

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** michael routh <qwakwak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2026 5:44 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Item 9A

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Mayor and Council members,

There is a reason London Bridge built in 1176, and the Rialto Bridge in Venice built in 1591 are still in daily use after hundreds of years. Those cities and their leaders have recognized the historical importance of those structures and agreed to preserve them through the centuries.

While the Stockton Ave Bridge doesn't rival those bridges in age and historical importance, to Capitola residents it is just as historically significant to our community. Every effort should be undertaken to cure the structural deficiencies and save the bridge.

The unfounded fear of flood debris accumulating at the bridge was first promoted by the Council majority of Brooks, Brown, and Pedersen as a subterfuge to widen the bridge to accommodate the rail/trail bike trail through the Village. The false "potential log jam" scare tactic appears to have taken on a life of its own since then and is now mistakenly accepted as the truth. In the entire history of the bridge, storm debris in the amount that would create a log jam and flood the Village has never occurred, not in the 100 year storms since construction of the bridge nor any other time. The Council needs to recognize the "flood" argument never had any validity when Pedersen brought it forth and remains a false argument today for replacing the bridge.

The Council, in your deliberations, must recognize the historical importance of the Stockton Ave Bridge and make every effort to preserve it. It's a matter of willingness on the part of the Council. It's a matter of priorities. If the city can afford to consider a roundabout at Bay and Hill with the resultant cost, the council can afford to seriously work toward preserving one of Capitola's most important landmarks, the Stockton Ave Bridge.

Mick Routh  
Capitola

Sent from my iPad