

**Item #13**  
**Attachment G**

**Communications Received regarding the  
Meadow Way Bridge Replacement Project**

To the Town Council and Town Manager  
Town of Fairfax, California.

RE: Meadow Way Bridge

This letter is in response to one of our neighbor's less than accurate claims about the project.

Bottom line

1. The existing bridge has been deemed substandard by Caltrans and will have to be replaced.
2. The current wood structure is not structurally sound and is made up of almost entirely flammable and toxic materials.
3. In the event of an earthquake or fire the bridge is the only escape route for 28 homes. In the event of a wildfire a burning bridge will not be useable to escape, nor will the Fire Department cross it to protect our homes.
4. Every year that passes, the project will get more expensive due to construction cost escalation.
5. The mixed messages coming from the 'opposition' comes from a world where no answer is deemed correct. Unless in lines up with their half-baked plans that come from the minds of people that only understand the construction and permitting process as it pertains to stopping a project from progressing.
6. When the Town and Consultant address their concerns with solutions, those solutions are then weaponized to slow down the process.
7. THIS IS A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE!

As for our neighbor's statements about the project.

There is no retention basin, only small pool of water in the area where the bridge abutment has been undercut by 70 plus years of water erosion.

The work done in 2005 was not permitted by any agency, and was considered an emergency repair at the time, not a permanent solution. Due to the S turn in the creek, this repair will be at risk again during our next flood. Judging from past events, this will happen within the next 10 years.

Due to the development of Cascade canyon back in the 1930's through the 60's, Cascade creek has been and now always will be a channelized waterway, not a natural creek. A natural creek is allowed to meander during flood, and sometimes assume a new alignment. With the

development of homes directly adjacent to the creek, this won't ever happen again, the creek will continue to scour the creek bed at the flow line, and the channel will get deeper.

The concrete walls prove this is the case, and now the opposition calls for the preservation of 10' concrete retaining walls to 'save' the creek...this has no logic.

As a 30 year resident of the neighborhood I need to communicate my frustration with the roadblocks being set up by our neighbor to slow down and, as is the normal approach by him, try and scuttle the project by bleeding the project of funds by extending the design and approval process for the bridge. Then he can point out how 'wasteful' the project is and how much the consultants are costing, even though he is the reason for this 'wastefulness'.

Finally, if we have a catastrophe, and we lose our homes and/or lives because this project has been artificially stalled for almost 8 years, who will be held accountable? My guess is it won't be the opposition. It will most likely be the Town. This is in keeping with the opposition's behavior during my entire time living here in Fairfax, it's not about the creek, it is about him, keeping his name in the newspaper, nothing more. It is very easy to stop any project using the blunt force weapon of CEQA, and then create even more expensive solutions, which then falls upon the Town to deal with, all of which costs the taxpayers of Fairfax more and more money.

Karen and I are very much for moving forward as quickly as possible with the bridge project. Upon reading the extensive studies done, we are very confident that due diligence has more than been achieved.

Mr. Egger does NOT speak for the neighborhood, only for a very small minority.

I appreciate the difficult task you all have administering this Town, and want to commend all of you for your patience and kindness to those who enter the Women's Center for your meetings. It can be thankless. Karen and I thank you, and hope that you can find the courage to look beyond our angry former Mayor and do what is best for all of us on Meadow Way.

Many Thanks

Peter and Karen Arnold  
Meadow Way

From: Roger Vallon <[redacted]>  
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:33 PM  
To: Garrett Toy; Stephanie Hellman; John Reed; Bruce Ackerman; Renee Goddard; Barbara Coler  
Subject: Meadow Way Bridge Project

It's really hard to know where we stand with the direction the Meadow Way Bridge project is going. It's like a disaster waiting to happen. The majority of the neighborhood wants to have a better bridge and a minority that just says NO!!

There has been opposition to this project from the start of talks about the need for a new bridge. A few complainers still persist in opposition. It is truly sad to have the same people complain all the time.

The safety of the bridge and everyone that crosses the bridge are in jeopardy. It is exhausting to hear the objection to the project - the spotted owl - just maybe it is a recording or a figment of someone's imagination. As far as the abundance of steelhead and salmon in the creek.....if these fish can be counted - it would be easy to come up with an accurate number by just counting their legs and divide by 4. That is the only way they are ever going to transit the creek !!

Every possible problem that could come up or develop has been gone over in the 3 reports.....including Fish & Wildlife.....they are usually the most difficult to deal with. As for losing the CAL-Trans certification.....no fire protection- no garbage- no insurance- no traffic - no value to the homes - that's just the beginning of the problem. If someone gets hurt because of the bridge and lack of maintenance, the lawsuit could be catastrophic to the point that one lawsuit could make someone the owner of Fairfax !

It's about time the Town Council does what there needs to be done. Each one of you were elected to serve the need of Fairfax. You were elected by the majority vote - it is about time you address this issue and move in the direction of what the majority want. This is not a dictatorship....this is a democracy.....majority rules.

Let's move forward with the bridge (it will be reflected the next time you come up for re-election)!

Thank you,

Roger Vallon  
Judy Vallon  
Meadow Way (residents for 5 decades)

P.S. It is "shameful" that the Meadow Way Bridge project is in a "crisis" mode at the same time we all are having to focus on a "national crisis" !

**From:** "\

**Date:** March 18, 2020 at 2:44:57 PM PDT

**To:** Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, John Reed <[jreed@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jreed@townoffairfax.org)>, Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>, Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge Replacement

Dear Town Council Members,

My name is Michael Davidson. I am the son of Robert Davidson, owner of the property located at 17 Meadow Way in Fairfax. My Dad is currently 95 years old, living in a retirement residence in Novato. He still owns the property at 17 Meadow Way, currently being rented to a family of four for the past 5 years or so. I manage the rental property for him and I write this letter on behalf of my Dad and myself.

My parents have owned this property for the last 60 years, raising me and my 4 brothers there since purchasing this home in February of 1960. I think it is fair to say my Dad is the most senior property owner on the street and maybe in all of the Cascades. Speaking with my Dad, over these 60 years, families have come and gone, houses have been built and remodeled, trees have been removed, replanted and grown tall again. Much has changed on this street over this time, except for one thing - the Meadow Way Bridge.

This letter is intended to indicate our support to move forward on the proposed bridge replacement project without any further delays. The Town Council has been debating this issue for years. With the latest replacement plans approved, including a professional and thorough environmental review, it is time for action.

Further delays create risk for not only the residents and homeowners of Meadow Way, but for the Town as well. A bridge failure, a fire or anything that would limit residents access, limit emergency vehicle access, creates home owner insurability issues – that could create liability claims that could easily point back at the town as a responsible party, especially considering the length of time it has taken to get to this point.

Approve the bridge replacement project. You have done the work, it is time for action.

Thank you,

Michael Davidson

From: **Catherine Stone** <[stone@califstructure.com](mailto:stone@califstructure.com)>  
Date: Mon, Mar 23, 2020 at 1:21 PM  
Subject: Meadow Way Bridge Replacement Project  
To: <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, <[jreed@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jreed@townoffairfax.org)>, <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, <[scoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:scoler@townoffairfax.org)>, <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>, Nader Tamannaie <[ntamannaie@califstructure.com](mailto:ntamannaie@califstructure.com)>

Dear Council Members,

I recently purchased the property at 6 Meadow Way, probably the location most impacted by the proposed bridge replacement. Despite the prospect of major construction and its attendant noise and disruption, I welcome this project which will ensure the safety and well-being of all my neighbors and myself here on Meadow Way.

I understand that our quaint, charming old wooden bridge, although we wish it would last forever, has come to the end of its useful life. Public safety through maintenance and replacement of infrastructure is an essential part of community life. It is our duty to support measures which will protect the life of citizens as well as respect the lives of the wild creatures who share this land with us. I know the project will force wildlife to relocate for a while, but they will return. After speaking with Nader Tamannaie I am in full support of this project and urge you to vote to keep it on track so that it may be accomplished as soon as possible.

I am saying this as someone who will probably be the most inconvenienced by the construction. Nevertheless, I am wholeheartedly supporting it as what is needed for the public good.

Most sincerely,

Catherine Stone

**From:** Kate Linscott <

**Date:** March 12, 2020 at 6:43:09 PM PDT

**To:** Garrett Toy <[gtoy@townoffairfax.org](mailto:gtoy@townoffairfax.org)>, Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, John Reed <[jreed@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jreed@townoffairfax.org)>, Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>, Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge

I am writing to urge Fairfax Town Council Members to approve and facilitate the immediate construction of a new bridge on Meadow Way.

Our neighbor, Frank Egger, has requested a formal EIR. This will delay construction and incur unnecessary costs. The agencies having jurisdiction have already signed off on the project.

I am extremely concerned that further delays will:

- Cause our homeowner insurance policies to be cancelled due to lack of access if the bridge is deemed unsafe for emergency vehicle access
- Jeopardize the federal funding that has been secured
- Delay construction timelines and schedules beyond a 1 - 2 year construction period. I truly believe that a competent firm could complete the project in one season if they are allowed to work efficiently.

There have been years of meetings, community outreach, design reviews, redesigns and more meetings. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars and still no bridge approval.

I urge the council to put the safety of the Meadow Way neighborhood first.

I understand Frank has concerns about the wildlife in the construction zone. In this case I believe that the safety and viability of the Meadow Way neighborhood takes precedence.

I know that during construction other concerns will be raised. It will be a difficult project for homeowners in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. We will all need to work together to minimize these inconveniences and build the bridge in a timely manner.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kate Linscott

Meadow Way

Sent from my iPad

**From:** matt towers <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** March 15, 2020 at 5:41:40 PM PDT

**To:** Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>, Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, Garrett Toy <[gtoy@townoffairfax.org](mailto:gtoy@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Meadow way bridge

Dear council members,

I live on Meadow Way and I am writing to express my concern about any potential delay in replacing the bridge on Meadow Way. When we moved here 13 years ago, the moving company didn't want to cross the bridge because they were concerned about the integrity of the structure. Its condition has steadily declined and the piecemeal repair efforts have been inadequate. It is unsafe to bike and walk on the bridge. It certainly doesn't meet any ADA standards. Last year, the Ross Valley fire inspectors toured our neighborhood. When I asked them directly about the bridge, they said they would not send a regular engine over the bridge.

My understanding is that a couple of years ago three proposals were vetted and voted upon. To the credit of the council, they did seek public opinion. At that time, the concrete bridge was the preferred choice. Personally, I care far less about the design of the bridge than the urgent safety of the people living here. There is nothing of historical, environmental, or esthetic concern that trumps the safety of the people living on Meadow Way. By failing to move forward with the existing proposal, the Town is playing Russian roulette with the lives of the people they are charged to protect.

In addition to physical risk, there is a very real possibility that insurance companies will drop homeowner policies. Our company did last year but we were fortunate to find a company that would take us. Fire and fire insurance are not vague issues. How the council can ignore this very real threat but take action on the meaningless striping project is beyond comprehension. You are ignoring a real threat while taking action on an imaginary risk.

Bluntly put, the members of the council were elected to represent all members of the community not a vocal minority. Ostensibly, the objection to the bridge is the environmental impact to the creek and its environs. While it is great that people question the environmental impact of projects, once regulatory agencies have signed off on the project, it is time to move on, not to reconsider what has already been resolved.

If the town is deliberating the threat of an environmental lawsuit vs. moving forward with the project, you should do a full accounting of the risk. Any decision risks lawsuits. If the project is blocked in court at least the council will have done its job and shifted the risk to the adjudicating body. If the bridge fails or access to fire trucks results in property loss or death, I assure you the town council will be held responsible. Parenthetically, the risk of lawsuits in the aftermath of a fire or even for the loss of property value resulting from loss of access to insurance far exceed any battle over dubious environmental claims. Calculating risk is a two-part equation of probability and cost. The risk of going to court over the need for an EIR is higher but the cost of the potential loss due to fire far exceeds that.

I applaud the effort to minimize environment impacts but however disruptive the project might be, its effects will be temporary and localized. By contrast, you have only to drive to Paradise or Santa Rosa to see the long term environmental and financial impacts of a fire.

By failing to act, the council is abdicating its legal and moral obligations to the citizens of Fairfax. However imperfect the solution may be, you need to act now, this season, to replace the bridge.

Matthew Towers



**From:** annica <[annica@vaska.biz](mailto:annica@vaska.biz)>

**Date:** March 16, 2020 at 6:14:22 PM PDT

**To:** Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>, Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Garrett Toy <[gtoy@townoffairfax.org](mailto:gtoy@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Bridge on Meadow Way - Worried Citizen

**Reply-To:** annica <[annica@vaska.biz](mailto:annica@vaska.biz)>

Hi,

I live on Meadow Way and am very worried about the bridge project being further delayed. I thought the issues had been resolved and approved by all agencies from whom approvals were needed. Why are you not beginning the project?

The bridge is falling apart and is by no means safe. I think most of my neighbors are equally concerned. We all worry about the bridge collapsing and what would happen in the event of a fire.

This is not a discretionary project where there is an option to not replace the bridge. We are not building an amusement park on Meadow Way that concerned citizens can object to. This is impacting the safety of all residents on Meadow Way and surrounding areas and I hope the City Council will step up to the plate, make a decision, and ensure the bridge is replaced without further delay.

Thanks for your consideration,

Annica Magnusson

**From:** Mark Knowles <[mark.knowles@townoffairfax.org](mailto:mark.knowles@townoffairfax.org)>

**Date:** March 30, 2020 at 9:28:04 AM PDT

**To:** Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>, Garrett Toy <[gtoy@townoffairfax.org](mailto:gtoy@townoffairfax.org)>, John Reed <[jreed@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jreed@townoffairfax.org)>, Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>, Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Meadow way bridge

Hello

I'm a resident of meadow way. Recently I heard that there may be even more delays to getting the bridge replaced. This is causing me great concern. The bridge is getting more and more decrepit, and the delays just cost us taxpayers more and more money. We need to get the bridge replaced as soon as possible! If it is not replaced soon, it will impact our insurance rates; I think it has already impacted our safety. Is there anything I can do to help move this forward?

Mark Knowles

Meadow Way

**From:** Jane Knowles <jknowles@townoffairfax.org>

**Date:** April 9, 2020 at 9:12:57 AM PDT

**To:** John Reed <jreed@townoffairfax.org>, Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>, Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>, Bruce Ackerman <backerman@townoffairfax.org>, Garrett Toy <gtoy@townoffairfax.org>, Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge - please can we go have a new one

In this era of increased fire risk, I am more and more concerned about living on the far side of an old wooden bridge with "serious erosion and bridge foundation problems." This is a residential area, not an "exquisitely rich habitat." We need a safe bridge to access our houses.

I am in favor of accepting the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration already received and not requiring another lengthy environmental review. The mitigation proposed appears to offer good safeguards, even if there are Northern Spotted Owls nesting nearby. In normal times, there is constant noise in this canyon from vehicles, residential construction projects, roadway maintenance, tree work and power tools. Will the bridge work really be any worse than any of those?

One of our neighbors is opposed to changes of any sort and has raised one objection after another, increasing the cost of the project and delaying it year after year, jeopardizing all our safety. I know the Town has already gone through a long process to find a viable design for the bridge, and bringing up options which have been ruled out time and again seems a waste of everyone's time.

While I'm not an expert, I have lived here for thirty years and love (most of) the wildlife that coexists with us. I respect Mr Egger's concern for the environment, but many of his arguments in this case appear to be completely irrelevant, which leads me to question whether any of the others have any merit!

As noted at the last meeting of the Town Council, he has argued that construction will harm Coho salmon, which are known to be extirpated from the Bay, and Western Red-legged frogs, which are not currently found in Marin, and Western Yellow-legged frogs, which require year round water. The creek was obviously very different when he used to fish in it 60 years ago. I haven't been tracking it, but it doesn't seem to have been running for most of this winter, and it seems specious to argue that the deer rely on the section under the Meadow Way Bridge for water when it's dry for so much of the year. Isn't the deer population unsustainably high? I for one would prefer if there weren't so many around here besieging our yards and spreading Lyme disease.

Most of the vegetation currently in the creek in the vicinity of the Meadow Way Bridge appears to be non-native blackberries and I am enthusiastic about the proposal to replant with native species and hopeful that it will encourage more native birds and animals.

From a safety standpoint having an aging wooden bridge with vegetation growing less than five feet away makes me very worried about being able to evacuate in case of fire or other disaster.

*Please* move forward with construction of a replacement bridge as soon as possible!

Thank you for reading

Jane Knowles  
Meadow Way  
Fairfax



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scmaringroup@gmail.com

March 31, 2020

Mayor Goddard, Bruce Ackerman, Barbara Coler, Stephanie Hellman and John Reed  
Fairfax Town Council  
142 Bolinas Road  
Fairfax, CA 94930

RE: Request for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Meadow Way Bridge replacement project and channelization of San Anselmo Creek

Dear Mayor Goddard and members of the Fairfax town council, Bruce Ackerman, Barbara Coler, Stephanie Hellman and John Reed:

The Sierra Club Marin Group, representing over 6000 members in Marin, respectfully requests the Town of Fairfax require an EIR for this project before moving forward. As we all shelter in place due to COVID-19, we are even more poignantly aware of the need to protect nature and our natural environment for our own well-being and future viability. While a bridge may be necessary for public safety, a smaller project would be more appropriate and should be properly evaluated as would occur during a full EIR process.

The WRA report states San Anselmo Creek is an "intermittent stream." The report has no data to support this conclusion. A couple of dry years does not validate that claim. Marin Maps, the authoritative guide on this subject, shows San Anselmo Creek as a **perennial blue-line stream**, and the creek is listed with the National Wetlands Inventory (see Attachment 1). The Marin County Watershed Program maps also shows this stream as perennial [https://www.marinwatersheds.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/W\\_RossValley\\_Fish3.pdf](https://www.marinwatersheds.org/sites/default/files/2017-07/W_RossValley_Fish3.pdf), with anadromous fish present. This substantial error alone shows very poor research on the part of the consultant and calls into question both the accuracy and thoroughness of their entire report.

The bridge project is excessive for the location and has multiple undesirable impacts, including:

- There are at least three federally listed species in the immediate vicinity, including northern spotted owls, steelhead salmonids, and foothill yellow-legged frogs. Their status requires more study than what has been done to date by WRA and they deserve the highest level of protection.
- There will be adverse impacts on other wildlife, including CA black-tail deer, CA gray foxes and CA mountain lions that are known to frequent this area.



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- The very general environmental document map, “Figure 5 Special-Status Wildlife Species Documented within 5 kilometers of the Biological Study Area” is woefully inadequate.
- Project and local fencing will block the historic recreational access enjoyed by the public as well as denying wildlife’s critical need to access water. The “promise” of future wildlife and public access is insufficient. This needs to be a documented part of the plan at the outset.
- The insufficient review of other avian species and finding no bat species of special status brings us to the conclusion that further environmental study of the project site is absolutely necessary. Local observations over decades past and present indicate the presence of more species than the report and are more valid than a cursory site survey done during only a few periods of time.

The Fairfax report and map prepared by WRA Environmental Consultants delineating Special-Status Wildlife Species says: “northern spotted owl occurrences are sensitive and not shown on this figure.” This statement implies there are no NSOs that could be adversely impacted by the project. This is incorrect due to local verified observations (see Attachment 2).

In addition, their report also fails to address the species information contained in these recent reports:

- Discovery a few years ago of foothill yellow-legged frogs in San Anselmo Creek within the Fairfax Town Limits at the Elliott Nature Preserve in Cascade Canyon Open Space <https://www.marincountyparks.org/parkspreserves/preserves/cascade-canyon>
- The *Peak Health Mt. Tam Report* issued by One Tam partners and Bay Area scientists that first identified the need to study Marin bats, many of which may be special status species <https://www.onetam.org/peak-health/information-gaps#bats>
- The ongoing three-year county-wide bat monitoring study started in 2016 with support of One Tam, Marin County Parks and the U.S. Geological Survey <https://www.marincountyparks.org/projectsplans/land-and-habitat-restoration/bat-monitoring>

The project will significantly impact the environment in both Fairfax and San Anselmo. San Anselmo Creek is the main tributary to Corte Madera Creek and the source of major flooding in downtown San Anselmo. Its flows are regularly monitored by public agencies. That data is available and information as to stream depths can be extrapolated for the upper reaches of San



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Anselmo Creek in Fairfax. During wet winters, San Anselmo Creek flows at depths of ten feet in Fairfax and has for many years.

The planned channelization of the creek with concrete and boulders plus the back-filling of the natural detention basin south of the bridge will increase flooding in downtown San Anselmo. Channelization is not considered hydrologically sound by current standards of engineering that seek to keep streams more natural, which result in better ground water infiltration, habitat protection, and in reduced flooding downstream. Channelization merely moves the flooding problem to another area downstream; it does not solve it.

The required cutting of all native vegetation, including mature willows, buckeyes and bays that shade creek waters from hot summer sun, will adversely impact steelhead fry in the creek during hot summer months. Although the report says five and ten gallon trees will be replanted, it does not say how long it will take for those new trees to provide the same amount of shade that currently exists. We estimate this could take 20+ years. Removal of mature trees will increase the water temperature in San Anselmo Creek in the vicinity of the bridge, which in turn will lead to the extirpation of steelhead in the creek. This is against the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Removing blackberries will also impact the natural habitat adversely. The bushes slow down winter creek flows, protecting creek banks, while providing shade, cover and food for wildlife. People like to pick the blackberries, too. The report also fails to identify how Fairfax will eliminate the blackberries. Caltrans currently continues to use glyphosate to rid Marin roadways of unwanted vegetation like blackberries. While the use of glyphosate is now declining or banned, other equally toxic chemicals such as Lifeline, would cause adverse impacts to the creek and wildlife.

The impact of bulldozing a new 230 foot road into San Anselmo Creek to be used by heavy earth moving equipment for two years—especially if we have two very wet winters as we had in 2018-2019—must have further study that only an EIR can fulfill. An EIR would include alternatives like lifting heavy equipment into the creek with a crane.

Finally, we would also like to point out the disagreement by environmental experts about salmon in San Anselmo Creek. The NMFS states coho salmon are now extirpated from all tributaries of San Francisco Bay, and the last coho seen in San Anselmo Creek was in the mid-nineteen eighties, yet the Environmental Impact Report for the Lagunitas Bridge Project in Ross contradicts that statement.



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Robert Leidy, a United States Environmental Protection Agency ecologist at the Wetlands Office, Region 9, San Francisco from 1985 to 2016, with expertise on fisheries of San Francisco Bay, wrote the following in his 2007 book, page 100, on the status of our local coho:

"In 1996 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed Coho salmon in the Central California Coast ESU as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (61 Federal Register 56138, October 31, 1996). As a result of a 2003 reassessment of the status of Coho salmon in the Central California Coast ESU, the NMFS changed the status of Coho salmon from threatened to endangered (70 Federal Register 37192-37193, June 28, 2005). The State of California formally listed Coho salmon as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) in 2005 (California Regulatory Notice Register, Register 2005, Volume 10-Z; March, 11, 2005, p.327).

"Spence et al (2005) reviewed historical sources and modeled physical habitat suitability for Coho salmon in Estuary watersheds to determine which streams likely historically supported viable populations. The study confirmed and/or found a **high likelihood for the presence of Coho salmon in eight Estuary watersheds** including Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio, **Corte Madera (and its tributary San Anselmo Creek)**, Walnut, San Pablo, San Leandro, Alameda, Coyote, and San Mateo creeks."

We have attached photos of spawning salmonids in San Anselmo Creek in Fairfax from 2008 that indicate steelhead presence and potentially coho (Attachment 3).

For the many given reasons, it is clear to the Sierra Club Marin Group that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is insufficient to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and a full Environmental Impact Report must be completed before this project proceeds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Judy Schriebman  
Chair Marin Group Sierra Club



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 scmaringroup@gmail.com

**Attachment 1: Marin Map showing San Anselmo creek as perennial blue line stream**



**Attachment 2: Photos of Northern Spotted Owls in this reach, Cascade Canyon**



2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702

[sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/marin](http://sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/marin)





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scmaringroup@gmail.com





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Attachment 3: Steelhead Salmonid Pictures taken from San Anselmo Creek, between Meadow Way & Pastori bridges, circa 2010. Steelhead fry (juveniles) are annually seen in this stretch.





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From: Jeff Dugan <j. >  
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 2:40 PM  
To: Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>  
Subject: Meadow Way bridge

Mr. Gardner,

The decision to replace the Meadow Way bridge was based on a sound evaluation several years ago. Please expedite its replacement. Pay no attention to Frank Egger and anyone else trying to stall, change, or stop progress. Frank Egger is unbalanced and selfish. Thank you all for your continued good work in this matter.

Jeff Dugan  
Meadow Way  
Fairfax

**From:** jessica green <

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:14 AM

**To:** jessica green <JeSsICAGREeNARt@hOTMAil.Com>

**Subject:** Regarding the Meadow Way Bridge, and Creek

Dear Council member,

It is a question of Environmental impact, and also waste in spending as well as public access that leads me to write this letter. This creek and Canyon are host to many wild animals and used to have a lot of Salmon.

Please reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream and require a real ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for the Meadow Way Bridge replacement project.

It could cost much less money to redo the bridge in another way and save the wildlife as well as protect native species of trees and better public access.

Thank You for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Jessica Green

**From:** mtowers(

**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 6:06 PM

**To:** 'Nader Tamannaie' <ntamannaie@califstructure.com>; Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>

**Cc:** Garrett Toy <gtoy@townoffairfax.org>; 'Geoff Reilly' <reilly@wra-ca.com>; 'Weir, Meghan' <mweir@nelsonnygaard.com>; Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>

**Subject:** RE: Meadow Way Bridge CEQA Process

Just a reminder to all. The Sierra Club has no standing in Fairfax. They are not elected officials. Their concerns should not delay the project any further. The current shelter-in-place provides an opportunity to fix the bridge and minimize the inconvenience.

**From:** John Berg <[jberg@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jberg@townoffairfax.org)>

**Date:** April 16, 2020 at 2:17:07 PM PDT

**To:** Garrett Toy <[gtoy@townoffairfax.org](mailto:gtoy@townoffairfax.org)>

**Cc:** Stephanie Hellman <[shellman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:shellman@townoffairfax.org)>, John Reed <[jreed@townoffairfax.org](mailto:jreed@townoffairfax.org)>, Bruce Ackerman <[backerman@townoffairfax.org](mailto:backerman@townoffairfax.org)>, Barbara Coler <[bcoler@townoffairfax.org](mailto:bcoler@townoffairfax.org)>, Renee Goddard <[rgoddard@townoffairfax.org](mailto:rgoddard@townoffairfax.org)>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge

Approve the Meadow Way Bridge IS/MND

Garret-

I would like you to urge you to approve the environmental documentation for the Meadow Way Bridge. Caltrans is very rigorous in their review and approval of bridge design and environmental documentation.

I worked for the County of Marin in the Engineering Division for 15 years (I retired one year ago) and completed 23 construction projects, the majority of them federally funded projects funded through Caltrans. The last 5 years I worked on the County Bridge Program. I always found the environmental process to be difficult, but by following the guidance of Caltrans we were successful in the project.

The mitigation section of the IS/MND includes mitigation to address any impacts. The design will improve the habitat and safety of the neighborhood.

Ross has recently approved the Winship bridge with a CEQA IS/MND as approved by Caltrans. This is the documentation that is used for municipal bridges.

I am aware that residents that live near the Meadow Way bridge have expressed concerned about the environmental documentation prepared. These documents are prepared by environmental experts and are approved by the corresponding State and Federal agencies. Local residents do not have more expertise than the experts!

Perhaps the adjacent residents are more concerned about the construction noise, dust and disruption than by the design and environmental documentation. In this case, maybe meeting with them to mitigate the construction impacts would be more helpful in addressing their concerns.

Please approve the CEQA Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Meadow Way bridge. It is vital that the bridge be replaced without further delay.

-John Berg, P.E. retired



**From:** matt towers ·

**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 12:46 PM

**To:** Nader Tamannaie <ntamannaie@califstructure.com>; Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>

**Cc:** Garrett Toy <gtoy@townoffairfax.org>; Geoff Reilly (reilly@wra-ca.com) <reilly@wra-ca.com>; Weir, Meghan <mweir@nelsonnygaard.com>; Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>

**Subject:** Re: Meadow Way Bridge CEQA Process

The public comment for this project has been ongoing for many years. As far as I know, the majority of residents on Meadow way want the project to move forward as expeditiously as possible. Please provide evidence to the contrary if you chose to delay the project further. Seeking public opinion is great but it has been expressed multiple times and now it is time to move forward. It should not be up to the residents to determine if an EIR report is needed or not: **that is the job of our elected officials including the mayor - Do your job and get the bridge built!**

**From:** Garril Page <

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 12:25 PM

**To:** Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>; Bruce Ackerman <backerman@townoffairfax.org>; Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>; Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>; John Reed <jreed@townoffairfax.org>; Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>

**Cc:** Garril Page <obility@comcast.net>

**Subject:** EIR for Meadow Way Bridge replacement

Dear Fairfax Councilmembers:

The idea that Fairfax — FAIRFAX, Marin's bastion of environmental salvation — would join the rush to overturn environmental protections is incredible. *Say this isn't so!*

I hasten to add my name to the urgent plea:

Reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream. Require a real Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Meadow Way Bridge replacement project. San Anselmo Creek is perennial, and should not be falsely claimed an intermittent stream.

President Trump's EPA & Corps of Engineers are now dropping Federal Clean Water Act protections from intermittent streams, which means our creeks will lose Clean Water Act protections. An EIR could offer an alternative that costs less money, keeps public access to the creek on public property, uses no pesticides to remove all the blackberries, keeps the perennial creek designation, does not clear-cut all trees south of the bridge and protects native species.

//s//

Garril Page  
Fawn Dr  
San Anselmo

**From:** PEGGY NICHOLSON < >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:19 PM  
**To:** Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>; Bruce Ackerman <backerman@townoffairfax.org>; Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>; Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>; Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>  
**Subject:** Fairfax mulls strain on wildlife from \$4.7M bridge rebuild

Dear Fairfax Town Council,

Please continue Fairfax's admired environmental legacy. The Cascade Canyon is one of the richest environmental treasures in all of Marin. The Canyon is host to Northern Spotted Owls, Yellow-Legged Frogs, California Gray Foxes, Mountain Lions and California Black-tail Deer. However, the National Marine Fishery Service says Coho salmon are now extinct in Corte Madera Creek and her tributaries; and Steelhead are on the brink of extinction in this watershed.

San Anselmo Creek is a perennial stream. Reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream; and require a real Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Meadow Way Bridge replacement project.

President Trump's EPA & Corps of Engineers are now dropping Federal Clean Water Act protections from intermittent streams, which means our creeks will lose Clean Water Act protections. An EIR could offer an alternative that costs less money, keeps public access to the creek on public property, uses no pesticides to remove all the blackberries, keeps the perennial creek designation, does not clear-cut all trees south of the bridge and protects native species.

Peggy Nicholson

San Francisco Blvd †

San Anselmo

From: Jason Brooks < >  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 2:52 PM  
To: Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>  
Subject: Meadow Way Bridge (from a Meadow Way resident)

Hello- For input and consideration on the May 6 Agenda item relating to final acceptance of the Meadow Way bridge project.

As a resident for ~5 years on Meadow Way I've watched initially with amusement and then with disbelief as this simple project has become one of the most drawn out process I've ever seen. We have enough challenges in our community without adding to the additional cost and risk to residents by delaying this project further. I'm aware of the false pretenses by which "claims" are made to animals nesting or actively using the bridge area. As a resident who walks and bikes the area daily, have kids that explore it, etc. I find it interesting that only one resident who opposes the project remains the only one to see this wildlife.

As this council knows there have been extensive studies, reviews and design input on this journey. All the while the bridge continues to decline and increasing the liability for the Town as it knowingly aware of a failing bridge and fails to act.

I strongly request that the council vote to approve the CEQA on Meadow Way and move the project forward.

Thank you,

Jason Brooks

· Meadow Way

**From:** Janet FitzGerald <.....>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 1:32 AM  
**To:** Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>; Bruce Ackerman <backerman@townoffairfax.org>; Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>; Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>; John Reed <jreed@townoffairfax.org>; Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>  
**Subject:** Supporting Frank Egger's Request for an EIR for Meadow Way Bridge Area

Hello Fairfax Council Members,

I'd like to voice my support for Frank Egger's request for an EIR for the Meadow Way Bridge area project. I have come to trust Frank and his extensive knowledge in and dedication to environmental issues, and all things Fairfax.

Interestingly, on a recent walk in our adjacent neighborhoods, I heard other neighbors (10 feet away) echoing the same sentiment.

Thank you for giving time for and thoughtful dialogue and discussion about this issue.

Stay Healthy!  
**Janet FitzGerald,**  
Canyon Road  
Fairfax, C

From: Deborah Benson <  
To:  
Date: April 28, 2020 at 4:10 PM  
Subject: Meadow Way

Dear Fairfax Town Council,

Please continue Fairfax's admired environmental legacy. The Cascade Canyon is one of the richest environmental treasures in all of Marin. The Canyon is host to Northern Spotted Owls, Yellow-Legged Frogs, California Gray Foxes, Mountain Lions and California Black-tail Deer. However, the National Marine Fishery Service says Coho salmon are now extinct in Corte Madera Creek and her tributaries; and Steelhead are on the brink of extinction in this watershed.

San Anselmo Creek is a perennial stream. Reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream; and require a real Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Meadow Way Bridge replacement project.

President Trump's EPA & Corps of Engineers are now dropping Federal Clean Water Act protections from intermittent streams, which means our creeks will lose Clean Water Act protections. An EIR could offer an alternative that costs less money, keeps public access to the creek on public property, uses no pesticides to remove all the blackberries, keeps the perennial creek designation, does not clear-cut all trees south of the bridge and protects native species.

Best Regards,

Deborah Benson

Cascade Drive

Fairfax

**From:** helen fauss <[redacted]>

**Date:** April 28, 2020 at 5:12:04 PM PDT

**To:** Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>, John Reed <jreed@townoffairfax.org>, Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>, Bruce Ackerman <bruce@bruceackermanforfairfax.com>, Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge

I am writing to request that you treat the issue described below with the seriousness it deserves. Once our natural environment is gone, it cannot be brought back! This is an open space, wildlife and conservation issue, not to mention a great deal of money.

Thanks for your kind attention,

Helen Fauss

Dear Fairfax Town Council,

Please continue Fairfax's admired environmental legacy. The Cascade Canyon is one of the richest environmental treasures in all of Marin. The Canyon is host to Northern Spotted Owls, Yellow-Legged Frogs, California Gray Foxes, Mountain Lions and California Black-tail Deer. However, the National Marine Fishery Service says Coho salmon are now extinct in Corte Madera Creek and her tributaries; and Steelhead are on the brink of extinction in this watershed.

San Anselmo Creek is a perennial stream. Reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream; and require a real Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Meadow Way Bridge replacement project.

President Trump's EPA & Corps of Engineers are now dropping Federal Clean Water Act protections from intermittent streams, which means our creeks will lose Clean Water Act protections. An EIR could offer an alternative that costs less money, keeps public access to the creek on public property, uses no pesticides to remove all the blackberries, keeps the perennial creek designation, does not clear-cut all trees south of the bridge and protects native species.

Signed, \_\_\_\_\_ Helen Fauss April 28, 2020 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** LAURA CHARITON <[redacted]>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:40 AM

**To:** Renee Goddard <rgoddard@townoffairfax.org>; Bruce Ackerman <backerman@townoffairfax.org>; Barbara Coler <bcoler@townoffairfax.org>; Stephanie Hellman <shellman@townoffairfax.org>; John Reed <jreed@townoffairfax.org>; Michele Gardner <mgardner@townoffairfax.org>

**Subject:** Meadow Way Bridge Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Fairfax Town Council,

Please continue Fairfax's admired environmental legacy. The Cascade Canyon is one of the richest environmental treasures in all of Marin. The Canyon is host to Northern Spotted Owls, Yellow-Legged Frogs, California Gray Foxes, Mountain Lions and California Black-tail Deer. However, the National Marine Fishery Service says Coho salmon are now extinct in Corte Madera Creek and her tributaries; and Steelhead are on the brink of extinction in this watershed. San Anselmo Creek is a perennial stream. Reject the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration that redefines San Anselmo Creek as an intermittent stream; and require a real Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Meadow Way Bridge replacement project. President Trump's EPA & Corps of Engineers are now dropping Federal Clean Water Act protections from intermittent streams, which means our creeks will lose Clean Water Act protections. An EIR could offer an alternative that costs less money, keeps public access to the creek on public property, uses no pesticides to remove all the blackberries, keeps the perennial creek designation, does not clear-cut all trees south of the bridge and protects native species.

Signed,

**Laura Chariton, MA Riparian Policy and Environmental Restoration**

Panoramic Hwy. Mill Valley, CA 94941