



CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

Office of the Mayor and City Council • 500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View, California 94039-7540
650-903-6305 • FAX 650-903-6039

August 22, 2017

The Honorable John L. Varela, Chair
Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Subject: Emergency Declaration to Repair Stevens Creek Bank

Dear Chair Varela:

I am writing to express the City of Mountain View's support for the proposed emergency declaration related to the repair of the Stevens Creek bank north of El Camino Real. In addition to the District's maintenance road, the failed bank was also the location of the Stevens Creek Trail, a vital recreational and transportation facility that is used by thousands of people daily. The trail provides an opportunity for safe pedestrian and bicycle travel away from the traffic and noise of the street.

After the failure of the bank in January 2017, the City worked with the District and the owner of the neighboring hotel to construct a temporary bypass so trail users would not have to use an on-street detour. The creek bank continues to fail and is now jeopardizing the temporary trail. A temporary repair is needed to stabilize the bank prior to the 2017-18 rainy season.

The City supports the emergency declaration that will allow the District to take immediate action to complete an interim repair. The City looks forward to both the interim and final repair and to working with the District to replace the trail in its original location.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Fuller, Public Works Director, or me.

Sincerely,



Ken Rosenberg
Mayor

cc: Norma Camacho, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Operating Officer
Daniel H. Rich, City Manager
Michael A. Fuller, Public Works Director



1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, California 94043

Tel: 650.253.0000
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August 22, 2017

Santa Clara Valley Water District
Board of Directors
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Chairperson Varela and Board Members,

The Stevens Creek Trail is an extremely important resource in the Water District. It is a valued recreational resource for the local community. More vitally, it is a transportation corridor that serves a critical need, relieving traffic from local streets and from Highway 85.

Local residents and our employees have been extremely saddened by the loss of this trail. While the City of Mountain View's emergency detour has been a tremendous accomplishment, we respectfully ask that you consider the importance of this connection and expedite the repair of this area if you can.

Without immediate repairs, the levee will likely worsen over the winter, driving up costs and possibly making a permanent repair to the trail extremely expensive and potentially even unfeasible. That would be a tremendous loss, a loss that might be avoidable through swift action.

Thank you for your attention to this,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Igoe", is written over the typed name.

John Igoe
Real Estate and Workplace Services
Google, Inc.

Cc: Norma Camacho, CEO, SCVWD
Michele King, Clerk of the Board, SCVWD

Melissa Stone

From: J. Antonio Martín <jose.antonio.martin.baena@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:05 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Support Stevens Creek Trail repairs

Dear Mr Varela,

As the Board Chair of Valley Water, please take quick action to stop and repair the deterioration of the Stevens Creek Trail. A lot of us depend on it to avoid driving to work.

Sincerely,
-- Jose Martín.

Melissa Stone

From: ranjith ka <ranjith.kagathi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:52 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Support Stevens Creek trail repairs

Hi,

I am writing this email in support of the emergency declaration to accelerate Stevens Creek trail repairs. I am resident of Matilda gardens community in Sunnyvale and use the Stevens Creek trail thrice a week to commute to my workplace in mountain view. This trail provides me a safe and bike friendly way to commute and I would greatly appreciate any steps taken towards expediting the repairs. I recently moved to Bay area from San Diego and was pleasantly surprised to see something like this trail right in the center of the city and yet so removed from the city. Already love this trail and this place.

Warm regards,
Ranjith

Melissa Stone

From: gamecoderchick@gmail.com on behalf of Beth Cutler <beth@bethcutler.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:25 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Stevens Creek Trail emergency repair

I've heard that the Water District is considering an emergency repair on the Stevens Creek trail at the site of the landslide.

As a Mountain View resident and frequent user of the SCT, I strongly urge this repair. I've been dismayed at how quickly the trail has deteriorated over the summer even without extensive rain. I'm concerned if no repairs happen before the winter rains start, the cost and timeline of the permanent repair will be even larger.

Please make this emergency repair happen!

Thank you for your time,
Elizabeth Cutler

Melissa Stone

From: Elaine Haight <haightelaine@fhda.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:40 PM
To: John Varela
Cc: Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors
Subject: Stevens Creek Trail Repairs

Dear Mr. Varela,

Please fund emergency repairs on the Stevens Creek Bike Trail. My husband and I ride the trail every day to get to work in downtown Mountain View. At this time Mountain View is so impacted with traffic that we have no alternative when choosing a mode of transportation for commuting. If the Stevens Creek Trail becomes less convenient (as it was before the current bypass was open) you can expect the traffic and parking problems in downtown Mountain View to get far worse.

-Elaine Haight, Los Altos

Melissa Stone

From: Peter Epstein <pepstein@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:48 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: I support emergency declaration for Stevens Creek Trail repair

I rely on Stevens Creek Trail to commute to and from work every weekday, and really appreciate the work done to provide temporary trail rerouting. We need to prevent further damage to the trail, so I wholeheartedly support the emergency declaration to accelerate repairs of the Stevens Creek Trail bank before winter.

Sincerely, Peter Epstein

Melissa Stone

From: Kevin Wang <kjw@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:00 PM
To: John Varela; Gary Kremen; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors
Subject: Emergency Stevens Creek Trail repairs

Subject: Emergency Declaration to Repair Stevens Creek Bank. Pursuant to Public Contract Code 22050

Please don't let the temporary bypass fall into the creek! Thousands of commuters use this path every day to commute to work, in addition to recreational use.

Please approve these emergency funds

- Kevin

Melissa Stone

From: Noah Coccaro <noah@coccaro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 12:01 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors
Subject: Steven's Creek Trail repairs emergency declaration

Please declare an emergency pursuant to California Public Contract Code S22050 to enable the prompt repair of the recent bank sloughing along Stevens Creek located downstream of El Camino Real, in the City of Mountain View, California.

I often bike down that trail to access points farther south from MTV without interacting with dangerous traffic. It will also allow me to visit my mother who is in El Camino hospital. She would write to ask for support for these repairs herself, but is physically unable to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

Noah Coccaro
2437 Benjamin Drive
Mountain View, CA 94043

Melissa Stone

From: jposkey@gmail.com on behalf of Jeral Poskey <jposkey@davinciglobal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 11:43 AM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Please repair the Stevens Creek Trail

Dear Chair Varela and Director Kremen,

Please let your colleagues know that I and my family of 4 strongly support immediate action to repair the Stevens Creek Trail. I can't put in words how great it feels to have the Water District consider this.

Before, my neighbors in Mountain View had a grumbling reaction, "Oh, if it was a road, they would have fixed it by now, but since it's a bike and walking path"

This heartens me greatly that you would consider this (and I know the crazy amount of things you are dealing with across the region).

Jeral Poskey and family
390 Palo Alto Ave
Mountain View CA 94041

Melissa Stone

From: Shiloh Ballard <shiloh@bikesiliconvalley.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 10:48 AM
To: Board of Directors
Cc: Colin Heyne
Subject: 6.3 Joint Use Trails on District Property

Dear President Keegan and Members of the Board,

Thank you for considering the important balance of trail access and watershed stewardship in tonight's meeting. Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is a member-based nonprofit with the mission to create a healthy community, environment, and economy through bicycling. To that aim the Santa Clara County trail network is a vital resource.

Though our organization's primary focus is on bicycling for transportation, we strongly support recreational bicycling as well. The trail network, and the creek system that serves as the backbone for much of it, supports both uses. As a growing population and climate change threaten water quality and exacerbate storm events, flooding, and erosion, getting people out of cars and onto bikes becomes an increasingly important mitigation.

Providing trail access to bicyclists is a crucial means of developing a love for bicycling and an excellent way to encourage longer-distance trips on safe and serene facilities. The presence of bicyclists and other trail users elevates the importance of watershed maintenance in the public eye: litter and encampments are noticed and the community is spurred to action. The relationship between the bicycling community and the creekside trail network is co-beneficial and should be supported.

As the District proceeds with its analysis of trail access on District property, we encourage you to reach out to our organization and other stakeholders. Our dedicated membership base includes hundreds with strong interest in the ongoing health and viability of the creekside trail network. SVBC staff is happy to meet with District Directors or staff.

--

Shiloh Ballard
Executive Director and President
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition



<https://svbcs-tenth-annual-dinner.eventbrite.com>

<http://www.bikesiliconvalley.org/>

96 N. Third Street, #375, San Jose

Follow us on Twitter @bikeSV @ShilohBallard

Get more people on bikes, and make the streets where you live and ride safer. [Become a member today.](#)

<https://svbcs-tenth-annual-dinner.eventbrite.com>

Melissa Stone

From: Scott Trappe <scott@trappe.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:16 PM
To: John Varela
Cc: Board of Directors
Subject: Emergency Action on Stevens Creek Bank Erosion

Dear Chairman Varela and Honorable Board Members:

I urge you to declare an emergency for the prompt repair of the Stevens Creek bank north of El Camino Real. Please add this to the agenda for tonight's board meeting and vote on this issue. The damage that occurred last February was severe, requiring the adjacent trail to be closed. I recently learned that the erosion has continued and caused further damage to the trail. The Stevens Creek Trail is a vital commuter link between businesses in the North Bayshore Industrial area (Google, Microsoft, LinkedIn, Intuit) and residents in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, and Cupertino. This trail is also used daily by students attending Mountain View High School. With only a few short months until the rainy season, it is vital that immediate action be taken to prevent further erosion of the bank and enable a permanent repair of the trail.

Sincerely yours,

Scott Trappe
Los Altos resident
Board Member, Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Melissa Stone

From: Terry Barton <terry.barton@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:18 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Need Stevens Creek trail repaired to alleviate traffic ASAP

I used ride on the Stevens Creek trail as part of my commute to work. The closure and current detour made the commute by bike much less comfortable so I have resorted to driving more. With all the additional back to school traffic, road congestion is much worse now.

Please expedite trail repair so I can ride more often and others who have shifted back to cars or don't like traffic will have an easy, non-polluting way to get to work and school.

Thanks,
Terry Barton
Mountain View, CA

Melissa Stone

From: deb henigson <redowa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 1:56 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors; Gary Kremen
Subject: Stevens Creek Trail Emergency Declaration

Dear Chair Varela and Director Kremen,

Thank you for everything you can do to expedite repairs to the Stevens Creek Trail. My family members are heavy users of the trail and it is a critical safe route to school for us.

This trail is a vital backbone for active transportation in Mountain View; I use it to commute every day and that's one less car on the roads. In addition, the trail is one of the few safe places in our community for young bike riders to practice their skills away from cars, and it's a key element to many citizens' healthy physical activity goals!

Please consider completing / approving the emergency declaration, so this trail can be fully operational as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,

Deb Henigson
311 Jessie Lane, Mountain View

Melissa Stone

From: Greg Unangst <gunangst@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 2:06 PM
To: John Varela; Clerk of the Board; Board of Directors
Subject: Emergency Repairs to Stevens Creek

Dear Chairman Varela and Honorable Board Members:

I urge you to declare an emergency for the quick repair of the Stevens Creek bank north of El Camino Real. Please have this added to the agenda for tonight's board meeting and vote on this issue. The damage that occurred last February was severe, requiring the adjacent trail to be closed. The City of Mountain View responded with a rapid, temporary detour. Recently the erosion has continued and caused further damage to the trail and the temporary detour is now being threatened. The Stevens Creek Trail is a vital commuter link between businesses in the North Bayshore Industrial area (Google, Microsoft, Intuit) and residents in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Los Altos, Cupertino and beyond. This trail is also used daily by students attending Mountain View High School. With only a few short months until the rainy season, it is vital that immediate action be taken to prevent further erosion of the bank and enable a permanent repair of the trail.

Thank you for your consideration,
Greg Unangst (writing as an individual)
Mountain View Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
VTA Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee



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22 August 2017

Board of Directors
Santa Clara Valley Water District

Emergency Declaration to repair Stevens Creek Bank in Mountain View

Dear Chairman Varela and honorable board members,

I am writing to request that you immediately declare an emergency for the prompt repair of the sloughing bank of Stevens Creek in Mountain View downstream of El Camino Real. Please add this request to tonight's agenda and please vote to approve the request, allowing normal contracting procedures to be shortened so that repairs can be completed before the rainy season starts.

The reasons for this include imminent severe worsening of the major bank collapse this past winter and very little time to act before winter rains prevent stabilization of an already bad situation. This work is needed to prepare for future necessary SCVWD road access and to preserve recently completed city of Mountain View bypass work to create a safe work-around for Stevens Creek Trail, used by many local and regional travelers for both recreation and work travel. These reasons have already been well stated in several recent communications.

I hope that the District and its staff will respond favorably to this request. Thank you for your concern to this very serious matter.

Best regards,

Aaron Grossman, Executive Director
Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

Melissa Stone

From: Ross S. Heitkamp <ross@stevenscreek.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 11:11 AM
To: John Varela; Board of Directors
Cc: Pat Showalter
Subject: draft letter/email to SCVWD

Dear Chairman Varela and honorable board members,

I am writing to you in support of the request that you immediately declare an emergency for the prompt repair of the sloughing bank of Stevens Creek downstream of El Camino Real in Mountain View. Please add this request to tonight's agenda and please vote to approve the request, allowing normal contracting procedures to be shortened so that repairs can be completed before the rainy season starts.

I believe you are all aware that a portion of Stevens Creek's bank had eroded at the base and collapsed back in February, prompting the closure of Stevens Creek Trail and the SCVWD access to this section of the creek (photos provided below). This portion of the trail is about 1 mile from my house, so I use it often for bike trips. All seemed well for the trail with an alternate detour around this section until I noticed on August 8th that further bank collapse had occurred, with about a 10 foot wide by 20 foot long section of trail and bank sliding down into the creek bed. A week later, on August 16th, I observed this collapse had lengthened by about another 10 feet to the north. I also observed a large crack now running down the trail to the south, portending of considerably more expansion of the collapse. This new line of collapse is within 3 feet of the boundary fence between SCVWD and the neighboring hotel property. (see photo below)

The material that has collapsed has slid to just about the edge of the current flowing creek, at very low flow - only about 6 cfs further upstream and zero further downstream. If this loose material is not stabilized, it will be quickly washed away when the rains return and the creek rises. That would likely result in further erosion of the creek bank, deeper into the side-slope. A row of about 5 redwoods currently are within 10 feet of this new line of erosion and are vulnerable should further erosion occur.

Additionally, the current, detoured Stevens Creek Trail lies immediately adjacent to that line of redwoods on the hotel property. Further erosion would surely force closure of this section of trail again. The Stevens Creek Trail is a vital bicycle commute corridor connection South Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Los Altos residents to jobs in the North Bayshore region (Google, Microsoft, Intuit) and the entire Moffett Park area (Juniper Networks, Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, Amazon). Hundreds of people use this trail everyday to get to work, as well as dozens of Mountain View High School students going to school.

So, I urge you to please approve this declaration of emergency so that SCVWD can take action to stabilize this area before the October 31st deadline to be out of the creek corridor.

Ross Heitkamp
2044 Carol Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94040 650-967-1345



This is an overview from across the creek of the entire erosion area. Trees that fell into the creek diverted the flow against this bank in February 2017.



Here is the north end of the collapsed area, as viewed from below so you can see the steepness of what remains.



And here is the south end of the collapse area from below



These 2 photos taken from the fence at the north end of the trail detour show the progression in one week. Notice the number of trail centerline dashes reduced from 5 to 3.



Here are two views of the redwood trees next to the trail, one showing them in proximity to the erosion and the other relative to the fence - about 6 feet from the fence by the collapsed area.