

Save Our Trails!



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

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers
200 E. Santa Clara St., San José CA 95113
Sent via email c/o City Clerk

SUBJECT: Request for budget for construction documents for a new pedestrian bridge over the Guadalupe River at Chynoweth Avenue.

June 5, 2016

Dear Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council:

Save Our Trails: Connecting Santa Clara County Communities is a California Not-for-Profit Corporation who 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 funds be allocated in the City Budget for construction documents for a new pedestrian bridge over the Guadalupe River at Chynoweth Avenue adjacent to the Almaden Ranch shopping center. This bridge will provide a connection between the Guadalupe River Trail on the east bank of the River and the shopping center on the west bank.

In his request for funding dated May 25, Council Member Rocha has already laid out a strong case for the bridge, as will allow pedestrians and bicyclists from the neighborhoods on the west side of the River to access the new shopping center without having to take a one-mile detour.

In addition, as the Council Member points out, a bridge at this location will make it much more feasible for pedestrians and bicyclists from the neighborhoods on the east side of the River to access the Guadalupe River Trail.

As trail advocates, SAVE OUR TRAILS, this second point is especially significant to our members. The Guadalupe River Trail currently extends several miles south from the location of the proposed bridge into the Almaden Valley, and is currently master planned to go five miles north from there to Willow Street where it will link up with the existing trail into downtown and to the industrial areas in north San Jose. When that gap is closed, it will become a major route for north-south bike traffic, and will have the potential to seriously alleviate the problems associated with the north-south vehicle commute. It is important that residents to the west of the river in the Erikson Park neighborhood be given better access to this trail – both for commuter access to the job locations to the north, as well as recreational access to Almaden Lake Park.

For these reasons, we strongly urge support of this budget request.

Sincerely,

Bill Rankin
President, **Save Our Trails**; Web: www.saveourtrails-scc.org