

Gautho, Julia

From: Michael routh <qwakwak@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:14 PM
To: City Council
Subject: [SPF Softfail] city council item 8b
Attachments: city council item 8b.pdf

Sent from my iPad

For nearly 60 years as a resident or as a council member I've worked to protect the special character of Capitola. That used to be pretty easy not that long ago - council members genuinely cared about Capitola, there were no hidden or personal agendas, no interest in using council positions to advance careers. City managers actually lived in town and had a stake in the community. Public Works directors understood the community desire to preserve the features that make Capitola special. Staff and council listened to the residents. We all shared a common goal to protect Capitola's unique quality of life and the features that make our town special.

But that was then. Now, it's not so easy. It seems we are in a constant battle to save the unique qualities of Capitola. Council members push personal agendas or won't challenge staff recommendations. The city manager and staff are out of touch with the residents. Just recently residents have objected to the rezoning for high density development above and beyond the housing element requirements. Next week we have to battle the rail trail detour and the destruction of the trees on Park Ave. Tonight we are fighting to protect our historic Stockton Ave bridge from destruction.

It feels like Capitola is under siege by the very people who are supposed to care for and protect our city. Now is the time to start regaining the public trust or face the music at the ballot box. Margaux knows that's not an idle threat and Alexander will soon find out.

There have been two 100 year storms in the life of the bridge, in 1955 and 1982. Neither resulted in any log jams or river flooding. The Capitola disaster history, going all the way back to 1791, shows no log jams EVER! The bridge design has worked fine for nearly a century. This proposal is not about floods or log jams, It's an end run around Measure L. It's an attempt to detour the bike trail off the rail ROW and route it through the Village.

In the 1982 storm, the city put a crane with a claw on the bridge as a successful preventive measure to pick out any stuck debris. We could suffer 100 year storms every year for the next 50 years, the city could

put two cranes on the bridge each time, and the cost would be a fraction of the proposed engineering study.

You represent the residents of Capitola - not the RTC, not FORT, or people who don't live in Capitola. You took an oath to uphold city ordinances. Which reminds me - the Stockton Ave bridge was designated an historical feature by ordinance on July 15, 1999 by a 10-0 unanimous vote in a joint meeting of the council and planning commission. It is supposed to be codified as Chapter 17.87 of the Municipal Code but there is no Chapter 17.87 in the current code. Perhaps another error by someone. I could find no record that the ordinance was rescinded so it appears the bridge enjoys some legal protections because of the historical designation.

Don't destroy the charm of our beautiful city. Don't be duped by the logjam ruse. Put the \$840,000 to better use and leave our historic bridge alone.