

Nov. 7, 2014 Letters to the Editor:

Keep Willow Glen trestle in place

Taisia McMahon and Pierluigi Oliverio (Opinion, Nov. 6) would have us believe that they are worried about what the railroad trestle in Willow Glen -- a structure that has been in place over Los Gatos Creek for over 90 years -- will do to the environment. Yet they oppose an environmental impact study on the removal of the trestle and installation of a new bridge. If they're truly concerned about the environment, why was an impact study not done before deciding to replace the trestle in the first place? And why are they opposing it now? The reality is that the creosote-coated pilings of the existing trestle are not harming the Los Gatos Creek, the water table, or any other aspect of the environment... as long as they're not disturbed. But removing the almost-century-old trestle would certainly do massive damage to the creek. Why do and destroy one of the very few remaining historic structures in San Jose when the existing trestle can be restored and used for the exact same purpose at a fraction of the cost of the new bridge? The Three Creeks Trail should be completed with the Willow Glen Trestle in place.

Michael Borg

San Jose

Nov. 9, 2014 Letters to the Editor:

Removing rail trestle will save taxpayers

One reason for removing the railroad trestle over Los Gatos Creek and replacing it with a bridge that would span Los Gatos Creek ("Delays caused by trestle could doom trails plan" (Opinion, Nov. 6) is that the trestle blocks the natural flow of the creek. At a recent District 6 meeting on the status of the trestle I asked a San Jose city representative who would be responsible for removing accumulated debris following high water events on Los Gatos Creek, noting that with 95 poles in the creek any high-water event results in large amounts of accumulated debris. The short answer is taxpayers. Keeping the trestle would be an added cost to the city to regularly remove debris and another reason to remove the existing trestle and replace it with a bridge that would span Los Gatos Creek.

Chris Dresden

San Jose

Nov. 11, 2014 Letters to the Editor:

Everything comes with a cost to taxpayers

Chris Dresden (Letters, Nov. 8) says we should remove the trestle over Los Gatos Creek because during high water, debris will accumulate and taxpayers would have to pay to remove it. Well, Chris, let's remove all parks from the city as well because those have to be cleaned up, and let's take out the streets because they will need repair, and let's remove all houses because people put out their garbage each week and this too is a cost to the taxpayer to remove it. Chris, everything costs, but that cannot be the only criteria.

Mark Grzan

Morgan Hill