

Van Wycke Trail

Stanley Binnie <stanbinnie1@gmail.com>

Mon 4/8/2024 5:54 PM

To:Cityclerk Trinidad <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>

Cc:Citymanager Trinidad <citymanager@trinidad.ca.gov>;Kimberly Tays <kimkat067@gmail.com>;Tom Davies Kathleen Lake <tomd.kathleenl@gmail.com>;jbrycekenny@gmail.com <jbrycekenny@gmail.com>;rmbruce67@gmail.com <rmbruce67@gmail.com>

Gabe— I would appreciate it very much if you could forward the following comments regarding the Van Wycke Trail to the City Council Members for their meeting tomorrow.

Stan

Dear City Council Members:

Following are my comments regarding the status of the Van Wycke Trail (VWT), which I understand will be on the agenda for discussion at tomorrow's City Council Meeting.

It is my understanding that the adjacent property owners next to the VWT are in support of allowing the trail to be moved upslope to bypass the slump that makes the current trail nearly unusable. I also understand the local Native American organizations are also amenable to relocating the trail upslope.

I feel this is the best way to quickly reopen the trail. It seems imperative that this realignment of the trail should be accomplished as soon as possible, because there is a chance one or all of the adjacent property owners could be sold with the new owners not favorable to this plan.

Even though my wife and I no longer live in Trinidad, we are very concerned about maintaining coastal access via the local Trinidad trail system.

Edwards Street is not a suitable alternative to the VWT. It is a much less scenic and far more dangerous hiking experience than walking along the beautiful, car-free coastline in Trinidad.

I ask you to move forward with this plan to move the VWT upslope and to make acceptable agreements with all concerned parties.

Sincerely,
Stan Binnie
Former City Council Member and Mayor of Trinidad

Trinidad City Council

PO Box 390, 409 Trinity Street

Trinidad, CA 95570

April 8, 2024

Public Comment Re Discussion/Action Agenda Item #2- Update on the Van Wycke Trail Temporary Closure.

I am unable to attend the April 9, 2024 city council meeting but wish to make these public comments.

Although officially "temporarily closed" since 2020 the Van Wycke Trail continues to be actively used by many who would rather use the failing section of the trail to enjoy the views than deal with the traffic on Edwards Street. It is apparent from this continued use that the public wishes the trail to remain open.

The City has now had 4 years to come up with a plan to repair and reopen the trail, and according to the Staff Report it sounds like one of the main stumbling blocks is concern over ground disturbance and the potential effect on significant cultural resources in and around the trail area. I question this assertion. As staff is well aware, in November of 2020 the City contracted with Wahlund Construction to do an "emergency" repair and overground rerouting of water lines and the stormwater drain lines under and near the Van Wycke Trail and no cultural resources were found or identified. On the afternoon of November 16, 2020, I was personally onsite and watched and filmed a significant part of this work. The contractor utilized a mini excavator to dig out the underground water connections at the top and bottom of the trail to depths approaching 4 feet, as well as shallower trenching where the new overground pipes were installed. I spoke with both the job foreman and the onsite cultural monitor and asked if anything had been uncovered and the cultural monitor told me that nothing had been found and that the excavated soil appeared to be "mostly fill" from previous construction activities. The assertion that significant tribal cultural resources would be disturbed by repair and reopening of the trail were not borne out during this utility repair.

Shortly after the repair work was completed, I contacted the city manager and (at that time current councilmember) Richard Clompus to ask that the City request a copy of the cultural monitor's report to help inform future decisions regarding repair of the trail. I also cc'd all members of the city council. The end result was that even though the City paid for the cultural monitor through the Wahlund Construction contract that **"reports are confidential and kept by the tribe doing the observation"**. It is only logical to assume that if any significant cultural resources had been found to be in danger that either the Yurok Tribe or the TAS would now be bringing this forth in support of their stated position that the trail be permanently closed. Based upon information available to the public that has not happened, and if in fact any cultural resources had been identified during the November 2020 repair an immediate stop work order would have been initiated.

The current staff report discusses a "Light Touch" trail repair option that could be accomplished with minimal soil disturbance, but based upon objections from both the Yurok Tribe and the TAS this option appears to be off the table. I would suggest that based upon the existing publicly known information regarding cultural resources that a "Light Touch" repair could be combined with an upslope rerouting of the trail that could prolong the life of the rerouted trail. Caltrans, the county of Humboldt and other

public and private organizations use rock filled wire gabions in place of retaining walls to stabilize failing slopes. These require minimal soil disturbance to level the ground where the first gabions are placed, certainly no more intrusive than what Wahlund Construction did in the same area during the 2020 utility repair, and **would not be the foundation of the trail but instead would help slow further erosion of the upslope property.** If the City is able to come to an agreement with the upslope property owners to reroute the trail this type of "light touch" repair could help protect the area where the trail might be rerouted.

In conclusion I want to stress that as an almost 50 year resident of Trinidad that I want the City to either repair or reroute the Van Wycke Trail. Pedestrian improvements to the busy Edwards Street corridor can never replace the beautiful views and peaceful experience of the Van Wycke Trail.



Richard "Dick" Bruce

780 Underwood Drive- PO Box 1190

Trinidad, CA

95570

April 8, 2024

To: Trinidad City Council

Re: Van Wycke Trail Agenda Item for the April 9, City Council Meeting

From: Kathleen Lake and Tom Davies

We are writing to convey our strong request to the Trinidad City Council to open the Van Wycke Trail as soon as possible by moving the trail upslope with a single track “goat trail.

The opportunity to open the Van Wycke Trail after this extended closure by moving it upslope is a wonderful solution to the long closure of five years. Any proposed other connectivity projects should not be *connected* with opening the Van Wycke Trail to public access.

Edwards Street is not a comparable trail to the Van Wycke trail. Muddying the waters to open the trail with a connectivity project is unnecessary, and unreasonable. Open the trail as soon as possible with this opportunity to move the trail upslope. If desired, the city can address the future Edwards Street project separately. This would provide the public time to understand all of the potential impacts on public access, scenic resources, sensitive habitat, air & water quality, and public recreation with a separate project. At this time this project does not appear to be one that we would support. Our concerns are that the plan does not appear to respect our Trinidad Village character:

The Trinidad General Plan or Local Coastal Plan or Trinidad “task priorities” have not included this project. The DRAFT Circulation Element for the Trinidad General Plan written dated 4/21/2021 (page 5) does not mention this Edwards Street Project. The following information actually supports the difficulty with the Edwards Street Proposal.

*4. Issues of Local Significance Traffic in the City of Trinidad is unique in that it experiences heavier, peak periods during weekends and during the summer when there are a high number of tourists rather than during traditional commuter peak hours. Many of the visitors travel by car from other areas into Trinidad for fishing and vacation during summer and peak fishing seasons. Though welcome, this influx of people can, at times, place a burden on Trinidad's circulation, car speeds, and parking facilities—particularly on Trinity Street. **Speeding and blind driveway intersections on Edwards Street are current issues of significant concern in town.** Though much of Trinidad's traffic is generated by tourism, which is inherently auto based, ...Sometimes opening days of fishing or crabbing seasons or holiday weekends also cause truck or vehicle congestion, especially in the Harbor Area. <https://www.trinidad.ca.gov/media/5601>*

Please open the Van Wycke Trail by moving the trail upslope as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Kathleen Lake
Tom Davies

Discussion of Van Wycke Trail at 4-9-24 CC Meeting

Kimberly Tays <kimkat067@gmail.com>

Mon 4/8/2024 2:02 PM

To:Cityclerk Trinidad <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>

Cc:Citymanager Trinidad <citymanager@trinidad.ca.gov>

Hi Gabe,

Can you please forward my public comment to the City Councilmembers for their upcoming 4-9-24 meeting.

Thank you, Kim

Dear City Councilmembers:

Please accept my comments on the Van Wycke Trail (VWT) that will be discussed at your upcoming April 9, 2024 City Council meeting.

I listened to the Trinidad Planning Commissioners discuss the 6-month closure of the VWT at their March 20, 2024 meeting and was delighted to hear that the neighboring property owners support moving the trail upslope. I was also happy to hear that the Yurok Tribe and Tsurai Ancestral Society are amenable to moving the trail upslope, as long as it resembles a "goat trail." I totally support that concept—the simpler and more natural, the better.

I think I can speak for all us who enjoy hiking the VWT—we just want our trail back. We want to use the trail without worries of violating posted signs or walking on private property. We do not want to replace a peaceful, scenic and natural trail—that we have used for decades—with a busy, noisy, dangerous street.

I have been using the VWT for over 20 years, and I would be deeply saddened if it was closed permanently. I feel its closure would also be a tremendous loss for the community.

Edwards may complement public coastal access, but it should not be considered a replacement for the VWT and interfere with trail relocation efforts. Please help us move forward with plans to relocate the trail upslope while we have this support in the community. If we wait until the 6-month closure is up, we may lose this opportunity forever.

Thank you, Kimberly Tays

Sent from my iPad

Fw: Important: Public Information to Include in your Staff Report Supplemental for Tues. April 9th City Council Meeting

Anita <anitavacation@att.net>

Tue 4/9/2024 7:15 AM

To: Ckelly Trinidad <ckelly@trinidad.ca.gov>; Jack West <jandjwest@yahoo.com>; Sladwig Trinidad <sladwig@trinidad.ca.gov>; Kati Breckenridge <kbreckenridge@trinidad.ca.gov>; Jtuttle Trinidad <jtuttle@trinidad.ca.gov>

Cc: Citymanager Trinidad <citymanager@trinidad.ca.gov>; Ahakenen Trinidad <ahakenen@trinidad.ca.gov>; D. Miller <dmiller6@gmail.com>; Dwight Miller <trinidad.miller@gmail.com>; Bryce Kenny <jbrycekenny@gmail.com>; Cityclerk Trinidad <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>; Asouza Trinidad <asouza@trinidad.ca.gov>; Anita <anitavacation@att.net>

Good Morning City Council:

At tonight's City Council meeting, please respond to items 1 - 3 below.

A Friendly Reminder: When the Axel Lindgren Trail closed in February 2023, the public was promised monthly updates at the City Council meetings.

Thank you in advance,
Anita Thompson

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Anita <anitavacation@att.net>

To: Eli Naffah <citymanager@trinidad.ca.gov>

Cc: Cheryl Kelly <ckelly@trinidad.ca.gov>; Jack West <jandjwest@yahoo.com>; Kati Breckenridge <kbreckenridge@trinidad.ca.gov>; Steve Ladwig <sladwig@trinidad.ca.gov>; Jack Tuttle <jtuttle@trinidad.ca.gov>; Aaron Hakenen <ahakenen@trinidad.ca.gov>; D. Miller <dmiller6@gmail.com>; Dwight Miller <trinidad.miller@gmail.com>; Bryce Kenny <jbrycekenny@gmail.com>; Gabe Adams <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>; Anton Souza <asouza@trinidad.ca.gov>; Anita <anitavacation@att.net>

Sent: Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 01:52:56 PM PDT

Subject: Important: Public Information to Include in your Staff Report Supplemental for Tues. April 9th City Council Meeting

Good Afternoon, Eli,

For this Tuesday, April 9th, City Council Meeting: A reminder, and in the spirit of transparency, please include in your "Staff Report Supplemental", both in written and oral reports the following information:

1. Total amount paid for the month of February and March to Coleman Engineering. If you do not have the total paid to Coleman Engineering for the month of March, please report the total hours billed to the City for the month of March. I assume, by now, you have the total paid for the month of February.

2. Total amount paid to Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) thus far in 2024. Please include PWA's hourly rate and what services were performed by PWA since January of 2024.

3. In regard to the Axel Lindgren Trail (ALT) closure/updates: As you are aware on April 8th, there was a TMT meeting. Please summarize what the TAS and Yurok tribes' plans are for the ALT and when the work will be started. As you know, no trail repairs have been done since the closure of this trail (only fencing).

Important Question/Concern: At the April 8th TMT meeting, did the tribes share the GHD report for the Axel Lindgren Trail? If so, what were the findings?

Thank you in advance for including the above public information in both written and verbal communication in your Staff Report Supplemental and answering my important GHD report/findings for the Axel Lindgren Trail question and concern.

Anita Thompson