

For Immediate Release

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Citizens win in court to save the Willow Glen Trestle from demolition

San José (July 29, 2014) – The Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle have won their public-interest lawsuit challenging the San José’s refusal to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) to consider alternatives to demolition of the evocative 1921 Willow Glen Trestle as part of the Three Creeks Trail.

Yesterday, on July 28, 2014, Judge Joseph Huber of the Santa Clara Superior Court issued a 14-page ruling (attached) that ***grants judgment in favor of the Friends group and orders that a “writ of mandate” issue*** because the record contains substantial evidence that the trestle is an historic resource although not yet listed in any historic register. The writ is an order that requires the City to set aside the demolition project and prepare an EIR.

“The EIR will analyze the trestle’s historic status and rehabilitation for use as part of the trail, all within a public process,” said Friends’ attorney Susan Brandt-Hawley. “If rehabilitation is feasible, demolition is unlawful.”

“After working for decades on San José trail projects, we are thrilled with the Court’s protection of this trestle that is part of Willow Glen history. It can be adapted to become a safe and functional part of the new Three Creeks Trail – and for less than a new steel bridge.” said Larry Ames, spokesperson for the Friends.

Gayle Frank of Preservation Action Council of San José (PAC*SJ) added: “We are so pleased with the Court’s ruling that protects the Willow Glen Trestle.”

Martha Heinrichs, a member of the Friends group, stated:

“This amazing 92-year-old wooden train trestle in Willow Glen has supported many decades of history here in Santa Clara County when we were known as the ‘Valley of Hearts Delight.’ It is an important link to the families that farmed and had orchards here; to those workers who labored picking the crops to send to the canneries; to those who worked in the canneries; and to those connected with the railroad. One can see how closely genealogy, history, and historic preservation are connected with this train trestle: a treasure worthy of recognition and preservation.”

“We are long-time trail advocates. We commit to working with the City to secure funding to rehabilitate the trestle as a safe, long-term segment of the new Three Creeks Trail,” added Mr. Ames.



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