

Larry Ames, a Friend of the Willow Glen Trestle

Jan 14, 2014

I'm sure you're tired of hearing from me;  
trust me: I'm tired of foregoing another day's wage to be here!  
And each time I'm here, you say 'it's a done deal':  
all the public meetings were 'after the fact'.

You have an updated MND that acknowledges the Community's input,  
but then ignores it by relying solely on a 1-page report from 2004.

Members of the public, including a state-listed historian, gave comment,  
stating that the Willow Glen archives, discovered in 2008,  
reveal the interesting history of the Trestle.

Built in early 1920s by Western Pacific,  
its unique design precluded them from having to share their tracks with their larger rival,  
Southern Pacific.  
By profitably serving the canneries of Willow Glen and San José, Western Pacific was able to  
emerge from bankruptcy, and to challenge their rival's near-monopoly across northern  
California.

This makes the Trestle eligible for listing on the State Historic Register under Categories 1  
["broad patterns of local or regional history"] and 3 ["Embodies the distinctive  
characteristics of a type ... of construction"].

You can't mitigate the destruction of historic structures simply by erecting some signs:  
our lawyer tells us the CEQA law requires a full EIR,  
with a fair evaluation of the alternatives.  
Hopefully you've had an opportunity to read the letter that she sent you this morning.

I too worry about your Prop.40 Grant: let's use it as intended, to buy parkland.

[to Pierluigi Oliverio:] Councilmember, I respect your earlier efforts for historic preservation.  
I hope we can work together here to save this quintessentially "Old Willow Glen" structure!

San José has a long and storied history – it was the first Capitol of California! –  
but what do we have to show for it? A road and some car dealerships!  
Let's do better this time!

Please, do not approve the MND. Instead, let's work to restore this historic structure,  
incorporate it into the trail network, and make it an iconic gateway to Willow Glen and a  
show-piece for all of San José!

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to **the broad patterns of local or regional history** or the cultural heritage of California or the United States (Criterion 1). **[the recovery of Western Pacific and subsequent breaking of the Southern Pacific near-monopoly]**
- Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history (Criterion 2).
- **Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type**, period, region or method **of construction** or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values (Criterion 3). **[one of the last remaining wood-pile train trestles in the south SF Bay Area, and unique in its low-cost/limited capacity design.]**
- Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation (Criterion 4).