## Gautho, Julia

**From:** Kevin Maguire <kmaguire831@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 1:59 PM
**To:** City Council
**Subject:** 3.27.2025 Agenda 8 B. Save the Stockton Bridge!

### Reasons why the Council should consider a pause to this.

- **Strong Public Opposition**: At least 20 letters from Capitola residents (and a few neighboring community members) oppose the replacement. Their reasons include:
  - **Lack of historical flooding/logjam evidence**.
  - **Loss of the bridge's historic charm and aesthetic**.
  - **Cost concerns** – $840,000 for design, with final construction cost estimates ranging from $17 - 26 million.
  - **Business Disruption** during construction.
  - **Suspected ulterior motives**, such as using the project to advance the RTC's bike path detour through the village.
- **Residents cite Measure L** which prohibits a trail through the village, implying the project violates voter intent.

### 📋 How Many Residents Are Against It?

- **At least 20 named correspondents** expressed strong objections, including long-time residents, property owners, and professionals. Names include Michael Routh, Sandra Rich, Cathy Russell, Clark Cochran, Brian Hawes, Chris Amdsen, and others.
- No public support for the bridge replacement was noted in the correspondence.

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### 🌊 Historical Data on Storms & Major Incidents in Capitola

Residents refer to **Capitola's Natural Hazard Timeline** (provided as an appendix in city materials) which includes:

**Notable Events:**

- **1982 Flood**: Soquel Creek logjam at the bridge caused significant upstream flooding in Soquel—not Capitola. Capitola's Stockton Bridge had minor damage; debris was managed with a crane.
- **1955 Flood**: Destructive flood in Soquel, damaging property and bridges—again, no reference to Stockton Bridge logjam.
- **1937 Flood**: Logjam at Soquel Drive bridge, not Stockton Bridge.
- **2023–2024 Storms** (inferred from context): No new logjam incidents mentioned at Stockton Avenue Bridge.

**Key Point:**

- **No documented logjam-related structural failure or flood event at Stockton Bridge** over its history.

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## 🧭 Summary

- The **Stockton Bridge Replacement** is facing **significant community pushback** over cost, historical preservation, and mistrust over motives.
- **Storm history** shows **no record of log jams at the bridge**, undermining a primary justification for replacement.
- While infrastructure improvement has benefits, the **lack of community support and unclear necessity** make this a controversial project, especially with negative and financial impacts on village businesses.

  If this council truly values transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the voice of its constituents, then the path forward is clear:

  - Pause this project.
  - Revisit the November 2023 decision.
  - And host a proper public town hall dedicated solely to the future of the Stockton Bridge.

  The community deserves a voice in this—not just a price tag.

  Thank you for your time.

Kevin Maguire
Capitola Resident
Cliffwood Height 74'