From: LAmes@aol.com
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CC: larry@wgtrestle.org, helen@wgtrestle.org, scott@wgtrestle.org, jean@wgtrestle.org
Sent: 5/15/2013 9:49:58 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: the WG Trestle: update 5/15/13

Hi, all...

I really want to thank you all for your outpouring of support! The City Councilmembers, County Supervisors, and Water District Directors each got over 120 letters of support!

[I was copied on the letters as well: a few were negative, some were generic, but many had poetic and heartfelt comments.]

These letters helped sway the County Supervisors yesterday to vote unanimously to have County Parks offer to assist SJ in the effort to save the trestle. Many thanks to Supervisor Dave Cortese for introducing the measure, to Ken Yeager for his strong and long-term support, and to Mike Wasserman and Joe Simitian for their support!

The SCVWD Board of Directors were also swayed and supportive: Director Barbara Keegan came in support of today's Council meeting

Unfortunately, the San Jose Councilmembers were harder to reach. Despite all pleas of logic, community support, history, budget, or environment, the Council's Rules Committee decided >not< to revisit the trestle issue, and thus condemned the trestle to be demolished.

The Mayor and Committee-members used convoluted logic to cast this as a vote >for< trails, saying that, by not wasting time and money trying to preserve the trestle, they would have more time and money available for trails, and that's what everybody really wants. (I'm not sure why we can't have both...)

They praised the Engineering Report for the cost estimates for the replacement bridge (despite it claiming that the trestle can be removed for only $59k, with each piling removed in less than 15 minutes), but they questioned the same Report when it said that the trestle could be repaired for less (even when the 21-page cost estimate detailed every single bolt and washer).

The Pres of WGNA (RZ) and a few others were there to speak >for< the demolition of the trestle, a number of us from "Friends of the WG Trestle" were there to argue that >restoring< the trestle made more sense financially, environmentally, and historically.

In the end, it didn't matter: the Mayor and Councilmembers said that we had had our fair and public hearing last March and the issue has been decided.

[Guess you could name the trestle "Larry's Lunacy"...]

I'm giving one last tour of the trestle this Saturday: come and see what has been lost. Join us at 10 AM on Coe at the corner of Leona, a block east of Lincoln. (bring a camera).

~Larry

Friend of the (soon to be demolished) WG Trestle.