

I am writing this e-mail to urge you to save a piece of San Jose History. You will be asked to select between restoration of the Three Creeks/Willow Glen Trestle in the Draft Environmental Report as the "Retrofit Alternative" and plans for demolition of the trestle called "Project Alternative."

I am requesting you vote for the "Retrofit Alternative."

I have lived in Willow Glen all of my life. My parents bought their first home on Milton Way in 1941. Milton Way runs parallel to the rail road tracks the trestle supported. I remember the trains rumbling through Willow Glen at all hours of the day and night carrying products from the various canneries in the area. The trains traveled over this wonderful wooden trestle to their destination.

Restoration of the trestle will preserve it for the enjoyment of future generations who will come to enjoy hiking, biking or jogging along the three creek trail system. The trestle is visible on the trail as you approach the trestle crossing the creek.

The Draft EIR costs out the alternatives. The existing trestle restoration would cost \$959,000, the prefab steel bridge cost would be \$1,637,000. I am concerned with these two costs. Why spend the extra \$678,000 for a pre-fab cookie cutter bridge when we have an iconic wooden bridge that is part of Willow Glen and San Jose History?

I have over 35 years of experience with the San Jose Fire Department, retiring in the rank of Deputy Fire Chief responsible for the Bureau of Field Operations and Training. The Draft EIR touches lightly on the threat of fire. The wooden trestle is indeed combustible. Nothing is fire proof, the pre-fab steel bridge will buckle from heat even from a vegetation fire in the creek. Since 2009 there have been 10 incidents in the Lonus Street area according to the SJFD Bureau of Fire Prevention data base. Two of these incidents involved fire and the trestle. The fires were caused by the homeless encampments under the trestle. The trestle was caught up as an exposure fire resulting from the campfires.

The finished restored trestle will have:

1. a sprinkler system,
2. a monitored alarm system
3. fire retardant coating applied to protect the trestle from fire

Additionally brush and vegetation will be cleared from below the trestle.

These protective measures are more than adequate and may even be a bit of overkill. At the present there are no fire prevention protective measures in place.

Further, there are three fire stations within a two mile radius. The fire companies have easy access to the trestle from Coe Avenue, the water supply in this area is excellent.

The brush and vegetation under the cookie cutter prefab bridge will have to be cleared, however this was not addressed in the Draft EIR.

Maintenance is not discussed regarding the steel bridge but it is obvious the bridge will need attention. Paint does not last forever. The Draft EIR doesn't budget for maintenance. I find it hard to believe over the life of the pre-fab bridge (75 years) there will not be any upkeep or maintenance.

When you read the Draft EIR notice, there is hardly an overwhelming argument for destroying the trestle, which had not been considered for historical significance (its only 93 years old). Why destroy something that has character and is part of our history?

Recently I viewed the movie Changing Boundary's which is an excellent film about old San Jose captured on film. We have history presently with the standing trestle. Do you think in 50 years or even less they will be talking about the trestle? If the wood trestle is destroyed we will only be able to watch a movie about it unable go and actually see this beautiful trestle in person.

Thank You,

Jim Carter

San Jose Fire Department

Deputy Chief (Retired)