

AGENDA

January 28, 2020 9:30 AM

Regular Meeting

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' CHAMBERS

County Government Center – 70 West Hedding Street, 1st Floor, San Jose, CA

[Agenda item] 10. Approve referral to Administration to report to the Board within 30 days with options for consideration relating to continuing to assert a leadership position in the restoration of the Willow Glen Trestle in order to facilitate the completion of the Three Creeks Trail. (Cortese)

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[p. 67 & 68 in the agenda packet:]

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Dave Cortese

DATE: January 28, 2020
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Dave Cortese, Supervisor
SUBJECT: Willow Glen Trestle

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve referral to Administration to report to the Board within 30 days with options for consideration relating to continuing to assert a leadership position in the restoration of the Willow Glen Trestle in order to facilitate the completion of the Three Creeks Trail. (Cortese)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications at this time.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The county operates Los Gatos Creek County Park. The Los Gatos Creek Trail, which runs through the park, is operated by multiple jurisdictions including the County, the City of Campbell, the Town of Los Gatos and the City of San Jose.

Restoring the Trestle would facilitate the final step in connecting the Los Gatos Los Gatos Creek Trail with the Coyote Creek Trail and Guadalupe River Trail, completing what is known as the Three Creeks Trail, a regional network of urban streams in Santa Clara Valley and the greater Guadalupe River watershed.

After contributing \$2 million towards the City of San Jose's purchase of the Willow Glen Trestle from the Union Pacific Railroad, the county holds a conservation easement over the land.

The county has a vested interest in regional trail connections as identified in:

- Environmental Stewardship Goal #9. Work with local governments and regional authorities to ensure that all existing county trails are interconnected with local and regional trails.

- The County Wide Trails Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

The City of San Jose has had plans to demolish the Willow Glen Trestle since 2013 while a group of activists have fought to preserve it.

To support this preservation effort, my office put forward a referral, which was approved by the entire Board on May 14, 2013 directing County Parks staff to work with the City of San Jose on exploring ways to save the Trestle.

The last judicial procedure on the issue was in July 2019 when the court issued an injunction preventing the City from moving any further pending a decision on whether a new environmental review is necessary given the Trestle's recent historic designation.

The Three Creeks Trail, when completed, would connect three regional trails - Coyote Creek, Guadalupe River, and Los Gatos Creek.