

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the Mayor and City Council for once again failing to represent our community with honesty and transparency. Instead, it appears the City Manager and city staff have continued a pattern of misinformation—something this community has already experienced with the wharf, Cliff Drive, and CMC 8.72 (Measure L).

At the Discover Capitola program on March 19, City Manager Jamie Goldstein stated that Stockton Bridge was undergoing emergency repairs and might reopen in a couple of weeks. When informed that signage indicated it would reopen on March 20, he claimed not to know. When asked why emergency repairs were needed, his response was vague, stating only that the bridge “needed fixing,” echoing similarly misleading statements previously made by Public Works Director Jessica Hahn.

Both officials implied that structural issues were discovered after the bridge was opened. However, this was not true. Only after repeated questioning did it become clear that the contractor, under Public Works supervision, cut into the wrong area and damaged supporting rebar. This information was not disclosed until a participant urged the City Manager to “tell the truth.”

This community has endured years of misleading statements and outright falsehoods from both the City Manager and City Council. This must stop.

Last year, after discovering that required Public Records Act text messages had not been provided, I met with the City Manager to discuss the lack of trust between the city and the community. Transparency was identified as the most critical issue. Despite subsequent conversations with council members confirming that contractor error caused the damage, there has still been no clear public acknowledgment or explanation. Even the agenda item merely states that damage occurred during construction, without providing meaningful detail.

The lack of transparency raises serious concerns about the future of Stockton Bridge, one of the few remaining treasures of our town. Given the city’s history of misinformation—particularly regarding the wharf and Measure L—any future claims about the bridge’s condition or need for replacement will be met with understandable public skepticism.

As you review the City Manager’s evaluation tomorrow night, I ask that you seriously consider this ongoing failure of honesty and transparency. The divide between the city and the community continues to grow, and it is time for meaningful change.

Respectfully,

TJ Welch  
Resident