

Willow Glen Trestle

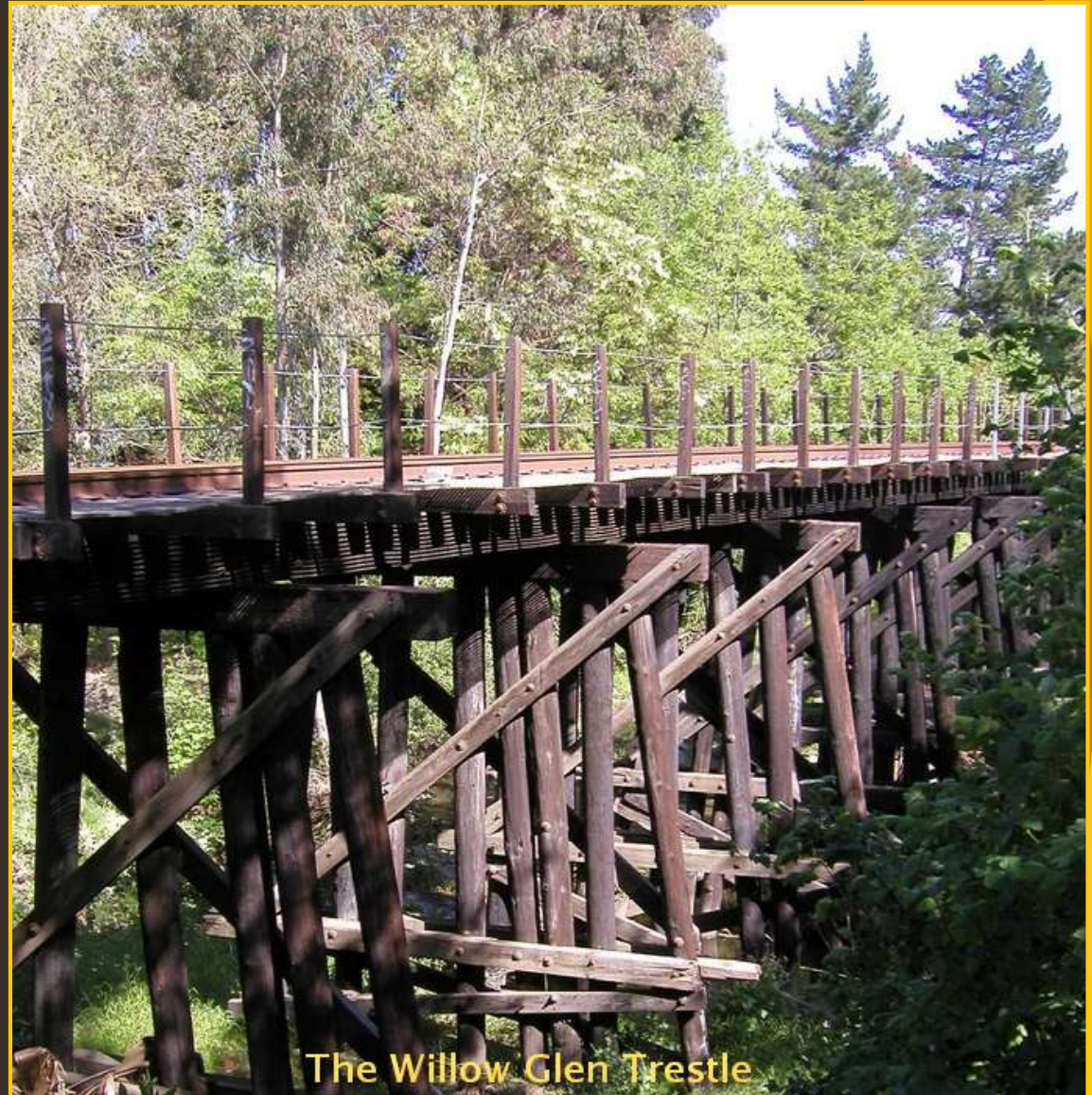
Larry Ames

July 11, 2016

Larry@WGTrestle.org

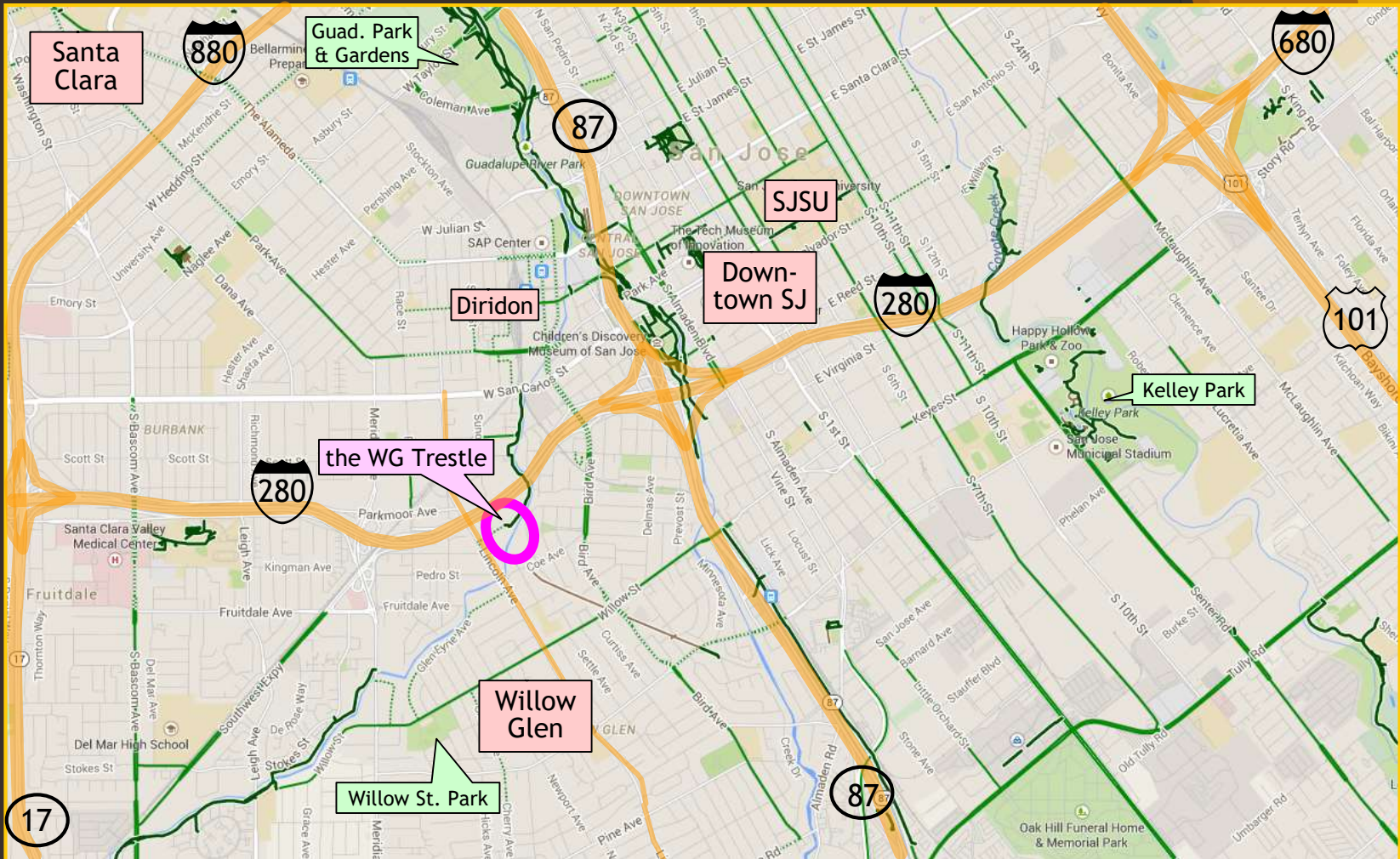
The Willow Glen Trestle

- ▶ crosses over the Los Gatos Creek in Willow Glen in central San Jose
- ▶ 210' long
- ▶ 25' tall
- ▶ built in 1922



The Willow Glen Trestle

Trestle Location

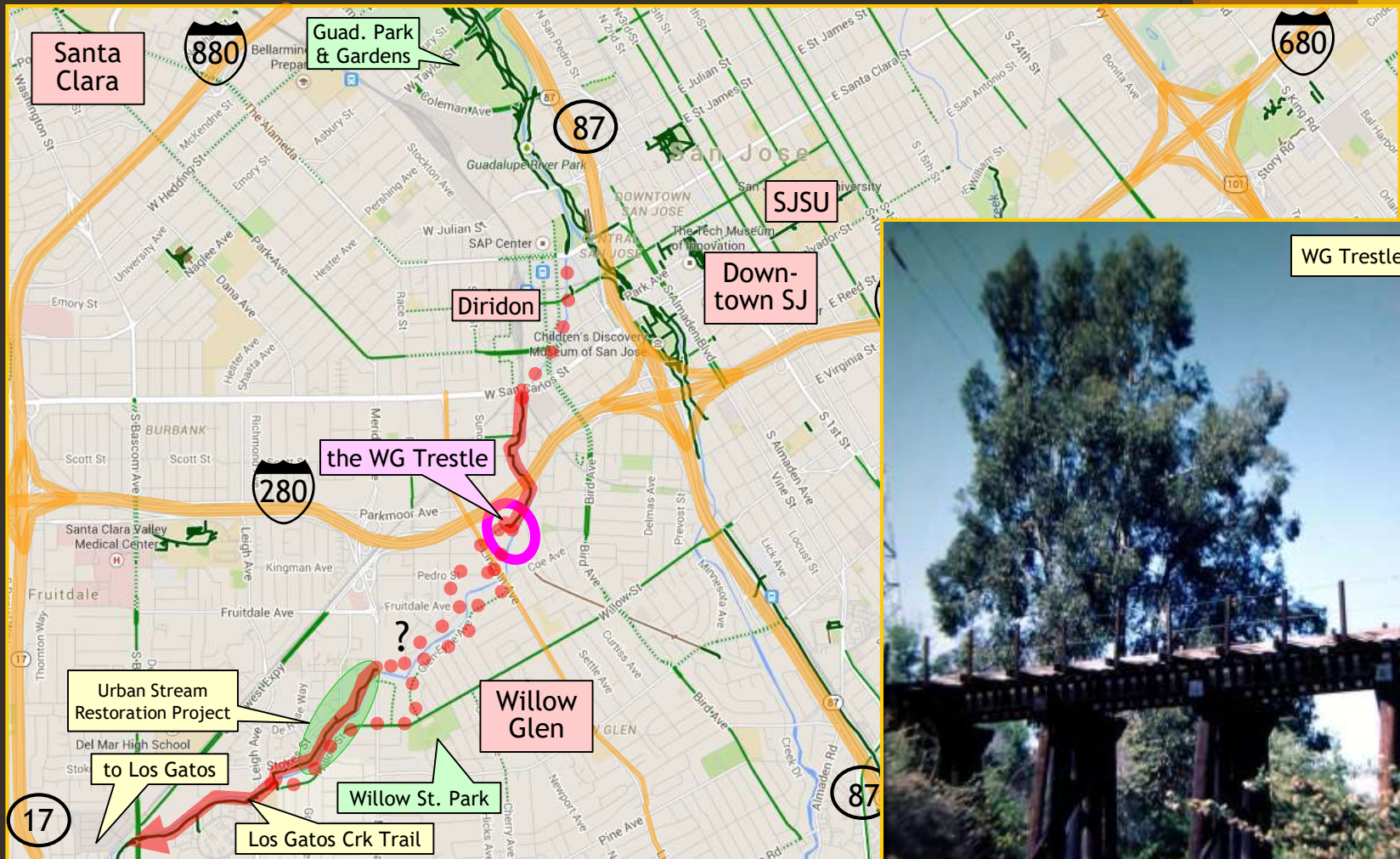


“Hidden in Plain Sight”



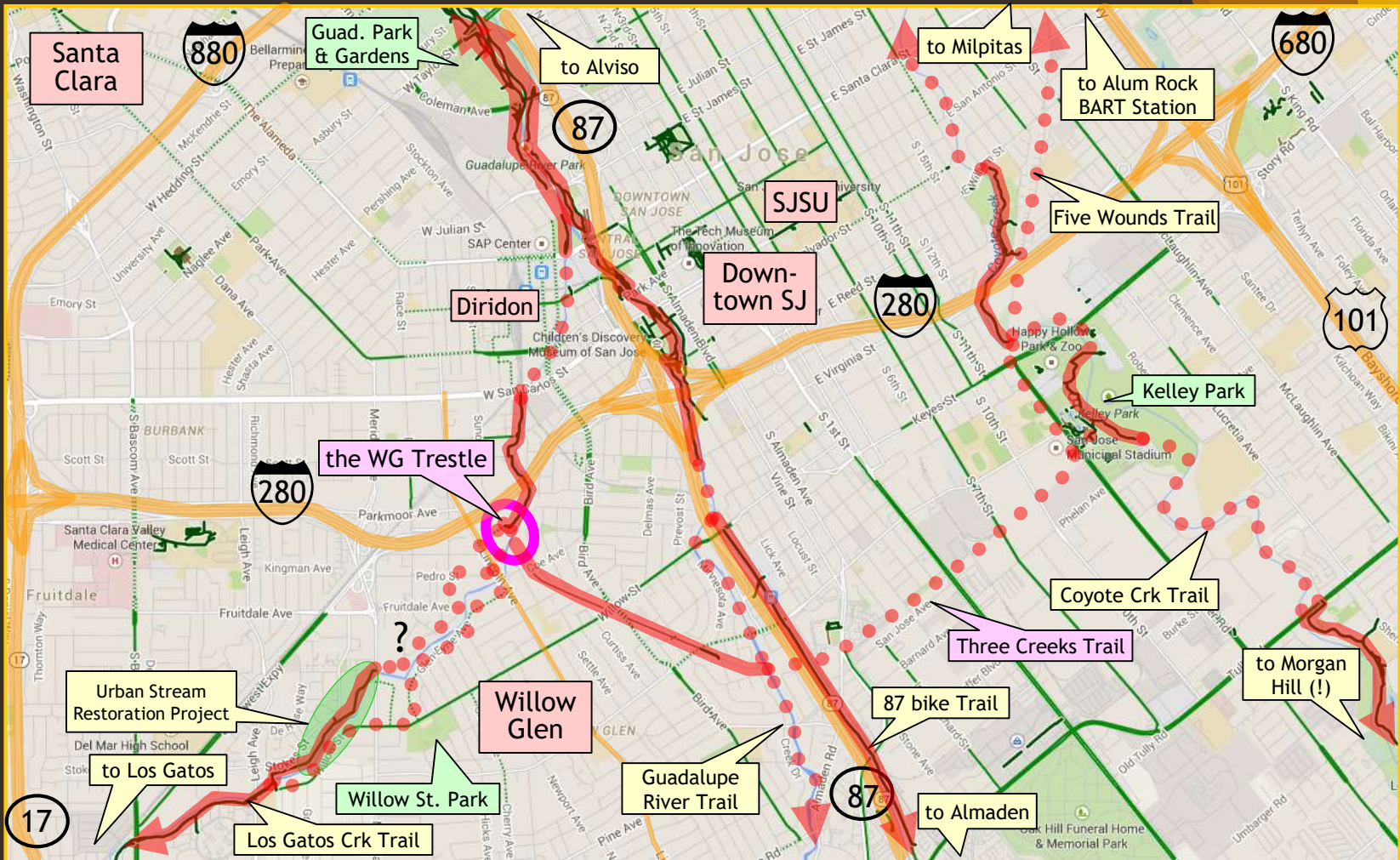
VIEW OF WILLOW GLEN TRESTLE
FROM COE AVENUE

The Los Gatos Creek Trail



WG Trestle in 1984

From the SJ "GreenPrint"



Lobbying for Funding

The Three-Creeks Trail

an update for
Jim Beall
L. Ames, March 15, 2012

Save Our Trails! 
Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

Taisia McMahon, President
Bill Rankin, Vice President
Bruce Tichinin, Counsel

a “Historic Trail”

Connects the History Park...



... at Kelley Park ...

... by means of a historic train trestle ...



... to the historic cannery district in WG.

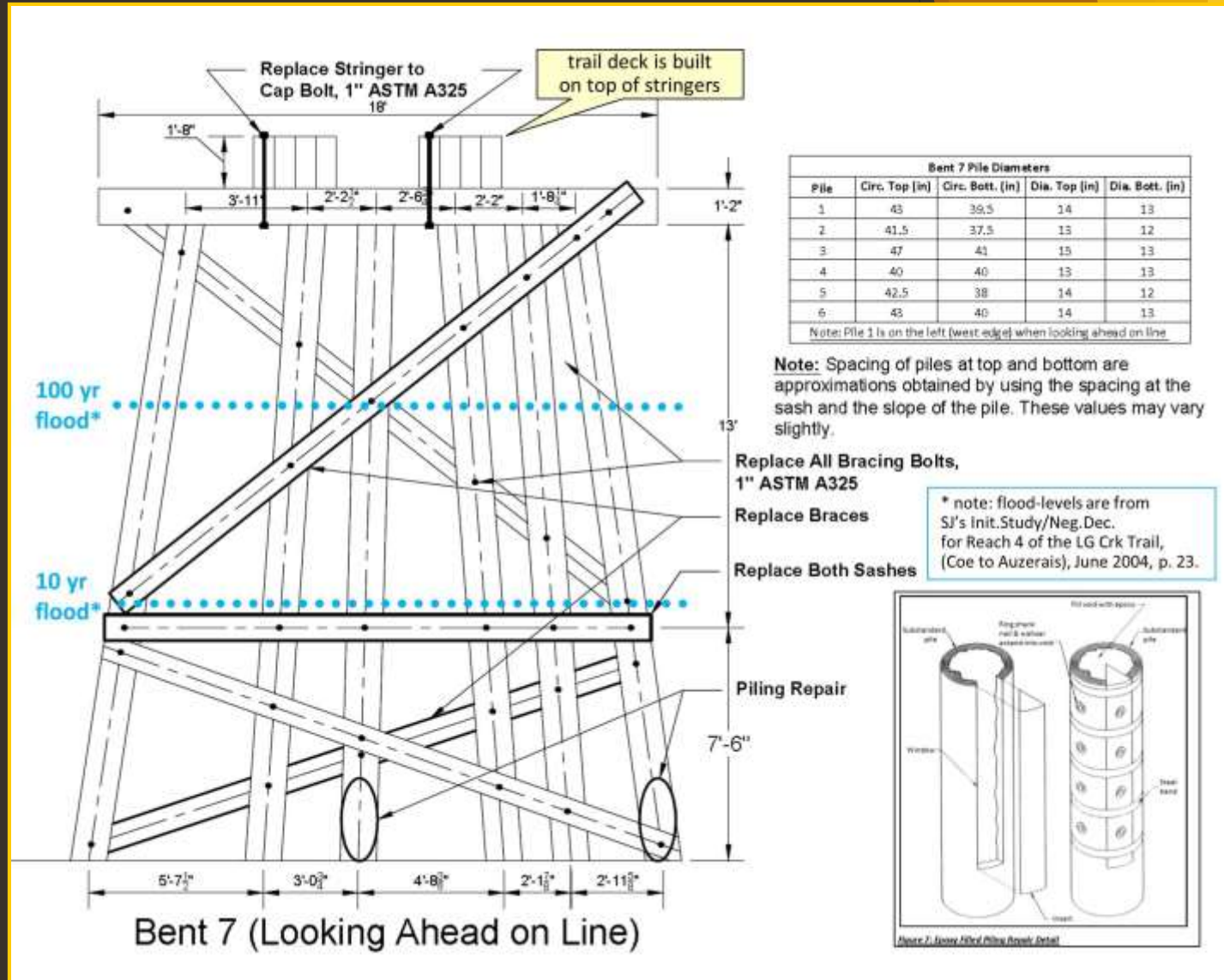
The Three Creeks Trail - a Historic Walk



City's Engineering Report, 2012

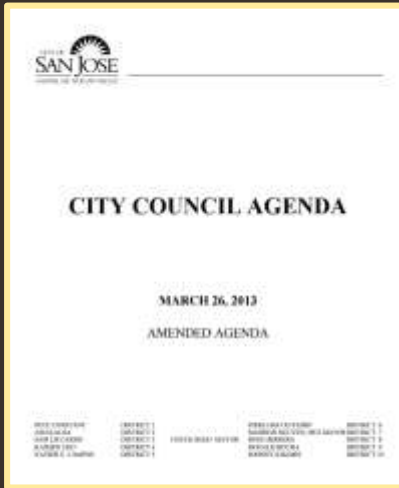
a representative page: every board and bolt was evaluated.

Plans for restoration & adaptation for trail use, including fire protection alarms & sprinklers.



March 26, 2013: City abruptly changed plans

- ▶ To meet a grant deadline, Council approved a Trail Pedestrian Bridge project
- ▶ Minimal public outreach
- ▶ Hidden detail: would replace the trestle with a new steel prefab bridge



4. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.6 Report on a Nexus Study for Determining the Feasibility of a Housing Impact Fee, Land Conversion Fee or Other Mechanism. (Cont'd.)

- **Recommendation:**
 - (C) Direct the Housing Department to return to the City Council upon completion of the Nexus Study to present:
 - (1) Key findings/recommendations of the nexus study,
 - (2) A recommended work plan for implementing an affordable rental housing impact fee, if applicable, and
 - (3) Other potential mechanisms to fund affordable housing.
- CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP10-009a, Staff report. (Housing)
- **RECOMMEND DEFERRAL TO 4/9/13 PER ADMINISTRATION**

5. NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

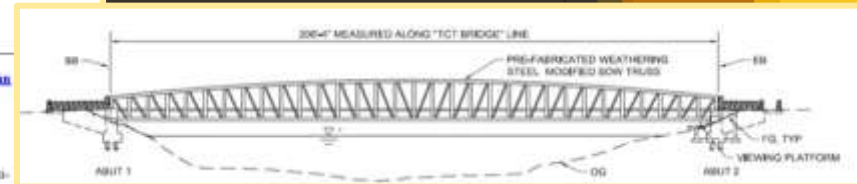
5.1 Grant Applications to the State of California for the Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge Development.

- **Recommendation:**
 - (a) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to:
 - (1) Submit two grant applications to the State of California – Natural Resources Agency for an amount up to \$1,230,000 as part of the Robert-Z'berg-Harris (Prop 40) grant program for the Three Creeks Trail Pedestrian Bridge development project with no local match required,
 - (2) Make the required assurances to comply with the project applications, deadlines to complete the project, grant program requirements, and other assurances required by the State of California as explained in the staff memorandum, and
 - (3) Accept any grants awarded and negotiate and execute any documents to effectuate the grant(s), including documents that increase the amount of the grant(s) awarded or increase the local match of funds required from the City for the project, subject to the appropriation of funds.
 - (b) Adopt the following Appropriation Ordinance Amendments in the Subdivision Park Trust Fund (Fund 375):
 - (1) Increase the Trail - Three Creeks Interim Improvements & Trestle Bridge appropriation to the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department in the amount of \$1,188,000;
 - (2) Decrease the Reserve: Future PDO/PIO Projects appropriation in the amount of \$503,000, and
 - (3) Decrease the Reserve: Trail - Three Creeks appropriation in the amount of \$685,000.

CEQA: Resolution No. 65459, File No. PP03-05-175, Council District 6. (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services/City Manager's Office)

- 11 -

CC 03/26/13



- ▶ Would have a small plaque in remembrance of the trestle



SJ Mercury News Editorials

op.ed., 5/8/13

Don't let San Jose demolish historic train trestle

By Larry Green and Brian Stappan

There are some who say the Willow Glen trestle is a "bridge over troubled waters." But it's not. It's a beautiful, historic structure that should be preserved.

When the city council voted to demolish the trestle and replace it with a new bridge, it was a mistake. The city should have voted to preserve the trestle and build a new bridge alongside it.

And that's what our committee is asking the council to do. We're asking the council to preserve the trestle and build a new bridge alongside it.

The Willow Glen Valley Water District, Santa Clara Park and Open Space Alliance and the city are all asking the council to preserve the trestle and build a new bridge alongside it.

But it's not just the trestle that's important. It's the history of the city that's important. The trestle is a reminder of the city's past and should be preserved.

Better speak up fast on Three Creeks bridge

When last we took up the cause of the old wooden trestle that crosses Los Gatos Creek on what's now the Three Creeks Trail, it was clear that San Jose's outreach in the demolition plan had been -- oh, let's just say it: rigged. City staff members had dismissed it in public or semi-public settings without civic activists realizing that ripping out the structurally sound trestle was a done deal.

Advocates made a heroic attempt to salvage it in the spring, but it was too late. Mayor Chuck Reed and the City Council rules committee refused to reconsider demolition.

The project continues at record speed, and Wednesday night is your second-to-last chance to have a say in what replaces the historic trestle. At a Willow Glen Neighborhood Association meeting, an architect and city staff will repeat a presentation made to last year's Trails exhibition. Each time

organizations officially support demolition, and at the Trails meeting, the public was told to limit comments to the three depressingly similar designs presented. We hope city staff makes sure Wednesday's sees more open, since it's to be public outreach.

The trestle prohibitions are done for, but historic preservationists know while a thing still stands, hope endures. Regard if you care about the Three Creeks Trail, which connects the Los Gatos Coyote-creek and Guadalupe River trails, you should come to the meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Ave. or to the final presentation at a trail planning workshop 6:30 p.m. June 24 at the same location of the proposed replacement designs are truly pedestrian, and we do just mean walkable. If you want something better, you'll have to fight for

Historic value of train trestle deserves City Council respect

By Larry Green and Brian Stappan

For many years, city and state officials have worked with the city of San Jose and its parks department to protect and conserve historic structures such as the Los Gatos Creek and the Three Creeks Trails. The plan was to preserve these two trails using the historic trestle structure in Willow Glen -- a sturdy city-owned structure that has been in place since the 1920s.



The train trestle on a trail in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood was saved from early demolition by a judge ruling that the City Council's 2008 plan to demolish it was unconstitutional. An environmental impact report for the bridge is due.

Look, we're not asking the city to demolish it. We're asking the city to preserve it. The trestle is a historic structure that has been in place since the 1920s. It's a reminder of the city's past and should be preserved.

When presented with the evidence of historic significance, the EIR is required to evaluate a structure's historic authenticity and its contribution to the city's history.

Historic preservation is a public good. It's a reminder of the city's past and should be preserved. The trestle is a historic structure that has been in place since the 1920s. It's a reminder of the city's past and should be preserved.

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And while the focus of the lawsuit was the trestle, the ruling affects far more than just the trestle. The Superior Court ruled that the city must not arbitrarily destroy a trestle.

SJMN 5/10/13

Opinion

Editorial board
 MICHAEL...
 KATHARINE...

Editorial

Rail trestle deserves a closer look

San Jose should take a closer look at its plan to tear down the 90-year-old wooden trestle bridge on the Three Creeks Trail in Willow Glen. The bridge was made in 1923 by the City Council in March with no real public debate. It was a city that had no real public debate. It was a city that had no real public debate.

There are questions about the relative costs of preservation compared to installing a new metal bridge on the Three Creeks Trail in San Jose.

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And that's what our committee is asking the council to do. We're asking the council to preserve the trestle and build a new bridge alongside it.

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But it's not just the trestle that's important. It's the history of the city that's important. The trestle is a reminder of the city's past and should be preserved.

ONLINE EXTRA

For a link to the city's presentation, visit www.sanjoseca.gov and click on the "Trails" link.

7/17/13

5/19/15

5/10/13

op.ed., 10/19/14

the Public was interested, so we gave trestle tours



SC Co. Sup.
Dave Cortese

SJ MN Editor
Barbara
Marshman

... and we gave public presentations



presentation by Larry Ames and the Friends of the WG Trestle, March 2, 2015

PAC★SJ & SJ HLC 2014 Photo Contest

PAC★SJ



Semi-finalist:
“Troubled Bridge Over Water”
by Larry Ames

Willow Glen Resident Year in Review

... Lots of public support, but we still had to sue to get the City to follow CEQA & do the required EIR



From the EIR & Supporting Docs

	Trestle “Retrofit”	Prefab Steel Bridge “Project”
Construction cost	\$959,000	\$1,637,000
Est. Maintenance	\$4,000 / year	not budgeted
Est. Inspection	\$2,000 / year	\$500 / year
Construction time	5 months	7 months
Estimated Life	30 - 50 years (more if well-maintained?)	75 years (w/o maintenance?)
Flooding	not a problem	not a problem
Creosote	not a problem if left alone	a concern if disturbed
Fire	not a problem: fire-retardant coating; sprinklers, alarms and maintenance	no precautions are provided, and steel loses strength at brushfire temperatures
History	HL15-001: “Historic Landmark Nomination of the Los Gatos Creek Rail Trestle for designation as a landmark of special historical, architectural, cultural, aesthetic, or engineering interest or value of a historic nature”	“While this does not salvage the trestle, aesthetics could be made pleasing. Staining the concrete deck to resemble the old track could be done. Also, railroad themed signs could be incorporated at the approaches.”

SJ Historic Landmarks Commission, 5/6/15



SJ's HLC unanimously recommended
historic recognition ...

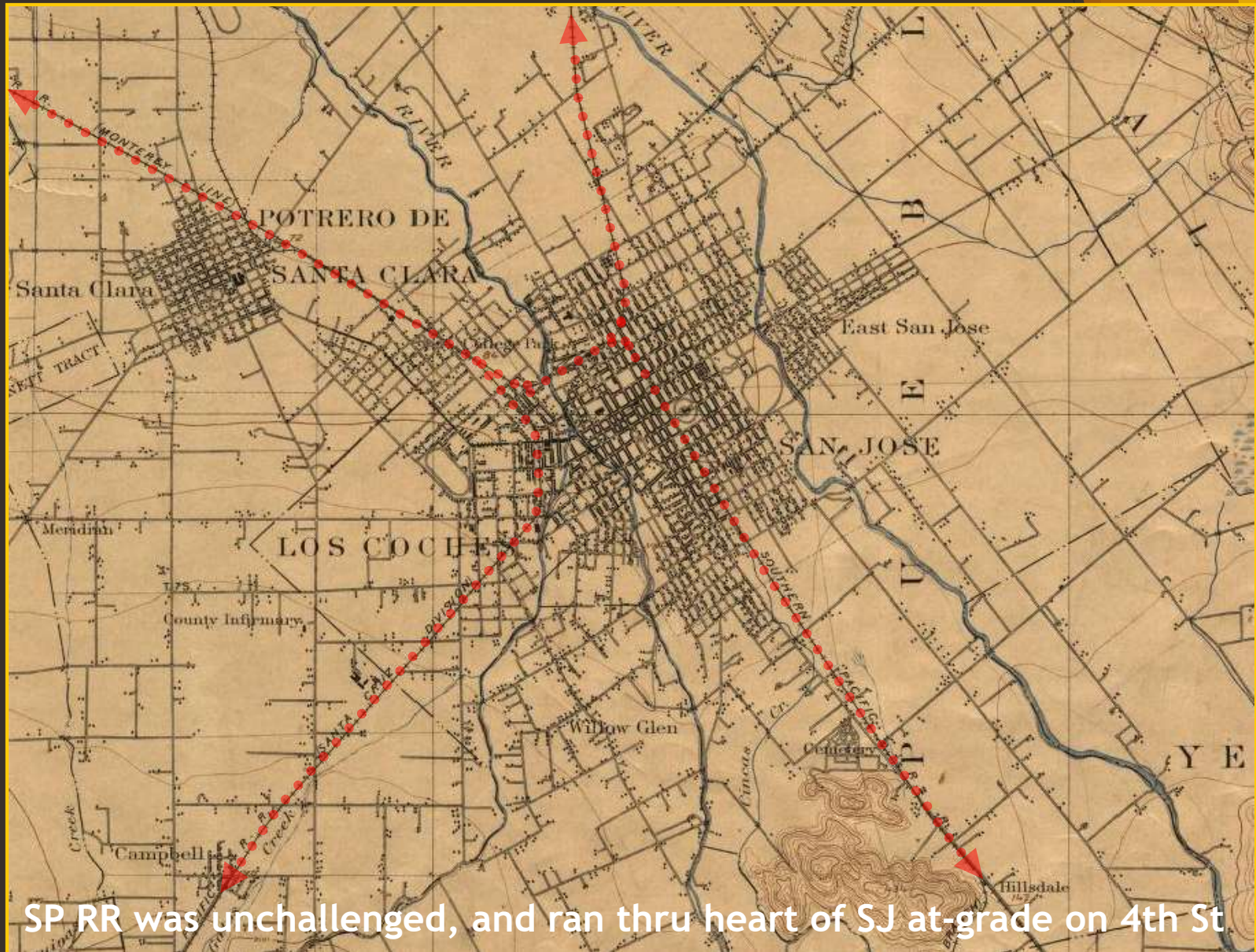


Daytime Council mtg. on Trail Bridge EIR, 5/19/15



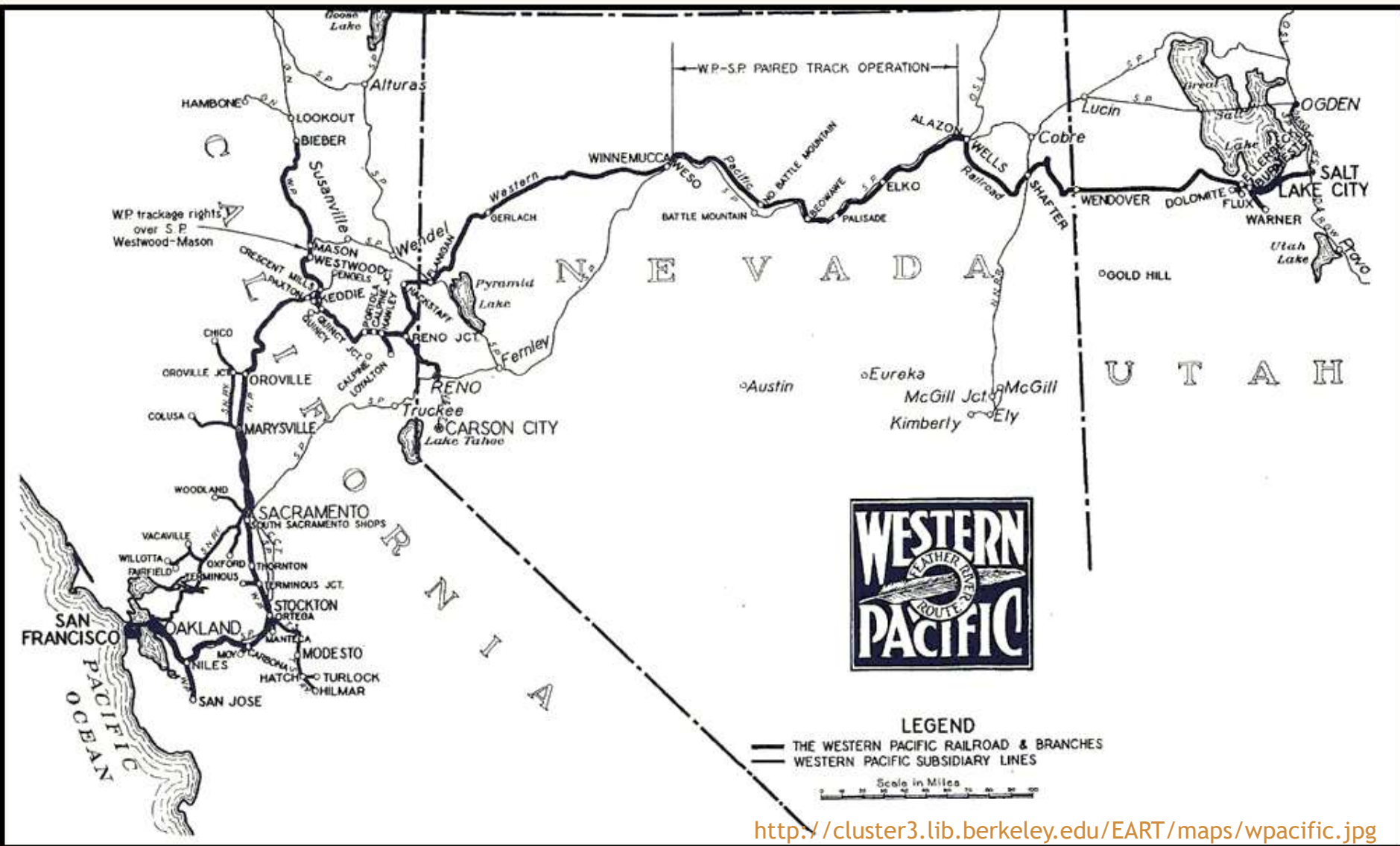
... but the Council overruled the HLC, said trestle is not historic, and then voted 7-2-2 to approve the EIR to replace the trestle.

1900's: SJ was a One-Railroad Town



SP RR was unchallenged, and ran thru heart of SJ at-grade on 4th St

Bring in Competition: Western Pacific



<http://cluster3.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/maps/wpacific.jpg>

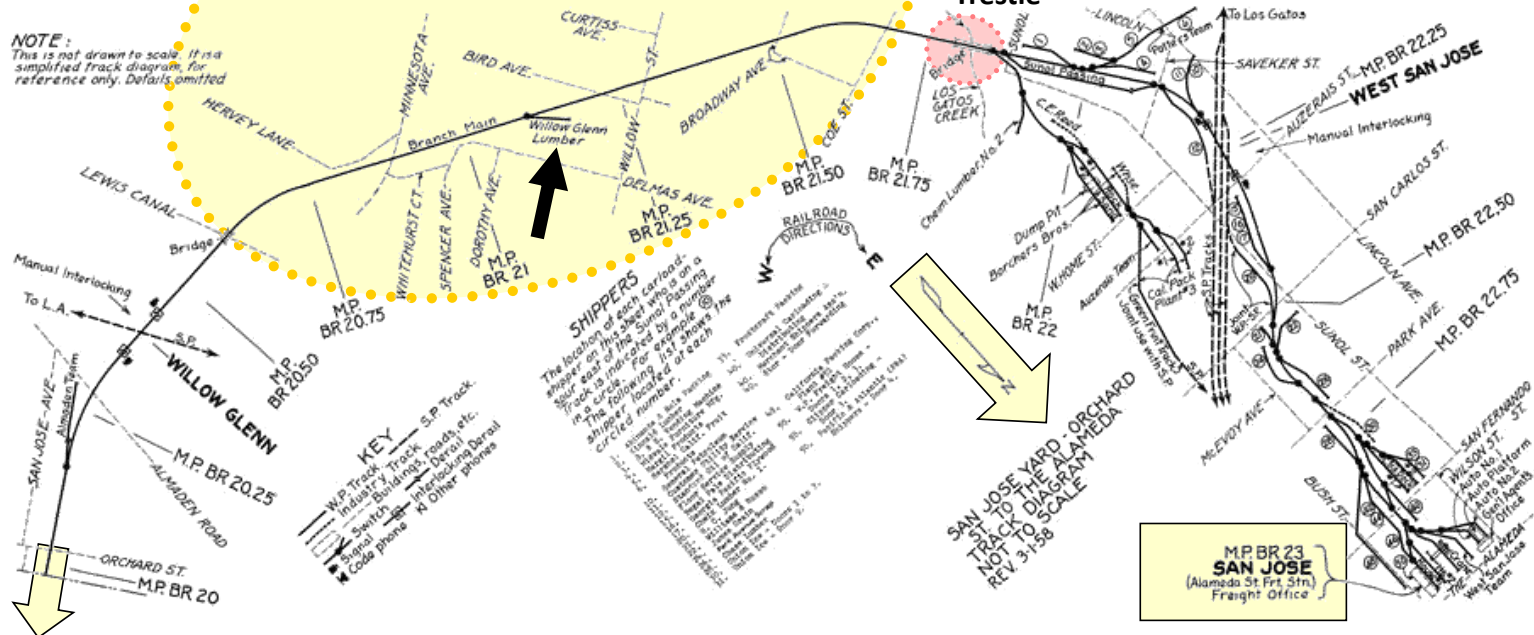
1927 (from a Map at City Hall)

- ▶ Western Pacific arrives in SJ
- ▶ Belt-line J-hook loops around SJ, avoiding residential areas
- ▶ Breaks SP's monopoly



Willow Glen - residential

Willow Glen Trestle

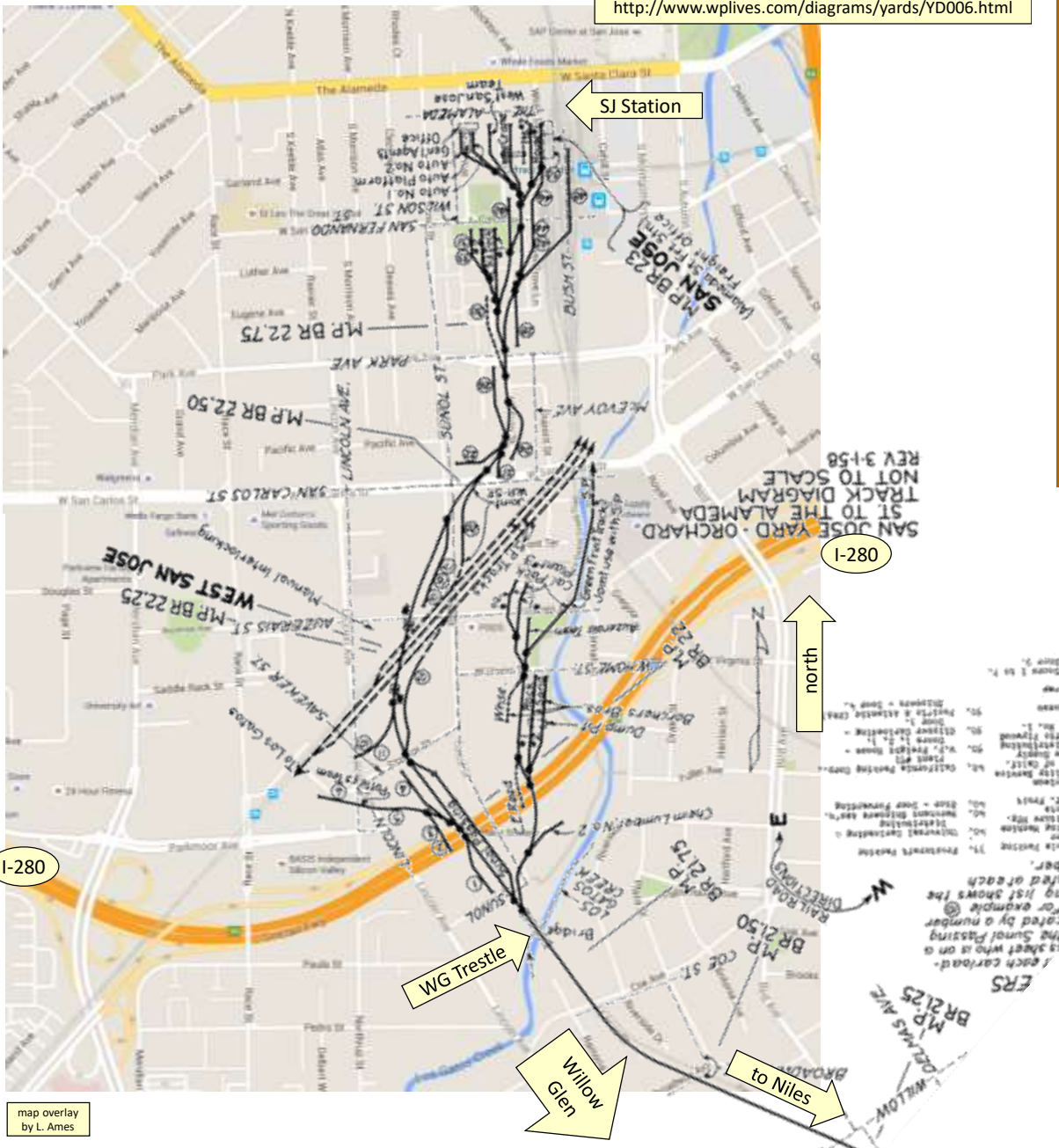


to Niles, Oakland,
and Salt Lake City

San José station

<http://www.wplives.com/diagrams/yards/YD006.html>

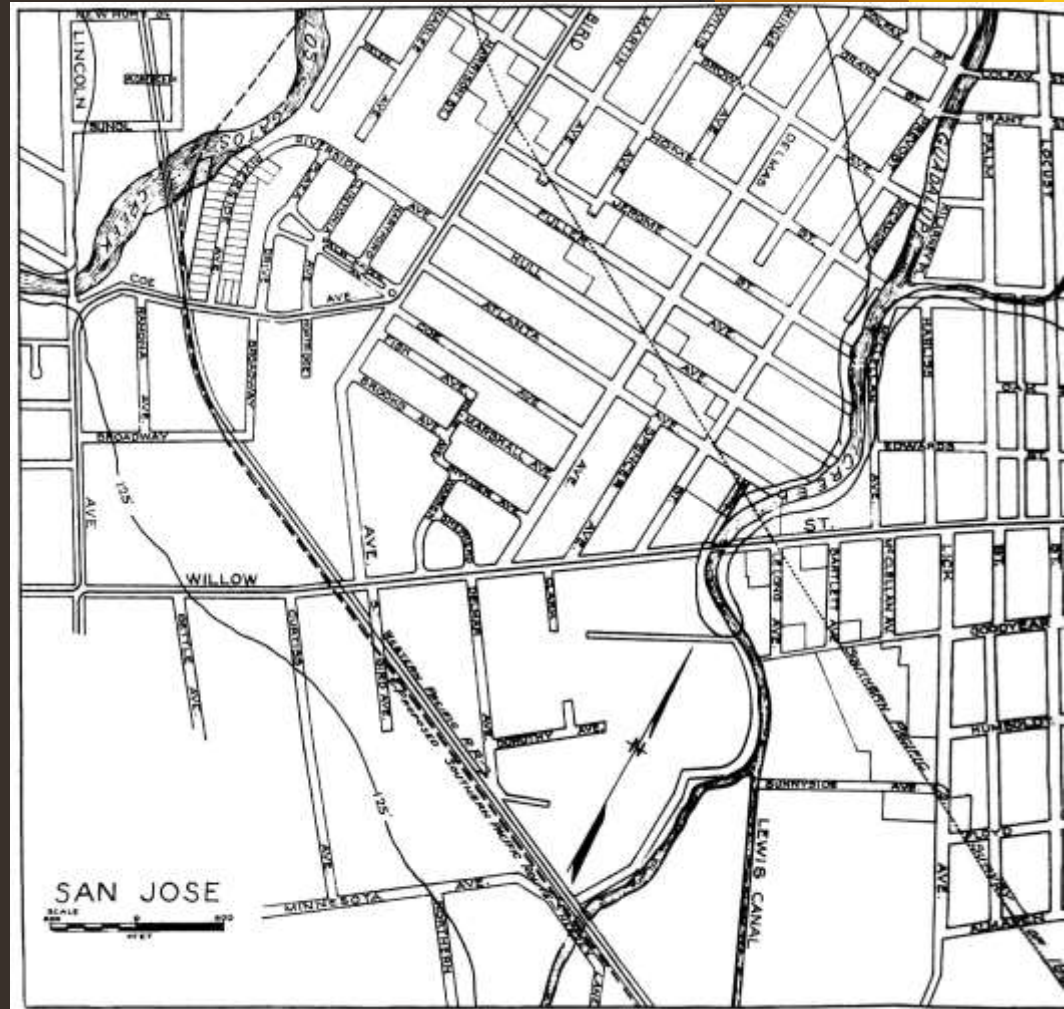
T.S.Montgomery promised to keep WG Residential



map overlay by L. Ames

Alternative SP Alignments

- ▶ City of San José traded SP off against WP and Willow Glen in the future around-town alignment.
- ▶ Willow Glen fought for grade-separation at major arterials; SP realigned their route to avoid crossings w/in WG town limits; WG fought for separations anyhow, denying SP the franchise unless they complied. (Issue went to courts, and up to Supreme Court.)



WG Trestle ruled eligible for National Historic Listing

at the statewide quarterly
commission meeting,
April 18, 2016



at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio in San Francisco

The State Historical Resources Commission



Cmsnr Moss Council Lynch SHPO Polanco Chair Brandes

Cmsnr McKay Cmsnr Harris Cmsnr Praetzellis Cmsnr Bertoli



Seth Bergstein,
historian for Friends
of the Willow Glen
Trestle



Susan Brandt-
Hawley
lawyer for the
Friends



supporting
speaker:
Wayne
Donaldson,
chair of
the Nat'l
Adv'sry
Council on
Hist. Pres.



principal
speaker in
opposition:
Councilmember
Pierluigi
Oliverio,
San Jose Dist. 6

For now...

- ▶ The replacement plans are on hold pending the Appellate Court's ruling on the City's appeal
- ▶ The EIR is in limbo
- ▶ **The trestle is still standing tall**



Preserve the Connection between “Silicon Valley” and “The Valley of Heart’s Delight”



The Willow Glen Trestle
is still standing — it can still be saved!

For more info: www.WGTrestle.org