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Cc: william.burg <william.burg@parks.ca.gov>; Larry <Larry@wgtrestle.org>
Sent: Tue, May 9, 2017 5:36 pm
Subject: In Support of Willow Glen Trestle for State Historic Nomination

Hello. I'm a resident of Santa Clara County and a native of San Jose. Please consider adding the historic railroad trestle in Willow Glen to the California Register of Historical Resources. It would be very sad to see this wonderful artifact demolished. When the trestle was built for the Western Pacific Railroad (in 1922), the population of San Jose was about 39,000. Over the years, urban development and sprawl has consumed open space, and San Jose has grown to over a million people. Somehow, the trestle has survived. In addition to its historical significance, there's a nostalgic charm about this landmark that could be lost forever. When I was a kid growing up in the 50's and 60's, I saw Western Pacific trains rumble through Willow Glen near the trestle. It was an amazing spectacle. The trains seemed out-of-place, cutting through the heart of this quiet residential community. Long before the "tech boom", San Jose was home to a number of canneries served by this railroad line. Several of my relatives, including my mom, my brother, and my sister, all worked at these canneries. I remember seeing bizarre crisscrossed railroad tracks near the Del Monte cannery (just down the line from the trestle). Stop signs were installed along the tracks, apparently to inform Western Pacific locomotive engineers that they should stop before crossing Southern Pacific railroad tracks. Along the line in the opposite direction, I recall the strange sight of a Western Pacific train dominating the view at a San Jose Giants baseball game. The railroad tracks skirted the outfield (at San Jose Ballpark), so whenever a Western Pacific train rolled by during a ball game, it completely dominated the view. The trestle in Willow Glen is the last surviving artifact of this railroad segment. It's a treasured piece of our history and culture, and a reminder of another time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Welka