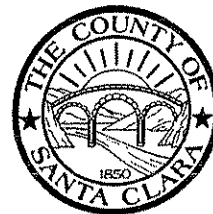


County of Santa Clara

Eleventh Floor – East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110



DATE: June 21, 2013

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sylvia M. Gallegos
Deputy County Executive

Robb Courtney
Director, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: OFF-AGENDA REPORT BACK CONCERNING THE THREE CREEKS
TRAIL TRESTLE IN WILLOW GLEN

SUMMARY

At the May 14, 2013 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board made a referral to the Administration to work with community stakeholders and the City of San Jose to identify options for the Three Creeks Trail extension that incorporates the existing Willow Glen Trestle.

The Administration engaged in several discussions with the Director and staff of the City of San Jose Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department as well as Trestle advocates to understand the historic significance of the Trestle and the public input process used to-date, as well as to identify opportunities to retain the Trestle as a feature of the Three Creeks Trail.

With the referral, Supervisor Wasserman requested County Parks to contact the Town of Los Gatos to identify the source of funding for the replacement of the bridge at Roberts Road. The Town's Parks Director indicated that it used transportation grant funding through Caltrans, and that this type of funding is more limited due to the new funding process that aggregates all transportation grant funding under MTC through One Bay Area Grant (OBAG).

Subsequent to the Board referral, the District Six City Councilmember referred to the Council's Rules Committee a proposal to schedule a study session to discuss the Trestle with a possible outcome of engaging an engineering firm to conduct additional analysis of the Trestle. The majority of the Rules Committee voted to not approve the referral for consideration by the City Council.

Because the City Council had previously voted in March and April to proceed with demolishing the Trestle and replacing it with a new free-span steel and concrete bridge, the City Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services staff has been in the midst of conducting community workshops to receive input on design elements and a bridge concept. The next meetings are

scheduled for July 9 (Save Our Trails board meeting) and July 17 (Willow Glen Neighborhood Association) to review the proposed bridge concept. The final community workshop for the trail master plan process is scheduled for July 24 to review the preferred alignment, landscaping concepts, and the interpretive elements.

BACKGROUND

The Three Creeks Trail is envisioned to extend approximately 2.5 miles starting at Los Gatos Creek at Highway 280, crossing the Guadalupe River Trail while linking to the existing Highway 87 bikeway, and connecting to the Coyote Creek Trail within Kelley Park.

The County of Santa Clara is one of the funding partners for the acquisition and construction of the Three Creeks Trail. The County contributed \$2 million of Park Charter Fund resources in 2010 for the City's acquisition of the western alignment from Lonus St. to Minnesota Ave. and has also committed \$1 million towards the future acquisition of the eastern alignment, east of Highway 87 to Kelley Park, which must be encumbered by 2015.

Willow Glen Trestle

On March 26 and April 9, 2013, the San Jose City Council approved actions to raze the existing Trestle along the Three Creeks Trail right-of-way over the Los Gatos Creek and replace it with a new free-span steel and concrete bridge structure. In accordance with City Council direction, City staff is currently proceeding with the bridge replacement project. Over the past few weeks, community members as well as a Mercury News editorial raised questions and concerns about the community outreach process and the proposal to demolish the existing trestle.

A question was posed of County staff about the historic nature of the existing trestle. The Administration requested City staff to provide documentation supporting the assertion that the trestle bridge is not a historic structure. We received a copy of a September 10, 2004 letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer in the State Department of Parks and Recreation to the California Department of Transportation that states that an archeological resources record search and a field inventory survey conducted by archeologists revealed "no known prehistoric or historic archeological resources within or adjacent to the project." The conclusion is that no historic properties are affected by the trail project undertaking.

County Parks staff also independently confirmed with the State that the City's assertion that the deadlines pertaining to the Proposition 40 funds committed to the project could not be extended.

The City of San Jose staff recommended to the City Council the replacement of the trestle bridge for these stated reasons:

- The annual maintenance, clean-up, and inspection costs of retaining the existing trestle are significantly higher than the costs of a replacement bridge.
- The existing trestle presents a higher likelihood that the bridge and trail system will be out of service because of the potential for fire damage or continued deterioration of the trestle structure.
- It is a community priority to have a reliable connection between the Three Creeks Trail and the Los Gatos Creek Trail because it will serve as part of the City's transportation

network.

- The construction schedule for a replacement bridge is more certain than the unknowns associated with rehabilitation of the old trestle. Rehabilitation costs are greater than replacement because more damage may be exposed as work commences.
- Grant funds of \$1.2 million are available for the replacement bridge. The deadline for using \$1.2 million in State grant funds for bridge replacement or rehabilitation is June 2015. The physical work must be completed by April 2015, and invoices and project closeout must be completed by June 2015. The State already required the City in March to confirm a work plan for the use of the grant funds.

c: Lynn Regadanz
Debbie Dills-Thompson

