknowledging the railroad trestle’s historic status. Under state law, demolition of historic resources must be avoided if there is a feasible alternative.

The hearing on the merits of the case is scheduled for July 18. In the meantime, the trestle will stand and await the judge’s ruling.

“After working for decades on San José trail projects, we are thrilled with the Court’s protection of this trestle that is part of Willow Glen history. The City’s engineers have confirmed that the trestle can be adapted to become a safe and functional part of the new Three Creeks Trail – and for \$700,000 less than the new steel bridge that is proposed.” said Larry Ames, spokesperson for the Friends.

Gayle Frank of Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC\*SJ) added:

“We are so pleased that the preliminary injunction was granted and that hope remains for saving the Willow Glen Trestle. You can see a photo of the trestle at the 2014 San Jose Historic Photo Contest, now on display at Southern Lumber Company until June 5.”

Martha Heinrichs, a member of the Friends group, stated:

“This amazing 92-year-old wooden train trestle in Willow Glen has supported many decades of history here in Santa Clara County when we were known as the ‘Valley of Hearts Delight.’ It is an important link to the families that farmed and had orchards here; to those workers who labored picking the crops to send to the canneries; to those who worked in the canneries; and to those connected with the railroad. One can see how closely genealogy, history, and historic preservation are connected with this train trestle: a treasure worthy of recognition and preservation.”



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