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City Manager's Office

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Julie Edmonds-Mares

SUBJECT: THREE CREEKS TRESTLE EIR

DATE: September 15, 2014

Approved

Date

9/15/14

INFORMATION

This memorandum provides a progress report on the Three Creeks Pedestrian Bridge project in light of a July 28, 2014, Superior Court ruling that requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to determine the merits of a historic designation.

The City of San José seeks to replace a trestle structure over Los Gatos Creek to support the interconnection of the planned Three Creeks Trail to the Los Gatos Creek Trail. The replacement bridge would be a free-span structure, leading to the removal of all obstructions within the riparian channel. Its steel and concrete construction would be longer-lasting and be less subject to the periodic vandalism and arson seen at the site. The replacement bridge was originally scheduled to be opened in October 2014, but the construction project has been placed on hold in order to complete the EIR process.

Staff has negotiated a consultant agreement for preparation of the EIR, which will study the history of the trestle, and the potential impacts of the project to historic resources and all other aspects of the project's impacts to the environment. The EIR process includes an opportunity for public review and input. A Notice of Preparation will be issued later this month, with a public meeting likely in October to review and amend the study's scope. This public outreach allows all stakeholders the opportunity to frame questions and ensure that the final report responds to concerns. A second public meeting would occur in 2015 as the final draft version of the EIR is circulated for public comment. Staff will follow all legal requirements for public notification of the EIR, including mailing notices to property owners and residents within vicinity of the project.

A significant portion of the project is funded by a State grant which currently expires in June 2015. With potential loss of significant grant funding, staff is working with the State of California to explore options for a deadline extension.

Supplemental fencing has recently been installed at both ends of the trestle (near Coe Avenue and Lonus Street) to prevent trespassing onto the structure while the EIR is prepared.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2014

Subject: Three Creeks Trestle

Page 2

To supplement the outreach effort mandated with an EIR, staff is also sharing information via Twitter @SanJoseTrails, emailing notifications to local advocacy organizations and maintaining the trail system's web page at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=2883>.

/s/

JULIE EDMONDS-MARES
Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services

For questions please contact Matt Cano, Deputy Director, at (408) 535-3580.