

# Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

CalTrain Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board  
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070

Sent via email, with copies to the Los Gatos Creek Bridge project team; to JPB Board Members Ken Yeager and Raul Peralez; and to San Jose PR&NS Director Angel Rios and staff members Matt Cano and Yves Zsutty

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of Call for Bids for the Los Gatos Creek Bridge replacement .

July 6, 2016

Dear Members of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board:

**Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities** is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation whose mission is *"To promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all."* On behalf of **Save Our Trails**, I am writing to request that the Call for Bids for the Los Gatos Creek Bridge replacement be withdrawn pending consultation with the City of San Jose to ensure that the project does not interfere with construction and use of the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

Caltrain staff had worked with the staff of the City of San Jose to ensure a mutually satisfactory design for the replacement of the bridge over the Los Gatos Creek south of Diridon Station. However, without consulting with the City, Caltrain unilaterally made significant changes in the design of the bridge. These changes will effectively close the Los Gatos Creek Trail an average of seven times a year. If we assume two days of submersion per event, plus an additional four days for the trail to dry off, plus another five to seven days for safety inspection and clean-up, we can predict that this revised design will lead to the trail being closed for as long as three months each rain season.

This trail is one of the most significant in the City's network, since (together with the feeder trail, the Three Creeks Trail) it will provide residents in West San Jose, Willow Glen, Campbell, and Los Gatos direct access to Diridon Station, to the SAP Arena and downtown, to Levy Stadium, and to the many industrial facilities along First Street in North San Jose.

It should be obvious to the Joint Powers Board that a bridge design that cripples this significant alternative to motorized traffic, the Los Gatos Creek Trail, is unacceptable.

Please put an immediate hold on the plans to issue a call for bids for the replacement bridge until the Caltrain project team and the City of San Jose can reach a mutually satisfactory solution that will allow the bridge to be replaced without destroying the utility of the Trail.

Sincerely,

Bill Rankin  
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: [www.saveourtrails-scc.org](http://www.saveourtrails-scc.org)