



City Council Report

Item: 20.
Category: New Business
Meeting Date: June 20, 2017

TITLE: Approval of the Trail Alignment for the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Improvement Project 15-NN, and Direct Staff to Proceed with the Design of Segment 1 from Westmont Avenue to McCoy Avenue (Resolution/Roll Call Vote)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Adopt the attached resolution approving the trail alignment for the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Improvement Project 15-NN with defined segments; and
2. Direct staff to proceed with the design of Segment 1 from Westmont Avenue to McCoy Avenue.

BACKGROUND

The San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail has been identified as a potential project in the City's General Plan since 2002 and was identified as a City Council priority for fiscal year 2015/16. The project would establish a predominantly off-street path of travel for both pedestrians and bicyclists between Westmont Avenue (in San Jose) and Virginia Avenue (in Campbell). The proposed trail is located along the top of bank of the San Tomas Aquino Creek on Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) property which is currently fenced off with no public access. A trail along the top of bank provides connectivity between neighborhoods by allowing for more direct school access and providing students with an alternative to travel via city streets for their commute to school, as well as providing additional recreational opportunities for residents.

The original concept for the trail identified improvements to the top of bank including grading of the existing surface, installation of fencing as necessary, and creation of 'trail heads' with amenities at those locations where the trail crosses or opens to public streets. The project was originally funded through a grant from SCVWD approximately ten years ago; however, the project was shelved when SCVWD identified the need for a new pedestrian bridge to address ADA accessibility from the proposed new trail on the east side of the creek, between Westmont Avenue and Silacci Drive, to the proposed trail on the west side of the creek, between Silacci Drive and McCoy Avenue. Due to the lack of resources available to construct a new pedestrian bridge, the project was suspended.

In fiscal year 2015/16, the project became active again when it received funding from both the City's Capital Improvement Program as well as a contribution from the City of San Jose. Over the past year, staff has developed feasibility and conceptual designs of the trail. The work also included extensive information gathering through outreach to stakeholders including community members, Campbell Union School District, Campbell Union High School District, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the City of San Jose.

On February 1, 2017, staff and Callander Associates (the City's consultant design team) presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) with information on project background, funding, area of study, potential trail alignment, definition of trail segments, and community input gathered from two neighborhood meetings. Subsequently, on April 5, 2017, the refined conceptual trail alignment was presented to the PRC at which time staff received approval to move the item before City Council.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Trail Alignment

Beginning at Westmont Avenue (and proceeding northeast), the trail alignment traverses along top of bank on the south side of the San Tomas Aquino Creek behind Westmont High School, within the City of San Jose. Near Silacci Drive, which is within the City of Campbell, the trail crosses over to the north side of the creek via a new ADA compliant pedestrian bridge and continues along the top of bank behind Forest Hill Elementary School toward McCoy Avenue. In order to provide an adequate crossing of Harriet Avenue, trail users are directed to depart from the creek bank trail to travel on city sidewalks along McCoy Avenue, cross Harriet Avenue and rejoin the creek at the northeast corner of Harriet Avenue and San Tomas Aquino Road. From this point on, San Tomas Aquino Creek runs along the border of the City of San Jose and the City of Campbell. At this point, the trail is on the south side of the creek along San Tomas Aquino Road and runs parallel to the street. As San Tomas Aquino Road bends to the right and proceeds south, the trail alignment continues easterly and runs behind the back yards of private residences as the creek winds between San Tomas Aquino Road and Virginia Avenue. The trail ends at Virginia Avenue near the intersection of Budd Avenue.

Based on this alignment and geography, the trail alignment has been identified to have three distinct segments:

- Segment 1 – between Westmont Avenue and McCoy Avenue
- Segment 2 – parallel to San Tomas Aquino Road between Harriet Avenue and the San Tomas Aquino Road "bend"
- Segment 3 – between the San Tomas Aquino Road "bend" and Virginia Avenue

Community Outreach

Staff hosted two community meetings in 2016. The first meeting was held in June. In attendance were representatives from City of San Jose, Forest Hill Elementary School, Westmont High School, and about 60 members from the public. Callander Associates presented the project. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project to the public and collect their initial concerns and comments. A summary of collected concerns is included as Attachment 2.

The second community meeting took place on November 16, 2016. Staffed by the Public Works and Police Departments and Callander Associates, approximately 45 members of the public attended this open house style meeting. No presentation was made at this meeting. Instead, the public was invited to drop-in any time during a three-hour period that evening. Information stations were set up to represent each segment of the trail along with conceptual plans for that segment and the public was guided to visit each station. Displayed around the room were the comments collected from the first community meeting and potential amenities/treatment from other trail projects. In addition to speaking directly with staff, the public was also encouraged to write their input directly onto the exhibits or leave remarks on the provided questionnaires. A meeting summary is included as Attachment 3.

At the February 1, 2017, PRC meeting, staff shared with the Commission the summary of the information collected from the first two community meetings. Based on the questionnaires from the second community meeting, most people would use the trail for walking, jogging, and biking. Security, safety, and loss of privacy were cited most frequently as important concerns regarding a new trail. And finally, the segment of the trail between Westmont Avenue and McCoy Avenue has the highest desirability among all the segments. It is also the most suitable trail segment for those going to or from school and was rated the highest for having the most pleasant environment. Of the public speakers at that meeting, there was a balance of project support and opposition.

On April 5, 2017, staff returned to the PRC to present the proposed trail alignment while incorporating input received during the February PRC meeting. During this meeting, staff was seeking approval from the PRC to consider implementing the project in phases. Again, there were many public speakers; however, this time, those who spoke were generally against the trail project for the reasons previously mentioned - safety, security and loss of privacy. It was evident that if the project moves forward, the public was more agreeable to developing the segment from Westmont to McCoy Avenue.

At the same meeting, staff from City of San Jose (CSJ) provided testimony regarding their experiences with constructing creek trail projects. In developing more than 60 miles of trails, CSJ like Campbell engaged the neighborhoods prior to installation of the trails and heard similar concerns about homelessness, illegal activities, and safety. With the trails opened to the public, many of these issues have dissipated as there are

now more eyes on the trails and police were able to access the trail and respond to users and residents who reported the unwanted activities.

Input from the PRC

After hearing the public testimonies, the PRC discussed the following:

- Security for residents along the trail alignment
- Trail user safety
- A trail would get people out of their cars
- Providing open access to the trail would improve situations with unwanted activities
- Worst decisions made are often based on fear
- Use of gate to secure trail at nighttime
- Amenities such as lighting, restrooms
- Moving forward with Segment 1, between Westmont Avenue and McCoy Avenue, makes sense
- Off-street route to and from school and focus on neighborhood use
- Street crossing at Harriet Avenue and McCoy Avenue
- Existing use of top of bank by pedestrians, permitted or otherwise
- Open access would allow regular police patrol and ability to respond during emergencies

At the conclusion of the discussion, the PRC adopted a motion to recommend for the City Council's consideration the approval of the conceptual design for San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Improvement Project 15-NN. Additionally, the PRC recommended that staff include more background and details when presenting the project to the City Council which is included in this report.

Data Collected from Community Outreach

Below is a summary of issues collected during the community outreach process:

Usage - According to the data collected from the community outreach, most people would use the trail for walking, jogging, and biking. Others would use it as commuting route.

Concern - The most important concern regarding trail development is safety/security.

Desirability – Segment 1, between Westmont Avenue and McCoy Avenue has the highest desirability among the three segments. It is also more suitable for going to and from school and provides a better environment when compared to the other two.

Themes from Community Comments

Throughout the public outreach process, common concerns surfaced that were both in opposition and in support of a new trail along San Tomas Aquino Creek. These are summarized in the tables below.

Concerns
• Security (increased vandalism, trespassing, homeless encampments, burglaries)
• Safety (potential to fall in to creek)
• Loss of privacy
• Views impacted by trail fence
• Increased noise from barking dogs and loss of peace and quiet
• Pedestrian crossing at Harriet Avenue and San Tomas Aquino Road
• Light trespass from the trail lighting

Benefits
• Alternate route for students and commuters that is separated from vehicles
• New ADA accessible and more aesthetically pleasing pedestrian bridge
• Maintenance responsibility of trail and trees along trail by City
• More eyes on the trail to deter unwanted behavior
• Police have access to the trail for patrol and for incident response
• Provides recreational trail for neighborhood
• Valuable as creek environment for educational opportunities

Cost Estimate

Currently, the project has a total budget of \$650,000 comprised of \$120,000 from Campbell CIPR, \$430,000 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 3 Pedestrian and Bicycle Project funds and \$100,000 from City of San Jose. This amount of funding is not sufficient for implementing the entire length of the proposed San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail project. The preliminary cost estimate to design and build the entire length of the trail is estimated at \$5.3 million.

**Approve Trail Alignment Project 15-NN,
Direct staff to Proceed with Phased Approach
June 20, 2017**

The breakdown of the preliminary cost estimate for implementing the three segments is as follows:

Segment 1	\$3.0M
Segment 2	\$1.2M
Segment 3	\$1.1M
TOTAL	\$5.3M

The estimate for work for each of the three segments includes environmental clearance, design, and construction.

The estimate for segment 1 includes an allowance for the removal of the existing bridge located at Silacci Drive and installation of a new ADA compliant pedestrian bridge. The need for the potential new bridge continues to be an open item for discussion with SCVWD. Although the existing pedestrian bridge presents challenges from an ADA perspective, it provides value to the community in that it has become a secondary drop-off point for students attending Forest Hill Elementary. Removal of this bridge could contribute to changes in school-related traffic patterns. It is anticipated that a significant amount of time and resources will be required to coordinate and resolve this item with SCVWD.

The current funding level of \$650,000 will allow for the design of only a phase of the project. For the remainder of the funds, staff will seek grant opportunities. With the lack of full project funding, staff is recommending a phased approach for implementing the project.

Phased Implementation

The proposed San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail alignment spans roughly 1.7 miles with a number of natural/manmade landmarks. Staff proposes to implement the project in phases, to correspond to the three segments.

Although each of these segments carries its own set of challenges, Segment 1 received the most support during the public input process. Proceeding with this segment provides the following benefits:

- Paved off street route to access Westmont High School and Forest Hill Elementary School.
- Enhanced fencing and gate access at the schools.
- Trailheads at Westmont & McCoy.
- Most desired segment from outreach process.
- New ADA compliant pedestrian bridge.
- Most scenic and natural segment along the creek.

Schedule

Given the available funding, staff will initiate design of Segment 1. Following is the anticipated schedule:

City Council Considers Trail Alignment.....	June 2017
Design of Segment 1.....	Summer 2017
CEQA	
Permit applications to regulatory agencies	
Inter-agencies coordination	
City Council Considers Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimate...	Winter 2018

In concurrence with this schedule, staff will pursue grant funding opportunities. Staff will revisit the delivery strategy for Segments 2 and 3 once Segment 1 is completed.

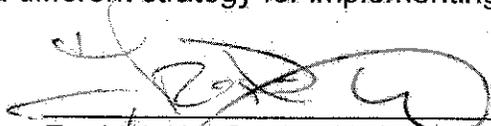
FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact is anticipated with this action.

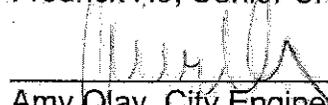
ALTERNATIVES

- 1) Do not approve the trail alignment.
- 2) Consider a different strategy for implementing the project.

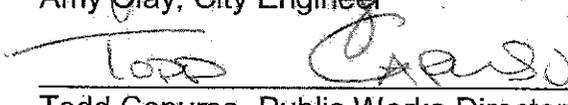
Prepared by:


Fredrick Ho, Senior Civil Engineer

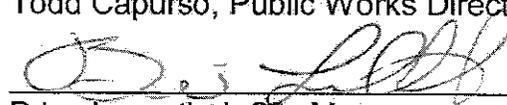
Reviewed by:


Amy Olay, City Engineer

Reviewed by:


Todd Capurso, Public Works Director

Approved by:


Brian Loventhal, City Manager

- Attachments: Attachment 1 – Resolution
Attachment 2 – June 6, 2016 Meeting Summary & Public Comments
Attachment 3 – November 16, 2016 Meeting Summary
Attachment 4 – Greenwood Letter dated May 5, 2017
Attachment 5 - San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Vicinity Map

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMPBELL
APPROVING THE TRAIL ALIGNMENT FOR THE SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 15-NN, AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PROCEED
WITH A PHASED APPROACH AND TO BEGIN DESIGN OF SEGMENT I

WHEREAS, the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail has been identified as a potential project in the City's General Plan since 2002; and

WHEREAS, this project is funded by a combination of funds – Parkland Dedication Funds, Transportation Development Act Grant funds, and a contribution from the City of San Jose; and

WHEREAS, project background, funding, area of study, potential trail alignment, definition of trail segments, community input from two neighborhood meetings, and the refined conceptual trail alignment have been presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission adopted a motion to recommend for the City Council's consideration the approval of the conceptual design for San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Improvement Project 15-NN; and

WHEREAS, the Project can be viewed in three segments, Westmont Avenue to McCoy Avenue; McCoy Avenue to the bend at San Tomas Aquino Road; and San Tomas Aquino Road to Virginia Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Westmont to McCoy segment received the most support during the public input process; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the current project budget is not sufficient for implementing the entire length of the proposed conceptual trail alignment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Campbell hereby approves the trail alignment for the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Improvement Project 15-NN and directs staff to proceed with a phased approach and to begin design of Segment 1.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of June, 2017, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Councilmembers:
NOES: Councilmembers:
ABSENT: Councilmembers:

APPROVED:

Elizabeth "Liz" Gibbons, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wendy Wood, City Clerk

Callander Associates

Landscape Architecture

40
YEARS

Attachment 2

Via E-Mail Only

June 6, 2016

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: Monday June 6, 2016, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location of Meeting: Forest Hill Elementary School

Attendees:

City of Campbell:

Fred Ho (FH), fredh@cityofcampbell.com

Todd Capurso (TC), toddc@cityofcampbell.com

City of San Jose:

Kathy LeVeque (KL), Kathy.leveque@sanjoseca.gov

Forest Hill Elementary School:

Denise Khalid (DK), dkhalid@campbellusd.org

Westmont High School:

Abra Evanoff, aevanoff@cuhsd.org

Callander Associates:

Brian Fletcher (BF), bfletcher@callanderassociates.com

Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

Marie Mai (MM), mmai@callanderassociates.com

Community:

See Sign In Sheets (attached)

The meeting started with a brief presentation about the project. The participants were then broken into four smaller groups for detailed discussion about the trail. A verbal summary was provided by each of the groups at the end of the meeting describing what was discussed. The following summarizes input received at the meeting, including comment cards.

item

Table #1 - Facilitator, Brian Fletcher

- Channelized portion of the creek east of Harriet Ave. is dangerous

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San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

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if someone falls in. There have been drownings in the past. This would need to be addressed if a trail were built.

- Some neighbors backing up to the creek have chain link fence, which provides no privacy in the event a trail gets built.
- A better way to spend the money allocated for this trail, might be to install sidewalks on the south side of Hazel Ave.
- Concerns expressed about potential loss of peace and quiet, safety, graffiti, noise and dust during and after construction, trail lighting, and potential for illegal activities.
- Concern was raised about cars speeding on San Tomas Aquino Rd. and whether a protective fence should be provided along the trail's edge.
- Concern was raised about how the trail would be policed and how medical emergency personnel would be able to respond to someone injured on the trail. Where and how do they get on to the trail?
- The intersections of Harriet, Keith, San Tomas Aquino and McCoy as a whole are dangerous. There is no sidewalk on the east side of the bridge. It's also a dark intersection at night and a street light should be installed to improve visibility. Crossing at McCoy needs improvement because of the traffic levels on Harriet.
- A trail would help get to downtown.
- Resident likes privacy and would prefer the City provide safer pedestrian upgrades on City streets.
- Dogs will bark and drive neighbors crazy every time someone walks by on the trail.
- Implementing the trail will decrease property values.
- Increased foot traffic will mean increased "undesirables" behind their homes.
- Residents noted concern about pedophiles and bullies using trail.
- Residents concerned about increased noise.
- No bright lights on trail.
- More people in the creek corridor will reduce "undesirables".
- The trail will provide a safe route for kids and commuters.
- Neighbors worried about safety and exit points from trail.
- Will trail access be limited or is it open to the public?
- Argument that trail will improve safety is false.
- Backyards would be less safe with the introduction of a trail.
- Kids have no way of getting to a safe place if trapped by bullies in the creek corridor.
- Concern about people climbing fences and going into private property. What are the proposed hours of operation?
- Right now, dogs bark when someone is there that shouldn't be. With a trail, the dogs will bark all the time.

- Concern was raised about trash and rodents.

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San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

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- What are the public hearings?
- How is this project going to be funded?
- Is money being set aside for police, trash and restrooms?
- Will motorcycles be able to get on the trail?

Table #2 – Facilitator, Dave Rubin

- Any trail design should include a minimum 5' buffer from a residential fence.
- Resident noted that cigarette butts have ended up in their yard.
- Community members noted that home burglaries are common in the neighborhood.
- East of Harriet Ave, the channelized creek is dangerous and may pose a drowning risk if opened to the public.
- Lots of traffic conflicts at Harriet/McCoy and San Tomas Aquino. Concerned about adding more traffic volume to this area with the addition of an on-street trail.
- Graffiti is very common within the creek corridor.
- There is gang activity on occasion within the corridor.
- Want to maintain privacy because their homes back up to the corridor.
- One resident doesn't see how a trail could be implemented because it's so narrow in places.
- Community members questioned where access points to the trail would occur. They noted that the trail seemed very inaccessible for most because access points are so far apart.
- One resident noted that there are safety issues in the creek because it's closed to the public. Opening the corridor for public trail use would improve the situation.
- There are homeless encampments along the creek and having a trail might encourage more.
- Concern was raised about the added noise a trail might bring. People walking behind homes could get dogs barking.
- Concern was raised about more parked cars in the neighborhood related to trail users.
Question was asked who will police the trail. Also, the trail crosses City boundaries, so how will the jurisdictions cooperate in policing the trail? One resident suggested having the trail be access controlled requiring paying trail users to have a key fob or gate access code.
- One resident noted that there is low quality housing in nearby parts of Campbell that would use this trail.
- Community noted there are examples of trails behind homes nearby (Aspesi Dr in Saratoga).

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San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

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- Dogs will bark when people walk by.
- Neighbor does not want lighting in backyard.
- Immediate neighbors are most concerned.

Table #3 – Facilitator, Marie Mai

- Resident would like to see pedestrian bridge at Silacci Dr improved/replaced to be ADA accessible and better looking.
- Resident asked what the hours of operation will be for the trail.
- Would trail surface be paved? Would be good to have two lanes on trail (one for walkers/joggers and one for bicyclists) from a safety perspective.
- Students already use path and pedestrian bridge. There are also drug dealers in the corridor.
- Resident is interested to see what barrier will be for the school edges. Access to schools needs to be controlled.
- One community member commented that an hour is not long enough for the breakout groups.
- Resident commented that parking not likely a concern because this is not a regional trail.
- Question was asked whether there'd be timed opening and closing of the trail.
- Where trail meets Westmont Ave is a good location for a trailhead.
- Resident commented that backyards are currently too accessible for having a trail. The flood wall and steel fence above are climbable. Raise fence to make it non-climbable. There are break-ins currently happening in the area. Also concerned about homeless encampments in the creek corridor.
- Behind Westmont High School, there's a PG&E easement that the trail needs to avoid.
- Existing pedestrian bridge is not ADA accessible. Kids climb on the outside of the bridge and cross the creek, which is very dangerous.
- Cars speed around the curve on Silacci Dr. There are lots of parked cars and not enough spaces.
- Kids climb over gate on Forest Hill side of the creek. Would be better to open the gate.
- Silacci Dr acts as a school drop off zone. Trail will encourage more cars to park on street.
- Question was asked whether the trail would have restrooms anywhere.
- Kids jump residential fences and do drugs. Some burglaries as well.
- Question was asked about how adequately these concerns have been

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San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

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- addressed on existing Santa Clara Valley trails. Can experience in other areas be used for data?
- Concern was raised about vandalism, trespassing, homeless using creek as a bathroom. What assurances can be provided to keep a trail clean and safe?
- Resident concerned about grade differences between trails and homes as it relates to privacy and scoping out homes for burglary.
- Existing trees at San Tomas Aquino and Harriet obscure pedestrians from view. Dangerous spot.
- One resident claimed that there have been 14 homes burglarized in the past 16 weeks.
- There's a high point in San Tomas Aquino Rd and cars going too fast get airborne and miss the slight curve, ending up in or near the creek.
- The trail along San Tomas Aquino Rd would have to be very narrow in places because there's very little room between the edge of the road and the creek.
- Cars speed along San Tomas Aquino Rd and there have been accidents at the curve east of Margaret Lane. Cars have gone through the barrier and into the creek. Safety issue for trail users.
- Resident noted that their view into the creek corridor would be impacted by a new fence they'd have to install at the trail edge.
- Light levels on City streets are low, resident safety a concern.
- Resident noted concerns as security, privacy, noise, and a trail that's too narrow to walk on.

Table #4 – Facilitator, Fred Ho

- A community member questioned: what problem does the trail solve?
- A question was asked about how many trail users are expected to use this trail.
- A resident requested crime statistics relative to trail development behind homes. What are the impacts neighbors can expect?
- Graffiti is a problem in the creek corridor.
- Residents noted concern for lighting intrusion from the trail if lit.
- Residents asked questions about operating hours and how it would be enforced. There was also concern about which jurisdiction would be responsible for policing the trail. Could there be a hotline to call if there are trail issues and emergencies?
- A resident asked which side of the creek bank the trail would be built.
- Neighbors expressed concern over privacy if there's a trail running behind their homes.

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San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

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- It was noted that there's significant vandalism already occurring (including cutting the fence).
- Is it possible to use funding from this project for other alternatives like video surveillance in the creek as a crime deterrent?
- Resident would like to hear police department's opinion on the trail and how it would be managed.
- Question was asked about how often the trail would be maintained.
- Would there be volunteer opportunities if the trail gets built?
- Has the City considered including a dog park as part of the trail project?
- Resident suggested doing systematic polling to gauge community interest in the project.
- Resident is concerned that the construction of a trail will decrease property value.
- Resident noted there are homeless encampments in the creek already.
- Any trail design should consider protection of creek wildlife (coyotes, frogs, opossums, bobcats, etc)
- Consider fencing on creek side of trail.
- Traffic congestion at Harriet and McCoy is already very challenging.
- If trees will be planted as part of the trail project, who will maintain them in the long run?
- Benches along the trail might be intrusive or used for climbing.
- Would restrooms be included as part of the project?
- Having a public presence on the trail would put more eyes on the trail and would discourage loitering.
- It was requested that crime data be provided showing the impacts of a trail behind homes.
- Using the word "passive" for the trail is good.
- Will the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) let the water flow in the creek?
- Is there an opportunity for a solar field?
- Maintain or improve habitat for wildlife in creek
- Get more cars off the street
- Would City offer privacy fencing for property backing up to the trail?
- What happens to existing fencing between properties and trail?

General Discussion Outside of Break-Out Groups:

- Some community members not happy with identification of stakeholders being the Water District, School Districts and City staff. Neighbors would like to be considered as a stakeholder in the process. BF clarified that neighbors are stakeholders, which is why we're having the

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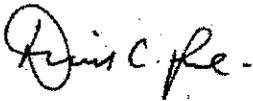
item

- meeting to listen to their concerns.
- Question was asked whether the project will go before San Jose's City Council.
- Resident inquired whether neighbors adjacent to the creek get more weighting with regard to input. TC clarified that all input is weighted equally.
- Question was asked whether the City would consider eminent domain to accommodate any trail segments where adequate width was unavailable. TC responded that the City would not pursue eminent domain.
- Question was asked whether there have been previous studies done for this trail, and if so, can they be made available to the public?
- Community member noted that the Smith Creek Trail project was opposed by neighbors and would like to see the results of that process.
- Question was asked, why spend on this project when there are other needs in the City?

-END-

The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed and decisions reached at the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. If you have any questions, additions, or corrections to this memo, please contact this office in writing within three days.

Submitted by:



Dave Rubin, Project Manager, Callander Associates

cc: All attendees

Attachments:

1. Sign-in sheets, dated June 6, 2016, four pages
2. Comment card received at meeting (6/6/16)
3. Additional comments/letters received at meeting (6/6/16)
4. Log of phone calls (current as of 6/7/16)
Photographs of Existing Conditions sheets with public input comments

Sign-in Sheet

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL, City of Campbell
June 6, 2016

Print Name (Phone Number Optional)	Mailing Address and ZIP Code
Bijan Sorabji	610 Craig Ave 95008
BRIAN BELET	837 GWEN DR, CAMP
LOUISE PEREZ	690 So. SAN TOMAS Aquino
EDUARDO PEREZ	690 S. San Tomas Aquino Rd
KARRE MAHESH	5012 Kingston way San
Shelly Mueller	4134 Keith Dr, Campbell
Cindy Begemann	620 CRAIG AVE, CAMP
COLE BANZEN	2490 META DR 9
SR, VARADARAJAN	1310 W SAN TOMAS AQUINO
TERRENCE BARR	4835 MANITOBA DR, SAN JO
ANU Aine	4008 Twyla Lane - Campbell
Gina Aine	4008 Twyla Ln. Campbe
Yuliana Kraurof	4044 Twyla Ln, Camp.
IGNACIO MOSQUEIRA	2471 TWYLA CT CAMP.
Karla Muller	2628 meta DR. SAN J
BARBARA PEREZ-DIAZ	1145 HAZELWOOD AV

This sign in sheet will be attached to a Meeting Summary that will be sent out to all attendees and could potentially be put on the City website. The information you list above will only be used for the community outreach portion of this project.

Sign-in Sheet

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL, City of Campbell

June 6, 2016

Print Name (Phone Number Optional)	Mailing Address and ZIP Code
Shiraz Sorabji	610 Craig Ave, Camp
Dustin Moody	641 Ecker Ct. Campbell
JH "MAC" McCracken	609 CRAIG AVE CAMP
KURT NEWICK	649 WESTON DR. CAM
Gina Firenze	4142 Keith Drive
Jill Findlay	3778 Century Dr. Cam
Jennifer Keon	1569 Silacci Drive, Camp
Carolyn Moore	5102 Kingston wy Sar
April	1185 Hazelwood Ave
Jeanne Woodard	1799 Silacci Dr 95
Chris Kyrne	827 Silacci Dr. 9
SAM FRANCIS	1789 SILACCI DR 95
GAIL FRANCIS	1789 SILACCI DR 95

This sign in sheet will be attached to a Meeting Summary that will be sent out to all attendees and could potentially be put on the City website. The information you list above will only be used for the community outreach portion of this project.

Sign-in Sheet

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL, City of Campbell

June 6, 2016

Print Name (Phone Number Optional)	Mailing Address and ZIP Code
Janet Hammerlund	1221 Patio Ct., Campbell
Nathan Hendricks	691 S. San Tomas Aquino Rd. San
David Bell	609 Cross Ave Campbell
Marianne Bickett	837 Gwen Dr Camp
Nathy LeVeque	200 E. Santa Clara, 9th Fl. San
Janece Yue	1506 Mc Coy Dr. Campbell
GIRISH SHAH	4048 TWYLA LN, CAMPBELL
Abra Guarnoff	Westmont Ave
Lalita Godbole	5025 MONTREAL DR. SAN
Pallathu Paulose	1560 McCoy Ave, Campbell,
Julie Durr	1780 S. San Tomas Aquino
Harry TAYLOR	4926 KINGSTON WY

This sign in sheet will be attached to a Meeting Summary that will be sent out to all attendees and could potentially be put on the City website. The information you list above will only be used for the community outreach portion of this project.

Sign-in Sheet

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL, City of Campbell

June 6, 2016

Print Name (Phone Number Optional)	Mailing Address and ZIP Code
Andrea Isaacs 408-364-9630	4024 Twyla Ln Campbell
DARAIUS SORABJI	610 CRAIG AVE, CAMPBELL
Loni Sorabji	610 Craig Ave Campbell
Toni Bell	609 Craig Ave Campbell
Stevan Spremo	2493 Twyla Ct Campbell
Janet Hoffmann	826 Lana Ct. Campbell
Lili Mou	4126 Keith Dr., Camp
Dan Dora	802 Century Dr Camp
John & DELORES DOVANO	4110 KEITH DR CAMPBELL
Gena Kraft	2628 Meta Dr San Jose CA
Ph Rodger	1565 S. Jaci Dr. Ca
Miles Rodgers DRM	
May Powers	1561 Silacci Drive
Patty Aronica	1649 Silacci Drive Camp
Chris & Kristin Seitz	2604 Meta Dr. San Jose 951
LISA KOSTLAN	869 Ebbets Dr. Camp
Annie Mathews	1560 McCoy Ave, Campbell
Lena Rendegard	4118 Keith DR Camp

This sign in sheet will be attached to a Meeting Summary that will be sent out to all attendees and could potentially be put on the City website. The information you list above will only be used for the community outreach portion of this project.

Comments:

Open & Develop Trail
15006 in Town. *

Brian Balet
Campbell

Questions

+ Why doing it?

+ how will parking be addressed

+ will there be lights? who will maintain the trail?

+ will there be open/close times or is it always open?

+ how will it be monitored? Ranger?

+ upkeep? will it be paved? landscaping / plant care / tree trimming

+ Will bridge be improved? changed? Steps to path?

you of moving. input on upper mountain and construction

Dear Neighbors,

Did you know the City of Campbell is planning a walking trail right behind our backyard fences?

A walking trial behind our houses/backyard fences would mean the following:

- Lose our peace and quiet.
- Lose our privacy.
- Lose our security/safety.
- Higher chance of home invasions.
- Trash in our backyard.
- Graffiti on our fences.
- Noise and Dust during construction.
- Noise after the construction.
- Bright lights on nonstop at nights.
- Constant foot/bike traffic.
- Anyone can hop over the fence at any time.
- Won't feel safe leaving the kids playing in our own backyards.
- Potential site for illegal activities.
- Potential homeless encampment.
- Backyard dogs constantly feel the need to bark at noises.
- Lose our property/resale values due to all the above reasons.

If you are against and/or have concerns about the City of Campbell building a walking trails right behind our backyard, please attend the public meeting on:

June 6 (Monday), 2016 at 7:00pm to 8:00pm
Forest Hill Elementary School Cafeteria
4450 McCoy Ave., San Jose

Please attend the meeting and let the City of Campbell know how you feel **before it's too late!!**

Thank you!
Your Neighbors

June 6, 2016

To Whom It May Concern, Regarding:
The Los Gatos Creek Trail Possible Opening behind Forest Hill School and
Community,

I appreciate all those who've gathered here with open hearts and minds, to listen to each other's opinions with respect. My history with this area, from McCoy Avenue's gate to the boundary of Westmont High School, along the San Tomas Aquino Creek is extensive. In 2006, I adopted this portion of the creek on behalf of Forest Hill School. For the five years I taught at Forest Hill as an art and ELD teacher, I took hundreds of children (and their parents) to the creek, from "Grandmother Oak Tree" to "Hummingbird Hollow" in pursuit of art, science, and environmental connections. In addition, my husband, Brian Belet, and I have spent ten years participating in (and for over five years coordinating) creek clean ups. During the first five years (alone and with neighbors), we would not only show up for the Coastal and River Day public creek cleaning events, my husband and I regularly went down to the creek to pick up the horrific amount of trash scattered along the trail but mostly down in the dry creek bed. There are sights, such as condoms, syringes, broken alcohol bottles, and other unmentionable sights we have witnessed over the years during these times.

Since surrendering my keys because I retired in 2011, to Lisa Kostlan, who is now the creek cleanup coordinator, the only two times I have the opportunity to see this lovely, pristine area in the middle of a city, is for the two annual cleanups. However, there are many people who regularly, illegally, climb the fences, cut the wires, or squeeze through gate openings to get to the creek. Some are there to exercise their dogs, others—such as children—to play innocently or just walk, but many are high school and even older adults who party and commit acts of vandalism, graffiti, and theft (such as stealing yard furniture from the back yards of houses that border the creek and dumping it in the creek bed), and make a great deal of noise. I am also aware of drug deals going on frequently in this area. Right now, they are the only ones who are able to experience this beautiful, natural place.

I walk around this neighborhood a great deal and would give anything to be able to freely walk along the wide, dirt road to enjoy the birds, trees, and quiet ambience of this beautiful place. That is why I took so many students there over the years, so they might fall in love with the creek and riparian environment and would treasure it and do all they could to protect it now and in the future. The people who dishonor this place go there because it is 'forbidden fruit' and they can sneak, hide,

and do what they do in secret. If the trail is opened to the public once again (as I know it once was many years ago), it is my opinion that, at the very least, things cannot get worse. I believe, with all my heart, things will improve because there will be many more eyes and ears right along the trail and the unwanted guests would not be able to be so clandestine. I believe that most all the people who take advantage of this new opportunity to walk and enjoy nature are like me, and they will be respectful and help pick up garbage. Of course, there are always those who will break the law, but I don't see how it could get worse.

There are a few things, however, I feel need to be addressed before any such event of opening the trail:

- 1) Just as with the Los Gatos Creek trail along the perk ponds, there needs to be regular patrolling and monitoring as with any public grounds. The trail should be closed at dusk just as it is elsewhere.
- 2) Garbage cans and dog refuse bags need to be placed at regular intervals and emptied often.
- 3) The narrow path on the opposite side of the creek, the one that runs along behind the houses/fences needs to be blocked somehow to discourage people from walking along that path and to keep the privacy and safety of the people who live along the creek intact.

In conclusion, I understand completely the apprehension of my neighbors in this matter. There are issues to be considered. However, I feel strongly that it is very unfair and unjust that the only ones who are currently enjoying this creek are there illegally and many are destructive. I, as a member of this community, would love the chance to enjoy this beautiful swatch of trail along the creek. My husband and I will, as long as we live here, continue to participate in the creek cleanups and do all we can to advocate for the creek path to be maintained and protected. And we encourage all you here today to do your part in vigilance and taking responsible action to preserve this treasure for all now and for the future.

Thank you for listening,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marianne Bickett', written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'M' and 'B'.

Marianne Bickett, MA
Retired Teacher and Retired Creek Coordinator

Callander Associates

Landscape Architecture

40
YEARS

Attachment 3

Via E-Mail Only

November 16, 2016

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location of Meeting: Forest Hill Elementary School

Attendees:

City of Campbell:

Fred Ho (FH), fredh@cityofcampbell.com

Amy Olay (AO), amyo@cityofcampbell.com

Todd Capurso (TC), toddc@cityofcampbell.com

Callander Associates:

Brian Fletcher (BF), bfletcher@callanderassociates.com

Dave Rubin (DR), drubin@callanderassociates.com

Marie Mai (MM), mmai@callanderassociates.com

Jana Schwartz (JS), jschwartz@callanderassociates.com

Community:

See Sign In Sheets (attached)

The meeting was an open house style where participants were invited to attend at any time during the event window and provide individual feedback on the trail proposal. Seven stations were set up for participants to visit at their own pace. The first station was the welcome table, where participants were greeted by city staff and provided a comment sheet handout to record comments as they traveled between stations. The six additional stations included comment-response boards from the first community meeting (Station 2), case studies of other trail projects that share comparable characteristics to the proposed trail system (Station 3), three stations for the three segments of the proposed trail (Station 4,5,6), and a comment sheet handout drop-off table (Station 7). The following summarizes input received at the meeting, including comment sheet handouts, flip charts, trail segment plans, and comment-response boards.

Comment Sheet Handout

The comment sheet handout included two open-response questions. Both questions were asked for each of the three segments of the trail.

Questions 1: What do you like about this segment of the trail?

Question 2: What can be improved in this segment of the trail?

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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item

Question 1, Trail Segment 1 – Station 4 (DR):

- Need trail to be on the high school side of the creek
- Great along high school side of the creek
- The trees will finally be cleaned up and maintained
- The access to the schools will be controlled
- I think this is a very good idea to offer the community; gives a safe place to play and bike
- Nothing
- Re-design of the bridge to Forest Hill Elementary
- I like that it does not affect me directly
- Easy access for residents
- Seems okay
- You just added to my "commute"
- Nice access near high school for students and others
- Good walking access to Forest Hill Elementary
- The new bridge location
- Planned fence looks nice
- Trees remain
- Everything
- Get kids to school safely
- Would be great to walk my dog
- Use to go to school

Question 2, Trail Segment 1 – Station 4 (DR):

- Stairs at Silacci Dr. entrance prevents use of trail by ADA, strollers, etc.
- Allow taller fences
- Subsidized fence expenses
- Location of ramp/stairs
- Possibility of higher fences at homes on Silacci Dr. side so we can maintain privacy
- Fence would likely obstruct views of large established trees along my fence
- Nothing
- Add some parking
- Will the brush be cleaned?
- What are the plans for patrolling?
- My house backs up to the trail. There are homeless encampments. What is being done to address this?
- How will the new bridge/steps be built to minimize impact to those houses next to the bridge? Will the new/taller fence be built for those houses? Will it be wood or concrete type barrier?
- 4' fence should be much higher
- Reroute path from Westmont Ave. at end of football stadium

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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item

Question 1, Trail Segment 2 – Station 5 (JS):

- Removes the fence
- Safety for kids
- Slows down traffic
- Tree-lined road
- Open to street
- Nice access to creek section
- More trees!
- Cleans up area along San Tomas Aquino Rd.
- Nothing
- Nothing – it is a very short segment
- Not much. The back of my house is lined up against the trail. I'd prefer not to have the trail at all. I'm glad the proposed trail isn't directly behind my house (it's on the other side of the bank) but we still don't want it.

Question 2, Trail Segment 2 – Station 5 (JS):

- High, black steel bar fence. 4' is not enough, at least 8'. Fence should be difficult to climb.
- Trail will bring crime, extra light, and will be used by kids for fire crackers (they do this adjacent to the street right now)
- 4' fence is not tall enough, should be much higher
- Consider below street level crossing at Harriet. Seasonal closure of trail can be managed, see mountain View Stevens Creek Trail for example
- More crosswalks
- Reduce speed limit
- Concern is getting across Harriet at San Tomas Aquino Rd. It's a problem now, so a safer passage is needed. Is that a light? A stop sign? Or finding funding to go over Harriet?
- Pedestrian bridge over Harriet
- McCoy sharrows may give bikers a false sense of security
- Kids must use sidewalk to bike; street is too narrow to share during heavy use (morning and evening)

Question 1, Trail Segment 3 – Station 6 (BF):

- Nothing
- Not a thing
- Nothing
- Nothing – why isn't there a section for dislike?
- Nothing – opposed to losing our safety and security
- Connects to bike bridge over San Tomas Expressway
- New bike route in my neighborhood
- Good walkable route around streets that don't currently have sidewalks
- Nothing
- Slows traffic on San Tomas Aquino Ave. curve

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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- Connects to John D. Morgan Park

Question 2, Trail Segment 3 – Station 6 (BF):

- Totally against this project
- Not have the trail
- Do not build it
- Larger buffer to fence (private), 6'. Now there is maybe 18"
- Taller chainlink fence
- Privacy barriers to protect properties adjacent to the trail
- This should not be left to homeowners to plan and fund
- 4' fence is not tall enough, it should be much taller

Flip Charts

Flip Charts were placed at the case study table and each of the three trail segment stations. Flip charts did not include a prompted question, all feedback provided was open-ended.

Case Study – Station 3 (MM):

- Fence/rail by concrete channel – nicer if it's a metal ornamental fence, instead of galvanized chainlink

Trail Segment 1 – Station 4 (DR):

- Happy not on north side
- Trail access behind bowl at Westmont Ave., lots of parking
- Can I put a 6' tall fence on my retention wall?
- Can't see your kid turn on bridge
- Sidewalk on Hazel
- Will any existing trees be removed?
- Will there be landscaping on trail?
- Will there be security cameras?
- Dogs barking
- Where will trail-users park?
- Call box
- Mile marker
- No stairs
- Safety for children
- Would trail lead to erosion?
- Effects on ecosystem/habitat?
- No security cameras
- Other projects possible that address need for trail?
- Potential for crime along trail
- Homeless encampments
- Trash/dog waste near trailheads

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:3pm – 8:30 pm

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Trail Segment 2 – Station 5 (JS):

- 4' fence will not keep people/kids out of the canal; liability issue
- People skateboard in the dry creek
- Homeless problem
- We thought the trail was already approved, found out tonight it's not
- Parking problem – Silacci Dr. near foot bridge
- Lighting concern – light floods into the house already from street lights
- Firecrackers on San Tomas Aquino Rd. Including trees on the trail is a concern. Kids will use trail to set off firecrackers, fire concern
- Will dogs be allowed on the trail? In favor of dogs being allowed
- No gravel for kids who will use the trail to bike to school

Trail Segment 3 – Station 6 (BF):

- What is the total length?
- Noise concern
- Security concern
- 4' fence is not high enough to prevent people from crossing channel
- Higher fence would provide more security
- Kids – no place to go if there is a safety issue
- Concern for trash being thrown over
- Black walnut over fence harms dogs
- Will dogs be allowed on leash?
- Wants a paved surface, not gravel
- Keep existing trees
- This section there is no buffer
- Don't want a wood fence (likes open feel concept over privacy), others want higher fences
- Noise
- Concern over parking in neighborhood as people drive to use trail
- Provide trash and dog bag dispensers

Trail Segment Plans

Trail segment plans were placed at each of the three trail segment stations. Participants were invited to draw and write on each plan to provide feedback for each trail segment.

Trail Segment 1 – Station 4 (DR):

- Can a fence/wall be added at new pedestrian bridge crossing? Is there a fence height restriction/code? Who pays for it? Needs to be a non-climbable fence.
- Will the existing wall be upgraded? Lots of graffiti. Would like a more natural wall.
- Homeless encampment near perspective '1'

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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- High school speeding issues on Silacci Dr., near where kids cross to get to the foot bridge.
- Parking concern near foot bridge
- Visibility problem at new bridge crossing
- Trail head parking behind football field and near new pedestrian bridge, perspective 'F'; allow for trail head access and Forest Hill parking drop-off
- Don't do access here (same location as comment above)
- Add trees on opposite bank near Westmont Ave. trail access, perspective 'A'
- More dogs barking
- CUHSD Ag farm access along Westmont Ave.
- Minimal parking available on Westmont Ave.
- Par-course near Westmont Ave and as a part of high school

Trail Segment 2 – Station 5 (JS):

- Keep the same height of fence near channel. Make fence not climbable
- Existing lighting on Crockett Ave.; light comes into the house at night. Adding more lights on the trail is a concern
- Cars go too fast on Harriet Ave.
- Cars get backed up on Harriet Ave, especially making a left turn onto McCoy
- McCoy and Harriet is a problematic intersection
- Dangerous cut-through from San Tomas Aquino Rd. to McCoy
- Crosswalk on McCoy towards Harriet is set too far back; cars creep up to see and they are in the crosswalk
- Widen bridge on McCoy. Sidewalk is too narrow; idea to add a ped /bike bridge to there is a separation from cars
- Concern for safety at San Tomas Aquino Rd and turning left onto Harriet. Cars cannot see pedestrians or bikes. Neighbor on corner has overgrown trees and many cars in the in the front yard and on the streets.
- Introduce a wider sidewalk near San Tomas Aquino Rd. trail entry and along Harriet, at canal overpass
- When will the trail close? Will it close at dusk? If so, we walk our dog at night and that limits our use.
- Garbage can get into the creek with people using the trail
- Seasonal crossing below grade

Trail Segment 3 – Station 6 (BF):

- Consider tall gate at entrances that would open/close at dawn/dusk
- Impact residents with outside users driving to trail and to park
- Resident on trail-side has no desire

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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Comment-Response Boards

Three comment-response boards were set up to show feedback received from Community Meeting #1 and how project staff responded to each comment. Participants at this meeting, Community Meeting #2, were invited to read and add to the comments and responses by writing new comments directly onto the comment-response boards.

Comment-Response Board 1 – Station 2:

- How will the trail impact home values to homes in immediate proximity to the trail? (I. General Comments, Comment 'A')
- Study talks about parks, not trails (I. General Comments, Response 'A')
- Gravel surface can be loud; AC surface better, for maintenance and more quiet
- Will meeting materials be available to public?
- Safety, crime, privacy are major concerns
- Traffic from outside neighborhood will impact parking

Comment-Response Board 2 – Station 2

- ADA Access?
- Gravel – loose material not preferred
- Who cleans/maintains? (IV. Amenities and Maintenance, Response 'A')
- Who pays? (IV. Amenities and Maintenance, Response 'G')
- Highly adjustable. Barriers should be high enough to make it very difficult to climb 4'. 4' is not enough. For safety of users and security of neighbors. (IV. Amenities and Maintenance, Response 'H')
- Currently, trees do not get well maintained, they have become invasive. (IV. Amenities and Maintenance, Response 'I')
- Will there be studies for this? (V. Traffic, Response 'C')
- Facts? (V. Traffic, Response 'F')
- Facts? (V. Traffic, Response 'G')
- Distance between homes and schools, what is closest?
- Responses seem to be from positive; responses need to be from negative and positive.
- Traffic, speeding, parking
- I like it!

Comment-Response Board 3 – Station 2

- Security v. Visibility (VI. Safety & Security, Comment 'B')
- Existing – very few people; with trail – will be a lot more people (VI. Safety & Security, Response 'E'); Two other comments "Agree" and "Disagree" with response answer.
- Will City subsidize? (VI. Safety & Security, Response 'J')
- Height of fence by bridge?
- Says Who? Not a link as proposed; goes nowhere (VII. Schedule, Funding, & Process, Response 'F')

Meeting Summary

San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

RE: Community Meeting #2

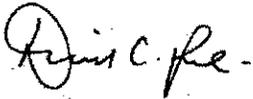
Date of Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

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-END-

The information above is Callander Associates' understanding of items discussed and decisions reached at the meeting. Callander Associates is proceeding with the project based on this understanding. If you have any questions, additions, or corrections to this memo, please contact this office in writing within three days.

Submitted by:



Dave Rubin, Project Manager, Callander Associates

cc: All attendees

Attachments:

1. Sign-in sheets, dated November 16, 2016, four pages

From: I [<mailto:greenwoop@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2017 10:10 AM
To: Liz Gibbons; Paul Resnikoff; Jeffrey Cristina; Susan M. Landry; Rich Waterman
Cc: Brian Loventhal; Todd Capurso; Paul Kermoyan; Fred Ho; info@staccna.org; isa@batiz.org; jaime@batiz.org; ratamage@yahoo.com; sagardner95008@yahoo.com; dr_gillison@yahoo.com; crbrats@aol.com
Subject: San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Project

Harry Greenwood
1609 W. Hacienda
Campbell CA 95008
greenwoop@aol.com

May 5, 2017

City of Campbell
70 N. First Street
Campbell CA 95008

Attn: City Council members
Brian Loventhal, City Manager
Paul Kermoyan, Director Community Development Department
Todd Capurso, Public Works
Fred Ho, Planner

Subj: San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail Project

Dear City Council Members and Staff:

Pushing this project through with the trail consultants' proposal will only stoke resentment in the community and fill the Council chambers with disgruntled residents.

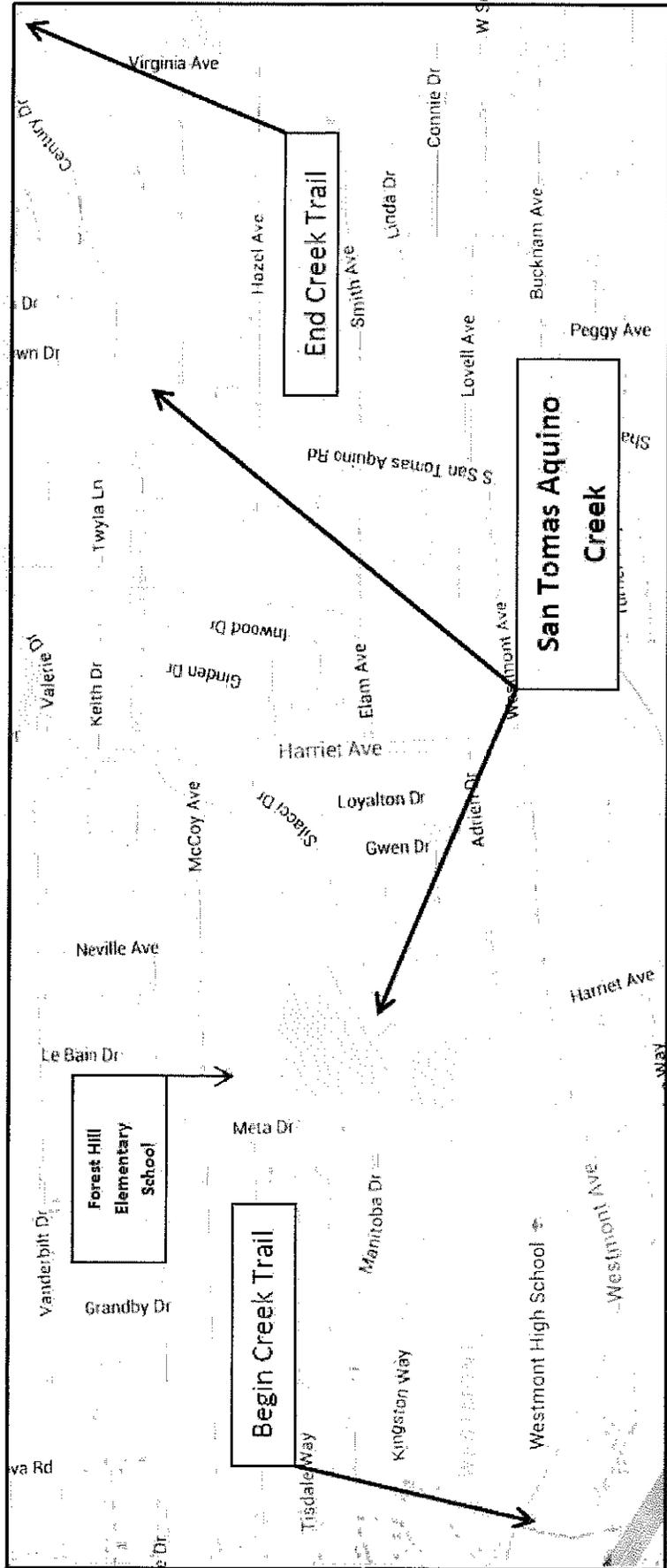
The trail proposal before you has two distinct and separate sections. Let's call them the good one and the bad one.

The good section runs between Westmont Ave. and McCoy Ave. It has that Los Gatos Creek Trail feel and there is existing vegetation along the length of this section. A major portion of this trail is adjacent to Westmont High School. The trail placement through this section will directly affect 3 Campbell residents whose property is adjacent to the trail placement. It's a good fit, over a mile long and would have limited effect on our neighbors.

The bad section runs between San Tomas Aquino Road and Virginia Ave. It has a concrete and gravel setting with little or no vegetation. There is at least one if not more areas in this section where the distance between the culvert's edge and the chain link fence boundary is so narrow that a bicyclist would have to get off their bike and walk through. A separate fence would also be required to prevent people from falling into the culvert while navigating this portion. Vegetation would have to be brought in to enhance the curb appeal of this concrete culvert. The trail placement for this section would directly affect 24 Campbell residents whose property is adjacent to the trail. This is a bad fit, the logistics are wrong, there would be a negative effect on the residents and they are organized and willing to fight.

I urge you to accept staffs phase one recommendation and cancel all further action on phase 2 & 3.

SAN TOMAS AQUINO CREEK TRAIL PROJECT 15-NN VICINITY MAP



TRAIL SEGMENTS



SEGMENT LIMITS

SEGMENT I

Westmont Ave. to McCoy Ave.

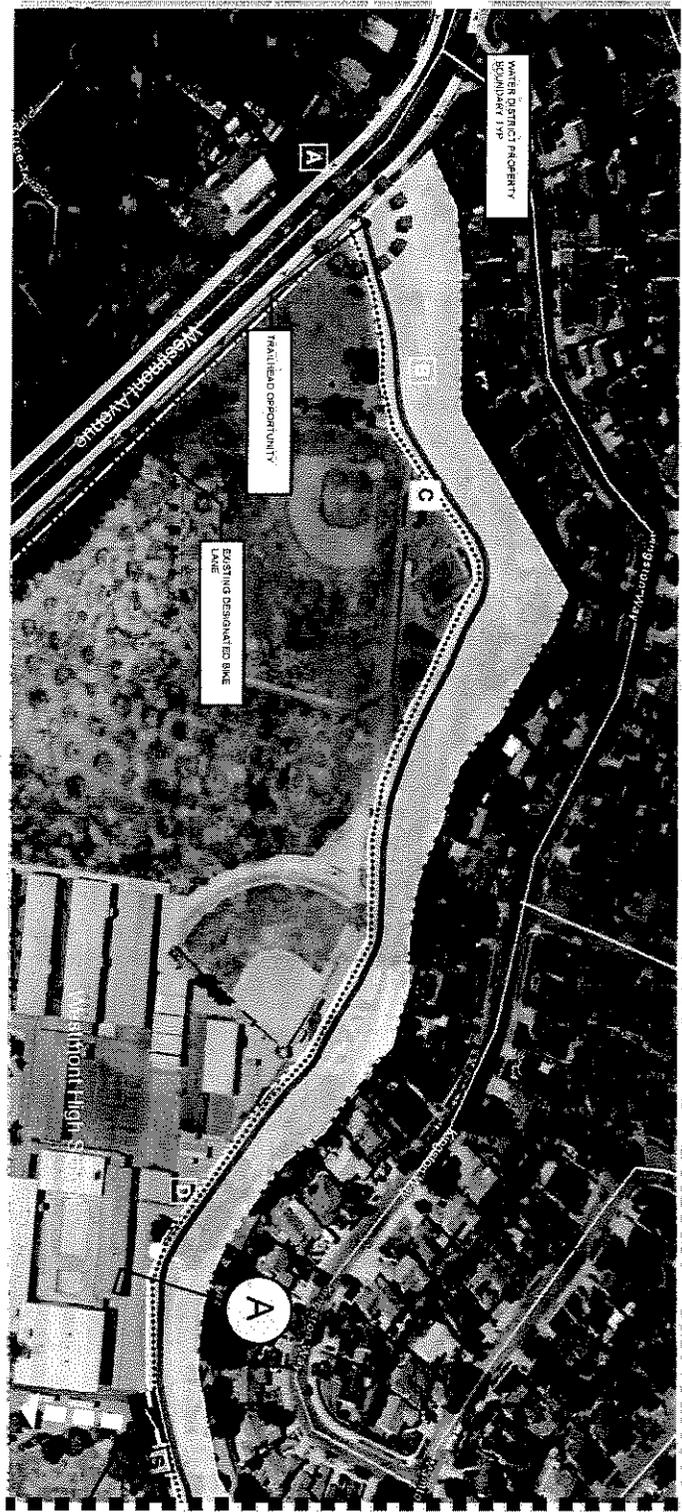
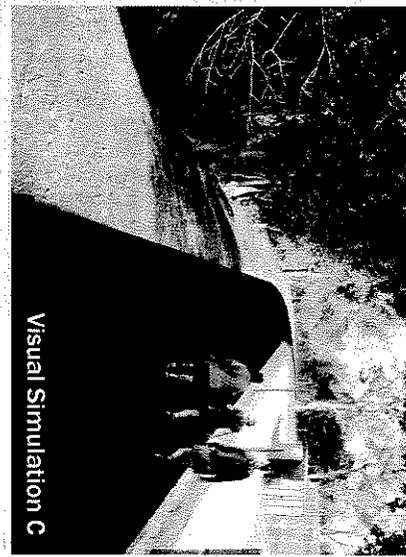
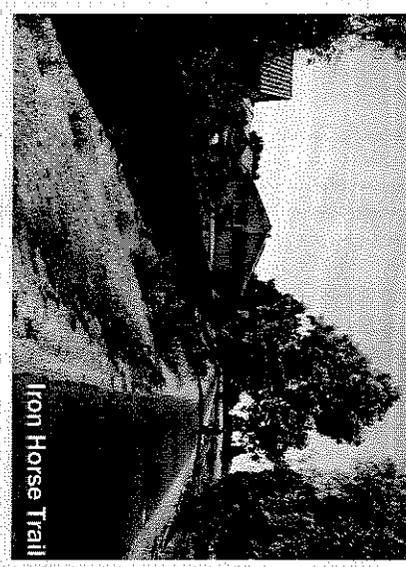
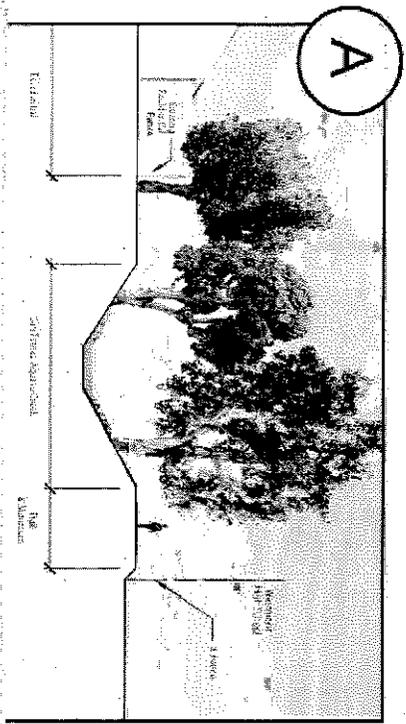
SEGMENT II

McCoy Ave. to the bend at San Tomas Aquino Rd.

SEGMENT III

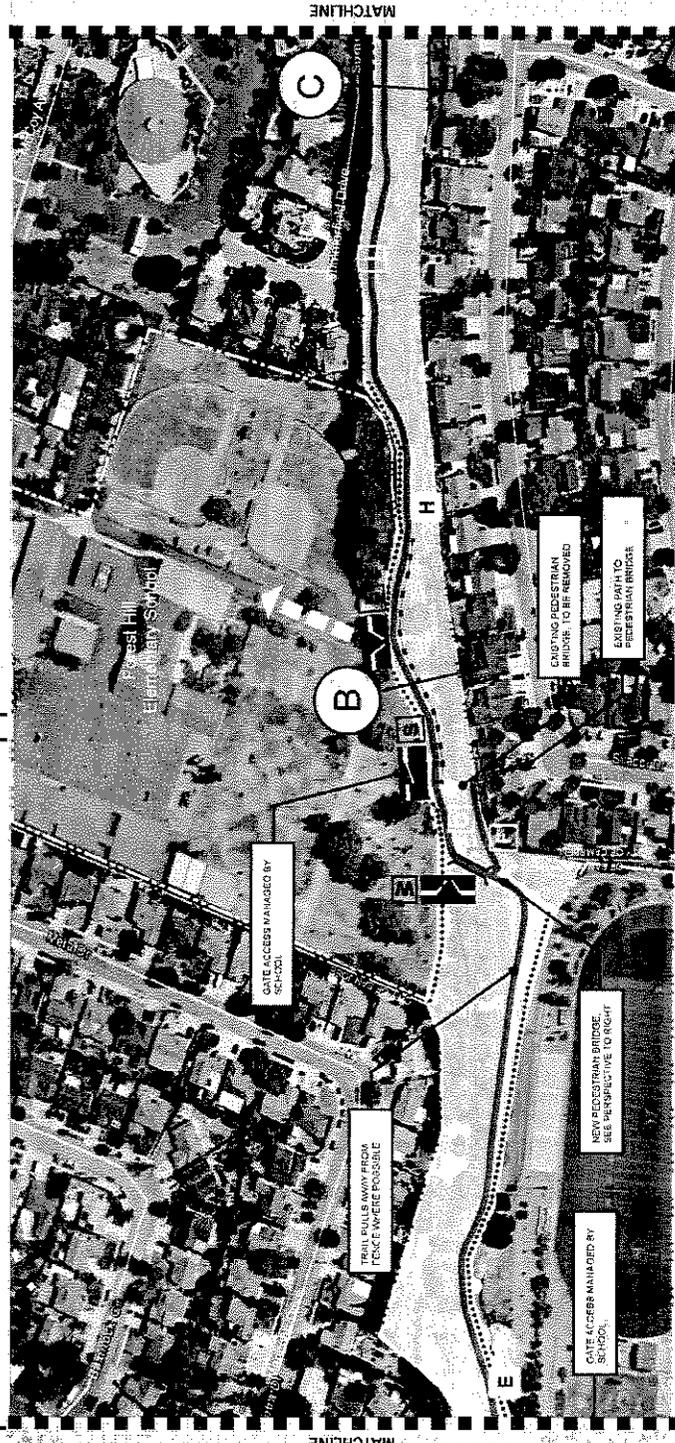
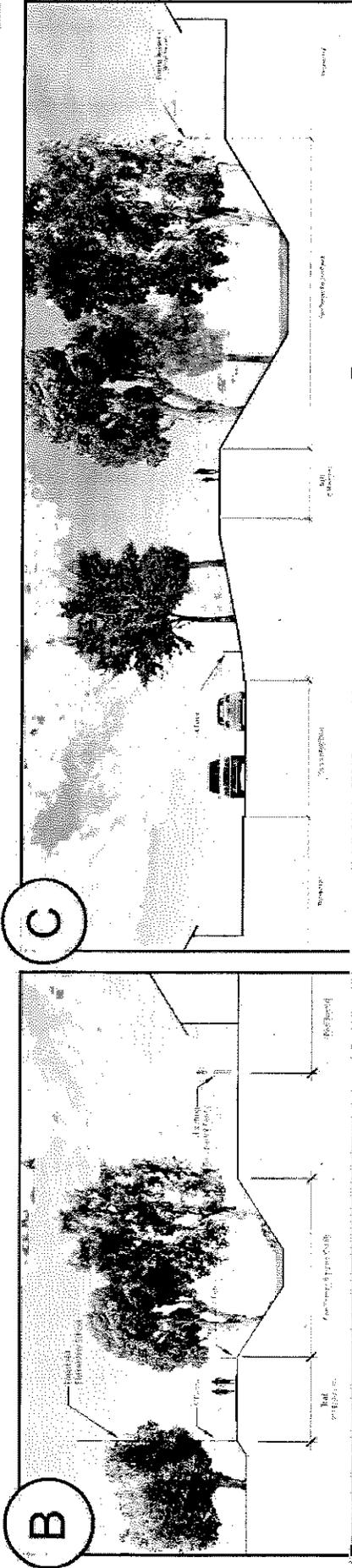
Bend at San Tomas Aquino Rd. to intersection of Virginia Ave. and Budd Ave.

TRAIL ALIGNMENT PLAN



MATCHLINE

TRAIL ALIGNMENT PLAN



MEMORANDUM



City of Campbell

City Clerk's Office

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: June 19, 2017

From: Wendy Wood, City Clerk *W. Wood*

Via: Brian Loventhal, City Manager *B. Loventhal*

Subject: Desk Item 20 – E-mail from Annette and Scott Falkowski

On June 19, 2017, an e-mail was received Annette and Scott Falkowski, as part of the public record in regards to Item 20.

Attached is the e-mail for your consideration.

June 18, 2016

Campbell CA City Council Members

Liz Gibbons, Mayor

Paul Resnikoff, Vice Mayor

Jeffrey Cristina, Councilmember

Susan M. Landry, Councilmember

Rich Waterman, Councilmember

Dear Campbell City Council Members,

We live at 5068 Kingston Way, San Jose, CA. The San Tomas Creek runs behind our backyard along Kingston Way with Westmont High School on the other side of the creek. Our family has lived here for 5 years. We are writing to you to express my concern about the San Tomas Creek Trail proposal. We have participated in the neighborhood meetings and expressed our concern with Fred Ho since we became aware of the proposal. My apologies but we are unable to attend the meeting on June 21st due to a previously scheduled conflict. Please know that the proposal is very important to us and we appreciate you reading our concerns below.

I (Annette) contacted David Gomez of the San Jose City Council as our address is a San Jose zip code. He is copied on this email as well. As a San Jose resident, we believe the proposal would require San Jose city council approval as well.

From many conversations with neighbors, conversations with the attendees at the meetings as well as reviewing the results from several of the neighborhood feedback surveys, it is apparent that the overwhelming opinion of the neighborhood is not in favor of the trail project.

I (Annette) also emailed the principal and administration of Westmont High School and they replied stating they were neither for nor against but simply cooperating with the city of Campbell. They shared that they would have to hire and place a staff member at the proposed gate entrance to the school.

Below is a summary mostly in order of importance of my concerns.

- **Safety of children.** As a parent of two boys myself I am concerned about children utilizing the trail without parental supervision. The proposed entrance/exits are far apart and if a child runs into any number of problems, they have a long way to go to exit the trail. They would literally be trapped in an unsafe area. Some of the potential problems could be drug dealings, interactions with homeless people or other adults or teenagers that could take advantage of them. The trail can become dangerously high with a lot of rain. This has happened several times over the last few years and a child could fall in the water or be tempted to explore the down in the creek itself. The argument was made that the creek trail could be a connecting point between Forest Hill Elementary School and Westmont High School and avoid car

accidents. However I'm not aware of any car accidents of students walking to school in fact it seems walking or biking to school in a visible, public area would be much safer. The answer was that the Campbell police would perform a study.

- **Crime and the safety of our home and other neighbors.** We do not want strangers wondering behind our homes with absolutely no visibility. The trail would be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with no lighting which is an invitation for crime. Lighting would not be possible as there are too many homes close by. Would you want strangers wandering around behind your home at any time of day or night? This situation could create opportunities for robberies, drug deals, and any number of undesirable activities taking place right behind our backyard fence. Especially with the high school right there, why would our neighborhood ever want to present that temptation to our high school students? We already have a problem with homeless people squatting along the creek area at times. We also have a problem every New Year's Eve and 4th of July and other holidays with people setting off M80's and or firecrackers in the fields at Westmont. Typically on the 5th of July there is a pile of debris and garbage left in a pile on the field at Westmont. The other issue is many of us have pets in our backyards and having people wandering around behind our homes will cause all of them to bark creating constant disturbances to the neighborhood. We were told at the meetings that there would be no police supervision of the trail.
- **Westmont High School.** Until the graduation rate is 100% within 4 years of attendance and the drop out rate 0%, why would we spend tax dollars on a gate monitor for a trail that will just invite the temptation for mischief to our high school students. These students have enough to deal with without the extra temptation of hanging out in the creek area.
- **Ecological preservation.** With people wandering around the creek area, I would hate to see the wildlife back there threatened. There is a variety of birds that nest, frogs, rabbits, and other animals that call that area home. I can't imagine the disruption when construction of the trail takes place. Later, trash, vandalism and people invading their area would surely cause damage to their environment unnecessarily. Who will manage the clean up of trash and dumping that is sure to occur once the trail is open?
- **No need for trail.** I am confused as to why the Campbell City Council is pursuing this proposal when it has been made clear in several ways that the neighborhood does not support it. I did meet one supporter at one of the neighborhood meetings and I asked him what his connection was to the trail proposal. His answer was that he was the proposed architect!! My family is very active and we bike, hike, and walk several times a week. However we have the Los Gatos-Creek Trail within a bike ride or a jog away as well as several places to hike or walk. There doesn't seem to be a clear answer as to why we are in need of this trail. What problem are we trying to solve here? Couldn't the money and resources for this project be put toward something safer and community oriented? Maybe a par course around Westmont High School? Saratoga High School has a great community presence using the resources of their high school. Such an effort could promote more support from the neighborhood for Westmont High School.

Thank you for reading my concerns. I hope that you will strongly consider the neighborhood concerns before moving forward with any additional plans for the trail.

Sincerely,

Annette and Scott Falkowski
5068 Kingston Way
San Jose, CA 95130

MEMORANDUM



City of Campbell

City Clerk's Office

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

Date: June 20, 2017

From: Wendy Wood, City Clerk *WW*

Via: Brian Loventhal, City Manager *BL*

Subject: Desk Item 20 – E-mail from Keith Gurev

On June 20, 2017, an e-mail was received from Keith Gurev as part of the public record in regards to Item 20.

Attached is the e-mail for your consideration.

Wendy Wood

Subject:

FW: Project: San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

From: Keith Gurev <

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 11:18 AM

To: Web Distribution City Clerk; Liz Gibbons; Paul Resnikoff; Jeffrey Cristina; Susan M. Landry; Rich Waterman

Subject: Project: San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail

Dear City of Campbell City Council Members,

I hereby cast my petition to the city of Campbell **against** the San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail measure which would be ill-advised provided that there would be no exits along the half mile stretches. Second, the funding estimate of \$5 million could be better spent on sidewalk infrastructure projects for safer pedestrian walkways than the creek trail. Thank you again for your consideration.

Keith Gurev
Valerie Drive
Campbell, CA 95008