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April 18, 2017

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
California State Parks
RE: Willow Glen Trestle

Dear Ms. Polanco:

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 supporting the inclusion of the Trestle on the State Register of Historical Resources.

Its historical significance is beyond question. 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.

In May of 2013 the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted to have staff work with stakeholders and the City of San Jose to find ways to save the Trestle. In addition the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission, chaired by local historian April Halberstadt, also supports preserving the trestle. 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
President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors

Cc: William Burg, State Historian
Larry Ames