

Rebecca Prozan
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via email: Prozan@Google.com , sent June 23, 2017

re: Google development by the San José/Diridon Station and the Los Gatos Creek Trail

Dear Ms. Prozan,

It was nice to meet you at the San José City Council meeting earlier this week.

As I said in my public comments, I'm excited by Google's proposal for the Diridon Station Area. As a fairly nearby resident, I've been tracking the various Diridon proposals over the years, and I feel that Google's is by far the best. The existing and planned transportation connections at the station will be incredible, and development for that area needs to both support it and benefit from it. (The prior proposal for a baseball stadium there would have benefited from the transportation, but it would not have been as heavily used on a daily basis.) I also appreciate that the Mt. View Google campus has an "open" structure, as compared to a fenced-in "enclave" configuration (like at my old employer, Lockheed Martin) or an introspective "self-contained" construct (like Apple). I hope the Diridon complex will also be "open" and will "mesh" into its more urban environment.

At the Council hearing, I spoke about the Los Gatos Creek Trail. As you can see (just Google(!) me – "Larry Ames"+"Willow Glen"), I'm a "citizen advocate" who has been involved with the Los Gatos Creek Trail for years – I was officially appointed to the County's Los Gatos trail planning committee in 1984, and in 1993 I led a community [habitat restoration project](#) that helped to extend the trail. (Lately, I've been spearheading a community effort to preserve the [Willow Glen Trestle](#) as an inviting component of the trail: we recently succeeded in getting it listed on the California Register of Historical Resources.)

I am writing to you now to share a community vision for developing the Los Gatos Creek Trail in the vicinity of the Diridon Station. As can be seen on the attached diagram, this "last mile" of the trail is proving to be the most challenging: an active railroad crossing, a culvert, and old industrial uses.

* The first of these is now being resolved: after years of discussions, CalTrain is now in the process of replacing the old bridge, and it will provide adequate clearance to accommodate a trail crossing.

* Obstacle #2 is the culvert. Back in the '50's or '60's, San José buried the Los Gatos Creek in a pair of box culverts so that it could pave over it to provide a "no-stop" right-turn from Montgomery to Park. Our vision, as adopted by the Diridon Good Neighbors Committee and accepted by City Council, is to look into "daylighting" the creek – to freeing it from its culvert – if and when the area is to be redeveloped. The diagram illustrates one concept: to leave the culverts in place (to accommodate floodwaters) and to recreate a channel for the creek. This could help the creek by providing additional riparian ("streamside") habitat, and could help the area's traffic flow by grade-separating bike- and pedestrian traffic from street-level vehicular traffic. Access trails could connect nearby neighborhoods via the trail to the Google complex and the Diridon transit station.

* The third is a vision: make the Los Gatos Creek into an attraction! It can be everything: a naturally wild riparian habitat near the creek, a non-motorized transportation corridor with trail(s) along one or

both banks, and on the outer edge amenities such as trailside bistros and kiosks to attract and enchant visitors and residents alike. I attach a “paper” that I wrote on this topic a few years ago.

All of this, combined with a bridge at the northern end to connect the trail over to the Guadalupe River Trail, and a preserved and restored historic trestle at the south to add “character” and to welcome trail-users to Willow Glen, would make a wonderful amenity for Google and the Diridion Station Area!

I would be happy to provide you more information, and to give you and others an on-site tour of current conditions and future possibilities.

~Larry Ames

longtime Los Gatos Creek Trail advocate.

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